

FROM THE FIELD: MEET AHMED



The conflict in the Syrian Region is entering its tenth year. What started out as a peaceful protest in 2011 has since become a brutal and complex civil war.

Meet Ahmed. He is 35-years-old and has seven children.

Ahmed said: "our situation was bad before the crisis, so the crisis made it worse. The situation in our village was like hell and intolerable, so we decided to leave the village. We gathered the funds we needed to leave from our relatives and neighbors, otherwise we would not be here. I always pray for them and hope that God rewards them for their help".

In 2018, alongside our partners Hand in Hand for Syria, ReliefAid, and Bahar Organisation, we provided tents, tarpaulins, water carriers and solar lights to 2, 000 families in Syria. Ahmed's family was one of them: "Now, although the situation is not that good, at least my children feel safe here. The tent and the household items that we received from your organisation made us feel more independent and gave us privacy. We couldn't feel that we have a home or own place to stay in till we had them, it was the most useful item of aid we received".

When Ahmed's oldest son, Ibrahim, was asked how he feels about living here, he said: "I'm 10 years old and I feel tired being here and living in a tent, but when we were in our village I was feeling very scared whenever I heard the sound of the plane - I always asked my parents to escape from our village. I don't feel scared now but there are no schools and no games for children here. I don't even have clothes other than these I'm wearing".

To date, we have provided aid to more than 400, 000 people in Syria, since we first responded to the crisis in December 2012. Learn more at www.shelterbox.org.nz.

