Syria in conflict: a population under siege

**POPULATION**

- **Estimated total population**: 18 million
- **6.5 million internally displaced people in Syria**
- **3 million registered refugees**
- **100,000 refugees registered every month**

**AGE**

- **Age 0-14**: 33%
- **Age 15-24**: 20%
- **Age 25-54**: 38%
- **Age 55-64**: 5%
- **Age 65+**: 4%

**GENDER**

- **Children and young people (age up to 24)**
  - 51% male
  - 49% female
- **Older people (age 55+)**
  - 48% male
  - 52% female

**RELIGION**

- 87% Muslim: (Sunni, 74%; Alawi, Ismaili and Shia, 13%)
- 10% Christian
- 3% Druze

**ETHNICITY**

- 9.7% Kurds, Armenians and other
- 90.3% Arab

**RISKS FACED BY WOMEN AND MEN, BOYS AND GIRLS AFTER FOUR YEARS OF WAR**

**Early marriage**

- Increase in child marriage
- Increase in polygamy
- Increase in short-term contract marriages

**Disability**

- Increase in number of boys and girls with permanent disabilities caused by explosive remnants of war

**Child soldiers**

- Increase in recruitment of children (particularly boys aged 12-18) into armed forces and armed groups

**Sexual violence**

- Use of sexual violence against women and girls during home raids and residential sweeps
- Use of sexual violence against men and boys in detention as an instrument of torture
- Rape and sexual violence cited as the primary form of violence faced by women and girls

**Child labour**

- In Aleppo, 50% of boys and girls are working up to 12 hours a day

**Education**

- 20% of Syria’s schools have closed since conflict began
- 2 million children have dropped out of school since conflict began
- 40% of children no longer attend school

**Sources:**

Population, age, gender, religion, ethnicity: UNHCR, World Bank, CIA World Fact Book

Risks:

* Human Rights Watch, Syria: Sexual Assault in Detention, website report, June 2012

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