THE HIDDEN VICTIMS OF THE SYRIAN CRISIS

More than 2.5 million Syrian refugees have fled to Lebanon, Jordan, and beyond.

Despite ongoing news coverage, one story remains to be told: the trials of Syria’s disabled, injured, and elderly refugees.

In Lebanon – temporary home to more than 1 million Syrians – one in four older people are not registered with aid agencies, making it impossible for them to receive medical care, adequate food, or shelter.

This care is critical: 77% of older people suffer from an injury, impairment, or chronic disease.

Nearly 90,000 individuals in Jordan and Lebanon – 5.7% of refugees – have a potentially disabling injury.

2% Torture
15% Other
15% Shrapnel
25% Life accident
25% Bombing
18% Gunshot

More than 80% of refugees have sustained injuries as a direct consequence of the Syrian conflict.

More than 65% of older Syrian refugees manifest signs of psychological distress or impairment, a rate 3 times higher than the general refugee population.

At least 54% of older refugees suffer from chronic disease – compared to 30% of younger adults.

Asthma, heart disease, diabetes: if left untreated, these conditions will worsen. Those suffering with diabetes have a nearly 50% chance of developing retinopathy, or visual impairment.

Inadequate care for older people will lead to disability and death in a population already suffering in silence.

It is time their voices are heard.

To find out more about Syrian relief efforts, visit www.helpage.org or www.handicap-international.org today.