WHAT WOULD YOU TAKE WITH YOU?

If you were suddenly forced to leave your home behind (possibly forever) because of a war or disaster, what five items would you take with you?

1. ___________________________________
2. ___________________________________
3. ___________________________________
4. ___________________________________
5. ___________________________________

Why does MCC ship relief kits to Iraq?

• To improve basic health and security for vulnerable populations affected by conflict in Iraq.
• To provide timely and needed primary assistance for immediate needs. This will decrease the risk of experiencing secondary issues like illness, insecurity and trauma.
• Distributing items that are donated from the U.S. enhances a feeling of solidarity and attention to the situation of Iraqi people.

Who receives MCC relief kits in Iraq?

• Internally displaced persons (IDPs)
• Host communities
• Refugees
• Returnees

Building on decades of instability, war and displacement, the Islamic State group (ISIS) entered Iraq in late 2013, beginning in Anbar governorate and rapidly gaining territory in Ninewa, Kirkuk, Salahaddin, Diyala and Baghdad governorates throughout the first half of 2014. This quick expansion prompted multiple waves of ongoing displacement in different areas. Displacement also occurred during fighting to retake these areas. Ongoing political instability and the rise of ISIS continued to cause displacement and further limited the ability of people to meet their basic needs. The massive displacement of almost 5.8 million Iraqis—2.2 million of whom are still displaced—is compounded by an ongoing economic crisis, political disputes and broader regional instability. Small and large waves of recently displaced and recently returned populations need immediate life-saving items—food, water, shelter and essential household and personal items, such as the items in an MCC relief kit.
The conflict in Ukraine continues to force people from their homes to seek refuge in other parts of the country. It began in 2014, when Russia annexed the Crimea region; the unrest spread eastward, with waves of people fleeing fighting in the Lugansk and Donetsk areas. Recently the conflict escalated in eastern Ukraine and four million people now require immediate humanitarian assistance. Because of the continued undeclared war in the east of Ukraine, the flow of internally displaced persons (IDPs) has increased, and as of early 2015, it reached 1,000,000 officially registered persons. These people face tremendous difficulties and had to flee their homes to save their lives. When they come to new place, they need a place to live and a job to cover basic food and housing needs. Unfortunately, the government can’t provide shelter and food for IDPs. People have little or no money to support themselves and their families. The unemployment rate continues to grow, and many industrial factories have closed.

The situation is tense between locals and IDPs. There is some friction because often IDPs do not find jobs quickly and do not want to go to rural areas to grow crops for a living. The locals are already working hard, and they sometimes perceive that the IDPs are just waiting around for someone to help them.

MCC is assisting displaced people and those still living in the conflict zone through local partners in the Zaporizhzhia and Dnipropetrovs’k regions. This support includes assistance with rent and heating costs and psychological support to people affected by the conflict. MCC shipments of supplies such as comforters, canned meat and hygiene items have almost doubled since the conflict began.

Why does MCC ship relief kits to Ukraine?

- To meet basic human needs by providing humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable and at-risk people in the wider territory of Zaporizhzhia and Dnipropetrovs’k regions.
- To reduce the social tension between the local population and internally displaced persons (IDPs) through the distribution of humanitarian help and joint meetings between the two groups.

Who receives MCC relief kits in Ukraine?

- Current and formerly incarcerated people
- Ex-addicts who are in rehabilitation centers
- HIV-positive people
- Local families living in poverty
- Internally displaced persons
- Orphans
- Elderly and disabled people

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HAITI

Why does MCC ship relief kits to Haiti?

- To respond to the basic humanitarian needs of vulnerable people who have experienced natural disasters.
- To ensure that MCC in Haiti maintains a pre-positioned stock of basic humanitarian relief resources to be able to mount a rapid disaster response for at least 500 families a year.

Haiti is at high risk for both frequent and severe national disasters. In recent years, Haiti has dealt with flooding that devastated the north of the country (in November-December 2015), a category 4-5 hurricane (Matthew, October 2016), widespread flooding and landslides across southern Haiti (March-May 2017) and flooding and heavy winds from Hurricane Irma (September 2017).

In addition to storms and flooding, Haiti is also at high risk of earthquakes, with many fault lines running under the country. This risk was realized during the devastating earthquake of 2010, which killed an estimated 250,000 people and left millions homeless.

After Hurricane Matthew in 2016, all of MCC’s humanitarian assistance was distributed within 72 hours of the storm and reached 1,585 people with food, blankets, relief buckets and water treatment tablets. The speed allowed for a more effective response and was a major outlier among Non-Governmental Organizations, United Nations and governmental responses, which took weeks to mobilize.

After responding quickly with humanitarian relief, MCC then could focus more clearly on long-term disaster response and recovery projects. Sending relief kits and other humanitarian relief ensures that MCC can continue to respond in this way, quickly and effectively, to the natural disasters that are all too common in Haiti.

Who receives MCC relief kits in Haiti?

- Families and community members, particularly those from the most vulnerable communities

What would you take with you?

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WHAT WOULD YOU TAKE WITH YOU?
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Jordan has been a major focal point for thousands of people fleeing violence in Syria and those displaced from Iraq, Sudan, Somalia and Yemen. Of Jordan’s total population of 9.2 million, the number of Jordanians is around 6.6 million, while the number of non-Jordanians who reside in the country is around 2.9 million (according to the results of a national census conducted in November 2015). Of the total non-Jordanian population, 1.3 million are Syrians with some 600,000 registered as refugees. Almost 90% of Syrian refugees live in towns and villages instead of camps, stretching Jordan’s limited resources, schools and hospitals to the limit. The impact of the Syrian crisis has placed a heavy burden on Jordan’s resources and infrastructure.

MCC partners with a local organization in Jordan to improve the health conditions and psychological well-being of 800 families. These families receive home visits from partner staff to assess their needs and refer them to specialized services where they can access support. Over 200 families also receive financial assistance for medical needs.

Who receives MCC relief kits in Jordan?
- Extremely vulnerable Syrian and Iraqi refugee families living in Jordan
- Vulnerable Jordanian families

Why does MCC ship relief kits to Jordan?
- To contribute to Syrian and Iraqi refugees’ and vulnerable Jordanians’ resilience and ability to cope during a time when their access to resources is very limited.

MCC partners with a local organization in Jordan to improve the health conditions and psychological well-being of 800 families. These families receive home visits from partner staff to assess their needs and refer them to specialized services where they can access support. Over 200 families also receive financial assistance for medical needs.

8,004
Total MCC relief kits shipped to Jordan in FYE 2018
March 2018 marked the beginning of the 8th year of conflict in Syria. Over half of Syria’s population has been displaced from their homes—6.1 million people are internally displaced and a further 5.5 million Syrians are refugees in neighboring countries. Lebanon and Jordan host large refugee populations relative to their national size. Over 13.1 million people require humanitarian assistance as a result of indiscriminate violence, multiple and prolonged displacement, deepening poverty and lack of access to basic services.

In this time of war, churches in Syria continue to minister to those who are least able to buy food, water, heating fuel or housing. In Iraq, Lebanon and Jordan, MCC’s partners also help displaced people with basic needs, trauma healing and vocational training.

Since 2012, MCC has supported a local partner organization in Syria in their work to provide cash assistance to conflict-affected families in Syria. This project provides monthly cash allowances to 550 internally displaced and vulnerable families. As families face the wrenching choice of risking their lives by leaving Syria or by staying, cash assistance enables them to meet their immediate needs of shelter, food, hygiene and medical support.

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Why does MCC ship relief kits to Syria?
- To contribute to Syrian internally displaced persons’ (IDPs) resilience and ability to cope during a time when their access to resources is very limited.

Who receives MCC relief kits in Syria?
- Extremely vulnerable Syrian internally displaced families

Total MCC relief kits shipped to Syria in FYE 2018
1,146

Why does MCC ship relief kits to Syria?

To contribute to Syrian internally displaced persons’ (IDPs) resilience and ability to cope during a time when their access to resources is very limited.

Who receives MCC relief kits in Syria?

- Extremely vulnerable Syrian internally displaced families