



March 2011

The growing refugee crisis in Egypt, Gaza and Lebanon...

BibleLands is prioritising its current appeal, simply titled 'Refugee', to help work amongst refugees and returning migrants in Egypt, as well as Gaza and Lebanon. The appeal highlights the vital work of BibleLands' Christian partners amongst Palestinian refugees in Lebanon and Gaza, and with Sudanese and Somali refugees in Egypt.

In the last few weeks it has become clear that Egypt, in particular, is facing an enormous problem with thousands of migrants returning home from Libya. Added to that, the collapse of the Egyptian economy is causing great hardship for non-Egyptian refugees already in the country, many of whom have lost their jobs and are struggling to survive.

BibleLands has just received this report from one of its Christian partners working with refugees in Egypt (its identity has been kept confidential to protect the refugees mentioned):

"We have provided food and blankets to people who became free from local prisons during the early days of the uprising. A further 40 Eritrean and other refugees arrived just last week having been very poorly treated during their attempt to cross Sinai towards the Israeli border. All of the women had been raped. More people have been seeking work to replace that which was lost as wealthy Egyptians and foreigners fled from Egypt with their money. We struggle to provide what is needed here as there are now much fewer potential employers available."

Commenting on the growing humanitarian crisis in Egypt, Jeremy Moodey, chief executive of BibleLands, said:

"Our Lent appeal, with its focus on refugee work, could not have been timelier. We are only now getting reports from our partners in Egypt of the developing migrant and refugee crisis there. The Egyptian economy was already fragile after the revolution which toppled President Mubarak. Tourism has collapsed and many businesses have closed. With thousands of migrant workers now returning penniless from Libya and Tunisia, this will only increase the dislocation. Our partner projects in Egypt are struggling to cope with the needs of refugees already in the country. They desperately need our help."

Our partners in Egypt, who often help the most desperate and vulnerable people, are themselves struggling at the moment, particularly financially. However, this isn't stopping partners like Refuge Egypt and St Andrews Refugee Services from continuing to support many who have fled from

their own countries as refugees, and who are unable to find work to rebuild their shattered lives and families.

And it's not just Egypt that is experiencing these particular challenges – our partners in Gaza and Lebanon are also finding it difficult on a day-to-day basis.

DSPR and JCC are just two of our partners in Gaza and Lebanon respectively, who are struggling to cope with demand from returning migrant workers and refugees. Please pray with us that God will provide for all their needs.

If you would like to find out more about the work our partners are involved in, please click on the About Us section.

To donate to our work in the Middle East (by giving a one-off donation or a regular gift), please go to our website: www.biblelands.org.uk or call us on 01494 897950. Thank you!