## Here’s How You Can Help -Matt Petronzio, Mashable.com

**1. Educate yourself about the global crisis**.  
Syria’s civil war is the worst humanitarian disaster of our time. The number of innocent civilians suffering — more than 11 million people are displaced, thus far — and the increasingly dire impact on neighboring countries can seem too overwhelming to understand.

Thousands of Syrians flee their country every day. They often decide to finally escape after seeing their neighborhoods bombed or family members killed.

The risks on the journey to the border can be as high as staying: Families walk for miles through the night to avoid being shot at by snipers or being caught by soldiers who will kidnap young men to fight for the regime. Hundreds of thousands of refugees are also attempting the dangerous trip across the Mediterranean Sea from Turkey to Greece, hoping to find a better future in Europe. According to the U.N., **more than half of all Syrian refugees** **are children.**

When those hard facts and figures fail to garner the general public's attention, human stories and striking images — like the tragic photo of a Syrian toddler’s lifeless body that washed ashore in a Turkey resort town Wednesday morning — tend to build empathy and anger across the globe, shedding light on a terrible crisis.

## 2. Donate to impactful organizations. There are a number of organizations and agencies on the ground (and in the sea) working with refugees firsthand, many of which rely almost entirely on donations for their operations. ****Doctors Without Borders**** www.doctorswithoutborders.org/Donate*‎*

## ****UNICEF: Children’s Rights and Emergency Relief Organization**** www.unicefusa.org/donate*‎*

## Save the Children www.savethechildren.org

## 3. Volunteer your time and skills. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) has volunteering opportunities in local chapters around the world, while the IRC has opportunities in the United States, or you can create your own iRescue fundraising campaign. The American Refugee Committee International also has both domestic and overseas volunteer opportunities. You can also volunteer for the United Nations online by contributing your skills to organizations over the Internet.

## 4. Spread awareness: Use Social Media. When it comes to the refugee crisis, staying silent is one of the worst things you can do. Use the Social Media and spread awareness online. Generate discussions among your own communities about the issues refugees are facing.