**ABDULMAJID'S STORY**

**Syria**

Abdulmajid's name has been altered to protect his identity.

THE NIGHT BEFORE WE FLED, A PLANE ATTACKED OUR NEIGHBORHOOD. IT WAS VERY DARK. WE WERE ALL HIDING. THE NOISE WAS VERY LOUD SO I STAYED AWAKE. WE ALL STAYED FLAT ON THE FLOOR FOR HOURS.

**The next morning Abdulmajid’s parents and their 10 children fled their family home. His school was destroyed on the same day.**

“We didn’t take anything. There was no time. On the road I saw houses in rubble and burned out cars. I saw massacres, people and children, killed without any reason.”

He pauses, thinks and then whispers:

“On the road I also saw a small body of a dead baby without a head. When we passed that, I had to close my eyes.”

**NIGHTMARES OF WAR**

**Once he arrived in Lebanon, his father built a tent from wood and plastic.**

“Things are good here.... In Syria I was awake every night for at least two months because of all the scary sounds. I was always afraid we would be killed. Here I sleep better but I do have nightmares.”

He explains he has the same nightmare almost every night: “I am in a car with beheaded people and I am the only one that is still alive.”

He stops and can’t continue. “When I wake up crying my mum comes to comfort me.”

At home Abdulmajid never talks about what he saw.

“We try to forget about it; it is our secret.”

**PSYCHO-SOCIAL SUPPORT**

**He’s attending school in Lebanon now and participates in War Child’s psycho-social sessions three times a week.**

They combine creative activities with games and group discussions to build the resilience and improve the coping skills of children who've experienced trauma.

“I really try to forget; we play and laugh and have fun. I made a lot of new friends, and by having fun I can forget.”

He loves drawing: *“*Always when I draw, I draw a happy family. After school I give it to my mum and it makes her very happy.”

**THE FUTURE OF SYRIA**

**“I miss my house, my school and my nice clothes. And of course I miss my best friend Basel.**

"I understand that we are here because it is safer but I miss my country, that’s where I belong and I hope to go back very soon.

"When I grow up I want to help to rebuild Syria. I am sure there will be a lot of work for me to do there.”