

# A Lesson For Syria From Cumbria

By **Alexander Baron** - Dec 17, 2015



*Heavy rains at Al Tanf Refugee camp on the Syrian/Iraqi border flooded tents and over flowed latrines leaving many of the Palestinians refugees without homes, October 2008 (Image Credits : Bridget Teauger )*

**46**  
SHARES

Humanitarian disasters be they natural or man-made bring out both the worst and the best in people. The current crisis in Syria which is said to have seen the greatest mass migration since the Second World War, shows no sign of abating. European nations have contributed massively to humanitarian relief, and then some, but to date what have the Arabs done? The sad answer is precious little.

At this time too, communities in the North of England are suffering their own disaster; torrential rains have unleashed floods in areas which have only recently recovered from similar disasters. The town of Carlisle was flooded severely in January 2005; there were further floods in 2009; and again in 2012. That's the bad news.

The good news is that across the region, there has been a superb community spirit with people putting up neighbours in their own houses, volunteers, and fund-raising efforts, as can be seen from the website of the [Cumbria Community Foundation](#).

The first picture below shows flooding at Backbarrow this month.



The second shows a Royal National Lifeboat Institution team at Cockermouth in 2009.



The [RNLI](#) is a charity; most of its crew are unpaid volunteers. This is the sort of thing Syria needs. US Presidential hopeful Donald Trump has called for the creation of a safe

zone for refugees; two billionaires have called for something **far more elaborate**. This can be done not with boots on the ground but willing hands. The West has done a lot, but now it is time for the nations of the Middle East to bury their differences and find the same sort of community spirit that at this time is being shown in Cumbria. All of them.

**46**  
SHARES



**Alexander Baron**

*<http://www.infotextmanuscripts.org>*