

REGIONAL OVERVIEW

According to UNHCR **4,597,436** have now fled Syria. More than **1.7 million** of them fled in 2013 alone. During the course of 2013, an average of more than 4,700 people fled every day. In 2014 more than 895,000 Syrians fled the country, an average of more than 2,500 per day. In 2015 more than 877,000 Syrians fled the country, an average of more than 2,400 per day. Children now make up **51.9%** of the refugee population, meaning there are an estimated **2,386,069** refugee children in the region.



4,597,436

Registered Syrian Refugees
19 January 2016, UNHCR



2,386,069

Estimated number of children
19 January 2016, UNHCR



SYRIA KEY FACTS



Est. population in need of assistance **13.5m**
OCHA, December 2015



Est. # of children affected by conflict in Syria **7.5m**
OCHA, December 2015



Est. number of IDP's **6.5m**
OCHA, December 2015



Est. number of people killed **250k+**
OCHA, December 2015



Percentage of Schools, damaged, destroyed or used as shelters **25%**
OCHA, December 2015

OUR RESPONSE

Save the Children has worked in the Middle East for decades. In July 2012 we launched an ambitious emergency appeal to respond to the growing refugee crisis in the region and are now aiming to raise **USD 391,000,000** for our humanitarian interventions in **Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, Egypt and Syria.**



To date we have reached **3,806,976** people in Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Egypt and Syria – approx. **2,401,868** children.



With the needs growing every day in Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Egypt and Syria, more funding is desperately needed.



Save the Children is actively coordinating with governments, UN agencies and other NGOs to respond to the humanitarian crisis.

URGENT NEEDS

Save the Children welcomed the passing of UNSCR 2254 endorsing the ongoing political talks in Vienna and defining a roadmap to bring an end to the violence and elections within 18 months. A political solution to the conflict in Syria is desperately needed. In the meantime, however, the humanitarian situation on the ground continues to deteriorate. Nearly two years since UNSCR 2139 was passed and renewed by 2165 and 2258, the number of people inside Syria in desperate need of aid and protection is growing and humanitarian access decreasing. The unrelenting conflict throughout the country is depriving millions of children and families of food, clean water, healthcare and other life-saving services, while see others starve to death. Confidence building measures to support the political track offer an opportunity to ameliorate the situation on the ground. However, complying with IHL and IHRL should not be dependent on any negotiations. The international community must ensure a clear commitment by the warring parties to uphold their obligations to grant humanitarian access to all areas, with a focus on hard-to-reach and besieged areas, and refrain from attacks against civilians and civilian infrastructure, such as schools, as stated by UNSCR 2139 and 2258.

Host countries are also under immense strain due to the unprecedented scale of the Syrian refugee exodus and risk becoming a crisis of their own, especially Lebanon. Sufficient international support is required to ensure neighbouring countries keep borders open to those fleeing Syria's violence and take measures to accommodate refugees and offer the protection and access to services they have the right to.

We call on regional and international powers to ensure an inclusive political process, including the voices of children, women and minority groups, that brings a political solution to the conflict in Syria. In the meantime, the UN must ensure that Resolutions 2258 and 2139 are fully implemented, building upon the humanitarian work of agencies currently operating in Syria. The UN must ensure all aid gets through rapidly, to those most in need, especially in besieged and hard to reach. The implementation of the resolutions is a test of the Council's credibility and should not be made conditional to progress on the political track. For millions of women, men and children, it could be a matter of life or death.

Donors must increase even more their generous support to people affected by the Syrian crisis, prioritising specifically education and child protection interventions to prevent a lost generation. The international community must take a greater share of the responsibility of supporting refugees from Syria, including by opening their own borders and offering resettlement or other humanitarian solutions to at least 10 per cent of the refugee population by 2016.



In response to the winter storms that are hitting Lebanon, Save the Children visited refugees from Syria living in informal settlements in the Bekaa Valley and distributed weatherproofing kits, plastic sheets and wooden timbers. In this picture, 35-year-old Hasna* is waiting for her turn to receive weatherproofing kits in order to support her tent and protect her newborn baby from the cold.

Photo credit: Nour Wahid/Save the Children

LEBANON

Lebanon has received staggering numbers of Syrian refugees, but with no camps the refugee population is spread out across the country, making them hard to reach.


1,069,111

Refugees in Lebanon UNHCR 31 December

Our response



Reached: **1,388,10**

Of these 836,051 are children

Highlights from our response in December:

- 456 children were reached through Psychosocial Support activities
- Tuition Fees and Materials support were paid for 120 students (108 Syrian and 12 Lebanese) in 9 technical schools
- 1,697 households in Akkar and 1,370 in Bekaa are receiving a multi-purpose cash assistance of USD 174.00 each per month
- 74 hygiene sessions reached 1,280 people
- In Akkar, 794 beneficiaries received weatherproofing kits in substandard building, reaching so far 4,824 people.
- In Akkar, 47 people received 17 weatherproofing kits in informal settlements, reaching a total 1,902
- In Bekka, 327 weather proofing voucher were distributed to 326 HHs living in unfinished building, garages and hazardous dwellings, reaching a total of 800

JORDAN

Jordan host the region's largest refugee camp, Za'atari, where we are working in multiple sectors. Two thirds of Syrian refugees live in host communities.


635,324

Refugees in Jordan UNHCR 19 January

Our response



Reached: **568,067**

Of these 336,961 are children

Highlights from our response in December:

- 7,289 children attended different types of activities on a weekly basis (both child protection and education) during December in all the three camps
- 913 working children attended different activities in the Drop-In-Centres in Za'atari camp; 246 children engaged in labour are newly registered.
- We uploaded food e-cards during the December cycle, reaching 231,904 beneficiaries. We continue to distribute nearly 516 metric tons of bread in Za'atari Camp monthly.
- We distributed 341,392 date bars for school feeding in Za'atari
- 85 children joined the Literacy and Numeracy programmes in Hai Nazzal and Al Ashrafeyeh centres (host communities)

SYRIA

The most vulnerable children are those who remain inside Syria, who risk death, illness, abuse and exploitation on a daily basis. The humanitarian needs in Syria are incalculable, and providing essential life-saving services to Syrian children and their families remains a priority.

The widespread insecurity and fighting inside Syria makes this a challenging context, but we are delivering humanitarian assistance to children and their families. To date we have reached **1,646,847** beneficiaries in Syria.

OTHER REFUGEE LOCATIONS

UNHCR 31 December

Turkey

2,503,549

North Africa (Morocco, Algeria, Libya)

26,700

IRAQ

Approx. 98% of Syrian refugees in Iraq reside in the Kurdistan Regional Governorate, Northern Iraq, where they live in a mixture of camp and non-camp settings.


245,022

Refugees in Iraq UNHCR 16 January

Our response



Reached: **154,515**

Of these 78,455 are children

Highlights from our response in December:

- In Dohuk, 1,152 children attended our CFS and 155 benefitted from Child Resilience programme.
- In Erbil, 6,172 children attended our CFS, 214 children benefited from our Child Resilience programme, 25 girls completed the Youth Resilience workshop, and 3 awareness sessions were conducted on child marriage reaching 64 parents.
- In Dohuk, 929 children benefited from Non-Formal Education (NFE) activities, 369 attended Early Child Care and Development (ECCD) activities, 31 mothers benefited from Mother-Toddler activities, and 110 children borrowed books.
- In Erbil, 1,252 children were reached through NFE activities, 941 through ECCD, 23 mothers and 23 toddlers attended Mother-Toddler activities, and 56 children borrowed books from the Book Bank.

EGYPT

The refugee population is spread out across Egypt, making the coordination of service delivery challenging. Large numbers live in poor areas in Greater Cairo and Alexandria.


117,658

Refugees in Egypt UNHCR 31 December

Our response



Reached: **49,367**

Of these 30,738 are children

Highlights from our response in December:

- We distributed 350 whiteboards, 2,100 education kits, 71 desktop computers to schools, students and social workers
- 164 children, 20 youth and 66 parents (all Syrian), attended events to mark the international day of prevention of violence against women (Obour City).
- 1,236 children and 60 mothers attended health promotion sessions on nutrition, seasonal diseases, vitamins, the nutritional pyramid, personal hygiene, dental and oral hygiene and first aid
- 59 Syrian children received psychosocial assistance, 49 received or were referred for health assistance, 9 unaccompanied minors were referred for protection services
- 36 Syrian and Egyptian children at risk of mixed migration participated in six-day, camp based, theatre and storytelling workshops designed to enhance their self expression and improve their awareness of issues surrounding mixed migration through art (Damietta).

Legend



Non Food Items



Shelter



WASH



Education



Protection



Health



Nutrition



Food security and livelihoods



EDUCATION

Children fleeing Syria have had their worlds turned upside down, and urgently need the safety, stability and structure a positive learning environment can bring

- Our most recent report [Education Under Attack](#), highlights that than half of all attacks on schools in the last four years have occurred in Syria
- In northern Syria we are supporting 34,500 children continue their education by ensuring they have gone back to school
- In March we released [‘The Cost of War’](#) calculating the impact of the collapse of Syria’s education system on Syria’s future
- We run [youth-friendly spaces and alternative learning programs](#), providing informal education in Za’atari refugee camp and host communities in Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq
- We run an extensive [“back to school”](#) operation and we provide children with [school bags](#), uniforms, and other essential school materials, and pay school fees



CHILD PROTECTION

Children urgently require specialised care and protection to help them recover from the extreme psychological and emotional distress they have been through

- In December we release [‘Childhood in the Shadow of War’](#), which provides a snapshot of the pressures and burdens experience by Syrian refugee children now living in Lebanon and in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq
- In July, together with UNICEF we released [Small Hands, Heavy Burden](#), a report on how the Syria conflict is driving more children into the workforce, its implications and recommendations to reduce the impact of child labour
- We are running [child-friendly and youth-friendly spaces](#) across the region reaching thousands of children. In Syria we have set up 16 child friendly spaces, including mobile CFS to provide activities in camps and in the aftermath of mass population movements which provide recreational activities as well as basic education.
- We carry out a range of child protection activities: we run [child resiliency activities](#), establish [Parent Child Centres](#) and [refer children in need of psychosocial support](#)



HEALTH AND NUTRITION



Lack of medical care and nutritious food will put children and other vulnerable groups at risk of malnutrition and illness

- We are carrying out a large scale [infant and young child feeding programme](#) in refugee camps and host communities in Jordan
- In Egypt and Syria we are conducting [vaccination campaigns](#) of Hepatitis A and polio, respectively
- Together with our partners, we are [supporting five healthcare facilities](#) in northern Syria, four of which provide primary healthcare and one hospital that provides 24-hour emergency care for pregnant women. These facilities treat approximately 3,500 patients every week, including delivering around 100 babies.



SHELTER/NFIs

NFI

During the winter, temperatures across the region drop below zero and refugees are ill-equipped to cope with the cold, without winter clothes, sufficient blankets, heating or proper shelter

- We have [distributed winter clothes and blankets](#) in Lebanon, Egypt, Jordan and Iraq
- Together with partners, we have been delivering essential aid items such as clothing, kitchen sets, winter kits and hygiene kits to displaced families across northern Syria, reaching almost 145,000 people. We have also helped ensure that almost 10,000 people have adequate shelter by providing them with tents or the support to make repairs to their existing shelters
- We have been distributing shelter support (including [weather proofing kits and plastic sheeting](#)) and [blankets and mattresses](#) to thousands of individuals in Lebanon
- We are distributing and/or loading [ATM cards](#) in Lebanon to implement building rehabilitation activities



FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS

Food security for the Syrian refugees remains a grave concern.

- On November 9, together with other major INGOs, we launched the briefing paper [‘Right to a Future’](#), calling for a ‘New Deal’ in the Syria crisis, including access to ‘self-support’ activities for refugees from Syria
- We are doing large scale food distributions in Jordan. We distribute over 533 metric tons every month in Za’atari camp
- We run [Cash for Work](#) programmes in Lebanon where families have the opportunity to put their own skills to work in projects which benefit their communities
- We are also offering [technical and vocational training](#) in Lebanon and Egypt to help improve livelihood opportunities
- We are providing monthly [unconditional cash transfers](#) of USD 174 to over 2,000 HHs in Lebanon
- We have piloted our first [agricultural project](#) in northern Syria where we provided vouchers to enable people to purchase equipment, tools and seeds, and are planning to expand this work to include the provision of livestock as well as cash for work opportunities



WASH

It is essential to improve water, sanitation and hygiene conditions for Syrian refugee children and their families in order to prevent diseases and ensure their well-being

- We have conducted [hygiene promotion awareness-raising sessions](#) in Iraq and Syria and Lebanon
- We distributed drainage kits, water vouchers, dislodging vouchers, metal septic tanks, latrines and a number of other items in Lebanon
- In Syria we are working in camps for displaced people and within local communities [to rebuild water systems, deliver clean water, construct latrines, and improve waste management](#) to help curb the spread of disease, already benefitting 130,000 people

Our partners

