REGIONAL OVERVIEW

According to UNHCR, 5,253,800 have now fled Syria to surrounding countries in the region. 1.4 million of them fled in 2014 alone with an average of more than 3,935 people per day. In 2015 more than 617,188 Syrians fled the country, an average of more than 1,714 per day. In 2017 more than 623,374 Syrians fled the country, an average of more than 1,731 per day.

Children now make up 45% of the refugee population, meaning there are an estimated 2,354,210 refugee children in the region.

5,253,800
Registered Syrian Refugees
31 October, 2018, UNHCR

2,354,210
Estimated number of children
31 October, 2018, UNHCR

SYRIA CRISIS RESPONSE

OUR RESPONSE

Save the Children has worked in the Middle East for decades. Since July 2012 we have been running an ambitious emergency response to the growing crisis in the region. We have so far received $328.4m for our humanitarian interventions in Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, Egypt, Turkey and Syria.

To date we have reached 3,699,780 people in Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Egypt, Turkey and Syria, including approx. 2,345,586 children.

With the needs growing every day in in Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Egypt, Turkey 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

2018 has seen a number of changes on the ground in Syria, but the conflict continues to be characterized by attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure by parties to the conflict. Basic services and infrastructure have been devastated by years of fighting and deprivation and the overall levels of humanitarian need remain high - with 13.1 people in need of humanitarian assistance, including 3.3 million children.

This year has seen unprecedented rates of internal displacement, particularly within north-west Syria and from Eastern Ghouta, northern Homs and Dara'a as those areas changed hands. More than 920,000 people fled their homes in the first four months of the year alone, many of them children who were forced to flee their homes, schools and friends for the third or fourth time. The fate of Idlib province, which hosts many of the displaced where and the more than a million children live, is now in the balance as the population faces a potential military escalation, conflict and helped to recover.

Syria’s children have experienced renewed and growing violence with widespread violations of IHL and IHRL and the continuing use of devastating weapons such as cluster bombs, which are banned under international law, bunker busting bombs as well as chemical weapons. The international community must ensure a clear commitment by the parties to the conflict to uphold their obligations to grant humanitarian access to all areas, and refrain from attacks against civilians and civilian infrastructure, including hospitals and schools.

Refugee hosting countries are also under immense strain due to the unprecedented scale of the Syrian refugee exodus and protracted nature of the crisis. There is an increasing push for refugees to return to their homes, but Save the Children’s position is that Syria is not currently safe for returns. The international community must to honour the commitments it has made at successive conferences and provide sufficient support to Syria’s neighbouring countries to prevent enforced return (forced returns), ensure every last child has access to quality education, facilitate adults’ access to livelihoods and guarantee the legal status and protection of refugees.

SYRIA KEY FACTS

People in Food Crisis/Emergency (IPC phase 3+)
2018, ReliefWeb
5.5m

People in need in hard-to-reach areas
2018, OCHA
1.16m

People internally displaced by violence
2018, OCHA
6.2 m

People estimated to be in need of humanitarian assistance in Idlib, OCHA
2.1 m

Jana*, a 14 year old Syrian girl living in Lebanon, described how she did not want to live anymore because of other children’s stories and comments on her paralysed hand and feeling like an outsider. Encouraged by her friends, she found passion in painting and now she gives them painting lessons during summer breaks. In October 2018, Save the Children Lebanon launched a new campaign, Bullying is No Joke, which aims to raise awareness among families and communities in Lebanon about bullying and its negative impact. On Children, the campaign also advocates for safe environments that cater to the wellbeing of children and prohibit acts of violence among peers. Visit Save the Children Lebanon Facebook Page for more information on the campaign. Photo Credit: Nour Wahid/Save The Children
**LEBANON**

Lebanon has received staggering numbers of Syrian refugees. With no official camps the refugee population spreads out across the country, making it hard to reach.

- Refugees in Lebanon: 31 October, 2018, UNHCR
  - **951,629**

**Our response**

*Reached: 171,689, of these 90,574 are children*
*Counter reset starting January 2018.*

Highlights from our response:

- Six new Focus PSS groups were established during September 2018 targeting 91 high vulnerable children engaged in the worst forms of child labour.
- Three new Positive Parenting groups were established throughout September reaching 42 caregivers.
- Monthly Peer To Peer session was delivered for volunteers in the North on engagement in Opportunities Resources and Local Network joint outreach to identify high-risk cases.
- Our Education team started identification of children who were at risk of drop-out in the previous academic year to enroll them at SC Remedial Support Classes that will start by 1 November.
- Registration for Early Childhood Care & Development (ECCD) classes is ongoing. Topics discussed during awareness sessions by the teachers focus on challenges faced and solution proposed.

**JORDAN**

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

- Refugees in Jordan: 24 October, 2018, UNHCR
  - **546,634**

**Our response**

*Reached: 313,786, of these 155,921 are children*
*Counter reset starting January 2018.*

Highlights from our response:

- Under Lego Project, we targeted 591 caregivers and targeted children (6-10 age).
- Under Hands Up Foundation project, we distributed 255 personal development kits across beneficiaries and 30 startup kits for parents/care givers, we have also delivered 4 vocational training in Aqaba and Jordan valley.
- 1 Community Based Organisation (CBO) in Jordan Valley started sessions after mobilization,
- 1 Community Based Organisation (CBO) in Aqaba: In the process of the outreach and community mobilization.
- Under Safe You Safe Me Project (SYSM) - 17 Child Protection(CP) and Gender Based Violence (GBV) cases identified, managed & referred.
- Distributed dolls/toys/toothbrushes, training and awareness sessions.

**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. We have reached 2,957,018 beneficiaries in Syria, including 1,961,750 children up to September 2018.

**OTHER REFUGEE LOCATIONS**

North Africa (Morocco, Algeria, Libya)

- **33,545**

**TURKEY**

The first influx of Syrian refugees into Turkey was in spring of 2011. Currently, individuals registered under SuTP (Syrians under Temporary Protection) are found across all 81 provinces of Turkey.

- Refugees in Turkey: 25 October, 2018, UNHCR
  - **3,589,327**

**Our response**

*Reached: 3,735, of these 3,266 are children*
*Counter reset of beneficiaries starting January 2018 and removing North West Syria figures.*

Highlights from our response:

- Under BMZ Projects we are running a community center in partnership with STL in Kucukcekmece, Istanbul.
- Syrian children continued to attend Child Resilience Programme (CRP) workshops in this quarter.
- BPRM Non Syrian projet SCi has started to implement a CP project in partnership with Zigytbirum Municipality’s Centre for Family, Women Support and People with Disabilities (AKDEM). The project duration is for 1 year and started in 1st September 2018.

**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.

- Refugees in Iraq: 31 October, 2018, UNHCR
  - **251,793**

**Our response**

Reached: **165,009**, Of these **87,525** are children

Highlights from our response:

- Child Protection activities focus on case management, capacity building, Psycho-social Support (PSS) activities (child and youth resilience, adolescent girls and boys toolkits), and community-based child protection through Child Protection Committees, Protection Networks, and Child and Youth clubs.
- The main achievement for the reporting period is the participation of 200 girls from Gawilan camp in a Marathon on International Girls’ day, with the aim of raising awareness on girls’ rights.
- The main achievements during the reporting period under Education Activities were the provision of remedial education for 600 students, training of 20 para-educators, and establishment of Teacher Learning Circles and Child Education Committees.

**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.

- Refugees in Egypt: 31 October, 2018, UNHCR
  - **132,029**

**Our response**

Reached: **88,551**, Of these **46,550** are children

Highlights from our response:

- 48 children were engaged in Psycho-Social Support (PSS) activities.
- 39 children attended sessions of HEART program.
- 20 children attended sessions to learn Arabic.
- 8 children attended sessions of Future Planning and Problems Solving program.
- 21 Unaccompanied Children (UAC) are included in the mentorship program.
- 4 UAC were engaged in individual session with psychologists.
- 54 parents/care givers were engaged in Positive parenting program.
- 183 Community health workers were trained.
- 466 received family planning awareness home visits.

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**Legend**

- [Non Food Items](#)
- [Shelter](#)
- [WASH](#)
- [Education](#)
- [Protection](#)
- [Health](#)
- [Nutrition](#)
- [Food security and livelihoods](#)

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@SaveChildrenMEE
**EDUCATION**

- Children fleeing violence in Syria have had their worlds turned upside down, and urgently need the safety, stability and structure a positive learning environment can bring to them.
- We provide children with school bags, uniforms, essential school materials, and pay school fees parents cannot afford. We are also providing non-formal education for adolescents.
- We implement Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) programmes in Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq, where vulnerable children between 3-6 years of age attend activities that qualify them for school years ahead. Implemented directly and through partners, the ECCD project has reached more than 5,000 children.

**CHILD PROTECTION**

Children urgently require specialised care and protection to help them recover from the extreme psychological and emotional distress they have been through.
- We carry out a range of child protection activities: child resiliency activities, support child protection committees, establish Parent Child Centres and refer children in need of support from psychologists.
- We provide psychosocial support and recreational activities for children in Child-Friendly Spaces (CFS), especially for children who witnessed traumatic events and live in distress. CFS activities help these children to overcome their distress and begin to recover their childhood.

**SHELTER/NFIs**

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

- We have been delivering essential aid items such as clothing, kitchen sets, and hygiene kits to displaced families in 42 locations in Syria in cooperation with our partners, 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.
- Our Shelter team was established in November 2012. To date, it has provided shelter, NFIs and WASH assistance to over 20,000 of the most vulnerable families in Lebanon (over 100,000 individuals). We have focused our interventions in the sub-standard buildings (unfinished houses, converted garages, abandoned buildings, etc.) and Informal Settlements. These shelter-types represent 25% and 15% respectively of the registered Syrian refugee population accommodation and also house Palestinians, Lebanese returnees and an increasing number of economically vulnerable Lebanese.

**FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS**

- Food security for Syrian refugees remains a grave concern. In Jordan in partnership with WFP we distribute electronic food vouchers in Za’atari Camp and in host communities, which refugees can exchange for food in local supermarkets.
- 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 implemented a Youth Livelihoods project in Egypt co-funded by Quick Impact Project funding from UNHCR and the French Embassy.
- Women and youth in Egypt and Lebanon benefit from the Home-Based Skills Development Programme (HBSD) through trainings on livelihoods activities, life skills, entrepreneurship and production and marketing. Save the Children also provides equipment and raw materials needed to start up income-generating activities.

**HEALTH AND NUTRITION**

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

- In Egypt and Syria we have conducted vaccination campaigns of Hepatitis A and polio, respectively.
- In Egypt we have conducted capacity building programmes for health staff in Primary Health Clinics and hospitals in Giza District. 44 doctors and nurses were trained on modules such as family health and maternal and child health.

**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 been distributing household items, weatherization kits and WASH hygiene kits, newborn kits in Lebanon, Iraq, Egypt and Syria, and providing shelter support through materials distribution.
- During the winter we distribute blankets and provide shelter support across the region.
- We have conducted hygiene promotion awareness-raising sessions in Iraq and Syria and Lebanon.
- We distribute drainage kits, water vouchers, dislodging vouchers, metal septic tanks, latrines and a number of other items in Lebanon.