UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

FACTSHEET

Child Protection in Syria

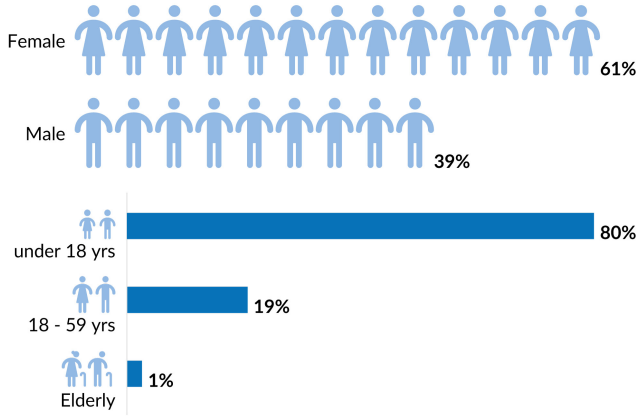
January - September 2022

8,931
Children benefitted from case management services

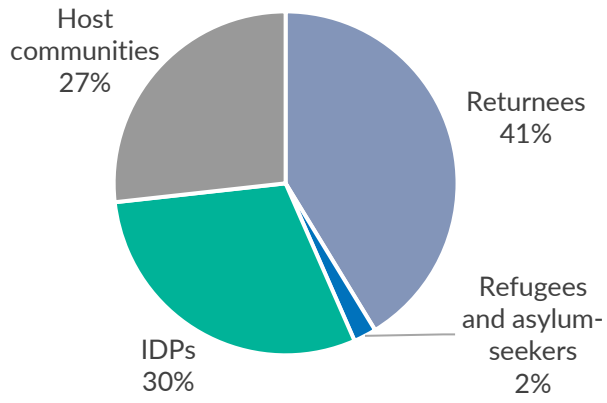
10,510
awareness-raising sessions conducted

215
Child-Protection Community-Based Structures

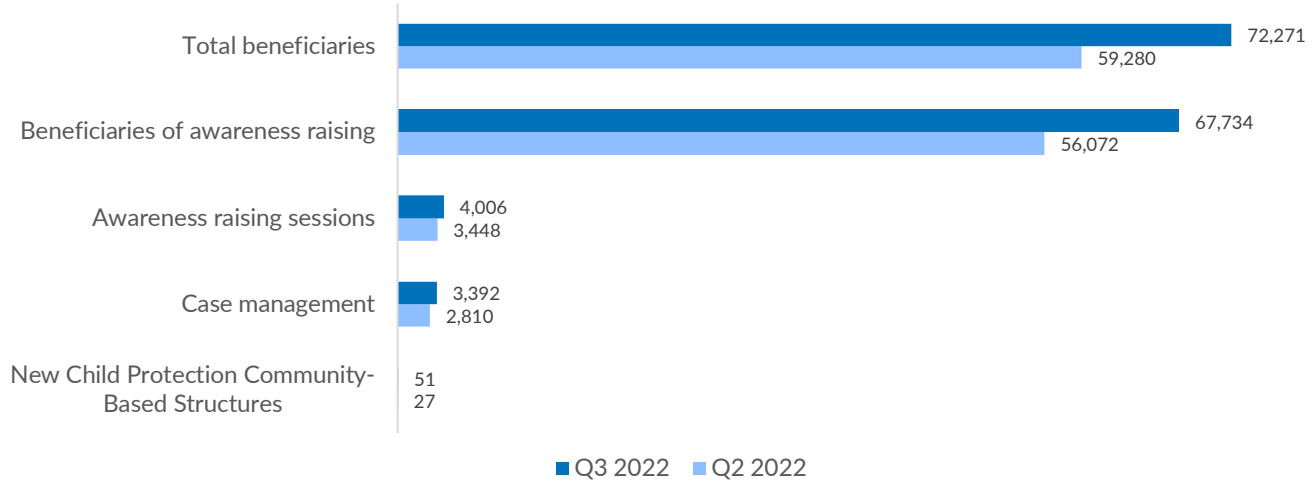
184,081 people included in child protection services



Population groups
benefitting from services



14 Governorates | 124 Community Centres | 19 Partners



Case management

Case management is the process of helping individual children and families through direct social work support and information management.

UNHCR's child-centred approach to child-protection aims to engage with children in age-appropriate ways, protect them from harm and ensure that case managers make inclusive decisions together with the children and their caretakers in children's best interests. This is done through working closely with families and communities to address child protection concerns and to identify solutions.

In the third quarter of 2022, some 70 per cent of all children (44 per cent male and 56 per cent female) who received case management services were **internally displaced or returnees.** The main protection risks faced by children were child neglect, child labour, and violence against children.

During the reporting period, a total of **8,931 (3,392 in the third quarter)** children received individual case management services, which included sessions with the children and their caretakers to assess their needs and risks, referral to specialized service providers (such as education classes, medical services, psychosocial support, and livelihood opportunities for caregivers) where needed, and follow up plans of actions with caregivers and other stakeholders (such as interventions with teachers, work employers, medical and general in-kind assistance, and child friendly space activities). The case management services holistically addressed the child protection concerns and responded to the needs by coordinating required assistance in line with the best interests of the child.

During the third quarter of 2022, UNHCR Syria facilitated a Best Interest Procedures (BIP) training for UNHCR staff and partners to implement BIP for refugee and asylum-seeking children on a regular basis.

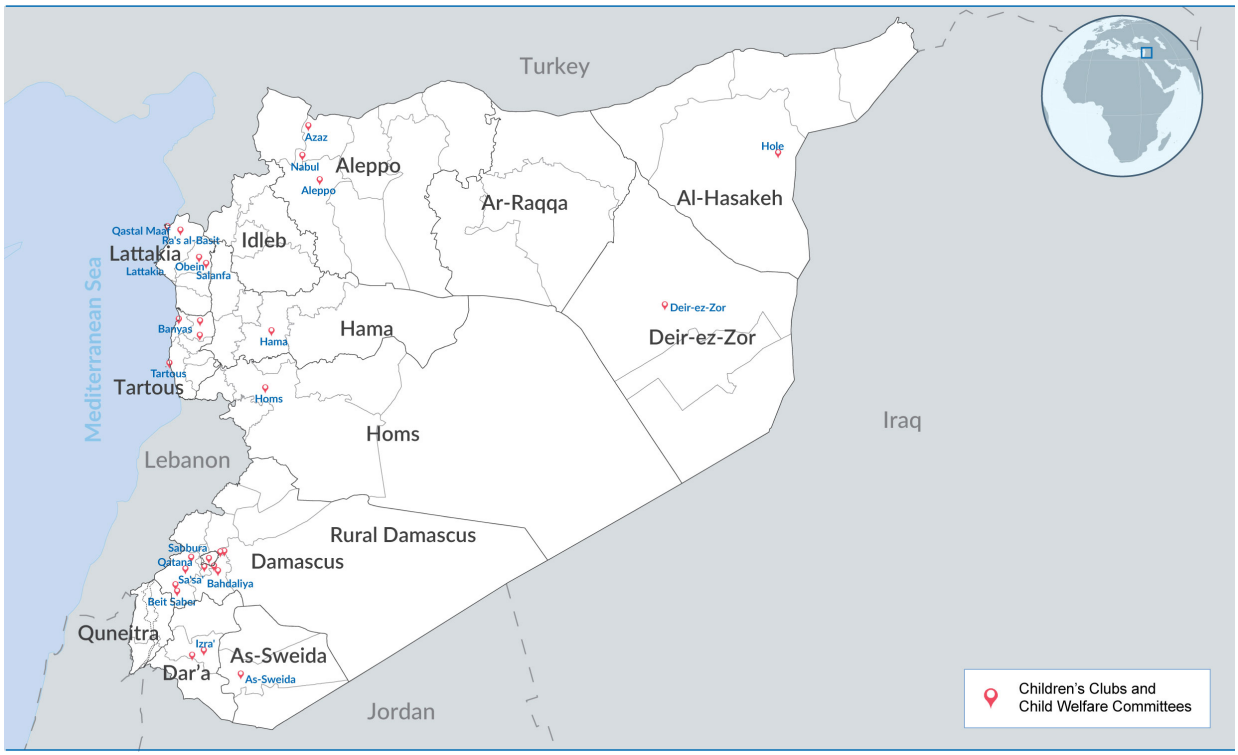
Awareness-raising

Awareness-raising is a fundamental component of UNHCR's child protection strategy, as it enhances community awareness of child neglect and protection risks faced by children as well as identification of abusive behaviour towards children. Awareness-raising aims to initiate behavioural change within communities against the normalization of child abuse, empowers the communities to respond to child-protection concerns and informs the caregivers as well as communities in general about the available child protection services.

During the reporting period, UNHCR and its partners conducted a total of **10,500 (4,006 in the third quarter)** awareness-raising sessions reaching **171,600 (67,700 in the third quarter) beneficiaries**. The sessions were conducted on various topics including the rights of children, violence against children, harmful effects of dropping out of school, child recruitment, child neglect and mine risk education.

Community engagement

The establishment of child protection community-based structures is an important first step in enabling the community to protect and support its children. As part of enhancing community engagement and ownership of child protection, UNHCR established and supported **215** Children's Clubs and Child Welfare Committees in the first three quarters of 2022 **(51 in the third quarter)**.



Children's Clubs play an active role in child protection within schools and communities. The Children's Clubs advocate the rights of children, identify and report on protection concerns faced by children in the communities, share information with other children on how to access child protection services, provide peer support to the children in their schools and communities and raise awareness among the children on issues related to their rights through debates and role playing.

Child Welfare Committees are composed of members of the communities (such as teachers, social workers and community leaders) and are responsible for identifying specific child protection issues and trends within the communities, and advocating for and providing appropriate support to children facing child protection risks through the engagement of local communities. In addition, they raise awareness on children's rights and particularly child protection issues as well as on the services available for children.

Capacity Building

Building the capacity of partner staff is a shared responsibility between UNHCR and the partners.

During the reporting period, **683 (486 in the third quarter),** partner staff received training on the basics of child protection and on child protection case management. Moreover, UNHCR in collaboration with UNMAS hosted a six-day training on **Explosive Ordnance / Mine Risk Education** in August for **14** partners' child protection case managers, facilitators and mobile teams on how to conduct awareness-raising activities on this topic. This training addressed partners located in As-Sweida, Quneitra and Dara'a and will be provided in the rest of the country in 2023.