FACTSHEET

Child Protection in Syria

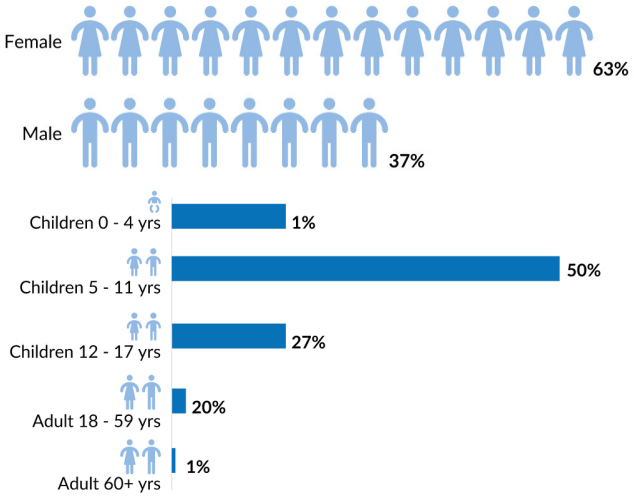
January – December 2024

168,978
children and caregivers benefited from awareness-raising sessions

11,201
children benefited from case management services

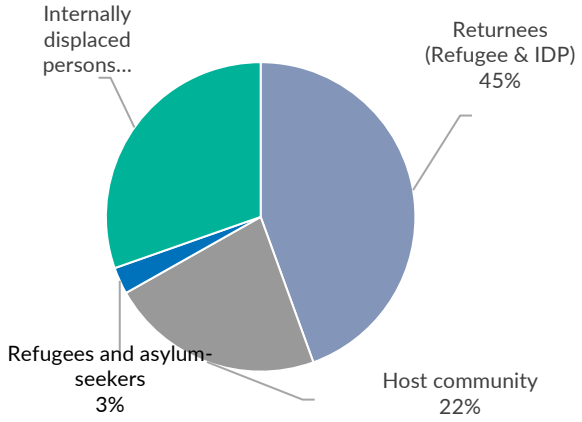
250
child protection community-based structures supported

180,699 persons received child protection services

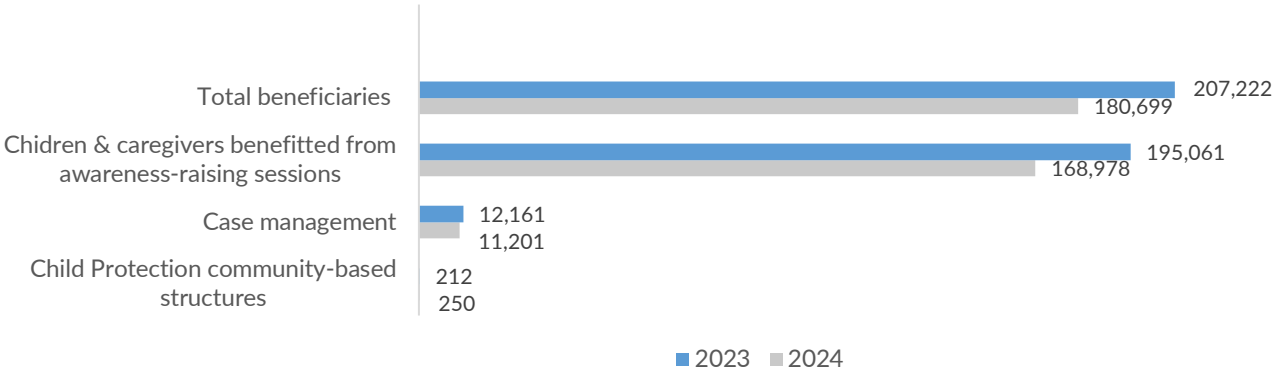


Population groups

benefiting from child protection services



14 Governorates | 113 Community Centres | 18 Partners



Case management

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

By the end of December 2024, **61%** of the children who received case management services from UNHCR and its partners were returnees, either refugee returnees or internally displaced returnees. The main protection risks faced by children were **child labour, child neglect, and violence against children.**

During 2024, a total of **11,201 children** received **individual case management services**. The services included sessions with the children and their caretakers to assess their needs and risks, referrals to specialized service providers (such as education classes, medical services, psychosocial support, and livelihood opportunities for caregivers), and follow-up action plans with caregivers and other stakeholders. The plans of action included interventions with teachers and employers, medical and general in-kind assistance, and child-friendly space activities. The case management services holistically address child protection concerns and respond to the needs by coordinating required assistance in line with the child's best interests.

Awareness-raising

Awareness-raising is a fundamental component of UNHCR's child protection strategy, as it enhances the community awareness of protection risks faced by children, as well as identifies abusive behaviour towards children. Awareness-raising aims to initiate behavioural change within communities against the normalization of child abuse, recognize and respect the rights of children, empower communities to respond to child protection concerns and inform caregivers as well as communities overall about the available child protection services.

SCREAM Prevention Program. © Aoun./UNHCR partner.

During 2024, UNHCR and its partners conducted awareness-raising sessions reaching **168,978 persons (131,151 children and 37,827 caregivers)**. The sessions were conducted on various topics, including the rights of children, violence against children, the harmful impact of dropping out of school, child recruitment, child neglect, mine risk education, child labour, and parenting skills.

Among those reached, **children** also participated in recreational activities implemented mainly in the **87 supported child-friendly spaces**, schools, and other safe spaces in the community. Recreational activities focus on children's physical and psychological well-being through engaging in various physical and artistic interactive activities with messages on physical safety, prevention of harmful practices such as smoking, and reinforcing positive coping mechanisms.

To support children's education and facilitate their return to school, UNHCR, in collaboration with partners, distributed **10,927** stationery kits across Syria. This intervention aimed to provide educational and recreational materials to children, helping restore a sense of normalcy in their learning environment and supporting their access to education.

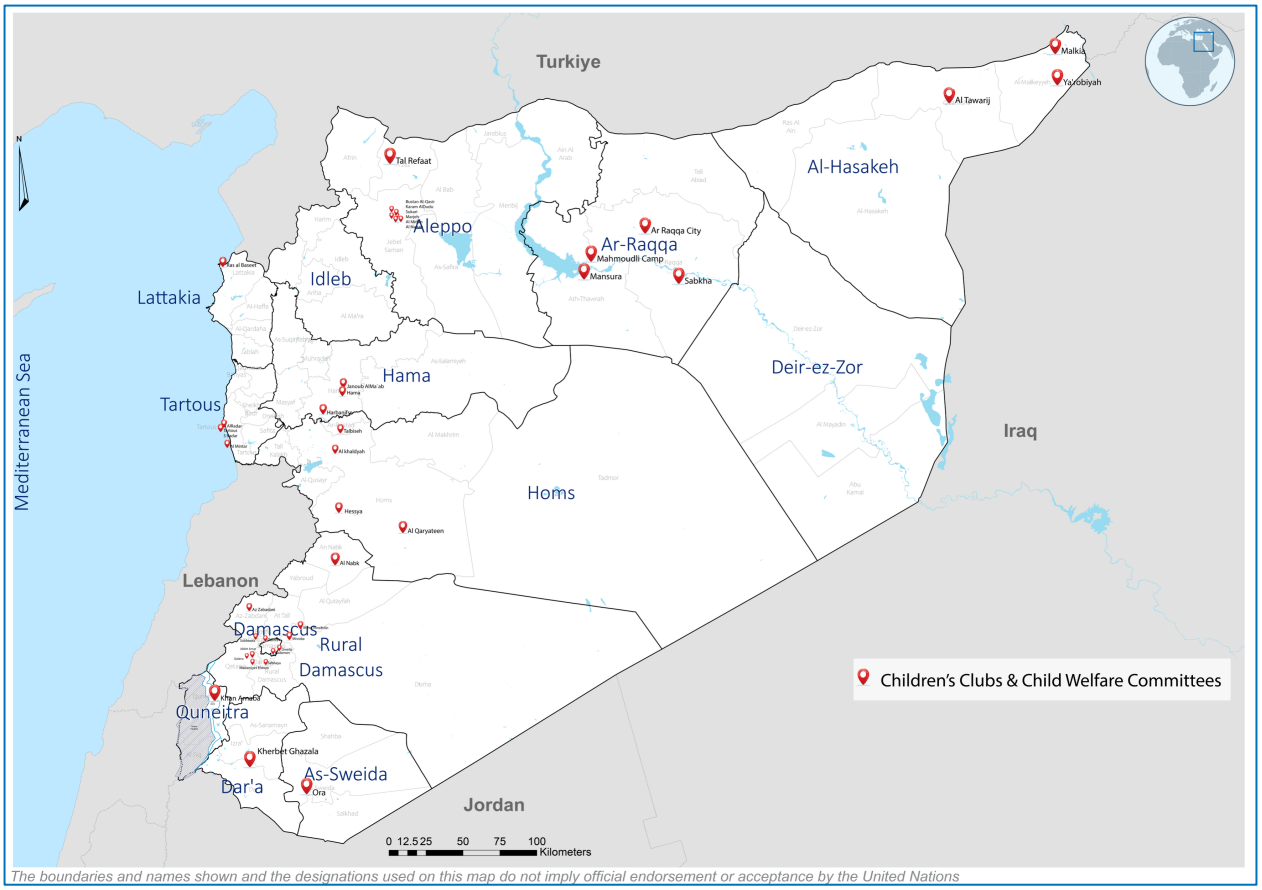
Community engagement

Establishing child protection community-based structures is an important first step in enabling the community to protect and support children. During 2024, **163 structures** were maintained and supported, including children's clubs and child welfare committees, to enhance community engagement and ownership of child protection.

Distribution of children's stationary kits. ©SARC/UNHCR partner

Children's clubs bring together children (6-18 years) and play an active role in child protection within schools and communities. The clubs advocate for children's rights, identify and report on child protection concerns in the communities, share information with children on how to access child protection services, provide peer support to the children within 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 community members (such as teachers, social workers, and community leaders) responsible for identifying specific child protection issues and trends within the communities. They also advocate for and provide appropriate support to children facing risks through community engagement. In addition, they raise awareness of children's rights, child protection issues, and services available for children.



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations

Capacity Building

Building the capacity of partner staff is a shared responsibility between UNHCR and the partners. By the **end of 2024**, a total of 520 partner staff and community structures received training on the basics of child protection and case management as well as "Supporting Children's Rights through Education, the Art and the Media" - "SCREAM" programme[1]. Additionally, collaboration with UNMAS was expanded on the Explosive Ordnance Risk Education programme to ensure that children receive adequate knowledge, helping minimize their risk and raise awareness about safety.

SCREAM Prevention Program. © Al Nada./UNHCR partner.

[1] *SCREAM is an education and social mobilization programme, that helps educators worldwide promote understanding and awareness of child labour among young people.*