



293,000 children have participated in structured, sustained psychosocial or child protection support so far this year

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS:

Activities to protect children continue to be scaled-up across the region, including investments in community-based protection and national systems to help build the resilience of refugees and their communities.

In Egypt, 4,966 children and parents have now accessed community-based psychosocial support services (PSS) and child protection services this year - a significant increase from the 780 children and parents who had accessed the same services by the end of March.

In Iraq, some 948 separated and unaccompanied children have been reunified with their families, or been placed in alternative care, since the start of the year. In April, 906 children accessed PSS, bringing the total number who have accessed PSS in 2015 to 15,749 - almost 80 per cent of the year's target.

In Turkey, during April alone some 6,062 children benefitted from PSS in 25 child friendly spaces (CFS), bringing the total assisted this year to more 17,656.

The implementation of the Lebanon Ministry of Social Affairs' National Plan to Safeguard Children and Women began this month, with the endorsement of 31 local development action plans outlining implementation of prevention and response activities delivered through Social Development Centres (SDC). Multiple services aimed at mitigating risk and harm to children, and supporting parents and families will be implemented in 57 SDCs by the end of 2015.

In Jordan, two trainings on alternative care were organized for 58 NGO case workers and members of the Ministry of Social Development and the Family Protection Department. Alternative care was only recently institutionalized in Jordan and training was required to address basic definitions and processes related to unaccompanied and separated children, alternative care placement and best interest determinations.

NEEDS ANALYSIS:

While the conflict in Syria continues to cause loss of life, injury, destruction and displacement on a large scale, it is increasingly difficult for Syrians to find safety, including by seeking asylum. Many of those arriving in host countries in the region are increasingly vulnerable and many have been displaced multiple times prior to arriving.

International solidarity and burden-sharing with host countries are therefore ever more important to preserve protection space for refugees and ensure protection from refoulement. Access to registration, verification, including through the use of biometrics, and the renewal of documentation remain critical. These tools facilitate outreach to communities and, along with community-based protection processes, ensure that refugees' need for information and engagement - especially for those living outside of camps - is met.

Refugee children, including the more than 142,000 Syrian children who have been born in exile since the conflict began, require specific assistance, as do survivors of violence, including SGBV, which has been a persistent feature of the conflict which affects women, girls, boys and men in different ways.



A Syrian refugee child. UNHCR

Sector Response Summary:



4,687,450 Refugees & Local Community Members targeted for assistance by end-2015
4,396,460 assisted in 2015



Syrian Refugees in the Region:



4,270,000 Syrian Refugees expected by end-2015
3,978,825 currently registered or awaiting registration



3RP Overall Funding Status:



USD 4.5 billion required in 2015 (Agencies)
USD 881.73 million received in 2015



PROTECTING REFUGEE CHILDREN

Over two million Syrian children now live as refugees across the region. Refugee children have faced a range of violations of their rights in Syria including family separation, no access to education, physical and sexual violence, military recruitment, torture and kidnapping, lack of access to basic services, lack of birth certificates and psychosocial distress.

Although refugee children find safety from conflict and persecution when they arrive in host countries, increasing levels of poverty, restricted access to basic services such as education, and weakening of family and community structures, increase the protection risks for Syrian refugee children. This can cause family violence, early marriage, child labour, recruitment and family separation, violence and discrimination against refugee children.

The child protection response has been scaled-up over time, with 784,333 children receiving psychosocial support interventions in 2014 (105 per cent of the target), double the number receiving support in 2013.

This year, important strategic shifts in the approach include a clear focus on strengthening the capacity, quality of and access to national child protection systems, while simultaneously maintaining a focus on the provision of quality specialized child protection services to children in need. In light of the shifting protection risks and issues facing refugee children in prolonged displacement, greater emphasis is also being given to help families and communities to protect their children as well as develop their resilience and coping skills - for instance, parenting skills programmes are being implemented in Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon and Iraq.



REGIONAL RESPONSE INDICATORS: JANUARY - APRIL 2015



These dashboards reflect the achievements of the more than 200 partners, including governments, UN Agencies, and NGOs, involved in the 3RP response in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey. Progress and targets may change in line with data revisions. All data on this Dashboard is current as at 30 April 2015.