



Background

As the Syrian conflict heads towards its fifth year, the impact of the crisis on neighbouring countries continues to deepen. To date, Jordan hosts over 620,000 Syrian refugees; more than half of them children and 20 per cent under the age of five. With a population in Jordan of approximately six million, the refugee population stretches Jordan's scarce resources and the limited capacity of national institutions to deliver social services such as education and child protection.

The need to provide vulnerable children in Jordan with learning opportunities has become acute. Although the Government of Jordan has provided access to schools for Syrian refugees to the extent possible, out of the **220,000 Syrian refugees that are school-aged, only 130,000 are enrolled in the public school system. An additional 30,000 children attend informal or non-formal education. Approximately 60,000 children are not participating in any form of organized learning.**

While the process of expanding and improving the quality of the formal education system needs to continue and accelerate, it will not meet the needs of the currently out-of-school children in the near future. Therefore, an alternative, innovative approach to expanding learning opportunities is being urgently scaled-up to reach all out-of-school children.

In addition, Syria refugee children and young people are all directly affected by the conflict through the death or separation of loved ones and the loss of communities and homes, and the conflict has placed them at increased risk of early marriage, child labour, or recruitment into armed groups. In 2015, UNICEF Jordan will target over 200,000 boys and girls with psychosocial support (PSS) all across Jordan. In addition, 58,000 vulnerable adolescents and youth will be targeted with basic life skills training to provide them with opportunities for active participation in constructive social change.

2015 priorities for scaling-up alternative education, psychosocial support and life-skills opportunities

UNICEF recognizes great opportunities to expand alternative education through the existing network of national and international Non-Governmental and Community Based Organization's partners that has developed throughout Jordan which includes a network of 200 centres that are currently delivering life-skills training, psychosocial services and various forms of learning.

The services that are offered by all of these existing centres, as well as new ones currently being identified, will be broadened to include the delivery of quality alternative education. Because it is important for children's learning achievements to be recognized by the Government, (to enable them to access formal school system in Jordan or elsewhere as opportunities arise), UNICEF will support the Ministry of Education assess the learning of children at various intervals and issue "letters of equivalency" that acknowledges their learning achievement.

Key activities

- Expand existing child friendly centres nationwide to become learning centres
- Monitor performance to promote adherence to minimum standards, using innovative IT-enabled platforms including mapping and real-time monitoring
- Train facilitators on participatory and blended (IT enabled) learning
- Provide suitable and high quality education learning materials
- Support the Ministry to assess learning and provide "letters of equivalency"
- Provide child protection-related services including psychosocial support training and integrating the concepts of psychosocial support into academic subjects
- Expand youth engagement through Life-skills (LS) Training and youth led initiatives with a focus on social cohesion
- Support community involvement through child protection committees to expand outreach activities and strengthen the link between the MAKANI, care-givers and children and increase focus on the most marginalised, vulnerable and at risk young people.

THE MAKANI – MY SPACE HOLISTIC APPROACH:

Objective: 90, 000 girls and boys currently out of any form of education and exposed to high risks of child labour exploitation and early marriage, are provided with access to alternative education, 200,000 receive psychosocial support and 58,000 access life skills training.

"I am safe, I play, I connect"

Alternative Education includes

*Non-formal education (certified education services for children ages 12+: drop-out program, home schooling, adult literacy, summer program, evening classes)

*Informal education (non-certified pathway including educational activities for all ages: basic learning, technical skills/post basic education, recreational activities)

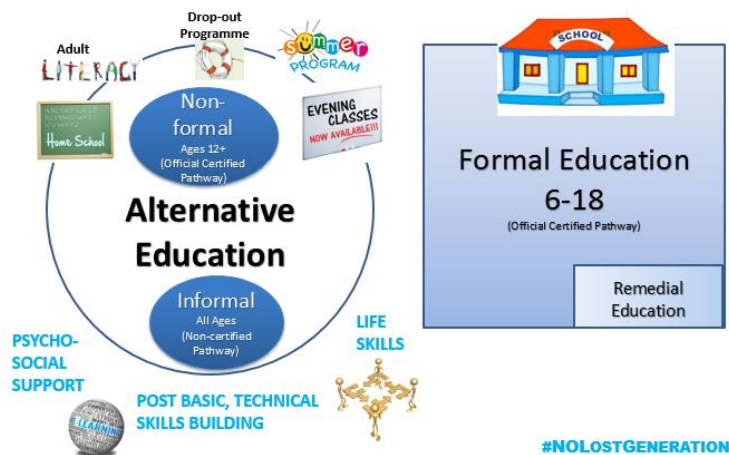
Psychosocial Support Services are intended to restore a sense of normalcy in the lives of children and adolescents, increase safety and promote their psychosocial well-being, through culturally and age appropriate activities, such as sports, play and games that are safe and stimulating. This helps develop children's life skills and coping mechanisms, as well as promoting children's participation in daily community life through cultural or media activities or community service, enabling children to support one another.

Life Skills Training empowers adolescents and youth (ages 10 to 24) as assets for their environment and provides them with opportunities for active participation in constructive social change. Basic Life Skills includes Self-management skills (self-awareness, self-esteem and confidence, identity, responsibility and resisting pressures); Cognitive skills (creative and critical thinking, taking decisions and problem solving); Social skills (listening, communicating, understanding, accepting others, self-assertion and negotiation); Collective action skills/civic skills (planning, team work, leadership, campaigning).

Partnerships

Main partners for the scale up of alternative education, psychosocial support and life skills will include:

- Government partners: Ministry of Education, Ministry of Social Development, Higher Council for Youth
- National Non-governmental organisations: Madrasati, Islamic Charity Society, East Amman Charity, Yarmouk Baqqa Club, Save the Children Jordan, the Middle East Children's Initiative, The Jordanian Hashemite Fund for Development (JOHUD)
- International Non-governmental organisations: Relief International, Mercy Corps, Norwegian Refugee Council, Terre des Hommes, International Medical Corps, Save the Children International, Generations for peace



Monitoring & Evaluation

UNICEF in humanitarian situations follows the Humanitarian Performance Monitoring Framework with standardised monitoring and evaluation activities and tools. Sets of Key Performance Indicators and targets are set up in line with the Appeals (3RP) and in application of Humanitarian Performance Monitoring. UNICEF M&E Officers and Field Monitors check the quality of service delivery in meeting the needs and targets of displaced vulnerable Syrians by monitoring the work of partners on the ground through weekly field visits.

Financial Requirements

As detailed in the Syria Regional Refugee Response Plan (3RP), UNICEF Jordan requires a total of US\$ 179.5 million to implement emergency interventions for vulnerable Syrians through December 2015, for interventions targeting refugees and contribution to building the resilience of the country. To date, UNICEF has received US\$ 32 million, with a funding gap of US\$ 147.5 million. Out of the US\$ 25.5 million planned for the scale up of alternative education in 2015, an initial 21% has been raised so far and about 25% of the 2015 planned funding needs for psychosocial support and youth empowerment services have been secured.

Supporting one MAKANI –MY SPACE centre providing integrated alternative education, psychosocial support and life skills services for one year costs an average of US\$ 200,000 with a unit cost of US\$ 429 per child receiving an integrated package of services. One MANAKI is reaching an average of 360 children with alternative education, 812 children with psychosocial support and 232 adolescents and youth with life-skills training services for one year.



A US\$ 1,000,000 contribution would support 5 MAKANI for one year, reaching 4,060 children with psychosocial support as well as 1,800 children currently out of any form of education with alternative education opportunities and youth empowerment services.

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