



The conflict in Syria – **the worst humanitarian crisis since World War II** – is now in its 6th year, with no end in sight. Millions have been forced to flee their homes to neighbouring countries, their futures uncertain. **Children continue to pay the highest price** and bear the heaviest burden of the crisis: their education, emotional well-being, and even their lives, are all at risk.

Turkey is home to the largest number of Syrian refugees in the world, with over 2.7 million – more than half of them children. According to latest estimates from the Ministry of National Education, over **330,000 Syrian and other refugee children are enrolled in formal education across the country** – representing an **over 50% increase** compared to the end of the last school year in June 2015. Nevertheless, the number of children who are still out of school remains significant.

The education and protection needs facing Syrian children in Turkey are enormous and keep growing. Together with the Government of Turkey and our partners, **UNICEF is striving to meet the challenges and prevent these boys and girls from becoming a ‘lost generation’.**

UNICEF Programme Response

UNICEF promotes longer-term investments to meet the needs of Syrian children and youth, and equip them with the tools they need to maximize their own potential. Since 2012, critical efforts have been made to minimize the impact of the crisis on children in the areas of **education, child protection and youth participation, basic needs and health and nutrition.**

¹ All refugee demographic data courtesy of UNHCR/DGMM, as of August 2016.

² UNICEF estimates based on data from UNHCR/DGMM, as of August 2016.

³ Data courtesy of the Ministry of National Education, as of February 2016. These figures include non-Syrian (i.e. Iraqi) Arabic-speaking refugee children.

⁴ UNICEF estimates based on data from UNHCR/DGMM and the Ministry of National Education, as of February 2016.

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Children of Syria in Turkey

Situation in Numbers

2,724,937¹

of registered Syrians in Turkey

254,747

of Syrians in camps

2,470,190

of Syrians in host communities

1.5 million²

of Syrian children (54% of the total Syrian population)

330,000³

of Syrian and other refugee children enrolled in schools

Over 500,000⁴

Estimated # of out-of-school Syrian children

EDUCATION

UNICEF is working in close partnership with the Ministry of National Education (MoNE) and partners on 3 main pillars of the education response: **systems strengthening, increased access and improved quality of inclusive education** both for Syrian and vulnerable Turkish children. Despite significant efforts and gains made to date, further interventions are essential to meet the education needs of those children who remain out of school.



Key results achieved to date:⁵

- **224 schools and Temporary Education Centres (TECs)** have been constructed, upgraded or refurbished.
- Nearly **440,000 Syrian and Turkish children** have received school bags and stationery kits.
- **12,435 Syrian volunteer teachers** are currently supported with monthly incentives in camps and host communities.
- **21 libraries** have been established in camps to promote literacy.
- Nearly **10,000 Syrian volunteer teachers** in camps and host communities have received training on the continuation of education during an emergency, coping with adverse conditions, and the provision of psycho-social support.
- **50 early childhood development (ECD) kits** have been provided to preschools and CFS in all camps.
- **370 recreation kits** were delivered to 33,300 children in 211 schools and TECs across the country.
- Technical support provided to the Ministry of National Education (MoNE) for the development and implementation of **9 Provincial Action Plans (PAPs)** to strengthen the resilience of the education system to better respond to the needs of Syrian children. **10 new provinces are presently under development.**
- Technical and financial support provided for the **Education Management Information System for Foreigners (YOBIS)**, an information management system tracking Syrian students' grades and attendance and providing school graduation certificates.



My name is Mustafa. I'm 16. I am a secondary high-school student. When the fight began, our home, our school.... everything was destroyed. I hope my friends and I can graduate and become engineers and rebuild our destroyed country."

Photo: @UNICEF/Ankara-Turkey 2014/Yurtsever

⁵ Unless otherwise noted, all results achieved are cumulative as of July 2016

CHILD PROTECTION

Syrian children in Turkey have experienced war and suffering first hand, and risk violence, developing psychological disorders, child marriage, and recruitment into armed groups. In collaboration with government authorities and other partners, UNICEF is focused on creating protective environments for children. Child-friendly spaces enable emotional recovery and referrals, while support is provided to Turkish authorities to identify and prioritise children at risk. Parents are supported and trained to cope with their children's disorders, and affected adolescents and youth are equipped to take on positive and peace-building roles within their communities.



Key results achieved to date:

- **27 Child Friendly Spaces (CFSs)** are currently operating in 22 camps and 5 host communities, in addition to **2 mobile psychosocial support units** operating in provinces across the southeast.
- Over **679,000 children** have benefitted from child protection and psycho-social support (PSS) services in CFSs, over **166,000** of whom have received regular, structured PSS.
- **3 Adolescent Friendly Centres, 2 Girl Safe Centres, 5 Child Protection Support Centres and 1 Child Protection Support Hub** are currently operating in 8 provinces, which provide a number of services including direct PSS, recreational and life-skills activities, case management, legal counselling, and identification and referral for children in need of specialized support.
- Over **1,430 volunteer Syrian adolescent/youth** trained to support CFSs, over half of them girls.
- Nearly **5,000 children** have been referred to appropriate local service providers for specialized support.
- Nearly **1,300 key actors** from government and civil society have received training on Child Protection in Emergencies.
- More than **40,000 Syrian parents** have been equipped through the Parenting Programme with the necessary skills to address the emotional and behavioural difficulties of their children and be more supportive.
- Over **70,000 Syrian and Turkish adolescents** in impacted communities have been trained on social cohesion activities through peer support, youth mobilization and advocacy.
- Nearly **6,000 children and parents** were reached with landmine and explosive remnants of war risk education in the provinces of Sanliurfa and Hatay, over half of them girls and women.



My name is Ala and I'm 13 years old. My school is so beautiful. My favourite subjects are Maths and Turkish Language. I love the Lebanese poet Khalil Gibran. I read all his poems. I go to school at 8am, without eating breakfast. Around noon, when school is over and I come back home and have lunch. Then, I go to the Child Friendly Space and stay there until 4pm. I like games and competitions, but I've never won. I enjoy spending my time there"

Photo: ©UNICEF Turkey/2014/Yurtsever

BASIC NEEDS

UNICEF continues to provide essential support to vulnerable Syrian children and families in order to help them survive the cold winter months.

In 2015, UNICEF embarked on a significant shift in its approach to winter support, away from supplies and warm clothing to predominantly cash-based assistance, reflecting the latest thinking in effective support with the need to build resilience among Syrian refugees in Turkey. Working with local and international NGOs on the ground, **UNICEF distributed unconditional cash voucher to over 20,000 vulnerable Syrian families in 10 provinces** across Turkey, benefitting an estimated **103,000 people**.



Under this programme, each eligible household received a voucher or cash payment (valued at between USD \$150-\$200) from which they could purchase much-needed supplies and clothing in pre-determined shops – enabling them to spend their meagre resources on other essential expenses, such as rent and food. Families who live in rural areas without sufficient market access receive an equivalent value of essential winter items including heaters, blankets, carpets and warm clothing.

HEALTH & NUTRITION

UNICEF works in close collaboration with the Government of Turkey to address immunization, nutrition and hygiene needs of Syrian children – particularly those living in the host communities – and to increase their awareness on important health issues.

Key results achieved to date:

- Over **1 million** Syrian and Turkish children were vaccinated against polio and measles following the 2013 polio outbreak, and more than **1.3 million** were vaccinated in polio mop-up campaigns conducted by the Ministry of Health in 2015.
- Over **2,200** children were given nutrition screenings; 45 were identified with moderate acute malnutrition and enrolled in treatment programs. Almost 750 children received vitamin multi-nutrient powder (VMP) for their micronutrient deficiency and nearly 2,450 children, pregnant and lactating women received high-energy biscuits.
- Almost **650,000** brochures and other materials were distributed to increase awareness on proper nutrition, diet diversification, the use of high-energy biscuits (HEBs) and micronutrient powders, breastfeeding and hygiene.
- **1.6 million** packs of high-energy biscuits (HEBs) have been provided in camps and host communities.
- Nutrition in emergency trainings were conducted for partners to address treatment of acute malnutrition, infant and young child feeding, food security, and water and sanitation issues.



Future Commitments

UNICEF will continue to support the efforts of the Government of Turkey to meet the needs of Syrian and vulnerable Turkish children and youth. In 2016 and 2017, critical interventions will focus on:

- **Increasing access to quality learning opportunities** at all levels through appropriate formal, non-formal and informal education and support efforts to ensure that all school-age children have access to a form of education;
- Ensuring that both Syrian and Turkish children are **benefiting from inclusive and participatory learning opportunities** to support their personal development and encourage positive norms and behaviours;
- **Empowering Syrian and Turkish young people** to take an active role in informing and advising their peers in the community about sources of support, learning opportunities and social activities;
- **Expanding psycho-social support services** to children living in host communities.
- **Increasing child protection services**, such as counselling, mental health support, gender-based violence prevention and interventions;
- **Strengthening existing national formal child protection systems** and the capacities of Government and NGO professionals and front-line workers.

**#NOLOST
GENERATION**

Children of Syria have not given up hope. We must keep this hope alive!

The support of the international community to mobilize resources to meet the needs of Syrian children in Turkey remains vital to prevent them from becoming a lost generation.

Under the umbrella of 'No Lost Generation', UNICEF and partners are galvanizing the global coordinated effort it will take to protect the futures of these children. The international actors have come together to expand access to learning and psychosocial support, strengthen social cohesion, and restore hope for the future.

Please Visit: nolostgeneration.org

For more information please contact: UNICEF in Turkey, www.unicef.org.tr