The Syrian refugee crisis – the worst humanitarian crisis since World War II – is entering its 7th 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 – their education, their hopes and dreams, and even their lives, are all at risk.

Turkey is now home to the largest refugee population in the world. More than 2.8 million Syrians are under temporary protection – almost half of whom are children. Less than 10% of Syrian refugees live in 23 official camps along the Syrian border, while the remaining 90% reside in host communities – mostly in the southeast, but also increasingly in cities to the north and west.

Despite significant gains made by the government of Turkey, UNICEF and partners on the ground, the scale of this crisis has put enormous strain on the country’s infrastructure and basic services, particularly in host communities. The needs are particularly acute in the areas of education and child protection.

According to the Ministry of National Education (MoNE), over 490,000 Syrian children are enrolled in schools across the country – nevertheless, it is estimated that some 380,000 Syrian children remain out of school. In addition to the psychological trauma many have endured, Syrian children remain acutely vulnerable to numerous protection risks, including isolation, discrimination, economic and sexual exploitation and child marriage.

The rights to an education and a protective environment are not only fundamentally important for Syrian refugee children in Turkey, they are crucial for the future of Syria – and the region. Together with the government of Turkey and partners, UNICEF is striving to prevent the loss of an entire generation of Syrian children.

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1 All data and estimates are based on latest figures from the Government of Turkey and UNHCR, January 2017. Figures have been rounded to the nearest thousand.
2 Ministry of National Education, December 2016. Figures have been rounded to the nearest ten thousand.
3 Syria Regional Refugee Response Inter-agency Information Sharing Portal, January 2017.
UNICEF’s Humanitarian Response

UNICEF promotes longer-term investments to meet the needs of Syrian children, and equip them with the means to maximize their own potential. Under the framework of the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP) and in line with the “No Lost Generation” strategy, UNICEF is working to ensure access to education, child protection, youth engagement and basic needs support to Syrian refugee children in temporary accommodation centres and host communities, as well as vulnerable Turkish children affected by the crisis.

EDUCATION

UNICEF is working in close partnership with MoNE and partners on three 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:

- **325,000** Syrian children are enrolled in **over 400 UNICEF-supported temporary education centres (TECs)** in **21 provinces**
- **498** schools and **TECs** have been constructed, upgraded or furnished.
- **655,150** Syrian and Turkish children have received school bags and stationery kits.
- **12,963** Syrian volunteer teachers are supported with monthly incentives in camps and host communities.
- **21 libraries** have been established in camps to promote literacy.
- **29,875** Syrian volunteer teachers in camps and host communities have received various trainings on the provision of education in emergencies, including psychosocial 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.**

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4 Unless otherwise noted, all results achieved are cumulative as of January 2017
Syrian children in Turkey have experienced war and suffering first hand, and risk violence, developing psychological disorders, child marriage, and recruitment into armed groups. UNICEF works closely with the Ministry of Family and Social Policies (MoFSP) and partners to strengthen existing child protection services in Turkey, with a focus on improving psychosocial well-being, as well as prevention, early detection and referral of at-risk children.

Key results achieved to date:

- **28 Child Friendly Spaces** (CFSs) are currently operating in camps and host communities, in addition to **2 mobile psychosocial support units** operating in provinces across the southeast.
- **6 Adolescent Friendly Centres, 5 Child Protection Support Centres, 2 Girl Safe 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.
- **174,000 children** have received regular, structured PSS, while approximately **700,000 children** have benefitted from child protection and PSS activities.
- **18,479 children** have been referred to appropriate local service providers for specialized support.
- **113,187 Syrian and Turkish youth and adolescents** in impacted communities have been trained on social cohesion activities through peer support, youth mobilization and advocacy.
- **2,566 key actors** from government and civil society have received training on the provision of 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.
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.

Under this programme, eligible households receive a voucher (value $200-$300) from which they can purchase winter items in pre-determined shops – enabling them to spend their meagre resources on other essential expenses, such as rent and food.

During the 2015-2016 winter, UNICEF provided cash-based assistance to over 18,500 vulnerable Syrian families, benefitting an estimated 98,000 people (56,000 children). For the upcoming 2016-2017 winter, UNICEF has significantly expanded its winter programme, targeting over 31,200 vulnerable Syrian and Turkish families or approximately 96,000 children.

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:

- **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.

- **2,200 children** were given nutrition screenings; 45 were identified with moderate acute malnutrition and enrolled in treatment programs. 750 children received vitamin multi-nutrient powder (VMP) for their micronutrient deficiency and 2,450 children, pregnant and lactating women received high-energy biscuits.

- **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.
UNICEF’S PRIORITIES AND TARGETS IN 2017

Although significant progress was achieved in 2016, much more work remains to be done to meet the needs of Syrian children. In 2017, UNICEF is appealing for an estimated US $235 million in order to achieve the following results:

Education
- Provision of early childhood education for 20,000 young children (ages 3-5)
- Increased access to formal education for 400,000 children
- Expanded non-formal and informal educational opportunities for 52,000 out-of-school children and youth
- An Education Cash Grant to expand access to schooling for over 230,000 children
- Provision of monthly incentives for 13,000 Syrian volunteer teachers
- Tailored trainings on education in emergencies for 28,500 Syrian volunteer and Turkish teachers

Child Protection/Adolescent & Youth Engagement
- Provision of regular, structured psychosocial support for 130,000 children
- Identification and referral to specialized child protection services of 7,700 children
- Strengthened and expanded community-centred gender-based violence (GBV) initiatives for 80,000 children
- Training and enhanced capacity for 6,120 frontline and child protection workers

Basic Needs
- Cash-based assistance to 30,000 vulnerable Syrian and Turkish families during the 2017-2018 winter season

Health & Nutrition
- Provision of technical assistance to the Government of Turkey on issues related to child and maternal health
- Strengthened monitoring of the child and maternal health situation in Turkey

Syrian children and youth have seen their education, safety, well-being and development decimated by over 6 years of war. The No Lost Generation initiative is a concerted effort by humanitarians, donors, governments and others to secure the safety and future of a whole generation of Syrian children, and is a powerful call to invest in the resilience, capacities and potential upon which the future of the region depends. For more information, please visit: nolostgeneration.org