

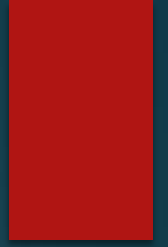


Child Labour in the Syrian refugee situation

WHAT DO WE KNOW?
WHAT CAN BE DONE?

UNHCR MENA BUREAU 19 APRIL 2016

How the Syrian conflict is driving more refugee children into child labour



Conflict and displacement dramatically increased the number of Syrian children working

- ▶ In Jordan, 47% of refugee households said they relied partly or entirely on income generated
- ▶ In Lebanon 3 out of 4 children working in the streets were Syrian

Children are working in more dangerous or exploitative situations

- ▶ Around 75% of working children in the Za'atari refugee camp in Jordan reported health problems and almost 40% reported an injury, illness or poor health
- ▶ 35.8% of children working in Lebanon's Bekaa valley were unable to read or write and most refugee children who are working are unable to attend school
- ▶ In some parts of Lebanon, refugee children as young as six are being put to work
- ▶ In Jordan 18% of the refugee children working in the agricultural sector are under 12

CHILD LABOUR

Reasons behind the increase of child labour

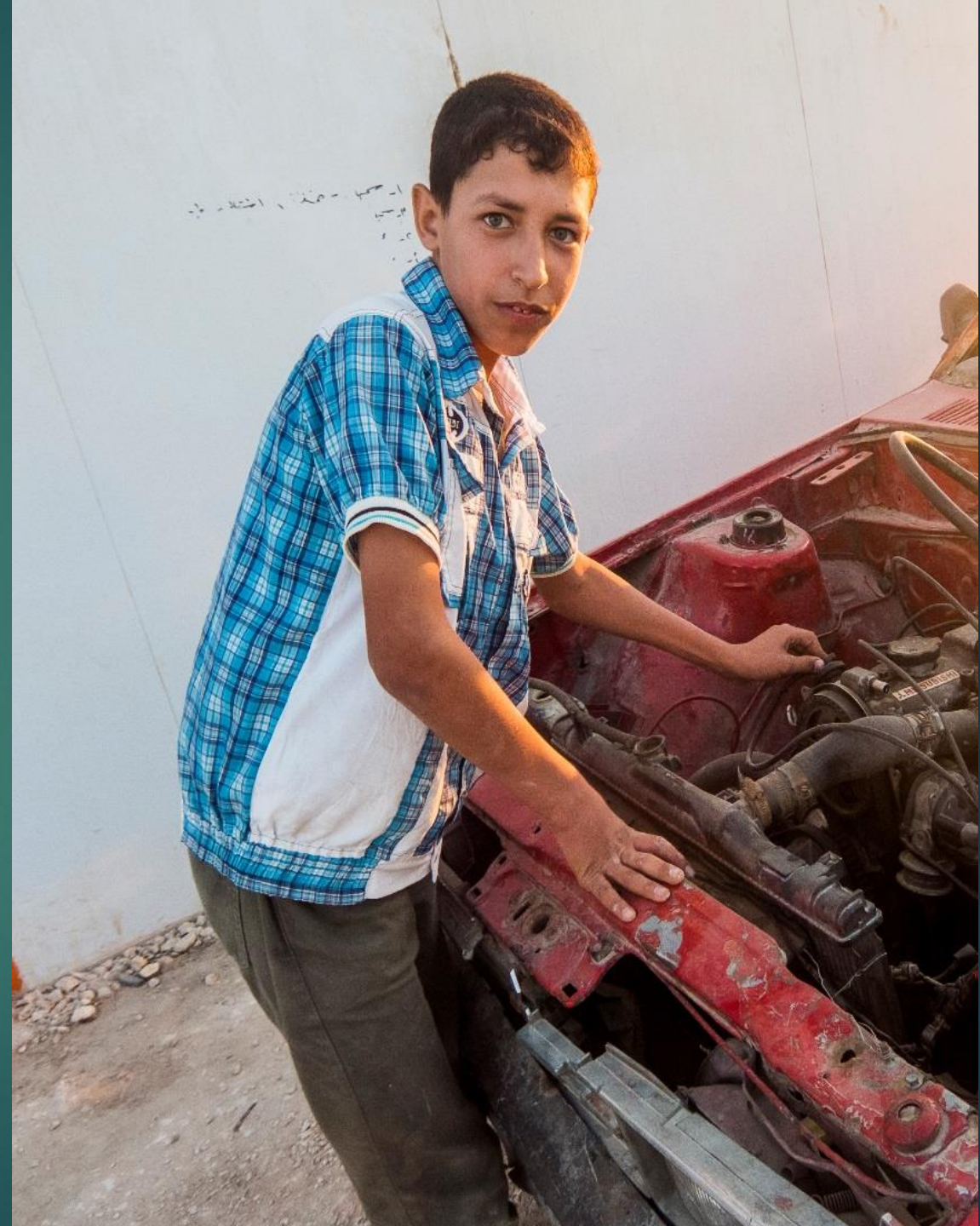


- ❶ Children go to work primarily for their families' survival
(Iraq, nearly 77% of refugee children from Syria worked to support their families)
- ❷ The limited access to a quality education is making the situation worse
(As of August 2015, close to 52 per cent of school-age children were out of school)
- ❸ Working conditions themselves are worsening
- ❹ Limited legal status increases vulnerability of refugee households and the risk of child labour and other negative coping mechanisms

Addressing Child Labour

Through an integrated approach:

- ▶ Advocating for **legal and policy framework** on child labor
- ▶ Engaging with **communities**
- ▶ Advocating safe and appropriate **education opportunities**
- ▶ Providing **specialized child protection interventions**
- ▶ Promoting child-sensitive **livelihood** programmes



Legal and Policy Framework

- ▶ Advocate for the inclusion of refugee children in the national action plans on child labor
- ▶ Support policy interventions
 - ▶ Offering viable alternatives to children
 - ▶ Challenging social norms and attitudes condoning the practice



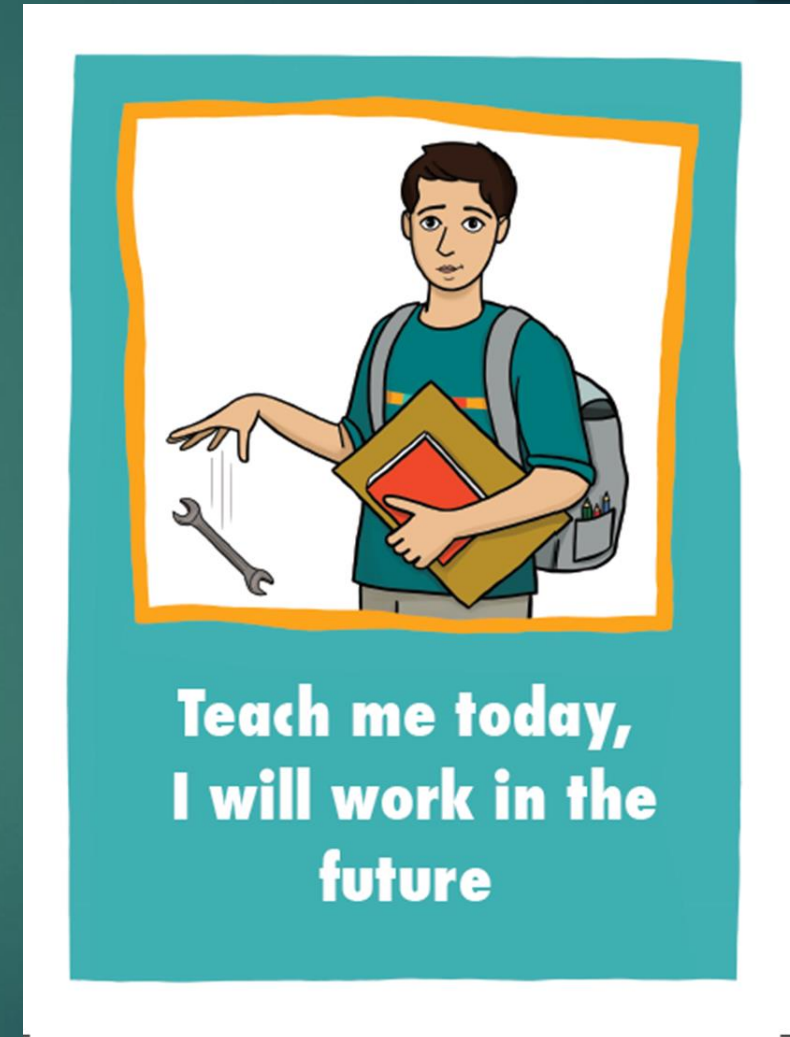
Engaging with Communities



- ▶ Collaborate with communities in the design of programmes addressing child labour so that the specific needs of families with working children are considered
- ▶ Support community-based structures addressing child labour and other child protection concerns

Safe and Appropriate Education Opportunities

- ▶ Strengthen the support to formal secondary education
- ▶ Address violence and discrimination in schools
- ▶ Scale up range of alternative and non-formal education for children who cannot rejoin formal secondary education
- ▶ Provide technical and vocational training for adolescents and youth adapted to market opportunities
- ▶ Provide basic numeracy and literacy non-formal education for working children, adapted to their needs and availability



Education should remain available for all children including those who continue to work

Specialized child protection interventions



Strengthen capacity of national protection systems and service providers to respond the needs of working children in a timely and effective manner

- Multisectoral case management
- Child labour drop

Child-sensitive Livelihood Programmes

- ▶ Scale up livelihood programmes that benefit all vulnerable persons in specific areas
- ▶ Advocate for employment opportunities for refugees
- ▶ Design livelihoods programmes to specifically address the issue of child labour including:
 - ▶ Offering safe livelihoods programmes for children above legal working age
 - ▶ Targeting most vulnerable families with heightened risk of child labour



Evidence-based programming

Multipurpose cash in Lebanon shown to:

- Increase children's participation in school
- 10% of households use child labour (sporadic)
- Impact on child labour not clear but cash does reduce likelihood of withdrawing children from school to work

UNHCR regional study on impact of cash assistance on negative coping mechanisms:

- Multipurpose cash mostly spent on rent
- If additional source of income in the family, cash contributed to increased school attendance and reduced child labour
- Without additional source of income, amount of cash assistance was insufficient to impact on child labour

Impact of Multipurpose Cash Assistance on Outcomes for Children in Lebanon



Support to the most vulnerable

- I. Scale up investment in cash assistance and vouchers to vulnerable families
- II. Refine modalities to ensure that cash assistance targets and effectively contributes to the reduction of child labour
- III. Explore expansion of conditional cash transfers and vouchers to support children's return to school

