# No Lost Generation Update January - June 2016





Launched in 2013, No Lost Generation (NLG) is a strategic framework for the responses to the Syria and Iraq Crises, embedded within existing planning and coordination structures, and bringing together key partners to achieve agreed outcomes essential for the education, protection, wellbeing and future of children and young people affected by these conflicts. These outcomes fall under three pillars: Education, Child Protection; and Adolescent and Youth Engagement.

#### Children and youth have access to certified quality education

- Reduction in the number of out-of-school children
- Increased access to technical and vocational training for young people (15-24)
- **Enhanced capacity of education personnel**
- Increased life-skills and citizenship education
- Strengthened national education systems

#### Children have access to quality protection services

- Increased access to quality community-based child protection and psychosocial support services
- Increased access to quality specialised child protection services
- Strengthened national child protection systems

#### Adolescents and youth are supported to contribute to resilience and social cohesion in their communities

- Adolescents and youth inspire and lead change in their communities
- Increased mechanisms for networking and mentorship
- Adolescents and youth are engaged in evidence generation, programming, and advocacy
- **Expanded livelihoods opportunities for youth**

# **Countries covered by No Lost Generation** Turkey Lebanon Iraq Jordan Egypt

The Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP) covers the response to the Syria crisis in Iraq, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey.

The Syria Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) covers humanitarian action inside Syria.

The Iraq Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) covers humanitarian action for IDPs inside Iraq.



#### STRATEGIC SHIFTS IN PHASE II OF NO LOST GENERATION

Phase II of the initiative (3-5 years, starting in 2016) will see efforts ramp up under all three pillars, with a focus not just on scaling up but also strengthening the quality of services delivered. At the London conference on the Syria crisis in February, where No Lost Generation emerged as a commonly held priority, commitments were made in support of strategic shifts to achieve agreed outcomes. These shifts include key policy changes, multi-year and high-volume funding, continuous investment in national service delivery systems for education and child protection, greater attention to livelihoods; and greater support for social cohesion.

#### No Lost Generation: from Phase I to Phase II

#### FROM:

- · A framework for critical interventions in education and child protection
- A call for funding for sectors that tend to be under-supported in humanitarian crises
- · A joint commitment to strengthen national service delivery systems

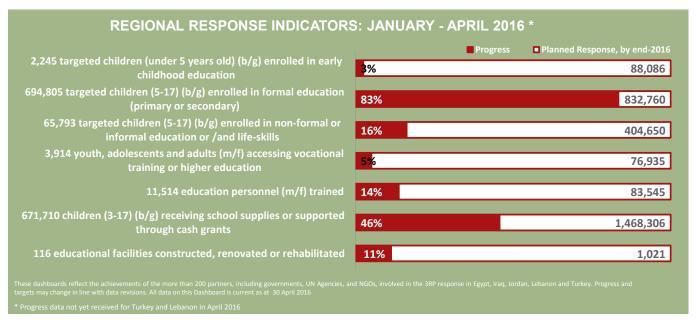
#### TO:

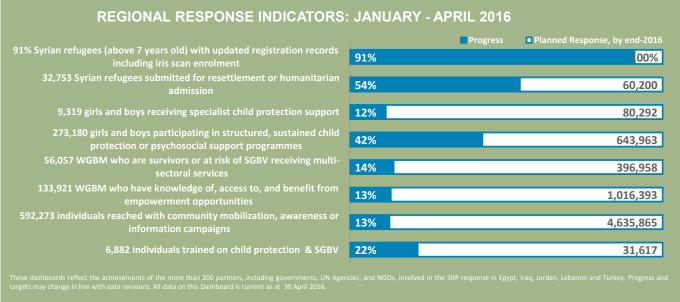
- A call to address both humanitarian and development needs: invest strategically now to secure long term results
- A framework to foster effective national delivery systems that bring together public, civil society and private sector providers, while upholding humanitarian principles in both refugee and armed conflict settings
- · A commitment to improve livelihoods opportunities and draw on national social protection systems
- A reaffirmation to promote social cohesion
- A commitment to empower young people to play meaningful roles in their communities and have their voices heard





#### NLG results in 3RP countries





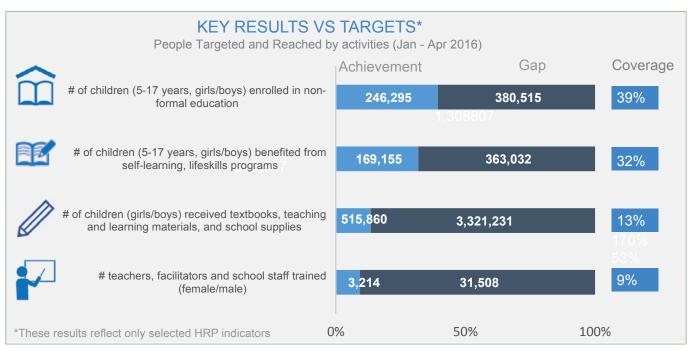
#### NLG results for IDPs in Iraq1

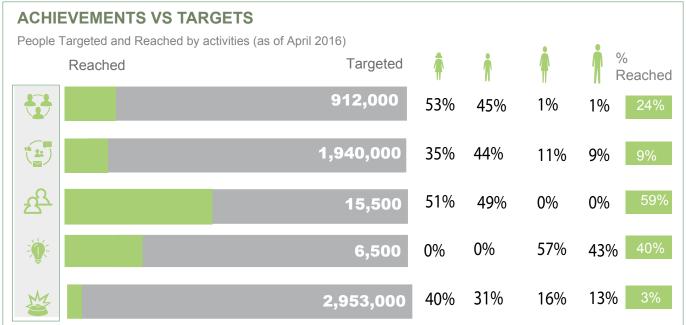
- · 32,684 school-aged children were reached through temporary learning spaces
- 1,743 teachers and education personnel were trained on Education in Emergencies and how to provide psychosocial support in the classroom
- 23,778 children participated in structured, sustained, resilience or psychosocial support programmes
- More than 232,400 children have received education supplies
- Over 36,000 adolescents and youth benefited directly and indirectly from a range of programmes specifically aimed at building their skills and opportunities for positive social engagement

<sup>1</sup> Results are for the period January - May 2016, with the exception of the final bullet point which is for the period January - June 2016



#### NLG results in Syria







MINE/EXPLOSIVE REMNANTS OF WAR RISK EDUCATION



#### WHAT ARE NO LOST GENERATION PROGRAMMES?

All No Lost Generation programmes are consistent with the 3RP and the HRPs for Syria and Iraq. In response to discussion on what 'counts' as NLG programming, the No Lost Generation partners have agreed that programmes meeting the following criteria are considered NLG programmes:

- · Contribution to at least one of the three pillars of NLG
- · Intention to contribute to one or more of the outcomes under each relevant pillar
- Delivery through at least one of the agreed NLG strategic approaches (scale up, improve quality, increase demand / remove barriers; and strengthen national systems)
- Consistency with internationally recognised quality standards, such as the Core Humanitarian Standard, Sphere and its companions





### KEY FACTS: SYRIA

- 2.9 million children aged 5 and under have known nothing but war in their lifetime.
- Nearly 7 million children inside Syria live in poverty.
- 2.1 million children inside Syria are out of school and 500,000 are at risk of dropping out. One in four schools have been either damaged, destroyed, or are being used as shelter or for military purposes. In 2015 the UN verified 69 attacks on educational facilities and personnel, which killed and maimed 174 children. If children do not return to school, the loss of human capital formation due to the increased dropout from school could reach US\$10.7 billion (UNICEF, December 2015)
- Between the 2013/14 school year and the 2014/15 school year, school enrollment inside Syria fell from 3.7 to 3.2 million. Between the 2010/11 and 2014/15 school years, areas of intense conflict such as Aleppo, Dara and Quneitra experienced sharp drops in enrolment. Other Governorates have seen an increase in enrolment, for example Tartous, Lattakia and As-Sweida. These increases are linked to an increase of IDPs in these Governorates, and to the programmatic response of NLG partners.
- Children in Syria continue to be exposed to a wide range of protection threats including recruitment and
  use in the conflict; child labour in hazardous conditions; child marriage, family separation as a result of
  the continuous and multiple displacements; exposure to violence and chronic deprivation from basic
  needs resulting in high levels of PSS distress.
- In 2015 there were 591 verified cases of children killed and 555 injured, the majority of which were as a result of aerial attacks and shelling of civilian areas.<sup>2</sup>
- Levels of recruitment and use of children inside Syria are increasing, with payment of salaries and ideology as major influencing factors. A total of 362 cases were verified last year, 56 per cent of which involved children under 15 years of age - a significant increase on 2014 figures. Children as young as 7 are being recruited.
- Detention and torture of boys and girls continues, with 36 cases of detention verified in 2015. Twentyeight of these cases also involved torture. 21 cases of abduction were also verified.

#### Highlights on NLG progress inside Syria

Through the Back-to-Learning campaign, over 121,000 children have benefitted from the provision of education materials in 2016, including school-in-a-bag, textbooks and schoolbags. This includes 6,800 children reached through cross border interventions. The provision of teaching and learning materials helps reduce the impact on families of the hidden cost of sending children to school, whilst encouraging children to access essential stationery during school hours.

Over 62,900 children in Hasakeh, Homs, Latakia and Rural Damascus received remedial classes to improve their learning outcomes through school clubs targeting IDPs and low-achievers.

The rehabilitation of schools receiving IDP children and the provision of temporary learning spaces helped to decongest overcrowded education facilities. In March, 385 classrooms were rehabilitated in 25 schools in Aleppo, Homs, Hama, Damascus and Rural Damascus and 7 prefabricated classrooms were provided to schools in Hama and Rural Damascus.

Following teacher training in risk education, the Ministry of Education has reported that over 580,000 children were provided with risk education in schools in Damascus and Rural Damascus, with 4,900 children reached through community-based risk education interventions in Aleppo, and 18,800 children reached by cross border interventions in the North.

Despite significant challenges, child protection actors have reached children in at least 26 Hard to Reach locations and 3 Besieged areas so far this year.<sup>3</sup> Child Protection activities are taking place in all governorates with the exception of Raqqa and Deir Ez Zor.

The Child Protection AoR partners have agreed upon key intervention areas (including case management, formal and informal education and livelihoods) to provide inclusive multi-sectoral community-based reintegration for CAAFG and other vulnerable children; as well as vulnerability criteria and an operational framework.

<sup>2</sup> All statistics on grave violations in this section are from the UN Secretary-General's 2016 annual report on Children and Armed Conflict. The report acknowledges that verified violations do not represent the full scope of grave violations committed, which is known to be much wider.

<sup>3</sup> For further information and definitions, please see the section on challenges, below



Support is being provided to the national authorities to deliver on a multipronged strategy to prevent and respond to child labour, including through mapping existing responses, evidence generation, addressing gaps in service provision, awareness raising with communities and advocacy with key influences. The strategy involves convening other sectors, namely education, health and livelihoods to engage more comprehensively in discussions to tackle child labour, including in relation to the legal framework. Technical support is now being provided to the Government to undertake a rapid assessment on the worst forms of child labour in the industrial areas in Homs (Hessya) and in Rural Damascus (Hosh Plas).

In May, more than 3,000 participated in civic engagement activities which contributed to broaden young people's visibility and participation at local level. Around 2,300 of the participants were in 3 hard-to-reach areas in Rural Damascus.



- As of March there were 3.4 million displaced individuals in Iraq, at least 47 percent of which are children under 18 years old.
- As of 20 June the UN estimates that 85,000 people have been displaced in Anbar governorate since 23 May. This doubles the number of IDPs arriving from Fallujah district since 12 June.
- The combined impact of the Syria and Iraq crises resulted in 0.6 million out-of-school children among the Iraqi internally displaced children.
- Only 1/3 of children in IDP champs in Anbar are attending school, where limited space and school capacity is a major constraint.
- Protection of civilians inside Iraq remains a critical concern. As many as 8,200 men and boys as young as 14 have been subjected to intensive security screenings with potential for abuse and disappearance.
   Children are particularly vulnerable to family separation.
- Between January and March there were 217 verified cases of grave violations of children's rights in Iraq.
   Ongoing military operations in Anbar Governorate and near Mosul saw boys being separated from their families and detained with adult males as part of a screening exercise.
- A spike in verified reports of killing and maiming of children occurred in March affecting 144 children of which at least 112 were boys.

#### Highlights on NLG progress for IDPs in Iraq

An interagency Adolescent Girls Task Force has been established in Erbil, to assess the needs of adolescent girls and an appropriate response. A needs assessment was carried out in Kurdistan as part of an interagency project to better understand the needs and risks affecting adolescent girls, gaps in services and successful strategies to work with girls. The assessment was conducted as part of the development of an Iraq specific adolescent girl toolkit to support adolescent girls programming. Training on GBV and Child Protection in support of the roll out of the toolkit is now underway.

UNICEF and partners have established an Adolescent Development programme as part of the response to the crisis in Iraq, informed by lessons learned in pilot No Lost Generation projects in the Kurdistan Region. The current programme is scaling up successful components and uses a youth-led methodology based on volunteer networks, community consultations and adolescent / youth led projects.

Finally, a one-day workshop led by UNICEF took place to build understanding of the Iraq MRM, to strengthen coordination on education-related issues during conflict, including attacks on schools. The outcome of the workshop was improved reporting tools and processes for information-gathering, and coordination of efforts to improve children's access to safe spaces during conflict.

A large scale cash assistance programme provides support to identified vulnerable populations in Iraq in close collaboration with the regional authorities, with whom accountability and monitoring systems were set up to ensure that distribution and beneficiary selection is according to standard and agreed criteria. These cash transfers which support vulnerable Iraqis to meet their immediate needs in a dignified manner will be scaled up during the remainder of 2016.



#### **KEY FACTS: 3RP COUNTRIES**

- More than half of all refugee children from Syria 5-17 were out of school in March 2016.
- The number of school-age refugee children from Syria increased by 156,000, driven mainly by the increase in Turkey (145,000). This increase, coupled with lower levels of access to non-formal education across the 5 countries resulted in the highest levels ever of out-of-school children in the Syria crisis by end Q1 this year.
- As of end 2015 there were over 10,000 separated children identified in the 3RP countries.
- A 2015 report on child labour by Save the Children and UNICEF reported that in Jordan, 47% of refugee
  households say they rely partly or entirely on income generated by a child; and that the majority of
  working children in host communities work six or seven days a week, with one third working more than
  eight hours a day. Children's daily income is between US\$4 and US\$77. Children also start working very
  young, often before the age of 12. In some parts of Lebanon, children as young as six are being put to
  work (Save the Children and UNICEF: 2015; Small Hands Heavy Burden).
- A new study by NRC, together with 2015 research by NLG partners on youth and UNHCR's Global Refugee Youth Consultations, have confirmed that more needs to be done to ensure that youth are able to contribute meaningfully in their communities and to fulfil their potential – noting that that lack of opportunities for engagement is closely linked to disillusionment, the desire to migrate, and the drivers for negative forms of engagement.

#### Highlights on NLG progress in 3RP countries:

In March, the Lebanese Government announced that students at public middle and high school levels (grades 9 and 12) of any nationality (including Syrians) are allowed to sit for the official exams for the scholastic year 2015-2016 without presenting transcripts or documentation of earlier schooling. This policy is a step forward in extending equitable rights to education for all students in Lebanon irrespective of their nationality.

Scholarship support for higher education in Jordan has been high during the year, with EU and German funding for 210 DAFI scholarships. More than 5000 scholarships are now offered for Syrian refugees to study at universities across the region. Additionally, five universities have reduced fees for Syrian refugees.

Also in Jordan the Ministry of Higher Education approved the development of a qualification (placement) exam equivalent to the Jordanian high school diploma, which will allow Syrian students without original certificates access to higher education and training. Syrian refugees can also now use UNHCR certificates and Ministry of Interior service cards as ID for enrolment in lieu of passports.

In Azraq camp 3RP partners are increasing joint efforts to meet the emerging educational needs of children recently arrived in Village 5 including providing training on education in emergencies to members of the Syrian Refugee Affairs Department (SRAD community police).

In Lebanon training for key stakeholders has begun on the implementation of the national child protection Standard Operating Procedures for the judicial and social welfare child protection streams. These SOPs apply to all child protection cases, including refugees.

Child Protection SOPS are existing or are under development in all countries included in the 3RP with updates underway in Iraq and Egypt to reflect changes in services. Child protection actors are increasingly linking case management services with other services, including cash assistance – for instance, in Lebanon partners provide integrated cash assistance and case management support to families to respond to and prevent child labour.

Progress was also made in Jordan on Child Protection. March saw the Ministry of Social Development launch new quality assurance National Standards for services provided to survivors of family violence, including refugees. The standards were developed in a collaborative effort with the National Council for Family Affairs and will contribute to improved quality and consistency in responses to sexual and gender-based violence and violence against children occurring within the family.

UNHCR and partners are engaging community volunteers to support families caring for separated children in Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq. Increasing linkages with other sectors, including education and livelihoods, to provide effective holistic response to child protection issues, is a priority for the second half of 2016 including in relation to child labour (see below).

In collaboration with the Women's Refugee Commission UNHCR concluded its Global Refugee Youth Consultations process in Turkey in May. The process created a structured space for refugee youth from Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq, Somalia; together with Turkish youth, to express their views and engage in dialogue with relevant stakeholders on a number of key issues. The findings from the consultations will feed into the development of guidelines and policy recommendations on



youth-inclusive programming. A contingent of youth met in Geneva in advance of the June UNHCR NGO Consultations (where NLG was showcased at the marketplace), and agreed on 7 action points for refugee youth which will be an important reference for the ongoing responses to the Syria and Iraq crises.

Some progress has been made in terms of livelihoods. Jordan issued 11,500 work permits to Syrians between April and mid-June, while a pilot project has been agreed for 4,000 Syrian refugees in the garment and agriculture sectors. In Turkey, a regulation of 15 January allows Syrian refugees to work and be paid minimum wage, and 3RP partners are working with authorities on information and outreach campaigns to raise awareness of the availability of work permits. In Lebanon, the Government has committed to review and facilitate the streamlining of existing regulatory frameworks related to legal stay conditions. This review also seeks to facilitate access of Syrians to the job market in certain sectors, such as agriculture, construction and other labour intensive sectors, by waiving the pledge not to work.

#### **CHALLENGES IN SECURING NLG RESULTS**

The **volume of need** under all three NLG pillars remains a significant challenge. Inside Syria, five years of conflict have tripled the proportion of Syrian children out of school from 0.9m - 14 per cent - in the 2011/2012 school year to 2.1m - 40 per cent - in the 2014 / 2015 school year. Iraq is experiencing multiple crises and displacements, including as a result of the recent escalation of fighting around Fallujah. The scale of current Adolescent and Youth Programming in particular is insufficient in comparison to the need. On the policy side concerted work is required to increase access to livelihoods opportunities for this group, as well as improving enabling factors such as freedom of movement.

Funding levels for the 2016 Syria and Iraq HRPs, and the 3RP remained low throughout Q1. Although the London conference earlier this year saw record-level pledges, much of the funding has been slow to come through – less than a third of the revised requirements of the 3RP had been received by the end of May. Without predictable and reliable contributions, organizations cannot scale up or sustain operations in Syria, Iraq and the region. Funding for education in particular needs to be front-loaded and ideally multi-year in order to facilitate timely and sustainable scale-up and facilitate a strategic shift in delivery away from piecemeal programming.

Current coordination and monitoring processes for the crises do not clearly track the response for adolescents and youth, despite this group making up a large proportion of the population, and one of strategic importance in securing the future of the region. In the next planning cycle it will be important to clearly outline the investment required to ensure adolescents and youth have enhanced skills and opportunities to engage in social, civic and economic life.

Sustained continuity of learning at the post-basic level is essential. Multiple learning pathways must be made available to young people, including not only upper-secondary learning opportunities, but also TVET and on-the-job trainings. 14 UN agencies and several NGOs have developed a Regional Framework of Joint Strategic Actions for Young People in the MENA region, which includes several agreed joint initiatives related to NLG outcomes including mapping of youth programming within Syria and the surrounding countries, and developing enhanced indicators to improve tracking of results for young people.

Access to the most vulnerable children and young people continues to be a major constraint inside Syria and Iraq. Currently in Syria there are 2.17 million children living in Hard to Reach locations and 260,000 children living in Besieged Locations<sup>4</sup>. In its report Childhood under Siege early this year, Save the Children described extreme levels of violence and psychosocial distress experienced by children in besieged areas. NLG partners continue to use remote programming methodologies and other approaches to reach children and young people as consistently and comprehensively as possible – this year over 2,500 children in besieged areas in Syria were reached by child protection and psychosocial support programmes - but programming in these conditions is limited, inconsistent, and falls far short of the need.

The availability and technical capacity of partners is a key factor in the ability to scale up and diversify services for children and youth people inside Syria. Tightening border restrictions continues to affect the ability of cross-border child protection actors to undertake capacity building initiatives at the scale needed.

<sup>4</sup> Definitions for these categories are as follows: Hard-to-Reach area: An area that is not regularly accessible to humanitarian actors for the purposes of sustained humanitarian programming as a result of denial of access, including the need to negotiate access on an adhoc basis, or due to restrictions such as active conflict, multiple security checkpoints, or failure of the authorities to provide timely approval. Besieged area: An area surrounded by armed actors with the sustained effect that humanitarian assistance cannot regularly enter, and civilians, the sick and wounded cannot regularly exit the area.





## NLG PARTNERS COLLABORATE IN DEVELOPING A MULTI-SECTORAL RESPONSE TO CHILD LABOUR

Child labour is one of the most prevalent and persistent forms of violence and exploitation facing Syrian children. Many children inside Syria and refugee children from Syria are now involved in economic activities that are mentally, physically or socially dangerous and which limit - or deny - their basic right to an education. UNHCR supported over 9,500 Syrian refugee children subjected to child labour in Egypt, Turkey, Jordan, Iraq and Lebanon in 2015.

The consequences of harmful work for children are widespread and long-lasting – for instance reports show that around 75 per cent of working children in the Zaatari refugee camp in Jordan reported health problems and almost 40 per cent reported an injury, illness or poor health. Thirty-six per cent of children working in Lebanon's Bekaa valley are unable to read or write, and most refugee children who are working are unable to attend school. Children also start working very young, often before the age of 12. In some parts of Lebanon, refugee children as young as six are being put to work, while in Jordan 18 per cent of the refugee children working in the agricultural sector are under 12.

The following key recommendations to address child labour were put forward during the No Lost Generation Roundtable held during the Resilience Development Forum in November 2015:

- · Advocate for a legal and policy framework to prevent child labour to be implemented and strengthened.
- Advocate for safe and appropriate education opportunities.
- Provide specialized child protection interventions.
- Promote child-sensitive livelihood and cash assistance programmes including advocating for increased access of refugees to legal work opportunities.
- Working with communities and the private sector to prevent child labour and mitigate the risks for children.

In follow up, UNHCR, ILO and UNICEF regional offices have collaborated to hire a child labour expert for the period June-December as an interagency resource for NLG partners working in the 3RP countries. The consultant is supporting child protection, education and livelihoods/cash assistance actors at the country level to develop strategies to prevent and respond to child labour in the Syria refugee response. In particular he will assist NLG partners with:

- 1. Knowledge management and strategic approach to child labour in the Syrian crisis
- 2. Capacity building and technical support on child labour to country operations
- 3. Strengthening capacity and partnerships on child sensitive cash and livelihoods programmes

The intention in the medium term is to improve and scale up the collective, inter-sectoral response to the problem of child labour.

#### Voices of youth affected by the Syria crisis at the World Humanitarian Summit

The Syria crisis was widely discussed at the World Humanitarian Summit on 23 and 24 May, where the NLG partners put on a side event moderated by the BBC journalist Lyse Doucet. The event highlighted the urgent situation facing adolescents and youth affected by the Syria conflict. Five youth speakers described their experiences and the difficult choices and challenges faced by young people as they try to build a future for themselves in the midst of the crisis.

An expert panel comprising UNICEF's Executive Director and speakers from the private sector, an NGO and the Turkish and UK governments then responded, highlighting the importance of ensuring that youth not only benefit from but also help to drive the response to the Syria crisis.

The 200-person room was packed, and the perspectives of the young people had a powerful effect on the audience. Several of the youth were interviewed by international media, and one, Ahmed Saqer (17), was quoted in subsequent WHS discussions. Ahmed described how he dropped out of school and now works, as a result of bullying and violence in school aimed at refugees, and limited economic support for his family – noting that this is the situation for many adolescent refugees from Syria.

Joint advocacy on NLG in the remainder of this year will include the issue of user-friendly material on NLG themes to support discussions at the UN General Assembly in September and the Global Appeal in December.



#### WHO ARE THE NO LOST GENERATION PARTNERS?

Governments, donors, UN agencies, NGOs, civil society organisations and academic networks all contribute to and engage in NLG. At the country level hundreds of local NGOs work alongside international NGOs, UN and government to implement NLG programmes. At the regional level NLG serves as a platform for common advocacy amongst partners, with agreed advocacy priorities currently including child labour, child marriage, birth registration and the inclusion of refugee children in all national protection systems and services.

Three NGO co-leads contribute to the coordination function at the regional level: Mercy Corps, Save the Children and World Vision. Membership of a regional level working group which steers the initiative is open to any humanitarian organization which contributes to the goals of No Lost Generation through work across the affected countries. Currently over 20 organisations including all the major UN agencies convene in this group, including the YPEER youth network.

#### **SUPPORT FOR NO LOST GENERATION FROM OUTSIDE THE REGION:**

No Lost Generation Champions – influential figures with diverse networks in the region and beyond – promote the concepts underpinning No Lost Generation and draw in financial and other commitments to help achieve NLG goals. The initiative currently has 5 Champions and we aim to double this number in 2016.

NLG student groups focused on advocacy, fundraising and provision of in-kind support are now operating in the US at George Washington University, University of Maryland, and University of Denver. Students are in the process of registering groups at Lehigh University, Penn State University, and Ohio State University; and three universities in Istanbul are building a consortium of students in support of No Lost Generation. Communication is ongoing between the George Washington University student group and more than 30 other universities to form similar groups, with the aim of having 15 operating and established groups by 2017. The Regional NLG Working Group is supporting these groups with guidance, advice and communications materials.





#### NLG funding status<sup>1</sup>



#### EDUCATION



#### CHILD PROTECTION

#### Syria HRP

35%

Requested: US\$ 200,239,557

Received: US\$ 70,966,111

Gap: US\$ 129,273,446

17%

Requested: US\$ 68,162,204

Received: US\$ 11,386,978

Gap: US\$ 56,775,226

#### **Iraq HRP**



Requested: US\$ 82,720,392

Received: US\$ 28,415,744

Gap: US\$ 54,304,648

14%

Requested: US\$ 20,964,055

Received: US\$ 2,961,778

Gap: US\$ 18,002,277

#### 3RP



Requested: US\$ 629,113,269

Received: US\$ 257,740,094

Gap: US\$ 371,373,175



Requested: US\$ 135,987,699

Received: US\$ 62,654,366

Gap: US\$ 73,333,332

<sup>1</sup> Figures are based on available data; Child Protection figures are extrapolated from Protection figures.



