PROTECTING CHILDREN AFFECTED BY CONFLICT AND DISPLACEMENT: SYRIA RESPONSE
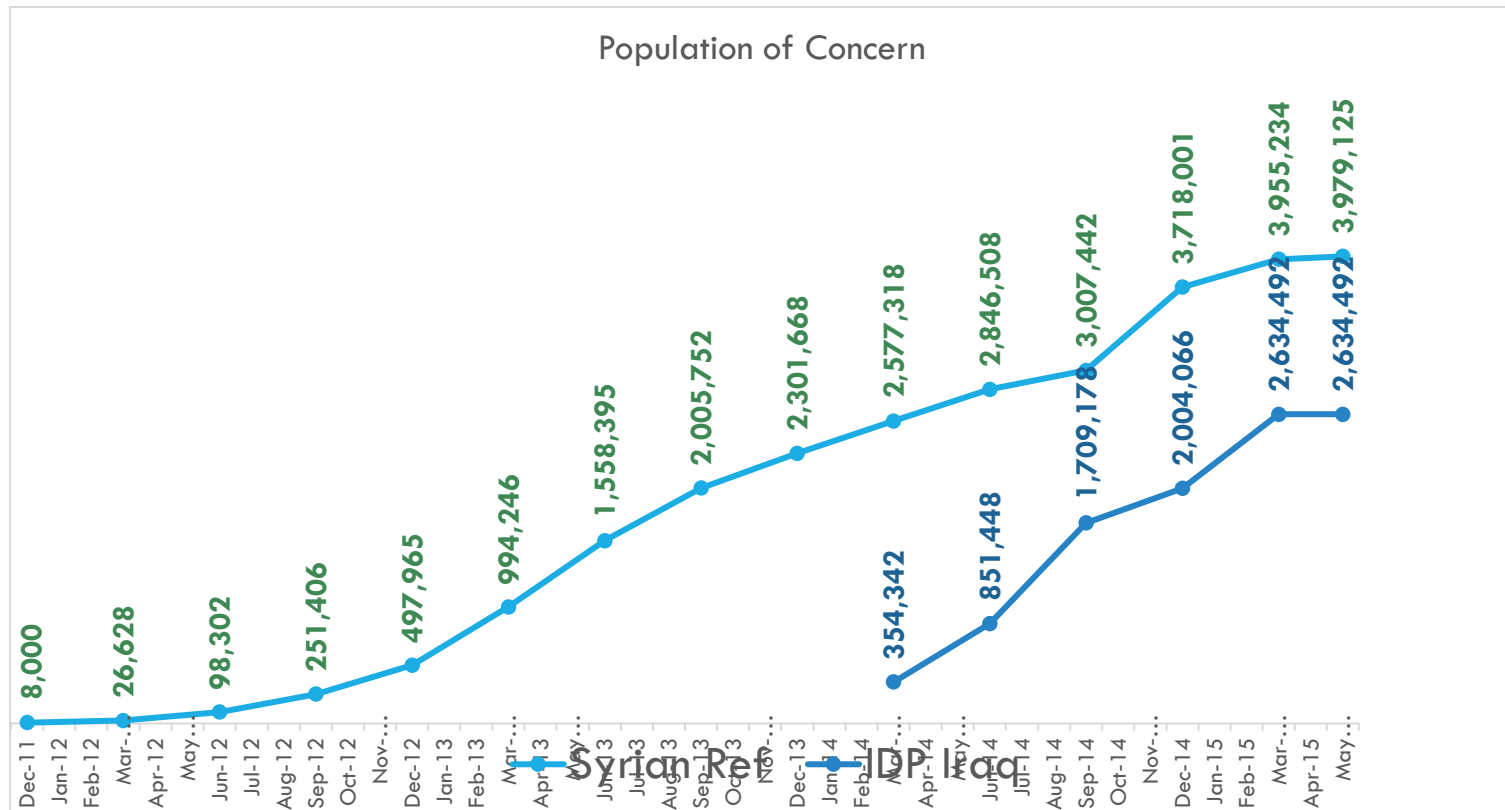
LARGEST DISPLACEMENT CRISIS OF OUR ERA

Highest number of refugees globally since WW2

Syrians are largest refugee population under UNHCR Mandate
(second only to Palestinians globally)

Population of Concern

Syrian Ref   IDP Iraq

STAGGERING NUMBERS OF CHILDREN DISPLACED FROM SYRIA AND BEYOND

5.6 Million
Children living in dire situation inside Syria: Poverty, displacement and caught in the lines of fire.

2 Million
Children of Syria now live as refugees in Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Turkey, Egypt and other countries in North Africa.

3.6 Million
Children from vulnerable communities hosting refugees, who themselves are suffering due to the strain on services.

2.8 Million
Iraqi children forced from their homes, and left many trapped in areas controlled by armed groups.

▲ **Every half an hour**
35 children become refugees in the Middle East and North Africa region.

TREND: INCREASING COMPLEXITY

❖Conflicts: Children and civilians targeted

❖Protection of children in non-camp settings, highly dispersed

❖Refugees often in locations with high levels of poverty and lack of social services (rural areas, urban poverty)

❖Scale of crisis has substantial impact on hosting countries

❖'New' Challenges: child recruitment (new forms); Children of concern within mixed migration

DEFINITION OF CHILD PROTECTION

CP MS:

"Prevention of and response to abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence"

In refugee settings this is expanded slightly to include:

protecting and advocating against all forms of discrimination;

preventing and responding to abuse, neglect, violence and exploitation;

ensuring access to appropriate services;

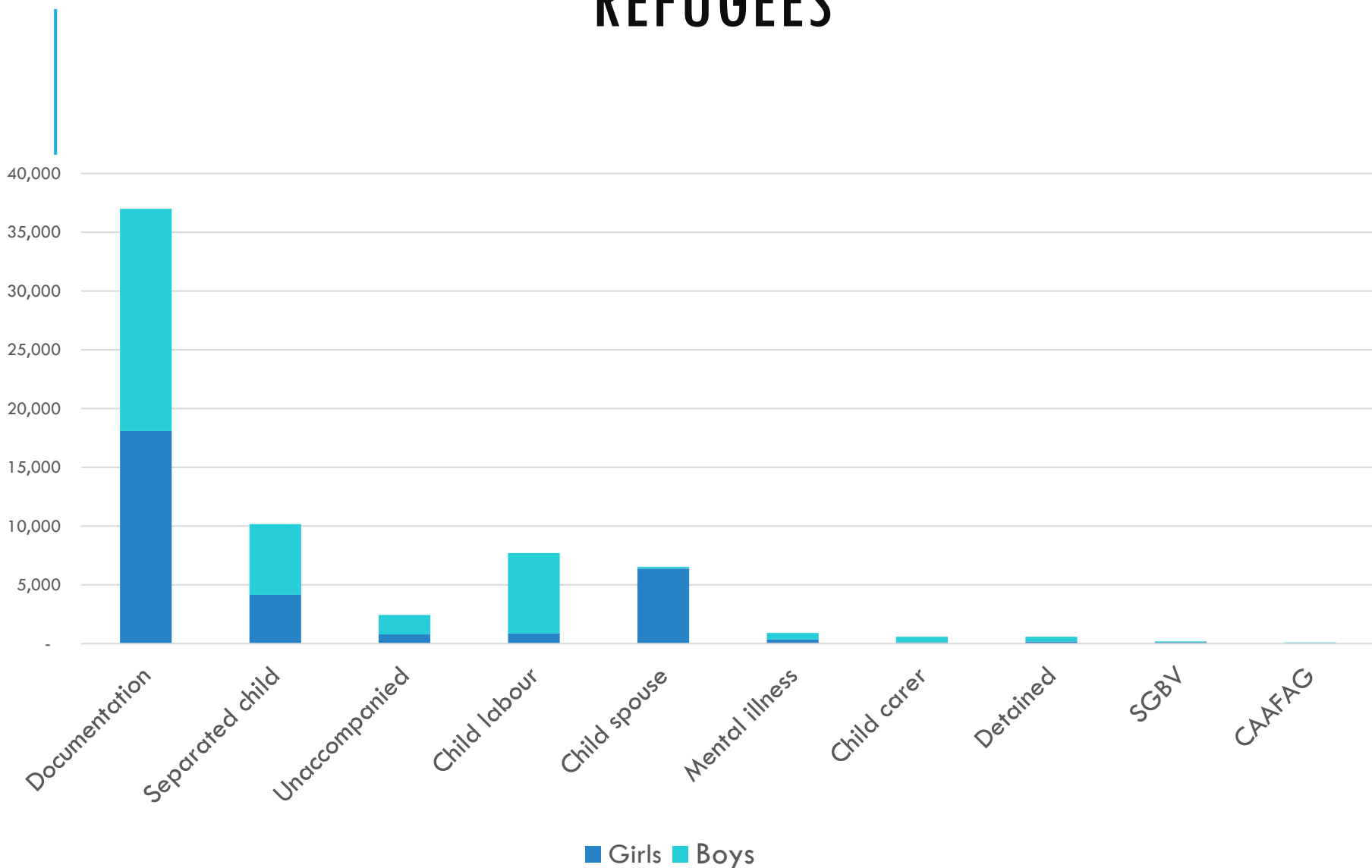and ensuring durable solutions in the child's best interests".

KEY CHILD PROTECTION ISSUES

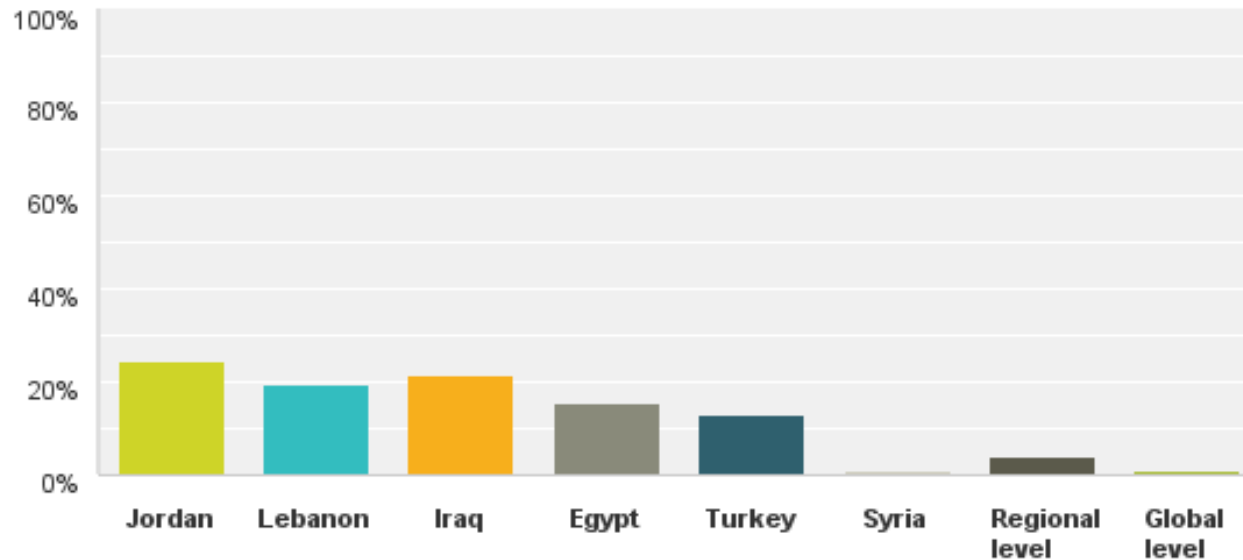# TYPES OF CHILD PROTECTION ISSUES FACING REFUGEES

Legend: Girls, Boys

Source: UNHCR ProGres, 31 March, 2015, 3RP countries and Syria

RESULTS FROM CHILD PROTECTION SURVEY MONKEY
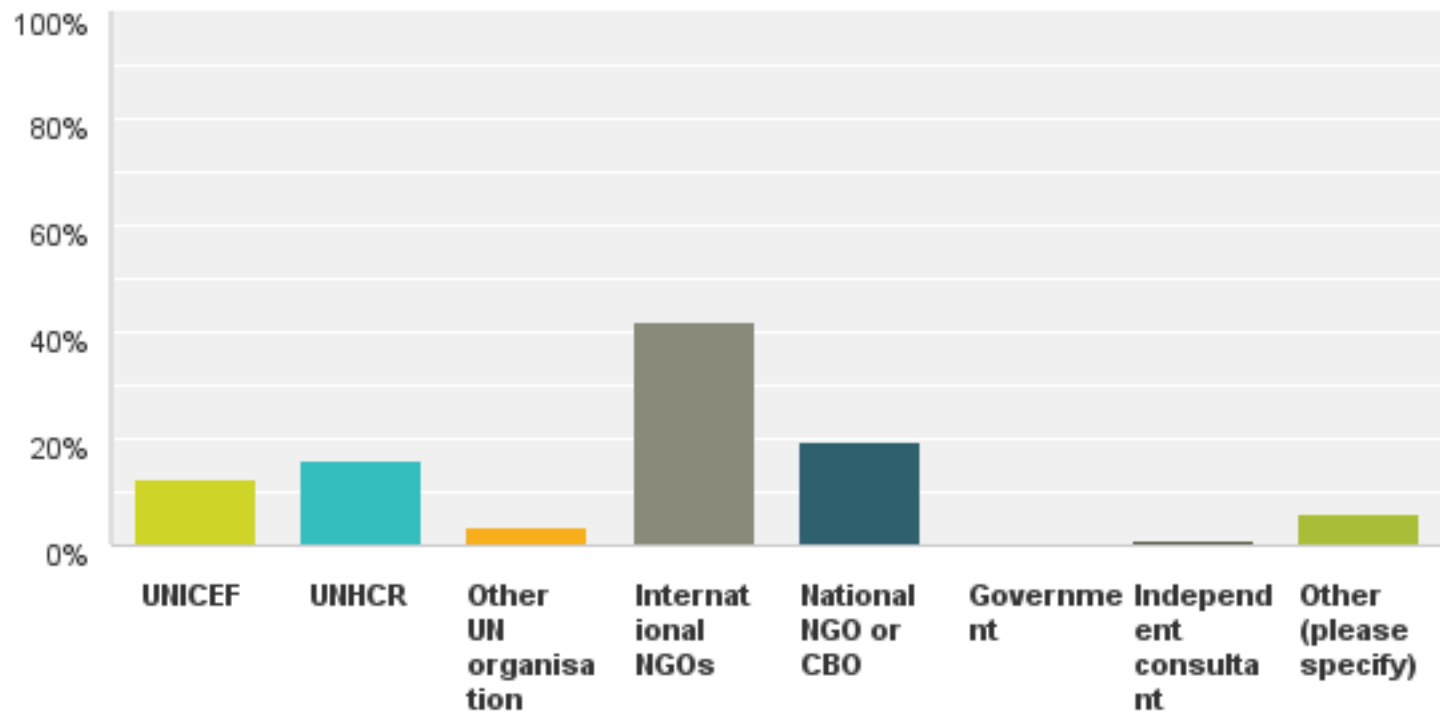
Q1 What country do you currently work in

Answered: 122   Skipped: 1

Q2 What organisation do you work for?

Answered: 119   Skipped: 4

LACK OF DOCUMENTATION

Key Barriers to Birth Registration:
-Lack of awareness of procedures in country of asylum
-Lack of required documents
-Absence of fathers
-Lack of birth registration in Syria

Impact of not registering Birth:
-Difficulties to access services
-Difficulties to prove age (education, legal protections for children)
-Risk of statelessness

PROTECT YOUR child. REGISTER ITS birth.

Birth registration is the right of every child.

UNHCR | LEBANON

GIVE YOUR CHILD A NAME

Make Sure Their Birth is Registered

For Children Born in Lebanon of Syrian Parents
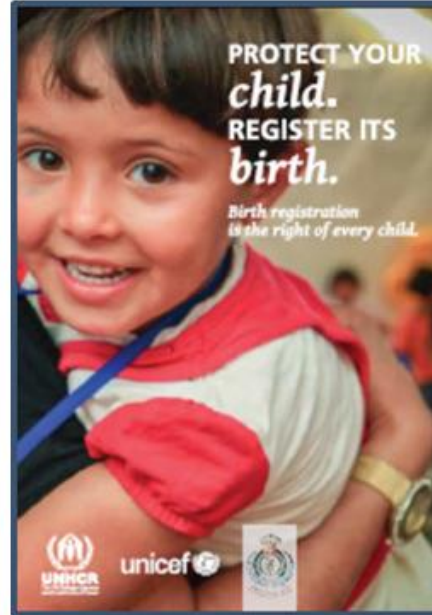
142,000 Syrian refugee children born in exile

UNACCOMPANIED AND SEPARATED CHILDREN
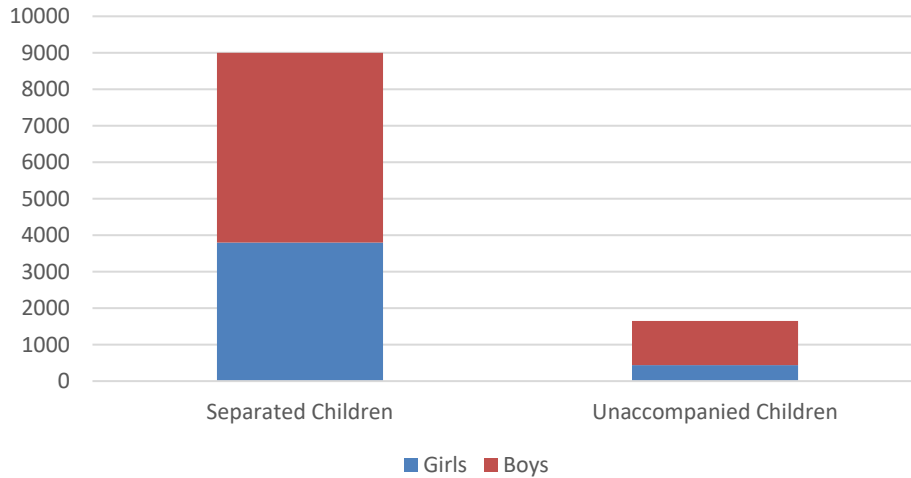
Number of UASC End 2014

Chart: Stacked bar graph showing Number of UASC End 2014, with vertical axis from 0 to 10000. Separated Children bar reaches about 9000 (Girls ~3800, Boys ~5200); Unaccompanied Children bar reaches about 1700. Legend: ■ Girls ■ Boys

Unaccompanied children especially vulnerable

Main causes of separation:

Death or absence of parents

Avoid recruitment (mostly boys)

Employment (mostly boys)

Sexual violence (mostly girls)

الأطفال المنفصلون وغير المصحوبين

رســائل إلى الآباء والأمهات

● تأكد دائمـا أن اطفالـك يعرفون أسمائهم وأسـماء والديهـم (اضافة الى اسم الشيخ أو المختار ان امكن) كمـا أيضـا يعرفون أماكن سكنهم وأرقـام هواتفهـم والى أيـن ذهبـوا.

● أثنـاء السـفر، تأكـدوا أن جميع الاطفال معكـم وعدم تركهم لأي سبـبا كان، وعلى الاطفال الاكبر سنـا أن يبقوا أيديهم في ايـدي الاطفال الاصغر سنا خصوصا في المناطق المزدحمـة.

● اتفق مسبقا مع اطفالك ماذا يجب أن يفعلون في حال انفصالوا عنك.

unicef ❤

CHILD LABOUR

44 per cent of school-aged Syrian refugee children in the Jordan Valley were working

In Lebanon 1 in 10 refugee children were working

Providing livelihood for refugee families and scaling up secondary education is essential to reduce child labour

EARLY MARRIAGE

In Jordan, the proportion of registered marriages involving Syrian children rose from 18 to 25 per cent between 2012 and 2013.

48 per cent involved marriages between Syrian girls and husbands who were 10 or more years older than them.

Early marriages more common and more risky as a result of displacement because of:

Increased concerns for girls safety

Increased poverty

Way to secure better life for girl and her family in uncertain/difficult times

PHYSICAL AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

5. أشكال العنف

هناك أربعة أشكال للعنف:

العنف الجسدي :

يشمل العنف الجسدي ضرب الطفل باليد أو بواسطة شيء ما (كالعصا أو الحزام أو السوط أو الحذاء، إلخ)، ركل الطفل، هزّه أو رميه، قرصه، أو شد شعره، وإجبار الطفل على الجلوس في وضعية غير مريحة أو مهينة لكرامته، أو إجباره على القيام بجهود جسدي مفرط، أوحرقه أو تشويهه بالندوب. وقد يحدث العنف في المدارس أو المنازل أو المجتمع، ويتراوح من حيث درجة الخطورة ما بين الخفيف والخطير.

وقد ينتج العنف الجسدي عن أساليب تربوية قاسية أو عن عقاب جسدي صارم لأن بعض الكبار يعتقدون أن التأديب والضرب متلازمات. وغالبا ما يقترن العنف بأشكال أخرى من العنف الجسدي. يندرج تحت العنف الجسدي كافة أنواع العقاب الجسدي أو البدني وغيرها من أشكال التعذيب كتلك التي يُراد منها انتزاع اعتراف ما أو معاقبة الأحداث بشكل خارج عن نطاق القضاء، على أعمال غير قانونية مشتبهة، أو إجبار الصغار على المشاركة في أنشطة رغما عنهم.

ما هي آثار العنف الجسدي؟

إن العنف الجسدي هو أكثر أشكال العنف وسوء المعاملة شيوعاً. وتظهر الآثار الجسدية عندما يكون العنف شديداً بما فيه الكفاية للتسبب بإصابات كالكسور والحروق والخدوش والرضوض وغيرها، ولكن تذكّروا أن الآثار قد لا تكون ظاهرة للعامة.

يمكن أن يُرتكب العنف الجسدي من قبل الأهل أو المعلمين أو من قبل أطفال آخرين.

والسبب الأكثر شيوعاً لاستخدام الكبار العنف ضد الأطفال هو لمعاقبتهم أو لتأديبهم على ما يعتبرونه سلوكًا خاطئاً أو لتعليمهم ما هو صحيح، ولكن يمكن للكبار أن يستخدموا العنف الجسدي ضد اليافعين عندما يعتريهم الغضب أو من أجل إذلال أو إيذاء الطفل عمداً ومن غير أي "سبب" واضح. وقد يلجأ اليافعون إلى العنف الجسدي ضد أطفال آخرين إن كانوا لا يعرفون سبلاً أفضل لحل مشاكلهم، أو عندما يفقدون أعصابهم، أو لكي يتسببوا بالألم والأذى بشكل متعمد ليافع آخر لا يحبونه. وأياً كانت تفسير أسباب ارتكاب العنف، فلا يوجد مبرّر لاستخدام العنف الجسدي ضد شخص آخر.

CHILDREN ASSOCIATED WITH ARMED GROUPS AND FORCES

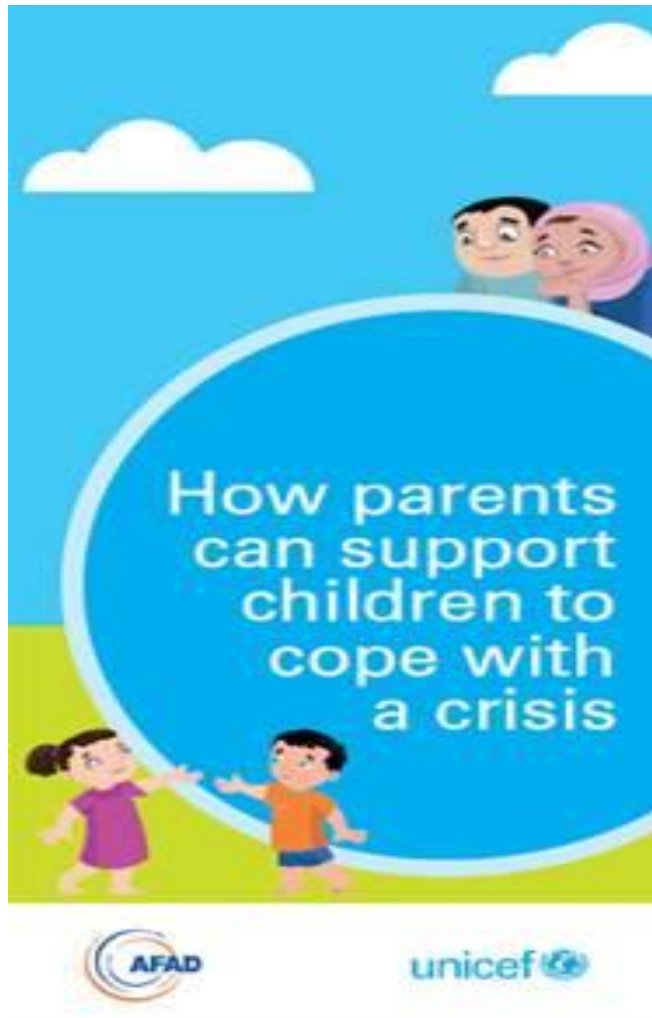Various opposition groups recruiting children in Syria and Iraq

Children used in various roles, including fighting as well as support functions

Mostly boys but also girls

Providing meaningful alternatives to adolescents and holding perpetrators accountable is crucial

PSYCHOSOCIAL DISTRESS AND MENTAL DISORDERS

LACK OF EDUCATION

WE LOST EVERYTHING.
THE ONLY THING WE
DON'T WANT TO LOSE IS
EDUCATION.
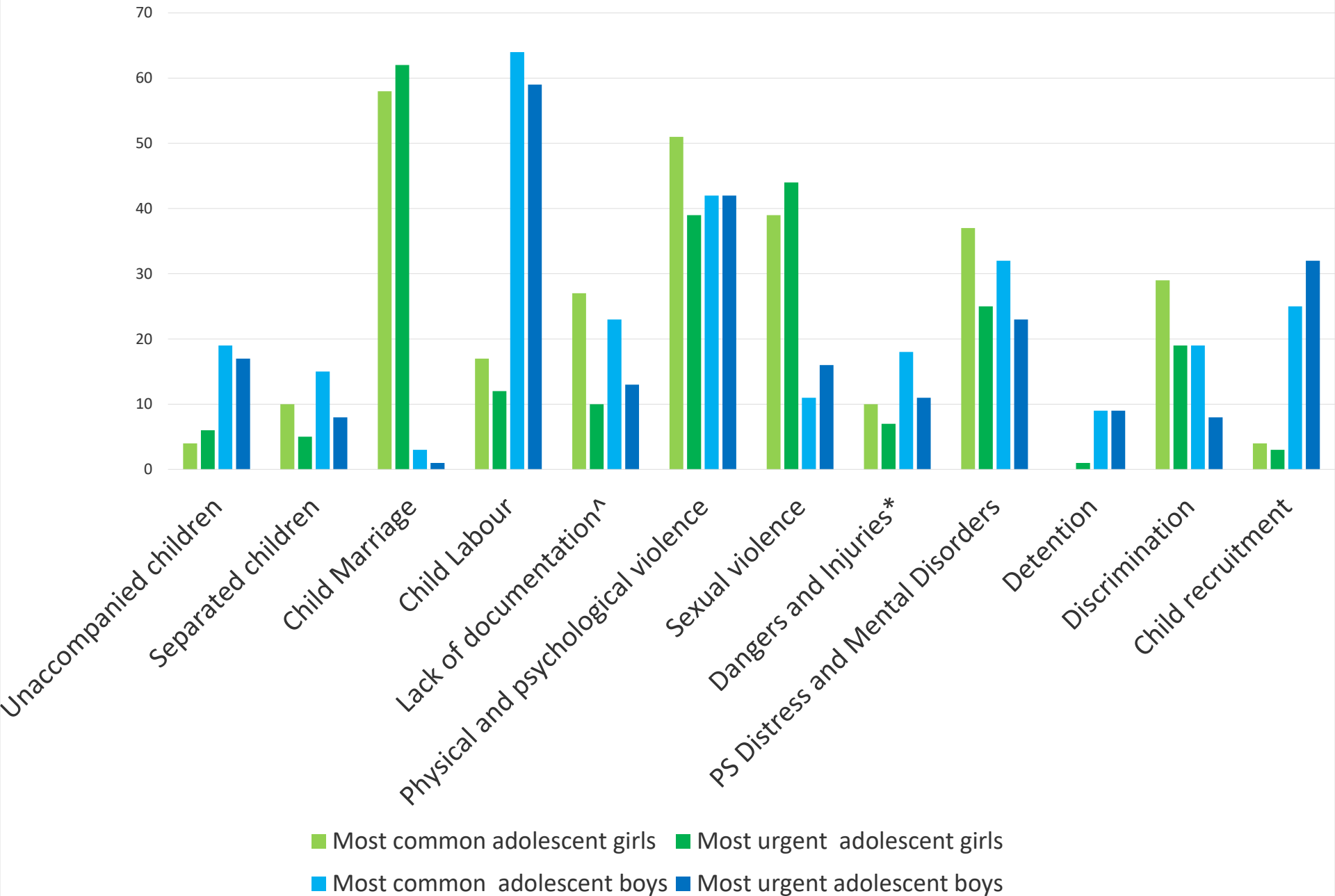MOTHER OF 8, ZAATARI

One out of two
Syrian refugee children do not attend school.

In the region, many governments have provided access to refugees to national education systems.

However, key challenges remain for refugees to access education including:

- Poverty
- Difficulties of national systems to respond to numbers and specific needs of refugee children
- Accreditation and language

Common and urgent issues for adolescents

Legend:
- Most common adolescent girls
- Most urgent adolescent girls
- Most common adolescent boys
- Most urgent adolescent boys

Categories (left to right):
- Unaccompanied children
- Separated children
- Child Marriage
- Child Labour
- Lack of documentation^
- Physical and psychological violence
- Sexual violence
- Dangers and Injuries*
- PS Distress and Mental Disorders
- Detention
- Discrimination
- Child recruitment

Common and urgent under 12

Categories (x-axis): Unaccompanied children, Separated children, Child Marriage, Child Labour, Physical and psychological violence, Lack of documentation^, Sexual violence, Dangers and Injuries*, PS Distress and Mental Disorders, Detention, Discrimination, Child recruitment

Legend: Common girls under 12, Urgent girls under 12, Common boys under 12, Urgent boys under 12
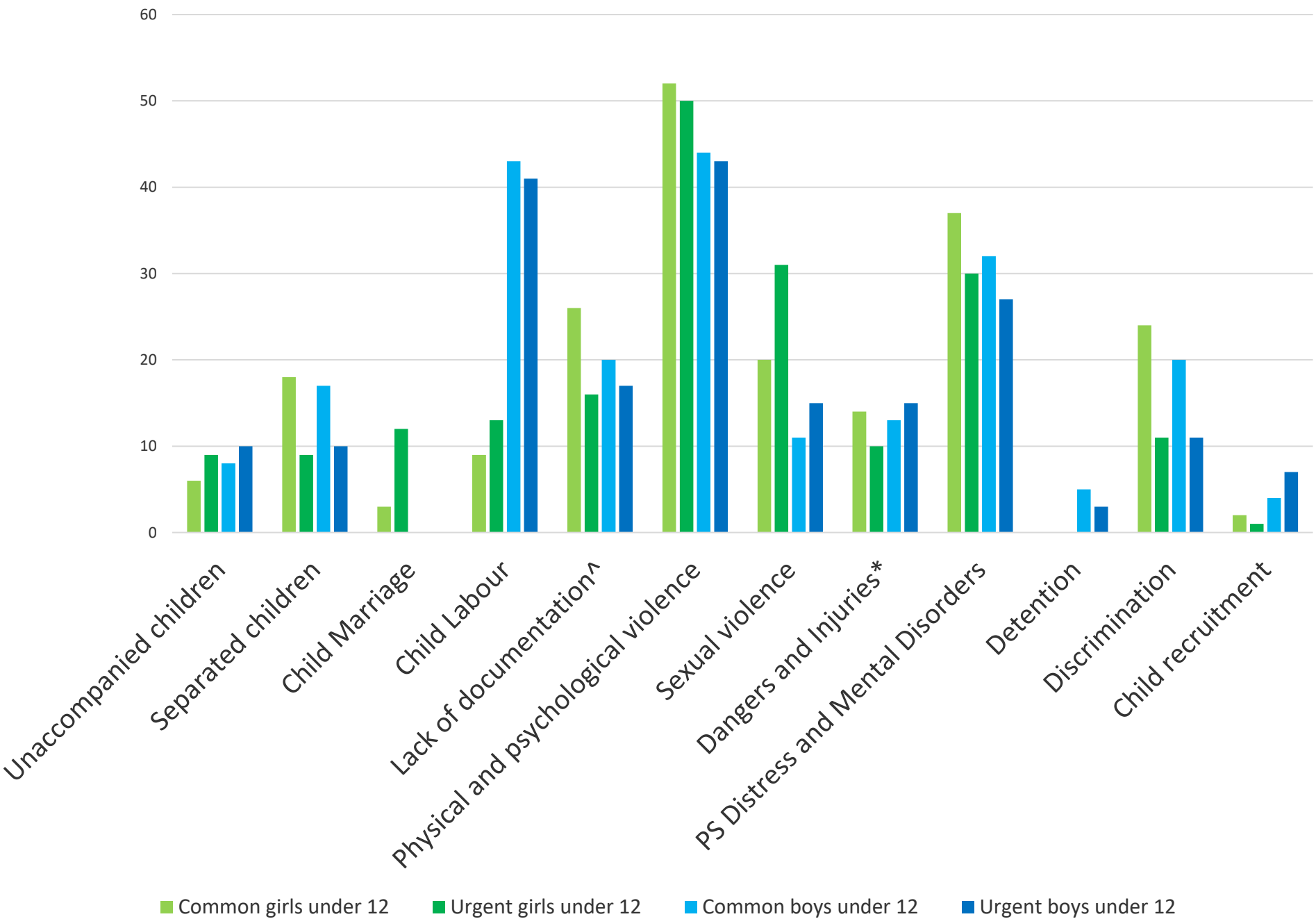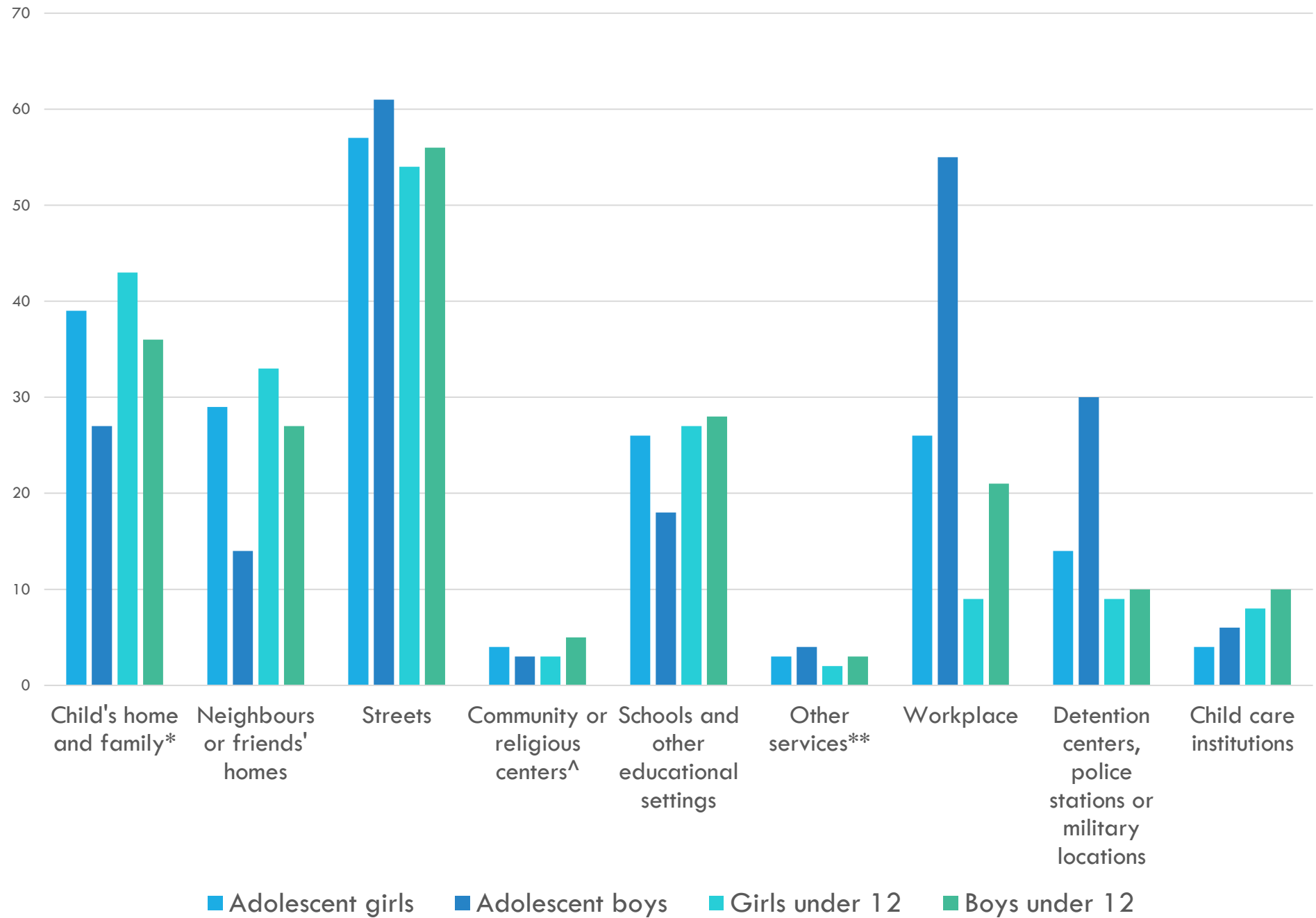
CHILD PROTECTION ISSUES

For all children (common and urgent) in order:

1. Physical and psychological violence

2. Psychosocial distress

3. Discrimination

4. Lack of documentation (more common than urgent)
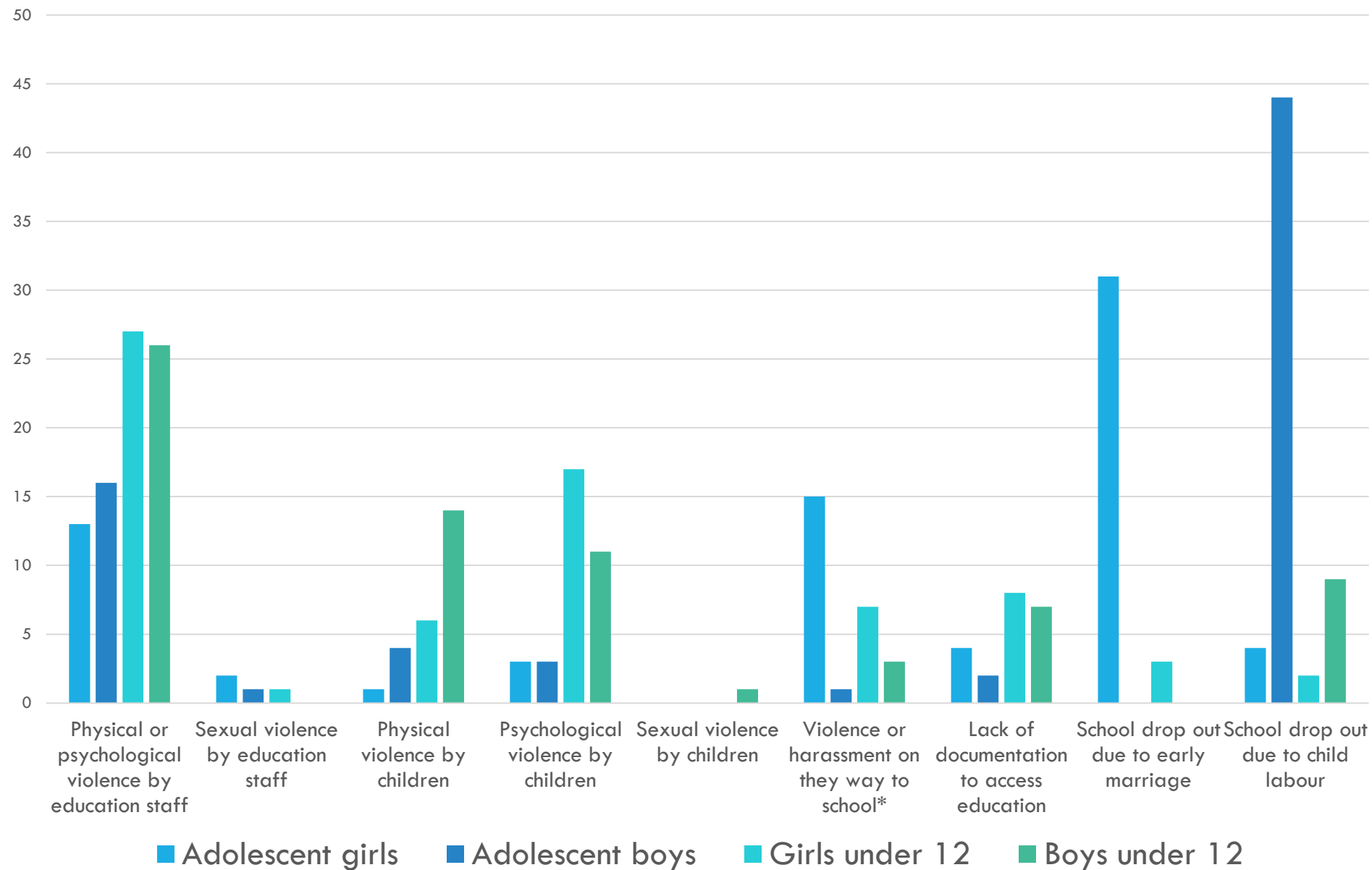
5. Separated (more common than urgent)

Age and gender specific:

1. Child marriage for adolescent girls (urgent and common)

2. Sexual violence for all girls (more urgent than common)

3. Child labour for all boys (urgent and common) esp. adolescents

4. Child recruitment (more urgent than common)and unaccompanied children (common and urgent) for adolescent boys

Where are children most at risk?

Category	Adolescent girls	Adolescent boys	Girls under 12	Boys under 12
Child's home and family*	39	43	27	36
Neighbours or friends' homes	29	14	33	27
Streets	57	61	54	56
Community or religious centers^	4	3	3	5
Schools and other educational settings	26	18	27	28
Other services**	3	4	2	3
Workplace	26	55	9	21
Detention centers, police stations or military locations	14	30	9	10
Child care institutions	4	6	8	10

CP issues in educational settings

Bar chart categories (x-axis): Physical or psychological violence by education staff; Sexual violence by education staff; Physical violence by children; Psychological violence by children; Sexual violence by children; Violence or harassment on they way to school*; Lack of documentation to access education; School drop out due to early marriage; School drop out due to child labour

Legend: Adolescent girls, Adolescent boys, Girls under 12, Boys under 12

RESPONSE

KEY SHIFTS IN APPROACH TO PROTECTION OF CHILDREN IN REFUGEE SETTINGS

❖ **Broader scope of Child Protection**
   Focus on ensuring protection for all children of concern rather than focusing more narrowly on specific pre-defined categories of children.

❖ **State Responsibility**
   States are primarily responsible for the protection of <u>all</u> children, UNHCR's role is to support States in this.

❖ **Child Protection Systems**
   Focus on strengthening CP systems rather than just addressing categories of children at risk.

❖ **Prevention and Response**
Balancing prevention and response – prevention is still the best cure

SHIFTS IN RESPONSE TO SYRIA CRISIS

Increased need to focus on strengthening national systems and sustainability

YET

Uneven scale and quality of national child protection systems

AND

Reduction of protection space in many countries: increased need to advocacy together with protection actors

Increased focus on supporting refugees and other affected populations to protect children (community-based child protection)

KEY RESULTS

Strengthening national child protection systems

Provision of specialized services

Community based child protection and PSS

Advocacy and knowledge management

Each programmatic area addressed using combination of the above strategies – For example: Prevention and response to UASC

❖Development of national guidelines and systems on alternative care

❖Provision of case management, BIA/BID for UASC

❖Awareness raising and communication campaign to prevent separation

❖Data collection and analysis to understand trends and patterns to better respond

RRP5 2013: Targets and Results

Regional target:
573,242

Regional result:
396,000

■ Children reached   ■ Unreached
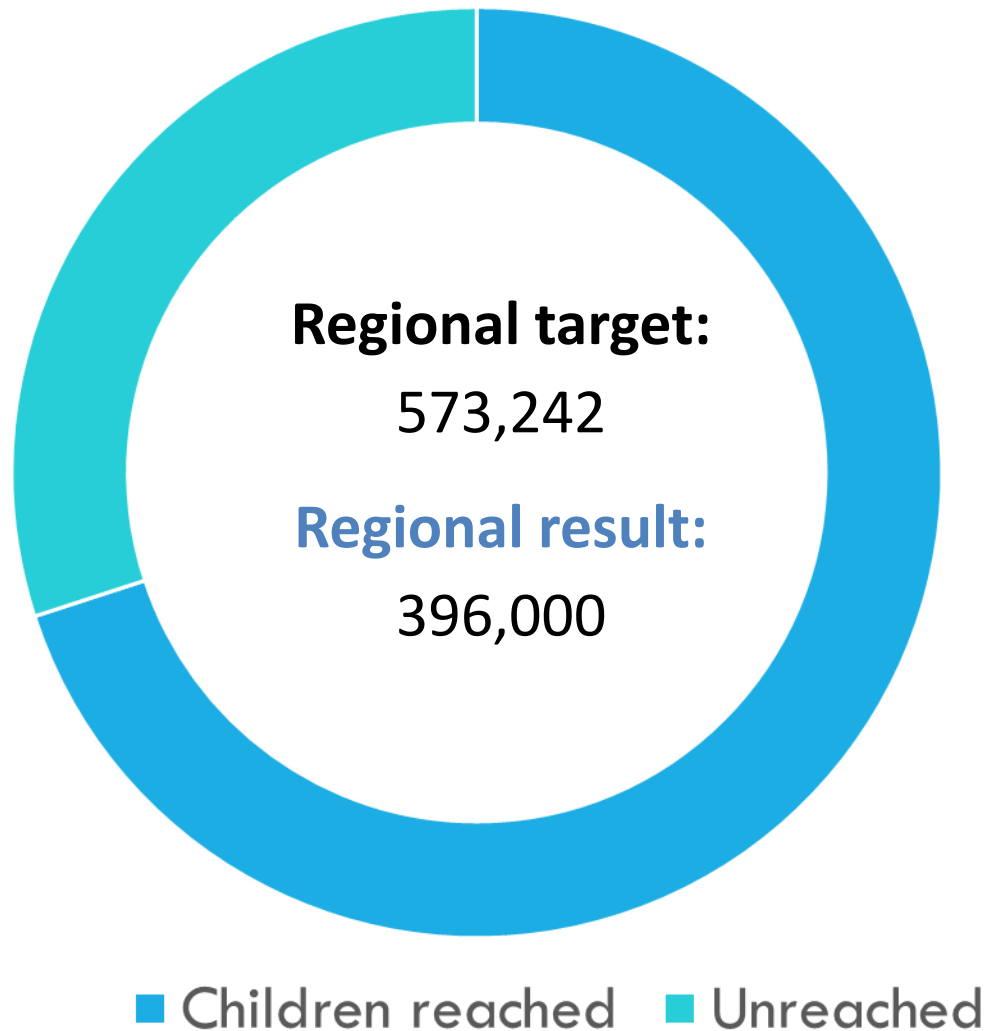
- 69% of target reached in 2013
- Some country data not disaggregated by age and/or type of activity
- Mixture of definition of PSS (reached with *"what"?*)

RRP5: Results compared to total Child Refugee Population (Dec 2013)

Regional result:
396,000

 # Child PIN

2,749,000
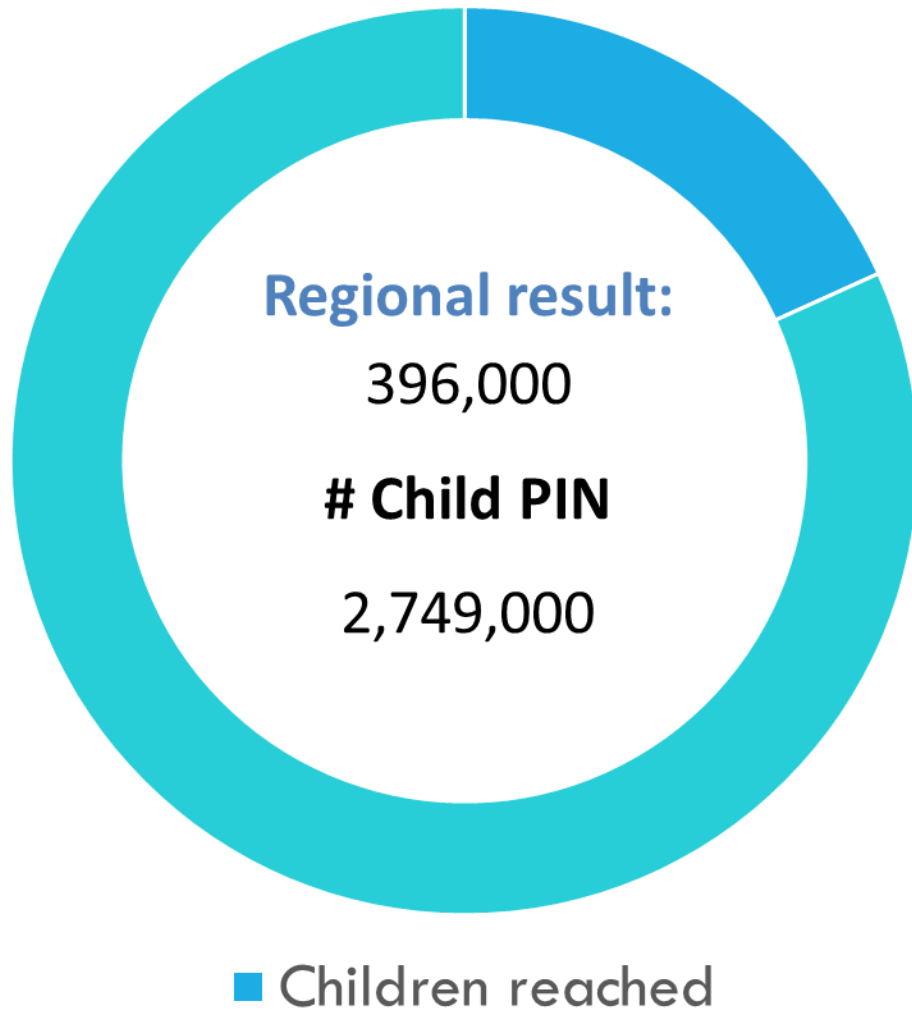
■ Children reached

- 15% of children reached with PSS out of the total child PIN.
- PSS overall focused on age group 5-12

# RRP6 2014 Targets and Results

Regional target:
748,000

Regional result:
784,333

■ Children reached

- 105% of target reached in 2014
- 2014 target was 30% higher than 2013
- 2014 result was almost double 2013
- Anomalies with data from 1 country
- Sex and age disaggregated not systematically available across region

RRP6: Results compared to total child refugee population (Dec 2014)

Regional result:
749,298
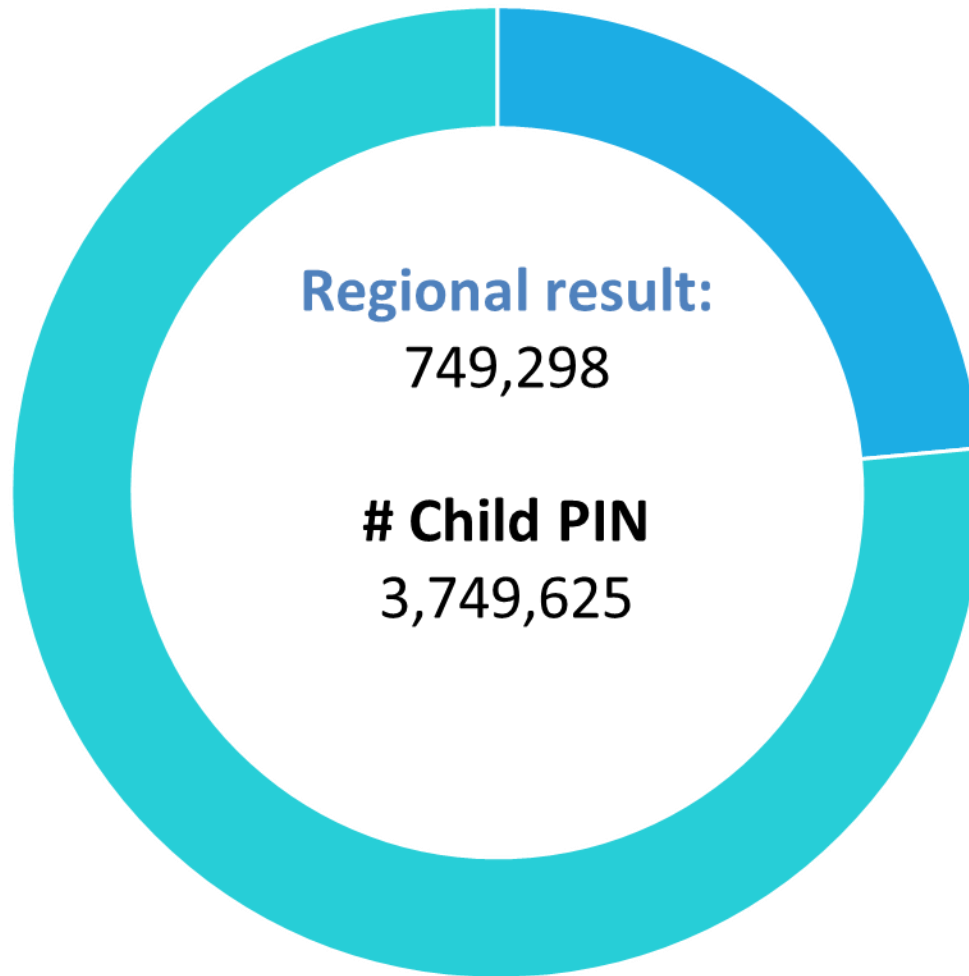
Child PIN
3,749,625

■ Children reached

- 20% of children reached with PSS out of the child people in need (PIN) planning figures for protection sector.
- 5% increase in sectors reach compared to 2013.

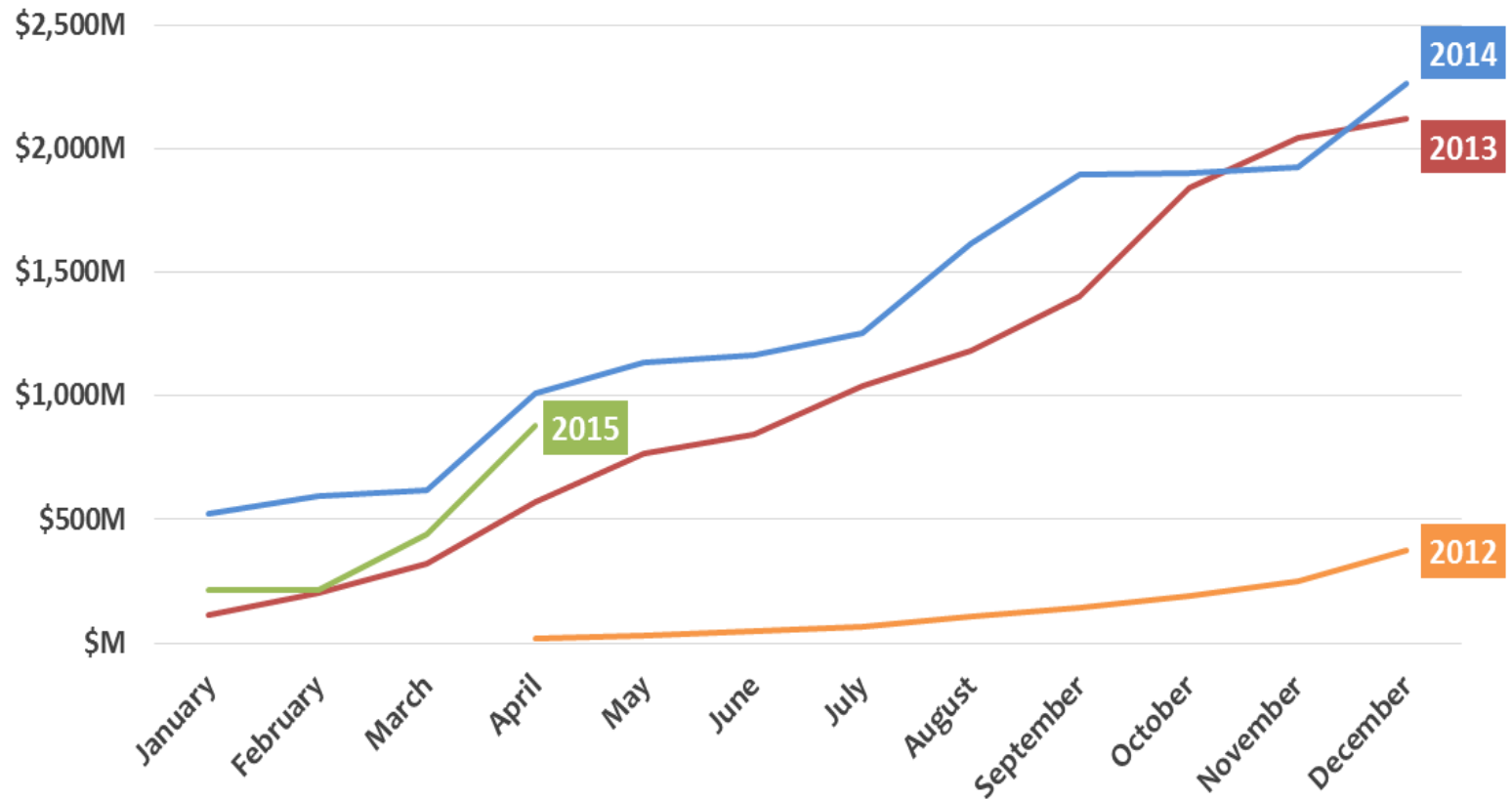# RRP 6: Children receiving specialist child protection support

Regional target
42,000

Regional result
34,511

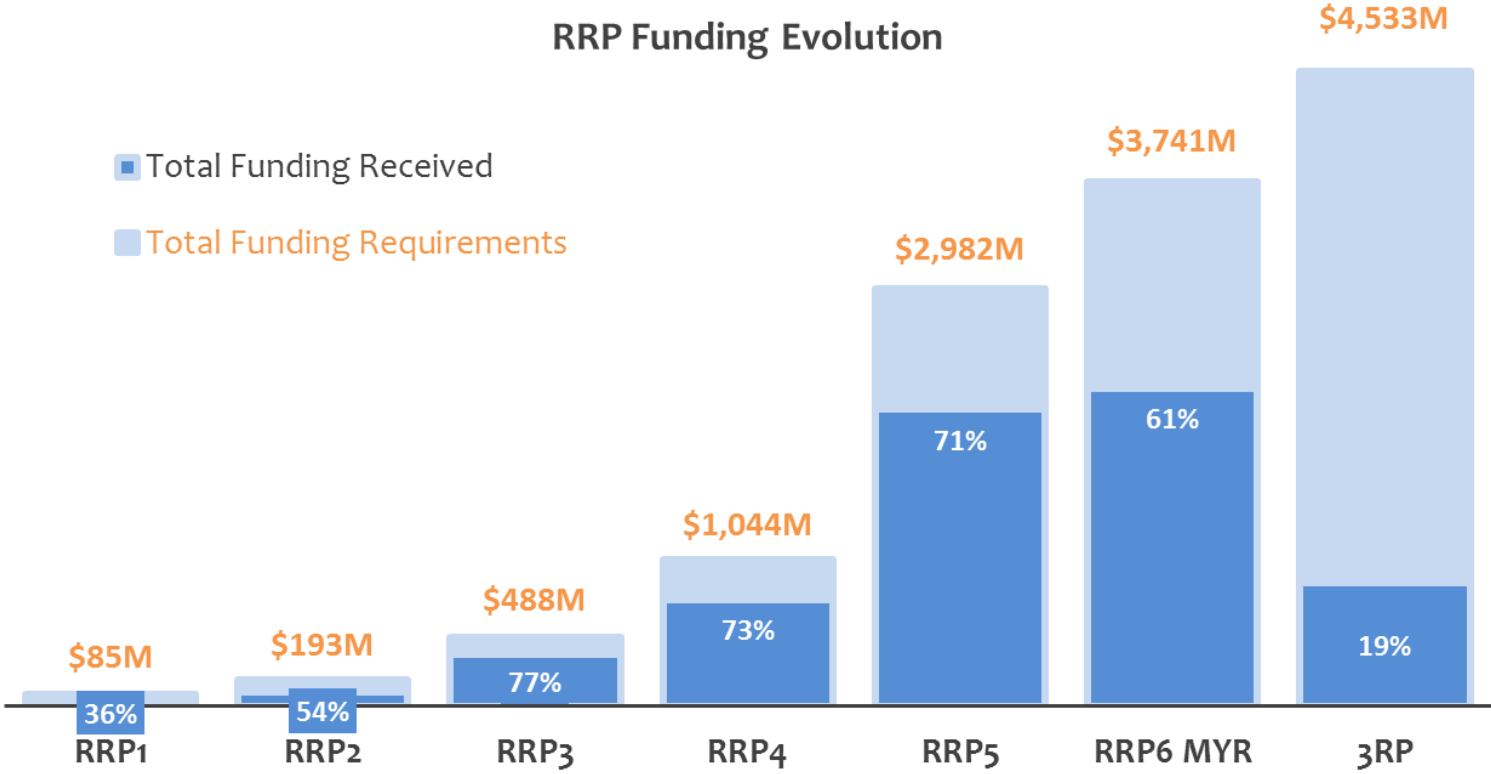■ Children reached ■ Children unreached

- **85% of target reached in 2014.**
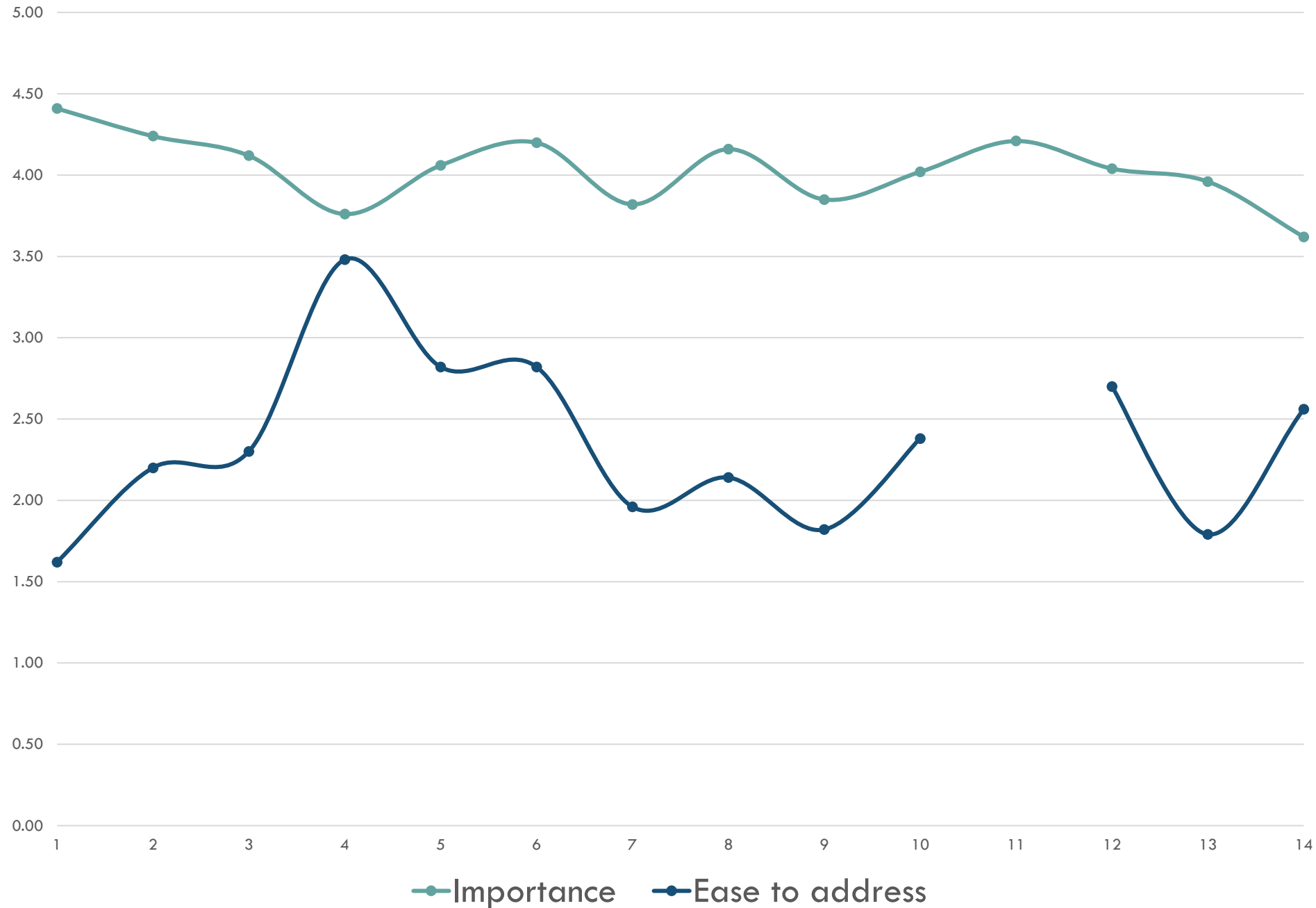- **Indicator systematically reported at regional level only since 2014**

FUNDING

RRPs/3RP - All Agencies Funding - year comparison

FUNDING OVER TIME

RRP Funding Evolution

Strategies: Importance and Ease

Importance ●— ●— Ease to address

HOW TO PRIORITISE STRATEGY?

Short term: Important and Easy

Increasing the availability of services

Improving the quality of services

Increased humanitarian access to affected populations

Longer term: Important and Difficult (increasing difficulty)

Increasing funding and/or more predictable funding

Addressing family attitudes and behaviours relating to child protection

Addressing community norms relating to child protection

Improving implementation of existing child protection laws or policies

Improved security and reduction in armed conflict

Reducing poverty and improving livelihood opportunities

Easy but less important: Improving families and communities knowledge of services

Effectiveness of current strategies/approaches