CHILDREN AND ARMED CONFLICT

The No Lost Generation initiative (NLG) brings together key partners to achieve agreed outcomes essential for the education, protection, wellbeing and future of children and young people affected by conflict. This edition of the newsletter highlights some of the work of NLG partners to protect children affected by armed conflict in Syria and Iraq.

In the words of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, “The international community must act today to end the impact of conflict on children wherever possible, prevent their future involvement and to assist affected children recover from violent conflict… Let us act now so that future generations might remember us for what we did to better protect children affected by armed conflict and not for what we failed to do”.

NO LOST GENERATION CO-LEADS

unicef  MERCY CORPS  Save the Children  World Vision

NO LOST GENERATION PARTNERS

FROM THE FIELD:  RESOURCES
Second report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in Syria

The Secretary-General’s recent report on children and armed conflict in Syria documents the blatant disregard for the life and fundamental rights of children exhibited by all parties to the conflict. During the nearly five-year reporting period, which stretches from 16 November 2013 to 30 June 2018, the United Nations verified 12,537 grave violations against children. More than 7,000 children were killed or maimed by the conflict, more than 350 schools were attacked and over 3,300 children were recruited or used by armed forces. While the number of verified grave violations are shocking, overall numbers are thought to be much higher. Particularly troubling is the fact that the number of verified grave violations has increased almost every year; from 2,285 in 2014 to 3,009 in 2017.

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Terre des hommes: an app to promote child rights and child protection: “made by children for children”

Manal Abu Safiah and Mohammad Al Shaweesh met at the Jordan Hashemite Fund for Human Development (JOHUD) center for psychosocial support in Marka district in Amman. They both participated in life skills training targeting young people and children affected by or at risk of child labour, implemented by JOHUD in partnership with Terre des hommes. Having learned about children’s rights and child protection issues, the pair, aged 17 and 20, combined their passion with their tech skills to develop an app that promotes child rights amongst children and raises awareness of child protection issues, watch the video on YouTube.

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UNICEF: Responding to protection risks and concerns of children associated with armed actors in Iraq

Your quarterly digest of resources produced by, or relevant to the NLG initiative. For all previously mentioned resources, please see the NLG Resource Repository.
UNICEF Iraq is developing and testing out modalities to work with staff and children in detention who are perceived to have been associated with the so-called Islamic state. This project aims at breaking down harmful perceptions and attitudes against these children that create barriers to the children’s access to services while in detention as well as internal perceptions that the children hold of themselves and to help them develop the skills necessary for critical reflection, emotional well-being, preparation for return to their communities and resilience against recruitment. Since last year, UNICEF Iraq has also developed small-scale socio-economic reintegration projects for displaced children who had joined or were at risk of joining armed actors fighting against ISIL. Some of these boys have now returned to Mosul where UNICEF has supported them to re-establish their small businesses.

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Jesuit Refugee Service: an adolescent girl describes how re-entering school means so much more than just education

Nour, who wants to be a lawyer when she grows up, has been studying at the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Telyani School, in Bar Elias, for six years. There are currently three JRS schools for formal education in the Bekaa area, but the Telyani School, is unique in its location, as it is situated at the heart of the Telyani camp. This location allows children to easily enrol, avoiding extra expenses for the bus, the risk of taking long walks, or the harsh weather conditions against which the camp offers some protection.

READ MORE

UPDATES:

No Lost Generation funding snapshots

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2018/2019

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2019/2020
What funding gaps mean on the ground: Relief International’s drop out program in Za’atari

The two-year Drop-Out programme for adolescents consists of three cycles of eight months each. Students who pass the placement test can join directly in the second cycle of the programme and graduate within 16 months. Unfortunately, due to funding shortages, this vital program risks to end abruptly at the end of 2018, leaving 653 students already enrolled in the program without continuation. This will be tragic for the students themselves, and erode trust between the refugees and the humanitarian community more broadly. It will also have a negative impact on the number of out-of-school Syrian children and youth in refugee camps and may increase the number of school-age children involved in child labor as well as expose them to increased risks of early marriage. Read more here [add hyperlink].
RECENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS:

Webinar: Building Resilient Higher Education Spaces for Displaced Populations  
Date: 27 November 2018

Rapid advances in technology and online learning have laid the foundations for making higher education opportunities more accessible to adolescents and youth affected by crisis. In this webinar, you will hear about InZone, an academic center at the University of Geneva, focused on building higher education spaces in refugee contexts. InZone partners with UN agencies, NGOs, private sector companies, and higher education institutions to design, implement, and scientifically validate learner-centered and technology-supported pedagogical models. The webinar featured projects in Azraq Refugee Camp in Jordan and Kakuma Refugee Camp in Kenya.

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No Lost Generation Inter-Agency Regional Child Protection Workshop  
Date: 4 – 5 December 2018

With the support of the EU regional trust fund "MADAD" NLG partners working on child protection came together on 4-5 December in Amman to reflect on programming so far and agree approaches and priorities ahead, in light of the changing context and emerging evidence on good practice and gaps. This workshop saw practitioners, advisors and experts from Syria, Iraq and the neighboring countries (Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, Turkey and Egypt) discuss and exchange on issues such as strengthening national child protection systems, civil documentation, best interests determination, psychosocial support, gender based violence, and children associated with armed forces and groups.

Evaluation of No Lost Generation

NLG is currently undertaking an evaluation to objectively assess the achievements and merits of the initiative and draw out lessons learned. The evaluation will test the premise that the NLG influenced different actors to deliver more and better education, child protection, and youth and adolescent programming for children and youth affected by the Syria crisis. The final report will be published in March 2019.

NEW PARTNERS:
NEW PARTNERS:

The NLG partners have welcomed 6 new organisations into the regional level working group that steers the initiative.

The most recent is UNESCO. As the only United Nations agency with a mandate to cover all aspects of education, UNESCO has been entrusted to lead the Global Education 2030 Agenda through Sustainable Development Goal 4.

The INGO Concern is also a recent joiner, bringing experience from working on Education and Child Protection programmes in North East Syria, KRI, Turkey and Lebanon.

Other new joiners from earlier on in the year include the Lebanon based NGO Basma & Zeitooneh which has an extensive profile on education in Lebanon, Syria and Turkey; DanChurchAid; the Jesuit Refugee Service and United Nations Volunteers (UNV). UNV now provides two full time volunteers to support the NLG co-leads in their work, one of which is generously funded by Norway.

Donors who have supported No Lost Generation since its inception include:

Learn more about No Lost Generation by visiting our website, and find out how you can get involved.