NO LOST GENERATION UPDATE
January – September 2017
Girls and boys participating in a Sesame Street Workshop organized in coordination with UNICEF and Mercy Corps, to provide psychosocial support to children.

Credit: Mercy Corps, Asakkab
About No Lost Generation

02
No Lost Generation Targets for 2017

03
Direction Setting in Phase II of No Lost Generation

04
The Situation for Children and Youth in 2017

07
No Lost Generation Results in the first half of 2017

09
Challenges

10
Funding

11
Inter-sector Priorities

11
Mental Health and Psychosocial Wellbeing

12
Engaging Adolescents and Youth in Shaping their Own Future

14
Child Labour

14
Early Childhood Care and Development

15
Engagement with the Private Sector

17
Advocacy

18
Knowledge Management

18
Partners and Supporters
Two boys playing at a child safe playground in Zaatari camp, Jordan.
Credit: Mercy Corps, Sheridan 2016
ABOUT NO LOST GENERATION

Launched in 2013, No Lost Generation is a strategic framework for the responses to the Syria and Iraq crises, embedded within existing planning, coordination and reporting structures. The initiative brings 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 Adolescents & Youth.

No Lost Generation is led jointly by UNICEF, Mercy Corps, Save the Children and World Vision.

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Children\(^1\) and youth\(^2\) 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
- 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

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\(^1\) Defined as anyone under the age of 18 years
\(^2\) Defined as anyone aged 15 to 24 years inclusive
ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH

OTHER TARGETS FOR 2017

NO LOST GENERATION TARGETS FOR 2017

EDUCATION

OVER 1.3M children will be enrolled in formal or nonformal education in 3RP countries.

4.6M children inside Syria (5-17 years) will be reached by No Lost Generation partners with education opportunities.

1.5M children inside Iraq will be reached with programmes designed to increase the access to and quality of safe learning opportunities for all children, including highly vulnerable children.

CHILD PROTECTION

OVER 170,000 boys and girls inside Syria and Iraq and in 3RP countries will be reached with specialized child protection services.

OVER 2M children inside Syria and Iraq and in 3RP countries will access structured, sustained child protection or psychosocial support programmes.

ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH

OVER 1M adolescents and youth in No Lost Generation countries will access positive engagement opportunities including over 650,000 inside Syria.

Evidence on key issues for young people will be generated in partnership with adolescents and youth and this will be used to guide humanitarian planning across all sectors.

OVER 1M men and women inside Syria and Iraq and in 3RP countries will engage in parenting programmes.

NO LOST GENERATION PROGRAMMES ARE EMBEDDED IN:

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

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

• The Iraq Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) which covers humanitarian action for those affected by the conflict inside Iraq.

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Evidence on key issues for young people will be generated in partnership with adolescents and youth and this will be used to guide humanitarian planning across all sectors.
With the addition of 6 new partners at regional level this year, all of whom work towards No Lost Generation goals in at least 3 of the 6 countries, there are now over 30 partners convened in a regional level No Lost Generation Working Group which steers the initiative.

In February this year, the No Lost Generation partners met at Regional Director level to review the progress of the initiative, which is currently in phase II, a 3-5 year period which began in 2016. The Regional Directors reaffirmed the outcomes framework and 2017 targets for the No Lost Generation (please see About No Lost Generation and No Lost Generation Targets for 2017 above) and made the following recommendations for implementation of the initiative going forwards which included the following:

- Promote and strengthen programming which supports adolescents and youth, including provision of positive engagement opportunities, and youth-led programming.
- Engage adolescents and youth systematically in steering the initiative.
- Develop and implement an engagement plan, in consultation with donors.
- Facilitate a coordinated approach for No Lost Generation partners towards the private sector.
- Make knowledge management platforms and resources available in Arabic, to better support national NGOs and other national actors; encourage transformational partnerships between international and local actors.
- Open up internships for local youth to support No Lost Generation.
- Consider documenting and analyzing success factors for NLG, for future use.

Two-year-old twins Reda (blue) and Amin (red), play in the informal settlement where they live in Baalbek, Lebanon.
Credit: Mercy Corps, Crobbins

DIRECTION SETTING IN PHASE II OF NO LOST GENERATION
THE SITUATION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN 2017

INSIDE SYRIA

6.3M people are internally displaced. 1.3M displacements occurred during the first 6 months of 2017. Nearly 2M school-age children are displaced, many repeatedly.

Just over 0.5M spontaneous IDP returns were recorded during the first six months of 2017, the majority in Aleppo governorate.

Nearly 4M children are in need of food assistance.

13.2M people or 69% of the population live in extreme poverty. 83% of the population live below the poverty line.

A third of all children (1.75M children) are out of school and a further 1.35M are at risk of dropping out.

ONE IN THREE schools is out of service.

2/3 of children are estimated to have lost a loved one, or had their house bombed or shelled, or suffered war-related injuries.

Nearly 6M children are facing risks such as family separation, physical and sexual violence, child recruitment, torture, kidnapping, limited access to basic services, hazardous forms of labour, lack of documentation, and psychosocial distress.

Child recruitment doubled between 2015 and 2016 and over 300 cases have been documented so far in 2017 (see text box on Grave Violations Against Children).

Assessments have revealed that early marriage is a priority concern in 85% of sub-districts.

ONE IN THREE schools is out of service.

The suicide rate is increasing, with adolescents as young as 12 attempting to take their own lives.

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Assessments have revealed that early marriage is a priority concern in 85% of sub-districts.

51% of respondents in a recent study said adolescents are turning to drugs to cope with the stress.

More than two million youth are internally displaced and an estimated 2.7M are in need of humanitarian assistance.

Unemployment rates among youth inside Syria are estimated to be close to 75%, with significantly higher rates among Syrian women. 64.8% of young female IDPs and 22.9% of young male IDPs are unemployed.

The situation for children and youth in 2017

- 6.3M people are internally displaced
- 1.3M displacements occurred during first 6 months of 2017
- 2M school-age children are displaced, many repeatedly
- 0.5M spontaneous IDP returns recorded in first six months of 2017
- Nearly 4M children in need of food assistance
- 13.2M people or 69% living in extreme poverty
- 83% of population below poverty line
- A third of all children (1.75M) out of school, further 1.35M at risk of dropping out
- Nearly 6M children facing various risks
- 2/3 children lost a loved one or suffered war-related injuries
- Suicide rate increasing, adolescents as young as 12 attempt suicide
- Child recruitment doubled between 2015 and 2016
- Early marriage a priority concern in 85% of sub-districts
- Unemployment rates among youth estimated at 75%, 64.8% of young female IDPs
- 22.9% of young male IDPs unemployed
The MRM4Syria verified over 1,000 grave violations against children in Syria between January and June 2017, including recruitment and use of children by armed actors (300); detention of children for alleged association with armed actors (75); killing and maiming of children (524); rape and other forms of sexual violence against children (4); education and health related incidents (72); abduction of children (54); and instances of denial of humanitarian access (43).

While these numbers provide an overview of trends affecting children in Syria, they are not indicative of the overall scale of violations, but rather of the violations it was possible to capture and verify. The MRM4Syria verified the recruitment and use of 300 children aged as young as 12 years old, including 289 boys and 11 girls. Of the verified cases, 88% served in a combat role and 12% served in a support role, which ranged from guarding checkpoints, prison guards, patrolling streets, aides-de-camp and for sexual exploitation.

Children continued to be arrested and detained on the basis of their alleged association with opposing armed groups. The MRM4Syria verified the ‘arrest and detention’ by armed actors of 75 children aged between 10 and 17 years, including 49 boys and 26 girls. In 71 of the cases, the status of the children remained unknown at the time of reporting.

3 The MRM4Syria is a Security Council-mandated Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM), activated in Syria following the listing of parties to the conflict for grave violations against children in the Secretary-General’s Annual Report on Children and Armed Conflict. The MRM4Syria is tasked with timely documentation of grave violations against children in Syria with a view to feeding into regular Security Council reporting and providing an evidence basis for advocacy, dialogue and response. The MRM4Syria utilizes a strict methodology of verification of cases.
Overall there are nearly **2.5 Million** children of Syrian origin in the region. As of June 2017, there were nearly **1.7 Million** registered school-age (5-17 years) refugee children in the five host countries, an increase of 8 percentage points compared to December 2016.

**56.5%** of school-age children from Syria were enrolled in either formal (54%) or non-formal/informal education (2.5%) opportunities, while some **43.5%** remained out of school.

The percentage of out-of-school children increased from **34%** in December 2016 to **43.5%** in June 2017.

Child labour continues to be widespread. Many Syrian refugee children start working before the age of 12 and become increasingly involved in work that is hazardous and limits their right to education.

Rates of child marriage in the refugee population are now over **20%** in Lebanon and over **30%** in Jordan.

**3 Million** people are internally displaced in Iraq. Nearly **50%** are children. **5.1 Million** Iraqi children are in need of humanitarian support.

**765,000** internally displaced children have missed an entire year of education.

**1,273,000** school-aged Iraqi children are displaced; of which **259,000** are living in host communities and **187,000** are in camps.

**More than 790,000** people have been displaced from Mosul alone. Almost **435,000** of them are children.

**Half of all schools in Iraq require urgent repairs.**

**Almost 1/3** of Iraq’s schools are operating on a multiple shift system.

**Nearly 3.7 Million** school-aged Iraqi children attend school irregularly or not at all. In conflict-affected areas, more than **90%** of the children are out-of-school.

**More than 4,650** children, some as young as three years old, have been separated from their families.

**Half of the people being treated in trauma centres in West Mosul with bullet and shrapnel wounds are children.**

**500,000** children between the ages of 5 and 14 are involved in child labour, mostly in rural areas.
INSIDE SYRIA

EDUCATION
As of July 2017, more than 1 million children and youth had been reached with equitable access to quality learning and skills development opportunities. Amongst them, 300,000 live in UN-declared besieged and hard to reach areas. Almost 600,000 children and youth (5-17 years) were reached with formal and non-formal education at pre-primary, primary and secondary levels.

Through advocacy efforts it was made possible for more than 10,000 children (55% boys and 45% girls) to travel from UN-declared besieged and hard-to reach areas to sit for the national exams for grades 9 and 12.

So far this year 430,000 adolescents and youth have benefited from life skills education programmes.

CHILD PROTECTION
As of July 2017, 279,000 girls and boys had engaged in structured child protection programmes (30% of HRP target) and 16,600 had received specialized child protection services through case management (38% of HRP target).

In the same period, 101,301 children received psychological first aid (101% of the target) and 319,701 children engaged in psychosocial support activities (64% of the target).

Throughout the first half of 2017, concerted advocacy on child protection, legal identity, and civil status documentation was sustained, leading to the improvement of the quality of services for children. In addition, 5,104 children separated from their families and 1,274 unaccompanied children received support with documentation.

ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH
250,000 adolescents and youth led civic engagement initiatives at their community level, with 140,000 of these initiatives focusing on fostering greater social cohesion.

Participatory action research conducted by adolescents and youth among their peers highlighted not only their frustrations being unable to realize their dreams and aspirations, but also their hope at being able to make a difference if given the opportunities.

1900 youth received capacity development, mentorship and seed funding to implement social and business entrepreneurship initiatives.

IN THE REFUGEE HOSTING COUNTRIES

EDUCATION
Of the 1.7 million school-age refugee children from Syria in the region, 57% were enrolled in either formal (54 %) of non-formal education (3%) opportunities in the first half of 2017.

Although enrolment in formal education has remained relatively stable or increased, the percentage of out-of-school children increased from 34% at the end of 2016, to 43% in June 2017. The enrolment in non-formal education programmes declined, arguably due to better monitoring systems that avoid the double-counting of beneficiaries.

Education supplies were provided to almost 2.3 million children, and across all 3RP countries there has been construction, establishment or rehabilitation of classrooms in order to increase access. In Jordan and Lebanon the school absorption capacity is expanded with the help of double school shifts.

So far this year 150,000 adolescents and youth have benefited from life skills education programmes.
CHILD PROTECTION
Within the five host countries 406,000 children participated in sustained, structured child protection or psychosocial support and 61,600 girls and boys received specialist child protection support.

Increased support and awareness raising on the issue of child protection has, among other things, led to the training of nearly 20,000 individuals on protection, including child protection, within the first 6 months of 2017.

ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH
150,000 adolescents and youth benefited from life skills education programmes.
200,000 adolescents and youth led civic engagement initiatives at their community level.

Participatory action research conducted by adolescents and youth among their peers highlighted the negative coping mechanisms being adopted by young girls and boys who are increasingly bearing the burden of family poverty.
1000 youth received capacity development, mentorship and seed funding to implement social and business entrepreneurship initiatives.

IN IRAQ
EDUCATION
As of August 2017, 383,300 children were enrolled in formal education and 83,600 children had accessed informal education. A total of 3,438 temporary learning spaces (tents/rented spaces/prefabs) had been set up, reaching 237,000 children.

In the same period, 606,700 learners, of whom 45% female, have been provided with learning material. In order to provide safe learning spaces for the children, 5,010 classrooms have been rehabilitated. Over two thousand teachers and other education officials have received training.
So far this year 100,000 adolescents and youth have benefited from life skills education programmes.

CHILD PROTECTION
As of the end of August 2017, 427,700 children had participated in specialized sustainable child protection and/or psychosocial support programmes, under which 33,000 children of Syrian origin. In addition, 15,145 Iraqi and Syrian children were supported through the case management system. Within established learning spaces, 81,300 children were reached with psychosocial support services.

Concerted advocacy on child protection, legal identity, and documentation was sustained throughout the first half of 2017.

As of the end of August 2017, out of 4,776 separated children who were identified, 1,089 were reunified with family. An additional 829 unaccompanied children were identified, of which 358 reunified with family.
So far in 2017, a Rapid Response Mechanism implemented by humanitarian partners has reached over two million vulnerable people on the move, including 1,157,000 children, with emergency response items including information on child protection.

ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH
75,000 adolescents and youth led civic engagement initiatives at their community level.
Lower than usual funding levels for the 3RP and the 2017 Syria and Iraq HRPs

Despite the generous pledges during the Supporting the Future of Syria and the Region Conference in Brussels in April 2017, the first half of 2017 has seen lower rates of funding for No Lost Generation compared to the same period in previous years. This mirrors the overall funding situation for the Syria crisis response, where for example only 23% of funding required for the 3RP had been received as of June 2017, compared to 31% in the same period in 2016. Without adequate funding, all areas of No Lost Generation programming will be limited, not only endangering the sustainability of programmes but also the provision of urgent services for children. The extreme levels of poverty in No Lost Generation countries (where for example 71% of Syrian refugees in Lebanon and 93% in Jordan live below the poverty line; and where 83% of the population live below the poverty line inside Syria) put children at high risk of dropping out of school, child labour, child marriage and other forms of exploitation. In this situation, humanitarian assistance including child protection services, social protection and cash transfers are essential to the education, well-being and survival of vulnerable children and youth.

Lack of access to vulnerable children and youth in need

The continuation of the conflicts in both Syria and Iraq has been a major constraint in reaching the most vulnerable children and youth. Rapid changes in areas of influence on the ground increases the complexity of humanitarian efforts and 2017 has seen an escalation of violence. Military offensives against ISIL in Ar-Raqqa (Syria) and Mosul (Iraq) in particular have caused widespread displacement. Military operations to retake Mosul City and the surrounding territory that have been ongoing since 2016, have resulted in displacement of 998,000 people including 549,000 children. Whilst No Lost Generations partners are able to reach some of the displaced, the spontaneous set-up of camps near frontlines has limited humanitarian access.

Access to children and youth in hard-to-reach and besieged areas has continued to be a major constraint to No Lost Generation partners in 2017. Throughout Syria, an estimated 232,000 children are living in 11 areas under siege with an estimated 2.1 million children living in hard-to-reach areas with limited access to humanitarian assistance.

In addition, heavy bureaucratic procedures and the multi-layered approval processes required to access many parts of Syria, as well for border crossing, continue to constrain the effectiveness and sustainability of programming, monitoring and reporting, and the capacity development of the partners.

Increasing constraints on international organisations

In 2017 efforts to reach people in hard-to-reach areas through cross-border programming from Turkey has been challenging. Restrictions on cross-border access from Turkey include new registration demands, requests for information and interference in staffing. Turkish bureaucratic challenges for Turkey-based cross-border partners remain, with significant delays in processing registration and work permit requests. As a result, many international NGOs are temporarily or permanently moving their operations to Jordan or Iraq to ensure continuity. Numerous programmes in northern Syria have closed, have been handed over to other agencies, or have been scaled down. This has had an impact on the response as a whole, as well as on No Lost Generation programming specifically.

The emergence of complex child protection issues

As areas previously under the control of ISIL have become accessible in both Iraq and Syria, child protection actors have been faced with new complex protection issues requiring an urgent response. There has been, for instance, an upsurge in the number of separated and unaccompanied children identified in Iraq, with some of these being from outside the country. These cases pose several new protection challenges related to legal custody, family tracing, temporary care, determination of nationality and legal identity etc. Closer collaboration amongst agencies with a specific mandate to work on unaccompanied and separated children will be required in the coming months, both at the country and regional level, to respond to these new concerns.

Additionally, evolving government policies in relation to the treatment of children suspected to have been associated with ISIL and other armed groups have required child protection agencies to step up advocacy efforts in order to preserve respect for children’s rights and ensure that the most vulnerable children are not criminalised and receive the child protection services they need.
# Funding Data

## Syria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Funding Requirement 2017</th>
<th>Funding (June 2017)</th>
<th>% Funding Received</th>
<th>Funding Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>$266,453,021</td>
<td>$92,500,000</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>28-Aug-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Protection</td>
<td>$84,000,000</td>
<td>$28,500,000</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>30-Jun-17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adolescents and youth</td>
<td>$301,056,950</td>
<td>$73,218,974</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>28-Jun-17</td>
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## 3RP Countries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
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<th>Funding Date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>$841,000,000</td>
<td>$238,204,282</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>30-Jun-17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Child Protection</td>
<td>$122,193,931</td>
<td>$54,884,967</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>30-Jun-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adolescents and youth</td>
<td>$122,259,864</td>
<td>$33,151,584</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>30-Jun-17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Iraq

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>% Funding Received</th>
<th>Funding Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>$69,946,877</td>
<td>$23,700,000</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>28-Jun-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Protection</td>
<td>$22,910,375</td>
<td>$9,212,790</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>9-Jul-17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Total

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
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<th>% Funding Received</th>
<th>Funding Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>$1,829,821,018</td>
<td>553,372,598</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Funding request for Jordan and Lebanon under the JRP and LCRP is not as clear as in previous years, so this could be an under-estimate. Quarter 1 2017 funding only. Q2 2017 data for Turkey for UNICEF only.

*Does not include Jordan and Lebanon; Child Protection funding breakdown for Turkey and Jordan not available for Q2 2017.
2017 has seen an increased focus on the psychosocial effects of the Syria and Iraq crises on children and youth, with the recognition by humanitarians and policy makers that the psychological toll of growing up amidst conflict and violence will have both short and long-term repercussions on the psychosocial well-being of Iraqi and Syrian children and youth and therefore on the sustainability of any future peace and development.

In March Save the Children's report on Syria, Invisible Wounds, described a situation where two out of three children have witnessed a traumatic event such as the death of a relative or destruction of their home; or been injured. Over 70% of adults surveyed said that children increasingly suffer from frequent bedwetting and involuntary urination as a result of the distress they have suffered. Reports from the Brookings Institute and others also underline the urgency of the mental health situation inside Syria; and a similar report published by Save the Children in July on Iraq, An Unbearable Reality described a mental health crisis among conflict-affected children in Iraq and made the case for prioritizing the mental health and well-being of children and adolescents as a key step to achieving long-term peace and stability in the country.

Save the Children’s finding that ongoing bombing and shelling is the number one cause of psychological stress in children’s daily lives correlates with a July World Bank report on the economic and social consequences of the conflict in Syria, which found that casualties (part of the calculation of losses) impose insufferable distress and psychological impacts on families and are the primary drivers of outmigration: in other words, the fear of being killed or injured as a result of military action is the main reason for displacement and flight which in turn has dire economic consequences. The World Bank report noted that the cumulative losses in gross domestic product (GDP) of the Syria crisis have been estimated at 226 billion USD, about four times the Syrian GDP in 2010.

In terms of the programmatic response, 2017 has seen the emergence of some strong local actors. Inside Syria 18 of these operate under the auspices of the Syrian Wellbeing Collective - a network of community based organisations who have built a Syria-based platform to coordinate and improve their psychosocial programming with vulnerable children and youth. Supported by Lapis Communications and UNICEF, the collective implemented its first awareness raising campaign in April, with the objective of persuading children, adolescents and caregivers to adopt self-care practices. Communications materials - posters, brochures, colouring books, videos and a comic book were developed are used and disseminated in Syria by members of the Collective, through health care facilities, local councils, schools, and other service providers.

Amidst the international responders, there have been increased efforts in 2017 to integrate psychosocial support into other sectors of the response. As an example the Education sector saw considerations of psychosocial wellbeing integrated into a new conceptual and programmatic framework for life skills and citizenship education across the region; and the delivery of Training of Trainers on teachers in crisis contexts – a package which includes psychosocial support - to organisations active in the education response to the Syria and Iraq crises.

Recognising that high-quality psychosocial support programming, which is based on the specific needs of communities, can help children, young people and caregivers affected by conflict to regain a sense of normalcy and enhance their long-term emotional and social well-being Mercy Corps and War Child, will host a regional No Lost Generation summit on psychosocial support programming for children and youth affected by the Syria and Iraq crises in Amman in November 2017. The event, called Positive Pathways, will bring together humanitarian actors and researchers to explore and discuss proven and promising psychosocial support practices and to showcase evidence and innovations from the region covering the spectrum of psychosocial support programmes from the individual to the community level.
Young people (10-24 years old) in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) represent about one third of the total population and recently have been at the forefront of global, social, economic and political developments in the MENA region. However, young people - especially young girls - continue to remain socially, economically and politically excluded and the region faces the highest youth unemployment rate in the world (with the rate for females being double that for males) – and the challenges for young people affected by the conflicts in Syria and Iraq are significantly exacerbated.

The first half of 2017 significant progress has been made in terms of increasing the engagement and voice of adolescents and youth in No Lost Generation. In 2016 stocktaking exercises on programmes reaching adolescents and youth were completed for 3RP countries and inside Syria, with the results revealing that although 80-85% of the interventions reviewed work with adolescents and youth as target beneficiaries, a very small percentage (less than 10% for 3RP) of the identified interventions engage adolescents and youth in all stages of the programme development and implementation. In response to this No Lost Generation partners mobilised to produce, disseminate and apply guidance for reaching adolescents and youth, including measurement of results for this cohort, across sectors in the response. As of August 2017, a follow-up exercise is underway to review the progress on engaging adolescents and youth in No Lost Generation Programming.

At the same time, No Lost Generation partners undertook a Participatory Action Research project with adolescents and youth in Jordan, Lebanon and Syria, which saw over 900 people between the ages of 14 and 24, including working children, adolescents with disabilities and young people not in education, employment or training become trained researchers on priorities for young people in their own communities. Work with these young researchers is ongoing to facilitate advocacy on the priorities they identified as well as access to opportunities such as further training and mentoring.

Throughout 2017 a blogging platform, Voices of Youth Arabic, has enabled adolescents and youth from No Lost Generation countries and the wider region to share their experiences, opinions and ideas on priority issues for them. Since its inception in late 2016 the platform has published 157 blogs from adolescents and youth and on average more than 65,000 people are reached monthly through the platform. The majority of blogs are from Syrian adolescents and youth (67%). Topics differed between males (49% of bloggers) and females (51% of bloggers), with the latter focusing mostly on equality, education and violence, while males tended to focus on employment, education and human rights.

The platform is now expanding its outreach by partnering with different regional and local organizations, including ABAAD in Lebanon and youth hubs in Egypt. It also works closely with No Lost Generation partners at the regional level to scale up outreach to the most vulnerable adolescents and youth in all No Lost Generation countries. In addition to amplifying young voices and providing a space for discussion, the platform provides users with online tools online to support writing, making videos, webinars (virtual trainings); as well as in person trainings on communication.

Looking forwards, November will see No Lost Generation partners, under the leadership of UNICEF, convene in Amman for an Evidence Symposium and Adolescents and Youth. This event, which is being planned jointly with young people, will inform thinking, policy and practices around key issues and trends related to young girls and boys in MENA. With young people presenting, facilitating and commentating, the event is designed to demonstrate the value and importance of engaging with young people in processes aimed at supporting them.

Finally, youth outside the region have continued to support NLG during 2017. Seventy virtual Foreign Service interns recruited by the US Bureau for Population, Refugees and Migration led student groups supporting No Lost Generation in 49 universities in the US and two university programs in Abu Dhabi, UAE and Berlin, Germany. By the end of the 2016/17 academic year, these groups had raised over 75,010 USD in support of the response and provided 906 in-person volunteer hours in support of refugees from Syria more generally.

The experience of these NLG student groups will be captured in a forthcoming Rutgers University Press publication entitled Vital Lifelines: How College Students Are Energizing Refugee Relief. This volume is authored in large part by the students themselves and edited by Louisa Visconti and Diane Gal.
Mohammad’s, 16, biggest dream is to become a journalist. He started a magazine in Azraq camp with which he aims to give children a voice.

Credit: World Vision, Missen
CHILD LABOUR

Child labour is one of the most widespread and serious child protection issues faced by children in No Lost Generation countries. As an indication, the number of child labourers in Jordan more than doubled in the period 2008-17, to an estimated 70,000; correlation with the number of out of school children indicates that the actual figure may be higher. Whilst the problem affects both boys and girls, adolescent boys are assessed to be most at risk.

Towards the end of 2016 the No Lost Generation partners developed a joint strategy to address child labour in the refugee hosting countries in consultation with government and civil society in the refugee hosting countries. The resulting strategic framework was finalised in 2017, and in March No Lost Generation partners met with humanitarian donors at the Canadian Embassy in Amman to brief them on the issue of child labour amongst children affected by the Syria crisis, as well as the related but distinct phenomenon of child marriage, which is also on the increase.

Following this ILO developed a pilot project consistent with the framework, focused on identification and removal of child labourers in Jordan and Lebanon and underpinned by results from a survey on child labour undertaken in each country. They also led on the development of an integrated joint proposal in partnership with WFP, UNHCR and UNICEF to reduce child labour in Jordan aimed at addressing deficits in terms of education, livelihood and protection, and strengthening government capacity to sustainably withdraw children from child labour through an integrated referral system. Funding for this proposed intervention is still being sought.

In Turkey, Plan International led consultations with state, private sector, humanitarian, and development actors at national and sub-national level (Gaziantep, Izmir, Istanbul and Ankara) to identify opportunities to address child labour in a more coordinated way between education, child protection, basic needs and livelihoods actors. The resulting recommendations were shared with a newly established Child Labour Technical Group co-led by UNICEF and ILO, which will provide support to those wishing to strengthen their response in this area through an inter-agency information package on child labour, sector specific tools as well as training materials for frontline workers.

In an effort to draw down on globally produced tools to support work on child labour, Plan International Lebanon and the ILO co-hosted a consultation in September under the auspices of the Ministry of Labour in Lebanon to launch a new Inter-Agency Toolkit for Supporting the Protection needs of Child Labourers in Emergencies developed the Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action. The workshop fostered exchange of good practices and provided a platform for country level planning. The good practices and recommendations resulting from the consultation will be integrated into a regionally contextualized version of the Child Labour toolkit.

EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT

During 2017 Plan International led on a stream of work aimed at strengthening Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) programming in No Lost Generation countries. This involved undertaking a mapping of ECCD services currently provided to parents and children, followed by a one day workshop attended by 39 participants from 19 different organizations responding to the Syria and Iraq crises.

Key findings of the mapping, which took place over the period June-August 2017, include the following:

- There are indications of a general lack or insufficiency of ECCD service provision in the humanitarian response to the Iraq and Syria crises. Concerns about quality and access were also commonly mentioned.
- ECCD services are not offered at scale in any public provision.
- A particularly critical gap appears to be provision for children aged 0-3.
- Practitioners assess that there are specific ECCD needs which specifically to the nature of the Syria and Iraq crises.
- There appears to be significant demand for preschool, childcare and parenting support among the refugee populations.

The workshop generated a set of agreed next steps, including extending and finalising the mapping; strengthening of coordination, development of a multi-sectoral strategic framework for ECCD in No Lost Generation Countries; implementation of a common indicator set to measure impact across interventions; and the establishment of standards to guide programming and integration of ECD into existing services.

A set of advocacy related actions will also be taken by No Lost Generation partners with the aim of strengthening attention to ECCD in the humanitarian response plans and appeals (including the 3RP). Agreed actions include the development of common advocacy messages on ECCD in emergencies, the use of products such as an infographics on the importance of investing in the early years and the development of a methodology to track and track ECCD programming.
Recognising that the private sector can play a huge role in supporting vulnerable children and youth and that this type of engagement needs to be coordinated, directed and aligned to the needs of children and youth themselves; No Lost Generation partners have developed and curated joint engagement with the private sector throughout 2017.

A No Lost Generation Ed Tech Summit, hosted by World Vision in March in Amman brought together over 200 innovators, education providers, investors and key actors from the private, public and non-profit sectors from the region and beyond to network, collaborate and co-design interventions that support children and youth affected by the Syrian crisis. The summit was sponsored by World Vision, Nethope and Microsoft and saw participation from companies such as Facebook, Google, Cisco and Porticus, and 33 exhibitors shared software, hardware and programmatic approaches to support education interventions.

During the Summit 240,000 USD in seed funding was made available through sponsors including All Children Reading (two awards), the Malala Fund, Startup Boat, Worldreader and Zain, to encourage collaboration and innovation. Thirteen teams of finalists worked with the sponsors to finalize full proposals and secure awards. One example of a resulting intervention is a partnership between the Malala Fund and ReBoot Kamp to bring coding skills to young, female refugees. All other finalists, resulting projects, resources and updates from the event can be found on the NLG EdTech Summit website. (www.nlgedtech.com)

In follow up to the EdTech Summit, a No Lost Generation Tech Task Force was launched under the leadership of Nethope, focused on initiating and facilitating cross-sector, ICT-enabled collaborations aligned with the needs of displaced children and youth. The aim of the Task Force is to identify and support the highest impact collaboration opportunities and thereby improve programme design and execution – resulting in better outcomes for child and youth. Currently comprising over fifty partners, membership of the Task Force is open to international and local NGOs, private sector companies, academic institutions, and refugee-hosting governments.

The first phase of the Task Force’s work has identified and started to address three factors affecting collaboration between the humanitarian and private sector communities:

Humanitarian organizations lack access to private sector resources and expertise needed to support the needs of children and youth in No Lost Generation countries;

The private sector lacks information about the needs of children and youth and guidance on how best to support them and work within a humanitarian framework; and

There is a lack of coordination to support project-based, cross sector collaborations that are ICT-enabled and evidence based.
Accordingly, in 2017 the Task Force has focused on establishing trust and initiating collaborations to address identified challenges. From March to October nine webinars introduced a range of resources from private sector companies such as Microsoft, HP and Coursera as well as tech-enabled humanitarian interventions implemented by No Lost Generation partners such as the IRC and IMC.

In September the Task Force put on an event in the US focused on pillar III of No Lost Generation: Adolescents and Youth. Hosted by Microsoft in San Francisco, and supported by a Short Guide for Private Sector Engagement in Supporting Children and Youth Affected by the Syria and Iraq Crises, this event saw over 50 private sector executives from key technology firms come together to collectively explore potential collaborations with No Lost Generation partners to address the key challenges identified by adolescents and youth in the region – such as access to learning opportunities, mentorship and pathways to employment; restricted opportunities for girls and young women; and the need to counter the predominantly negative, risk-centred narrative about young people in the region. Joint initiatives to address these challenges are now in the early design phase.
In the first part of 2017, the No Lost Generation initiative conducted a number of advocacy activities around strategic moments. A high level panel on No Lost Generation at the Helsinki conference on Syria chaired by Norway’s State Secretary Foreign Affairs, Marit Berger Røsland included two young Syrians, making a call for adolescents and young people to be actively involved in decision-making about the future of the country.

In March, No Lost Generation featured on a panel discussion at the Mashreq committee of the EU Parliament, highlighting the need for regional support to address the child protection priorities inside Syria. In April, No Lost Generation partners distributed a paper with common key asks for the Brussels Conference on Supporting Syria and the Region which were then echoed in interventions from high level representatives at the conference. The Education pillar launched a report at the conference with updated information on progress, remaining challenges and key recommendations to ensure access to quality education for all children affected by the Syria and Iraq crises: Preparing for the Future of Children and Youth in Syria and the Region through Education: London One Year On.

In September No Lost Generation partners hosted a side-event in the margins of the 72nd UN General Assembly including a high-level panel with donors (Canada, the EU, Luxembourg and the UK), UNICEF goodwill ambassadors Priyanka Chopra and Muzoon Almellehan; and a refugee hosting country (Turkey). The event was attended by over 200 people and put the voices of children of Syria and Iraq at the heart of the discussion through video-questions from children and a portal to Harsham camp in Erbil, Northern Iraq. Social media coverage enabled the No Lost Generation hashtag to reach over 111.1 million in the run up to and days following the event.

Regional level events contributing to No Lost Generation advocacy included a donor briefing hosted by Canada highlighting child protection issues such as child labour and child marriage; a consultation with donors and practitioners on the Education pillar; and a workshop on Early Childhood Care and Development (reported in more detail above).

Finally, 2017 has seen the recruitment of several new Champions for No Lost Generation. These include Qatar’s Dr. Al Meraikhi, the UN Humanitarian Envoy to the UN Secretary-General, the Syrian activist Muzoon Almellehan, Priyanka Chopra and the bestselling author and human rights activist Ishmael Beah. Champions promote the priorities of children and youth affected by the Syria and Iraq crises wherever they can, in their bilateral and public conversations.
No Lost Generation established knowledge management platforms in 2016 bringing content together, in one place, across No Lost Generation pillars.

In 2017 the No Lost Generation partners have expanded knowledge management to include not only documentation and shared resources but also in-person events and online webinars that facilitate and generate knowledge products and experiences. For example, in 2017 workshops on intersector themes such as Early Childhood Care and Development have gathered key stakeholders and practitioners across the region to learn and share experiences in relation to a specific area of programming. These events generate not only content that elevates best practices, but also establishes connections across organizations, donors and researchers - with both of these supporting improved results for children and young people across the region.

No Lost Generation knowledge management products include:

- A Resource Repository built on Google Drive to facilitate the sharing of relevant resources - particularly recent and/or draft publications, assessments, toolkits, guidelines and programming examples.

- A bimonthly e-newsletter sharing promising programming examples, resources, news and upcoming events to over 1,000 subscribers in the region and beyond. Subscription via one click is available at nolostgeneration.org.

- Twice-yearly updates such as this one which contain information on programmatic results and funding and are widely distributed, especially amongst donors supportive of No Lost Generation.

- Webinars on a range of cross-sector topics relevant to No Lost Generation goals, such as Employment Services to Tech supported solutions for refugees. These webinars facilitate the sharing of information and experiences across sectors and countries, and are recorded to facilitate post-event access and reach audiences in different time zones.

Partners in the No Lost Generation initiative are committed to ensuring that the vital investments in education, child protection, the provision of positive engagement opportunities, including employment opportunities for adolescents and youth are at scale and interlinked in order to secure Syria’s future. As of mid 2017 these partners include:

Donors who have contributed to the achievement of No Lost Generation goals since its inception in 2013 include: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, the European Commission, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, the Slovak Republic, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the UK and the USA.

To find out more about No Lost Generation, please visit: www.nolostgeneration.org.
Abeer, 13, at a Makani center in Jordan near the border with Southern Syria.
Credit: Mercy Corps, Sheridan