

No Lost Generation E-Newsletter

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Early Childhood Development: Ensuring a Generation's Future



Dear partners and supporters of the No Lost Generation initiative,

Early Childhood Development (ECD) services in humanitarian and fragile settings are essential to help end preventable deaths of newborns and children under five, to support healthy brain development and to drive recovery and peacebuilding in children's and parents' communities and

Resources

A selection of documents produced by, or relevant to the NLG initiative. For all current or previously mentioned resources, please visit the [NLG Resource Repository](#).

countries. No Lost Generation partners are working to ensure an ambitious, sustainable and context-appropriate ECD response to the millions of Syrian children whose most formative years have been marked by displacement, chaos and violence.

Children from birth to age eight are the most affected by emergencies. Children under five living in fragile contexts have the highest illness and death rates of any age group, twenty times higher than standard levels (UNICEF, 2017). Emergencies arising from armed conflict negatively affect the physical, mental, and psychosocial well-being of children, their families and communities. Research in the Middle East and sub-Saharan Africa indicates 15 to 50 percent of children living in chronic conflict conditions experience PTSD (El Zein & Chehab, 2015).

When children experience high levels of toxic stress, their cortisol hormone levels increase, and the child's brain architecture is adversely impacted, affecting all subsequent areas of child growth and development. An ambitious and sustainable ECD response is not only vital to ensure that children's intellectual and social-emotional development is fulfilled, but also to enable them to become protagonists of the long-term economic prosperity, social cohesion and well-being of their country.



NO LOST GENERATION CO-LEADS



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FROM THE FIELD:

A Beacon of Hope for Syrian Children in Jordan's Desert - World Vision International



*Saleh gives his teacher a high-five after successfully counting to ten in English. Azraq Camp, Jordan © 2019
Photography by Daniel Wheeler/WVI*

"Before I came to the centre, I didn't have any friends. I sat at home doing nothing," says Saleh. "Now I wake up early every day and am excited to go to the centre to play with my new friends."

World Vision's ECD Centre hopes to provide children a safe place to be kids and to develop self-confidence. Almost half of the residents at Azraq are children and programs for children to leave their homes are important. Providing a safe space for the children to learn and have fun has become fundamental to the well-being of not only the children in the camp, but also to parents

and caregivers.

Learn about five-year-old Saleh, who has attended World Vision's Early Childhood Education Centre at Azraq for one year.

[Read more about Saleh's story](#)

Caritas in Lebanon and Jordan Kindergarten Program: Cognitive, Social and Emotional Development



During the school year 2018/19 Caritas Jordan provided around 2,800 refugee children with holistic early childhood education – © Maria de la Guardia

Omar (name changed to protect individual) had a rough start to life. He was still a baby when his mother fled with him and his siblings from their home town in Homs, Syria, to Jordan. Like many Syrian refugee children, Omar struggled with the consequences of traumatic experiences growing up. When entering Caritas' Kindergarten program in Jordan, he showed aggressive behavior and often quarreled with his peers.

Early Childhood education is a critical means to provide children with the foundation to maximize their future well-being, even more so for vulnerable children like Omar who were exposed to stress

and traumatic experiences. Low access to Early Childhood Education however remains a key challenge facing education systems in the region, leading to poor school readiness. As a response, Caritas is providing Kindergarten classes for Syrian refugee children (3-5 years) in Lebanon and Jordan in order to support their social, cognitive and emotional development and adequately prepare them for school.

[Read more about Caritas' Kindergarten programme](#)

Sesame Workshop and International Rescue Committee: Ahlan Simsim Program



Photography by: Sesame Workshop Ryan Heffernan 2019

A new initiative is rising to the challenge of ensuring these children have a chance at a brighter future. Ahlan Simsim—or “Welcome Sesame” in Arabic—aims to restore hope for a generation of children in the Syrian response region in Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria. This program is a joint effort by Sesame Workshop and the IRC to bring critical early childhood development (ECD) programs to the youngest children impacted by conflict and displacement.

Evidence shows ECD interventions can help reduce the harmful effects of stress on growing brains. Investments in high quality ECD programs have also been shown to deliver significantly higher rates of return than programs for older children and adults. Despite this, ECD programs are

still rarely prioritized and funded in humanitarian responses. When they are, a shortage of trained ECD practitioners and scarce resources limit the ability of these programs to take hold and expand to meaningfully impact a generation.

Reem, Hiba, and Ali are children who have participated and shared experiences within Ahlan Simsim, which has created the opportunity for the children to play like children again.

[Read more about Reed, Hiba, and Rayan's Ahlan Simsim story](#)

Recent and Upcoming Events:

No Lost Generation donor briefing and panel discussion on Early Childhood Development

Location: Amman, Jordan

On 10 December, 2019, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation hosted a briefing on Early Childhood Development (ECD), under the auspices of the No Lost Generation (NLG) initiative and organized by Plan International and the International Rescue Committee. The briefing addressed the effect of emergency contexts on ECD and the opportunities and obstacles stakeholders experience when investing in solutions.

In the first panel, panelists addressed best practices, challenges, and recommendations in programming, while the second panel addressed the funding and programming gaps affecting ECD projects in the region. Plan International, War Child, IRC, and UNICEF discussed the importance of a multi-sector approach to ECD, including education, protection, health, and nutrition sectors. In the second panel, the Bernard Van Leer Foundation, Lego Foundation, Doha International Family Institute, and the WHO discussed policy and funding gaps that donor agencies, experts, and policy makers should address to improve ECD programming in the region. The panelists highlighted the importance of continuing to develop strong partnerships between ECD actors responding to the crisis in Syria and Iraq.

Special Session on the No Lost Generation initiative in the margins of the Doha Forum

Location: Doha, Qatar

On 15 December 2019, at the invitation of the UN Secretary-General's Humanitarian Envoy H.E. Dr. Ahmed Al-Meraikhi and with the gracious support of the Qatar Ministry of Foreign Affairs, No Lost Generation organized a special session on the initiative in the margins of the Doha Forum. The session aimed to familiarize Qatar-based funding partners with the work and advocacy objectives of the NLG partner organizations.

The NLG co-chairs provided a brief overview of the NLG initiative, highlighted the continued need for high levels of support to children, adolescents and youth affected by the Syria and Iraq crises, and described how NLG partners are working to address some of the core issues related to education, child protection and adolescents and youth that are holding children and young people back. The presentation was followed by a Q&A session and was attended by representatives from organizations such as THIMUN Foundation, Ooredoo, Education Above All, World Innovation Summit for Education, Qatar National Research Fund, Silatech, Reach out to Asia, Qatar Charity, UNHCR, Brookings Doha Center, Doha International Family Institute and WFP.

Funding snapshot: Q3 2019



No Lost Generation Q3 2019 funding snapshot

NLG - 2019 Funding Data ¹						
Appeal	Sector	Country	Funding Requirement 2019	Funding received	Coverage	Updated as of
Syria HRP	Education	Syria	\$251,114,371	\$74,966,846	29.9%	12/19/2019
	Child Protection ²	Syria	\$72,082,938	\$6,189,065	8.6%	12/19/2019
	Adolescents & Youth	Syria	\$492,900,000	\$193,460,676	39.2%	12/19/2019
3RP	Education		\$816,100,000	\$335,314,285	41.1%	10/31/2019
		Turkey	\$310,900,000	\$157,129,746	50.5%	10/31/2019
		Lebanon	\$393,900,000	\$111,101,505	28.2%	10/31/2019
		Jordan	\$72,700,000	\$57,386,252	78.9%	10/31/2019
		Iraq	\$18,200,000	\$5,658,742	31.1%	10/31/2019
		Egypt	\$20,400,000	\$4,038,040	19.8%	10/31/2019
	Child Protection ³		\$105,100,000	\$75,191,838	71.5%	10/31/2019
		Turkey	\$36,700,000	\$35,108,126	95.7%	10/31/2019
		Lebanon	\$33,700,000	\$25,874,468	76.8%	10/31/2019
		Jordan	\$22,500,000	\$13,701,668	60.9%	10/31/2019

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For further information please email: hdale@unicef.org

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