

No Lost Generation E-Newsletter

July 2020 - Issue 13



NLG: more necessary than ever

Dear partners and supporters of the No Lost Generation

initiative, much has happened since our previous newsletter of December 2019, bringing additional challenges to the lives of children, adolescents and young people affected by the Syria and Iraq Crisis.

The Syrian crisis is entering its tenth year, putting four in five children from Syria, 7.5 million, in need of assistance. Nearly 6 million children know nothing but war: close to 5 million in Syria were born into the war and more than 1 million were born as refugees.

Since 2012, the number of Syrian refugee children in neighboring countries has increased more than ten-fold, up to 2.5 million, and 2.6 million children have been displaced inside Syria. Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey host 83 per cent of the total number of Syrian refugees globally, creating a social and economic strain on host countries. 2.8 million children are out of school: 2 million inside Syria and 800,000 amongst refugee children. A child is killed every 10 hours in Syria, with close to 6,000 children killed since the start of the conflict. Syria has the highest numbers of verified attacks on education and health: 262 in 2019. In other words, at least one school or hospital was attacked every second day in Syria during 2019.

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic and the measures to contain it have made things worse in so many ways. Education services in Syria and in host countries have been severely disrupted and most vulnerable

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](#).



In 2020, nine years after the start of the conflict in Syria, the situation remains dire for millions of children, adolescents and youth. As of end 2019, **7.5 MILLION SYRIAN CHILDREN ARE IN NEED** of assistance. **2.6 MILLION CHILDREN** are internally displaced in Syria. **2.5 MILLION CHILDREN** are registered as refugees in Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt and Turkey.

More recently, the economic shock, the COVID-19 pandemic and countermeasures adopted to contain the spread of the virus, while necessary from a public health perspective, have greatly exacerbated the vulnerability of these children and young people, both in terms of their access to education, health and protection, including their documentation.

The immediate impact on their wellbeing is already evident, with most education and protection facilities, as well as youth community centres, including child-friendly spaces, closed. Lockdowns, closures and curfews are likely to have far-reaching psychological and socioeconomic impact on Syrian families and youth communities over and in the future, leading to higher burden for adolescent girls and young women on domestic and caregiving responsibilities, increased exposure to violence, reduced access to reproductive services and a heightened risk of gender-based violence, exclusion from sexual and reproductive services and disruption of access to technology and connectivity.

The "No Lost Generation" NLG partners are working through integrated responses to reach Syrian and host community children, adolescents and youth to remain engaged in learning, protected from violence and exploitation and empowered to be agents for positive change in their communities. This approach is anchored on the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (RRP) and aims to amplify its focus on children, adolescents and youth. While some progress has been made, numerous challenges remain and a sustained response to the plight of Syrian children, as well as Palestinian refugee children from Syria, is more necessary than ever. The conflict continues to claim lives, many of whom are children or young people, compromising the future of next generations of children.

children face increased difficulties to access remote learning opportunities that have been put in place, whether for limited connection or because many families are pushed to negative coping responses, such as child labour or child marriage.

COVID-19 has also aggravated the levels of stress and anxiety among children and adults and has a great impact on adolescents who feel isolated, as they have seen their connections with peers even more limited than before the pandemic.

However, as we celebrated World's Refugee Day on the 20th of June, we were reminded of the resilience of children, adolescents and youth around the world and the need to strengthen our efforts to ensure their rights are fulfilled.

Recently, in the context of the IV Brussels Conference on the Future of Syria, co-organized by the European Union and United Nations, on 29th June a webinar was organized by NLG partners and the Government of Luxembourg to bring the voices and concerns of children to the international community gathering the following day at the Brussels Conference. The webinar was attended by more than 160 participants and was an opportunity to hear the voices of two young Syrians, as well as other important stakeholders. NLG released the same day key advocacy messages to all stakeholders.

Participants at the IV Brussels Conference announced their pledges for both Syria and the region: US\$ 5.5 billion for 2020 and multi-year pledges of close to US\$ 2.2 billion for 2021 and beyond.

As we start the second half of such a complex year, it is clear that today is more necessary than ever to continue advocating for education, child protection, and engagement for refugee children, adolescents and youth. No Lost Generation partners are diligently working along those three pillars, as well as on initiatives on early child marriage, mental health and psycho-social support, early childhood development, and curriculum, accreditation, and certification studies.



In 2020, more than 11.8M Syrian remained separated from their homes due to the ongoing conflict. Over 6 million have been internally displaced while 5.6 million have sought refuge in Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Egypt.¹ The devastating war, aggravated by domestic economic distress and limited humanitarian aid, undermined both the capacity of national Governments to continue engaging of families to support the education of their children, and in addition, the COVID-19 pandemic that emerged early in the year, severely affected the continuity of the school of the war, while measures taken at public health perspective, have greatly exacerbated the vulnerabilities that Syrian children and young people face in terms of their access to quality education at all levels, health and psychosocial well-being.² The impact is already evident in the short-term, with most educational and professional, including child labour, sectors, closed and it is likely to have far-reaching effects in the medium-term.

The present paper, prepared by NLG partners at regional and country level ahead of the IV Brussels Conference that is taking place virtually end of June 2020, represents an update of the 2019 report "We Don't Give Up! Continuous Learning for Syrian Children and Youth". This annual report provides:

- An update on the situation of education for Syrian children in Syria and the five host countries;
- Recommendations moving forward;
- A summary of the new Curriculum, Accreditation, and Certification studies conducted in 2019/2020.

Please note that the data presented in the report concerns the initial data from school year 2019/2020. Currently, most schools have closed and the host countries are providing alternative solutions for continued learning through online, contact, offline and complementary with 15 lessons or distribution of printed materials, it is not officially marked, in particular the most vulnerable, including Syrian children.

¹ In this document, when referring to children, reference is made to the age group 0 to 17. School-age children are 6 to 17. Youth are those 15 to 24.
² See for of United Nations Study 2019 Country Note.
³ Release in World Bank Data repository for the end of June. In Syria, more will take place in July.



Early Childhood Development (ECD) services in humanitarian and fragile settings are essential to support young children's healthy development and to show women and communities. Development of young children's cognitive, emotional, social, physical, mental, and psychosocial well-being of children, their families and communities. Children born in fragile settings are at the most at risk of not reaching their full potential. Comprehensive evidence from systematic literature reviews, field data, and expert consultations, they are having high levels of loss rates, in which their current barriers, needs, emerging and their education is seriously impacted, affecting the subsequent areas of child growth and development.

With the additional consideration of the COVID-19 crisis, refugees and other vulnerable children are more exposed to a higher percentage of their development as further development. It can spare the cases of the youngest children, who are a generation that is threatened to never achieve all that is for ensuring important outcomes, and will impact all of society. At the same time, early quality interventions have been proposed to reduce the impact of the crisis on the development of children. This report aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the current situation, and to provide a comprehensive overview of the current situation, and to provide a comprehensive overview of the current situation.

¹ Ebeling, B., Doherty, J., Gohari, A., Hossain, S., & Lee, J. (2019). Humanitarian and fragile settings: A review of the literature. *Journal of Humanitarian Assistance*, 19(1), 1-10.
² See for of United Nations Study 2019 Country Note.
³ Release in World Bank Data repository for the end of June. In Syria, more will take place in July.



The RAYAM theory of Change posits

"If young people participate in the design, implementation, and evaluation of programs and policies intended to serve them, then they will be empowered to create better outcomes for themselves."

MENA Adolescent and Youth Advisory Majlis

Innovation
Technological innovation and adaptation are key to the MENA's goal of meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Among other roles, this committee helped select the participating tech organizations, designed the agenda, and practically engaged with participants on youth and is available. In addition to programming, the Majlis also helped shape policies by providing valuable inputs to the design of UNICEF's strategies such as the global education strategy and its decision in regard to funding such as the Youth Advisory Majlis in Lebanon. For instance, in 2019 a democratically elected cohort of MENA members played a pivotal role in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of the No Lost Generation Tech Summit (NLG2020). Among other roles, this committee helped select the participating tech organizations, designed the agenda, and practically engaged with participants on youth and is available. In addition to programming, the Majlis also helped shape policies by providing valuable inputs to the design of UNICEF's strategies such as the global education strategy and its decision in regard to funding such as the Youth Advisory Majlis in Lebanon. For instance, in 2019 a democratically elected cohort of MENA members played a pivotal role in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of the No Lost Generation Tech Summit (NLG2020).

July 2020

The unabated violence of the Syrian conflict has deeply affected the physical, mental health and psychosocial well-being of children, adolescents, youth and their parents/caregivers. During many years of conflict, over 5.5 million people have fled to neighbouring refugee-hosting countries and beyond.¹ Many of these have experienced or witnessed the death or disappearance from armed displacement, physical harm, and exposure to violent situations. The protracted impact of conflict-related violence, coupled with the impacts of displacement, including the lack of livelihood options, violence, disruption of social networks, traditional ways of coping, and most recently the COVID-19 pandemic, are having an unprecedented negative impact on the mental health and psychosocial well-being of children, adolescents, youth and their families. With the projected impact of COVID-19 on the mental health and psychosocial well-being of populations across the world, the pandemic has strengthened the case for the need of integrated MHPSI services across the Syrian humanitarian response, including for children, adolescents and youth.

The Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSI) Task Force of the No Lost Generation (NLG) was established in April 2016 with the aim of leading the coordination and efforts of the Syrian response for children, adolescents and youth in line with the SRR programmes. To gain a better understanding of the impact of the regional conflict, the MHPSI Task Force initiated a baseline 2016 mapping of MHPSI programmes targeting children, adolescents, youth and their parents/caregivers in Syria and from Syria and Iraq crisis affected countries – Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey. The first phase of the mapping (December 2016-January 2017) consisted of a survey that was completed by 42 organisations (36 international non-governmental organisations (INGOs), 27% UN agencies, 28% NGOs and five per cent government agencies), and the outcomes included a desk review and a descriptive mapping of MHPSI programmes. This first phase of the mapping was conducted in collaboration with the MHPSI and Child Protection working groups at the national level, which primarily supported the dissemination of the survey. The main focus of the phase was the limited qualitative information that was collected. The second phase of the mapping (March-May 2017) consisted of a qualitative review of identified MHPSI programmes during Phase 1, employing document review and semi-structured interviews. Thirty-nine interviews were conducted with MHPSI staff from 20 organisations.

MHPSI Programming

The findings from the survey showed that the majority of MHPSI programmes concentrated on levels two (48%) and three (26%), while 17% and 5% of reported MHPSI programmes were at levels one and four respectively. Of the nine Agency Leading Committee (ALC) intervention partners for mental health and psychosocial support in emergencies, the concentration of activities in levels two and three is in line with the ALC recommendations, noting that most of the population in emergency situations will require non-specialised MHPSI services.

¹ UNHCR Data as of 27 February 2020.



Read-out of Donor Briefing and Panel Discussion on Early Childhood Development: Ensuring a Generation's Future, December 2019



The No Lost Generation (NLG) initiative is a concerted effort by multiple stakeholders to ensure that children and young people affected by the crises in Syria and Iraq have access to education, protection and opportunities to engage positively in their communities and society. Initiated in 2013 in support of the response in Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, Iraq and Egypt, the initiative comprises joint, evidence-based advocacy to push for investment, policy change and programme improvements in relation to the areas of education, child protection and adolescents & youth.

On the 10th of 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 in collaboration with other NLG partners. This event built on a Regional ECD Workshop held in August 2017 by Plan International, which convened key actors to address funding and programming gaps and to discuss ways to improve ECD coordination in the region. An initial mapping revealed that while compelling work to support families is underway, the provision of ECD services in the Syria and Iraq Humanitarian Response Plans is only reaching a fraction of the total number of

No Lost Generation Advocacy Messages

NLG Side-Event Webinar and launching of the NLG Advocacy Report

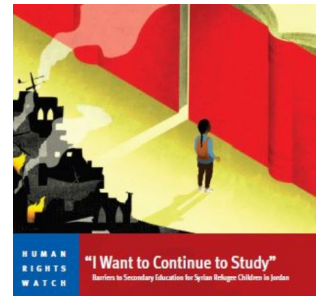


In preparation for the Brussels IV Conference on the Future of Syria and the Region, on June 29th the No Lost Generation initiative held the webinar “Keeping the Promise of a “No Lost Generation”: Protecting, Educating and Listening to the Voice of Syria’s Children, Adolescents and Young People,” co-organized by the Government of Luxembourg and No Lost Generation. The discussion focused on how the EU and the broader international community can contribute to a brighter future for Syria’s children through education and child protection.

[Read more about the NLG Webinar and Advocacy Briefs](#)

"I Want to Continue to Study" - Human Rights Watch

"I Want to Continue to Study": Barriers to Secondary Education for Syrian Refugee Children in Jordan, documents the ways that refugee children confront increasingly difficult obstacles to education the further they progress in school. Yet humanitarian education plans have not set specific enrollment or other goals for secondary education, and international donors have not provided any substantial support targeting this age group. Education programs for out-of-school children ages 12 to 17 are reaching only a small fraction of children in need.



[Read more about HRW's Report](#)

Stolen Future: War and Child Marriage in Northwest Syria

To mark the fourth Brussels Conference and the tenth year of the Syria crisis World Vision launched *Stolen Future: War and Child Marriage in Northwest Syria*.

The Report draws on research undertaken by World Vision and Partners between January and April 2020 during the displacement of close to one million people in northwest Syria, reveals the harrowing realities

faced by children including a significant increase in child marriage with the practice widely reported by close to 90 percent of Syrian children and adults.

Conflict and insecurity, poverty, and displacement were identified as the leading drivers of the increased rates of forced and early marriage, with additional and emerging drivers identified including the use of social media and challenges posed to family honour.



Photography by World Vision ©

[Read more about Stolen Future: War and Child Marriage](#)

UNFPA Gender Based Violence in Covid-19

UNFPA has launched advocacy packets supporting Gender Based Violence, particularly in the time of Covid-19 sharing examples of innovative approaches in MENA countries.



[Read more about UNFPA's GBV Resources](#)

FROM THE FIELD:

War Child Holland- No Lost Generation Small acts as a huge step in Lebanon

War Child is working to protect remote and refugee communities against the spread of COVID-19 through child-friendly public health messaging through social media, WhatsApp and SMS. Working with local youth groups War Child is distributing hygiene packages in all project locations.

As we can't currently reach children and caregivers directly – The Lebanon team have launched audios and videos to raise awareness on the coronavirus and is working to uphold the wellbeing of children and families through WhatsApp messages including audio wellbeing for caregivers, stories, fun and relaxation activities for children.

[Read more about War Child's Covid-19 Response](#)

Reach Up & Learn ECD Programming



Reach Up and Learn is an evidence-based home visiting program that originated in Jamaica and has since been adapted to support caregivers of children 0-3 years old in 18 countries. The International Rescue Committee (IRC) adapted this model, and trained refugee and host community workers to conduct regular visits to caregivers of young children, in which they demonstrate simple, homemade toys and play-based activities using contextualized books, puzzles, handmade toys, dolls, and local songs.

[Read more about Ahlan Simsim's Reach Up and Learn program here](#)

Previous Events

Keeping Promise for the No Lost Generation: Protecting, Educating, and Listening to the Voice of Syria's Children, Adolescent, and Youth

Date: June 29th, 2020

The No Lost Generation partners launched key advocacy messages on the Syria crisis during the Brussels Conference. The NLG initiative sought to ensure that children's needs and concerns were heard as part of the Brussels Conference. The webinar reflected on achievements, challenges, and recommendations to host governments, authorities in Syria and the donor community. The session was aligned with NLG's key advocacy messages and focused on ensuring an environment for children, adolescents and youth's well-being. The No Lost Generation initiative launched a [NLG Advocacy Brief](#), [NLG Advocacy Package](#), and a [short video of the NLG Adolescent and Youth Voices](#).

Brussels IV Syria Conference

Date: June 30th

The Brussels IV Conference on "*Supporting the Future of Syria and the Region*" (Brussels IV) which was co-chaired by the European Union and the United Nations is a major pledging event for the region. Read more about the outcomes of the event [here](#).

MHPSS Multi-Stakeholder Meeting

Date: July 8th

The MHPSS Task Force of NLG was established in March 2019 with the aim to improve the coordination and quality of the MHPSS response for children, adolescents and youth. The multi-stakeholders webinar presented the mapping results of MHPSS programmes targeting children, adolescents and youth and their parents/caregivers in Syria and from Syria and Iraq crises affected countries – Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey. For final results read the [MHPSS Mapping Executive Summary](#).

No Lost Generation Partners



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