

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE#3



The No Lost Generation initiative is an ambitious commitment to action by humanitarians, donors and policy makers to support children and youth affected by the Syria and Iraq crises. It comprises programming and advocacy under three pillars: Education, Child Protection and Adolescents & Youth. For more information please visit www.nolostgeneration.org.

The [No Lost Generation](#) newsletter brings you stories from the field inside Syria, Iraq, and 3RP countries, as well as the latest developments and promising practices across sectors and partners. If you wish to nominate a story and/or programming example, please contact Katy Barnett, cbarnett@unicef.org. To subscribe, please follow this [link](#).

News Flash

Did you know that under pillar III of No Lost Generation: in 2016, 1.47 million young people inside Syria (25% of the total adolescent and youth population) were reached by No Lost Generation partners through different sectoral interventions?



The No Lost Generation Update for the period January – December 2016 is now available at www.nolostgeneration.org and gives the results, highlights and challenges for all pillars in countries affected by the Syria and Iraq crises. It also gives targets for 2017.

From The Field: A Glimpse Into One No Lost Generation Programme



Rama, a thirteen year-old Palestine refugee from Syria, is the fourth generation of her family to be displaced by regional conflicts. “My family comes from Haifa in Palestine. When Palestine was occupied, we migrated to Syria. Since the war in Syria, we have fled to Lebanon,” Rama says sitting in her single room shelter where she lives with her family in Ein el Helweh camp near Saida.

Born a refugee, Rama looks to education to reduce the uncertainty in her life. In her words, “I believe education is the most important thing that may affect my future. Without it, I will never reach anywhere.”

Through [My Voice-My School](#), part of the UNRWA [Education in Emergencies](#) program, students from Syria and elsewhere are given the unique opportunity to meet their international peers. Using virtual exchanges to meet, explore and debate their ideas, the students embark on a 12-week classroom project in pairs, bridging their worlds by exploring their shared passion for education.

The three video-link exchanges which occur throughout the project are lively and provide insight on how the students’ living environments affect their education. Aya, a girl in Rama’s class, reflects on recent outbreak of violence in the camp in Saida. ‘War is affecting our learning. We face many problems. When we can’t go to school every day, it makes learning hard,’ she explains.

Conflicts can interrupt children’s studies. In response to the Syrian crisis, UNRWA developed fast track learning Self-Learning materials in line with the Syrian national curriculum to support children until they can return to the classroom. Although the deadly clashes which broke out in the camp caused limited interruption to Aya’s studies, for her going back to school was a given, “We are not quitters!”, she tells her peers in Sweden.

This inspires Mawah, participating in the project from the Helsingborg International School in Sweden, “Honestly, it’s amazing. It is super brave that you guys think about education in that way and that you want to overcome everything you face just to get educated”.

Online exchanges present a viable way of connecting young people. Without virtual exchange, there would be a continued separation exacerbated by complex political landscapes. Developed in partnership with social enterprise,

Digital Explorer, *My Voice My School* provides young people with the opportunity to break their isolation. It fosters their ability to communicate with children and youths in different cultures, to make use of available IT tools to connect and have their voices heard by their peers, teachers and school community.

Having discovered her voice through the project, Rama says, “Everybody should be educated to have a successful future, and build a future for their family to fulfil her or his dreams. I can’t live without school. I learn to ensure my future”.

Updates

Best selling author Ishmael Beah meets with young researchers from Syria, Lebanon and Jordan

Ishmael Beah, a former child soldier, well respected author and NLG champion spent one week in Amman earlier this month, supporting a project for young researchers from Syria, Lebanon and Jordan.

Beah brought inspiration and solidarity to adolescents and youth affected by the Syria crisis who are taking part in a Participatory Action Research initiative carried out by No Lost Generation partners with support from the EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis (MADAD).

This initiative sees some of the most vulnerable young people empowered to become researchers, change makers and advocates on the hopes, aspirations and barriers that young people face in the region.



Photo: Sebastian Rich, 17 year old Jordanian girl presenting preliminary research from her findings.

So far, the project has not only generated more nuanced information on the situation of young people, it has also proved an effective approach for raising the positive perceptions on young people among family, peers and communities.

When talking about the personal impact of the project on her life, a 17-year-old young researcher in Jordan said, “I left school 5 years ago. I had to give up my friends and dreams. I felt desperate and frustrated. Joining the Participatory Action Research Project gave me a lot of experience and confidence in myself. It gave me great motivation to be part of the change and give voice to young people in my community.”

To see more photos, footage and stories of Beah meeting and working with children and youth, visit <http://www.eutf-unicef.org/photos-and-stories.html>.



Photo: Sebastian Rich

Ishmael Beah, UNICEF Advocate for Children affected by war and No Lost Generation Champion, raps with a young Syrian girl in Za'atari refugee camp in Jordan.

Humanitarian Envoy to the Secretary-General becomes a No Lost Generation Champion:



Photo: OCHA

Qatar's Dr. Al Meraikhi, the UN Humanitarian Envoy to the UN Secretary-General, has become No Lost Generation's newest Champion. Champions promote the priorities of children and youth affected by the Syria and Iraq crises wherever they can, in their bilateral and public conversations. In his capacity as Humanitarian Envoy, Dr. Al Meraikhi is charged with raising the profile of humanitarian crises and generating increased engagement by key stakeholders with the international humanitarian community.

As a longstanding humanitarian - his previous roles include Vice-Chair of the UN CERF-Advisory Group and Founding Director of the International Development Department in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Qatar – and a citizen of the region, Dr. Al Meraikhi is a passionate believer that the humanitarian system must do its best to ensure the wellbeing and protection of children and youth in Syria, Iraq and the neighbouring refugee hosting countries. When asked why he has become a No Lost Generation Champion, his answer was simple: children are our future.

Brussels pledging conference for Syria conclusions echo No Lost Generation key messages:



Photo: EU

Federica Mogherini, EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, and António Guterres, UN Secretary-General, at the Brussels Conference on Supporting the future of Syria and the region.

On 4-5 April the European Union, Germany, Kuwait, Norway, Qatar, the United Kingdom and the United Nations co-chaired the Brussels Conference on Supporting the future of Syria and the region. Total funds pledged reached \$6bn USD for 2017 – the same amount pledged for 2016 in London – and \$3.7bn USD for 2018-2020. This total includes pledges reconfirmed from London, and it remains unclear what proportion is new. In addition \$ 30 billion was announced in loans including concessional loans.

No Lost Generation [policy asks](#) were circulated in advance of the conference and a No Lost Generation paper, [Preparing for the Future of Children and Youth in Syria and the Region through Education: London One Year On](#), was presented at the conference.

In a joint [declaration](#) co-chairs recommitted “to work towards the target of ensuring No Lost Generation of children, in Syria and in the region and increase efforts to reach the goal of getting all refugee children and vulnerable children in host communities into quality education with equal access for girls and boys”. They also agreed to centre efforts on improving learning outcomes and to prevent drop out due to financial and non-financial barriers.

In a set of operational [recommendations](#) the chair of a thematic event on the situation inside Syria also stated: “All actors should promote and enhance education for all Syrian children in order to ensure No Lost Generation, as well as ensuring a more systematic effort to prevent attacks on schools, pupils and teachers.” This document also included a recommendation for “adequate programming and funding for mental health and psychosocial support programmes” albeit with no specific focus on children or young people.

The co-chairs’ declaration also referred to “the close links between protection, education and livelihood opportunities and welcomed host countries’ renewed commitment to the protection of refugees, including through addressing those factors that place them in a situation of illegality.” Annexes on Jordan and Lebanon included specific commitments on protection, including legal status, although these annexes also had worrying language on returns.

Donor briefing on child protection hosted by Canada:



Photo: IRC, Child labourers in Lebanon take a break.

On 19 March No Lost Generation partners met with humanitarian donors at the Canadian Embassy in Amman to brief them on child marriage and child labour amongst children affected by the Syria crisis.

Participants heard how whilst the overall trends indicate a decline in child marriage at regional and country levels respectively, disparities exist across MENA countries and within some countries there are still high prevalence rates at sub-national level. Recent reports in some conflict affected countries suggest that there is an increase in child marriage amongst mostly refugee and displaced populations e.g. in Lebanon and Jordan. In Lebanon, the increase has also been observed among the host population.

At the same time as strengthening existing programme approaches to child marriage with a view to scale-up and eventually ending the practice, No Lost Generation partners are building the evidence base in this area. The UNICEF and UNFPA regional offices are working closely with No Lost Generation partners to gather evidence on the prevalence of child marriage in conflict affected countries, and Tdh is undertaking a three-year study to improve knowledge and develop a culturally relevant framework of risk and protective factors associated with early marriage and early childbearing in Islamic contexts using an ecological framework which is cognisant of and informed by Islamic thought and community processes.

Additionally, in coordination with government and No Lost Generation partners the UNICEF MENA regional office is completing a multi country study on child marriage in Lebanon, Jordan, Yemen, Sudan, Morocco and Egypt with the aim of scaling up future programming in these countries in line with the Global UNFPA/UNICEF programme to End Child Marriage.

The briefing was accompanied by a photo exhibition kindly provided by the International Rescue Committee, showing the lives of Syrian refugee children working in Beirut, Mt. Lebanon, and Tripoli.

Country level collaboration to address child labour:

The number of Child Labourers in Jordan more than doubled in the period 2008-17, to an estimated 70,000 child

labourers among Jordanians and Syrian refugees. Correlation with the number of out of school children indicates that the actual figure may be higher.

In follow up to the finalization earlier this year of an interagency, multisector regional framework on child labour at the regional level under the No Lost Generation umbrella, WFP, UNHCR, UNICEF and ILO have joined forces and designed an integrated joint proposal tackling child labour in Jordan. The proposed intervention will address deficits in terms of education, livelihood and protection. Central to this proposal is strengthening of Government capacity to effectively identify cases of child labour, reduce risks at the workplace; and sustainably withdraw children from child labour through an integrated referral system. The proposal will be shared in an open meeting with donors later this month.

Partners find new and creative ways to spread No Lost Generation messages:



Photo: screenshot from IOM's No Lost Generation photo essay

Partners are **promoting the concept of** No Lost Generation on their websites and social media platforms **in increasingly interesting ways**. [This](#) photo essay from IOM on education in the Syria crisis is a compelling example.



Photo: UN Migration Agency (IOM) 2016

Abbas Ibrahim teaches geography and history in a high school for Syrian refugees in Basirma Camp, located north of Erbil city, Iraq.

Terre des hommes also posted an [article](#) on their website **earlier this year** drawing the link between the No Lost

Generation initiative and the Destination Unknown Campaign which aims to protect children on the move in 10 different regions.

No Lost Generation engagement with the tech sector continues:

In follow up to the No Lost Generation Ed Tech Summit earlier in the year, The [NLG Tech Task Force](#) was set up by NetHope to facilitate collaboration within the international development community and between those responding to humanitarian situations on the ground and the private sector.

For more information on the work of the Task Force, check out the [NetHope.org blog post](#). The Task Force is hosting a series of virtual convenings to encourage information sharing and collaboration.

A first phase of monthly webinars is underway, responding to NLG Ed Tech Summit participants' requests to learn more about ICT-enabled solutions that address education and employment for refugee and IDP youth and adolescents.

Upcoming Events

The No Lost Generation calendar for the year containing all events featured below can be found [here](#).

Webinar on employment services

On 7 June the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) will lead a No Lost Generation webinar to introduce guidelines for employment services in response to the Syria crisis, aiming at harmonising approaches and increasing collaboration in this important area of work.

Access to employment is a key component of a self-reliance approach, and accordingly, more and more agencies are investing in the development of employment services. This webinar will be relevant and useful to all No Lost Generation partners working on the Syria crisis response, under all three NLG pillars and particularly to those in Youth & Adolescents and Livelihoods. At the end of the webinar, participants will be able to (a) understand the guiding principles for providing employment services, tailored to the countries affected by the Syria crisis; (b) partake in future efforts to improve collaboration between various employment service centres, focusing on data exchange, referral systems, and service quality. To sign up, please contact cbarnett@unicef.org.

Webinar on higher education opportunities for refugee youth and adolescents

On 25 May, as part of the No Lost Generation Tech Task Force webinar series, Nethope will host a webinar with presenters from Coursera For Refugees and Kiron, sharing an overview of a collaboration focused on providing higher education learning opportunities to refugee youth and adults. [RSVP HERE](#)

August workshop on Early Childhood Care and Development

Plan International has taken the lead on developing an NLG workshop on Early Childhood Care and Development, funded by MFA/Finland and supported by Bernard Van Leer Foundation, with the goal of creating a regional community of practice under the NLG initiative to strengthen this intersectoral area of work which is increasingly seen as foundational in securing protection and learning outcomes for children and young people in the longer term. The workshop will be open to all those working at regional and country level in No Lost Generation countries, and will take place sometime in August. Please contact Muna Abbas on muna.abbas@plan-international.org for further details.

No Lost Generation in Washington DC

The No Lost Generation partners based in the MENA region have teamed up with [InterAction](#), an alliance of NGOs based in Washington DC which is a powerful advocate on protection issues within humanitarian circles, to organise a

New Resources



New Education report shows progress in getting children back in school

Education partners, together with governments, collaborated to produce a report aimed at informing discussions at the Syria crisis pledging conference in Brussels: [*Preparing for the Future of Children and Youth in Syria and the Region through Education: London One Year On*](#). The report describes a decrease in the number of out-of-school children inside Syria from 2.12 million (40%) to 1.75 million (32%) between the 2014/15 and the 2015/16 school years; and a decrease in the number of out-of-school refugee children in the five host countries, from a total of 630,500 (45%) in December 2015 to a total of 534,500 (34%) in December 2016. At the same time the report also notes that despite such progress, substantial challenges remain.

New report on the impact of six years of war on the mental health of Syria's children

In March 2017 Save the Children issued a report entitled *Invisible Wounds*, which presents the findings from the most comprehensive study of its kind undertaken inside Syria into children's mental health and wellbeing during the war. The report revealed heartbreaking accounts of children terrified by the shelling and airstrikes, anxious about the future, and distraught at not being able to go to school. The majority of children Save the Children spoke with show signs of severe emotional distress. The report makes the case that the right support is provided now, these children may be able to recover; programmes offering mental health and psychosocial support have shown remarkable results, which could and should be significantly scaled up across the country. Download the report [here](#).

New psychosocial support resource

The Arabic version of WHO's manual *Problem Management Plus (PM+)*: *Individual psychological help for adults impaired by distress in communities exposed to adversity* is now posted together with other language versions at http://www.who.int/mental_health/emergencies/problem_management_plus/en/. This manual supports low intensity psychological interventions whose value has been proven through Randomised Controlled Trials in other regions, and which are specifically designed for people exposed to distressing situations such as prolonged humanitarian crises.

New materials to help introduce the No Lost Generation initiative to colleagues and partners

Please see [here](#) a short introduction to the No Lost Generation initiative in powerpoint form, along with a new version

of the one-pager flyer on the initiative [here](#). The powerpoint can be adapted to fit into team meetings, workshops, inductions for new staff and partners; briefings etc. as useful, and contains suggestions on how No Lost Generation can be used at the country level. A recording of a one hour introductory webinar on No Lost Generation is [here](#). The new version of the guidance on use of the No Lost Generation logo can also be found [here](#). This may be useful if you are thinking of organizing a No Lost Generation themed campaign, event or product in your context.

Tech Task Force webinar recordings on ICT related approaches now available for viewing and sharing

[NetHope's Project Reconnect](#), an initiative funded by Google.org which is providing 25,000 managed Chromebooks to nonprofit organizations supporting refugees in Germany. The project facilitates refugee access to language-learning, education and employment on the web.

[Empowering Refugees Through Online Entrepreneurship - Udemy, the IRC, and Western Union](#), a webinar which featured presentations from these three organisations on ICT-enabled training and employment programs that are available to refugee youth and adults. working to provide refugee training and livelihoods for youth and adults.

[Expanding economic opportunity to Syrian refugee youth in Turkey - HP LIFE and the International Medical Corps](#): An overview of a collaboration between IMC and the HP Foundation on the Maharat Center in Turkey that offers skills-training complemented with mentorships, internships, and apprenticeships that together empower youth, and adults to gain employable skills.

2017 Whole of Syria Child Protection Needs Overview now available

This report is a compilation of child protection data collected for the 2017 Humanitarian Needs Overview based on a series of assessments. It aims to provide analysis of child protection needs and risks at governorate level to support child protection actors working in Syria with programme development, resource mobilisation and advocacy. Each governorate profile includes a protection sector severity map; a breakdown of the child population per age/sex/location type; and data down to sub-district level on child recruitment, child labour, child marriage, unaccompanied and separated children, and local services. This report, along with other sector tools and resources, can be found on the WOS Child Protection page: <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/whole-of-syria/child-protection>

Arabic language blogging platform launches newsletter sharing data on youth

The Voices of Youth Arabic blogging platform <http://www.voicesofyouth.org/ar> is gathering momentum and now has a monthly newsletter summarizing the data, trends and stories coming out of this innovative digital platform for youth in the region to blog and connect. You can sign up for the newsletter by sending your request to Ms Natalie Esmail, VOY A Community Manager (nesmail@unicef.org). Data from the blogging platform will inform decisions taken by No Lost Generation partners at regional level.

Arab Youth Survey

The 9th annual ASDA'A Burson-Marsteller Arab Youth Survey 2017 has been conducted by international polling and public relations firm PSB Research to explore attitudes among Arab youth in 16 countries in the Middle East and North Africa. The findings are available at <http://probablyquitegood.com/arabyouthsurvey/findings.html> and include the fact that optimism among young Arabs is waning, with a clear split by geography into 'haves' and 'have nots'; and the fact that young Arabs view unemployment and extremism as the biggest problems holding back the Middle East.



Message from children in Syria through song

To mark seven years of the conflict inside Syria, UNICEF worked with children inside Syria to produce this moving and inspiring music video. With no voice over or other commentary, this is a wonderful tool to bring the voices and wishes of children directly into the room, and is therefore an excellent No Lost Generation advocacy resource, as well as a great energizer or tone-setter for workshops and meetings.

Where to find No Lost Generation resources

The No Lost Generation [document repository](#) is up and running! Access it here to find evidence, reports, guidance on No Lost Generation related issues. This [one-pager](#) which can be shared with colleagues and partners explains how to access this user friendly virtual library designed to support NLG programming in the region.

About No Lost Generation



Since its launch in 2013, the No Lost Generation initiative has made a powerful call for support to children and young people affected by the Syria and Iraq crises. Together with communicating the urgent need to address the effects of violence and displacement for this critical cohort as a strategic investment in the future, partners have developed a framework for critical interventions under three pillars within No Lost Generation: Education; Child Protection; and Adolescents & Youth. With the ongoing support of the donor community, No Lost Generation puts these essential priorities front and centre of the response in Syria, Iraq and neighbouring refugee hosting countries.

Key Messages

No Lost Generation partners request that policymakers, donors, and advocates echo the following key messages wherever they are able, in support of the current generation of children and young people affected by the Syria and Iraq crises:

1. Parties to the conflicts inside Syria and Iraq should end indiscriminate attacks on civilian areas, which kill and maim children, and damage or destroy educational facilities.
2. All children and youth affected by the conflict should be protected and have equitable access to services in safety and with dignity.
3. Adolescents and youth should have access to civic and social engagement and networking opportunities and be able to influence decision-making processes.
4. Youth and refugee families should have access to decent, legal livelihoods opportunities
5. Children and youth should have access to accredited and certified safe formal and non-formal quality learning opportunities to develop and realize their full potential in life

Get Engaged

There are many ways to become involved with No Lost Generation and help secure the future of a generation of children, adolescents, and youth:

- Support No Lost Generation programmes: go to www.nolostgeneration.org and click on the logo of the organisation you'd like to fund.
- Start your own NLG group: download our campaigns kit from www.nolostgeneration.org, find some likeminded friends or colleagues, and get going.
- Spread the word: use #NoLostGeneration to tweet in support of children and young people affected by the Syria and Iraq crises.
- Blog: if you are a young person check out [Voices of Youth](#) (in English, Arabic, French and Spanish) and share your insights and aspirations.
- Get informed: sign up at nolostgeneration.org to receive regular No Lost Generation newsletters
- Take a leadership role: organisations working in three or more of the following countries can join the No Lost Generation Working Group and help steer the initiative: Syria, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, Egypt.

Partners



Donors


Donors who have contributed to the achievement of No Lost Generation goals in the period 2013 – 2016 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.

-END-

Stay tuned for Issue #4 !

This eNewsletter will be coming out every other month





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