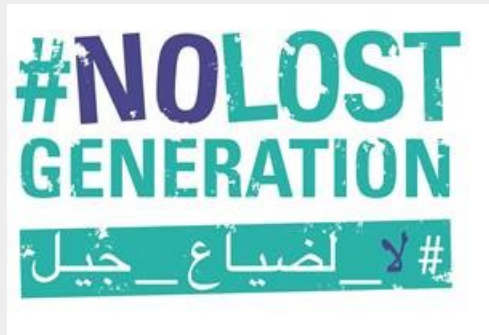


NEWSLETTER

ISSUE#5



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 follow [this link](#). To subscribe or unsubscribe, please follow this [link](#).

In September and October 2017 around 4.6 million Syrian children went back to school in Syria and the five host countries of Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, and Egypt. Although children still face increasingly complex barriers to school, No Lost Generation partners provide innovative ways to reach out to children, including through mobile schools and the provision of tailored support to children with disabilities. Around 6 million Iraqi children also started their school in September. Children in Mosul are being able to resume regular classes after three years since ISIL took over. No Lost Generation partners on the ground are supporting access to education, providing catch-up classes for those children and youth who have missed out on their education.

From The Field: A Glimpse Into Some No Lost Generation Programmes

Back to School After Four Years



Tamer standing outside the mobile bus which visits his camp providing recreational, educational and psychosocial activities once a week. Credit: Olive Branch

Due to the conflict in Syria, 13-year-old Tamer missed out on four years of his education. Tamer's family has been displaced multiple times over a period of three years. They now live in a camp for displaced people in Dara'a, southern Syria. The terrifying experiences Tamer went through, along with being forced to move every couple of months, impacted him psychologically. Tamer now participates in activities provided through a bus based programme, run by Olive Branch with support from Save the Children and UNICEF.

The mobile bus visits six camps in the area, providing catch-up classes, and recreational and psychosocial activities in each camp once a week to help children overcome the difficult experiences they have been through and help them to heal psychologically. The mobile bus plays a huge role in the camps according to Hussein, who teaches English on the mobile bus, because its activities support children to heal and encourage them to have dreams. "When Tamer first joined the activities at the mobile bus he was visibly scared, he didn't want to play with his peers, he couldn't even speak. We encouraged him to participate in games with other children his age and gave him small toys, like a football to encourage him to be active. It took six months for him to get back to being himself. He's now an active student in both the mobile bus and the educational tent," says Hussein.

"I'm happy to be back at school after four years", says Tamer. "I go to the school in the tent so I can learn how to read and write, and I go to the mobile bus activities every Wednesday when it visits our camp. We all wait for the mobile bus because we're all excited to go. The tent and the mobile bus are the only education available to us. All the children love the tent school and the mobile bus. Now that I'm back in school, I will keep it up so that when I grow up I can become an engineer. One of my relatives is already an engineer and he rehabilitates the houses of displaced people. I also want to help people rebuild their houses. The people who have been displaced in Syria need to have homes to go back to."

Workshop Helps Children with Disabilities in Za'atari Camp



In the workshop, measurements are being taken from Yahia, a 7-year old student in the first grade with a physical disability. With the customized wheelchair, Yahia can continue to go to school. Credit: Emillstein

Step into School 2 in the Za'atari refugee camp and the faint hum of a different kind of work competes with the cacophony of a school alive with hundreds of students. Refugee blacksmiths and carpenters, surrounded by scavenged wood and recycled desks, use materials discarded throughout the camp to customize accommodative equipment such as wheelchairs and walkers.

Life in Za'atari is hard, especially for youth with disabilities. Standard-sized accommodative equipment often does not fit children or youth with disabilities, hindering their long-term well-being. With a deep understanding of the needs, a limited budget and creative thinking, the Mercy Corps team built an equipment repair and customization workshop inside of the school in Za'atari, employing Syrian volunteers with backgrounds in carpentry and blacksmithing. Since November 2016, volunteers have repaired five wheelchairs, four hearing aids, and five eyeglasses. The workshop has also installed five accessibility ramps and customized 14 wheelchairs, four desks, and one walker. Additionally, volunteers built an adjustable set of parallel bars, which the school physical therapist uses to help children learn to walk. Although the workshop sits inside School 2, it serves all children and youth with disabilities in Za'atari Camp and Mercy Corps is planning a similar workshop in Azraq camp.

Each customization by the workshop results in a changed life. "The only good thing that I have," said Mohammad, a 19-year old person with disability, 'is my customized wheelchair.' That has not always been the case. Due to the curvature of Mohammad's spine, his standard sized wheelchair left his back unsupported, exacerbating the regression of his condition and preventing him from sitting upright. Using expanding foam to make a mold of his back, the Mercy Corps team customized his wheelchair to fit perfectly the curvature of his spine, preventing further deterioration. "This is the first time I'm able to talk to you," he told the Mercy Corps staff, "without having to tilt my head."

Mosul's Children Catch Up On Lost Education After ISIL



Dalal: "I love being a teacher. I want to set a good example and pass a message of hope onto my students for the future safety of the Iraqi people." Credit: Sacha Myers

It's time to head back to school in Iraq. While many children eagerly return to the classroom, others face the daunting challenge of catch-up classes after the legacy of ISIL control took a toll on their education. Dalal, a physics teacher from eastern Mosul, describes how she's helping her 12 to 17-year-old students prepare: "During the period when ISIL governed Mosul, we stayed in our homes. The highways and streets were being bombed and it was very dangerous to go outside.

The schools stayed open but ISIL changed everything. They made edits to school text books, to make them more religious and wanted us to teach the children how to make bombs. Myself and many of the other teachers didn't agree with the changes, so we left the school. We didn't want to participate. They destroyed everything.

It was particularly hard for female teachers. We weren't allowed to wear any colours, only black. And we had to be accompanied by a male at all times. This meant I would have had to ask my brother or father to accompany me to the school and stay with me all day.

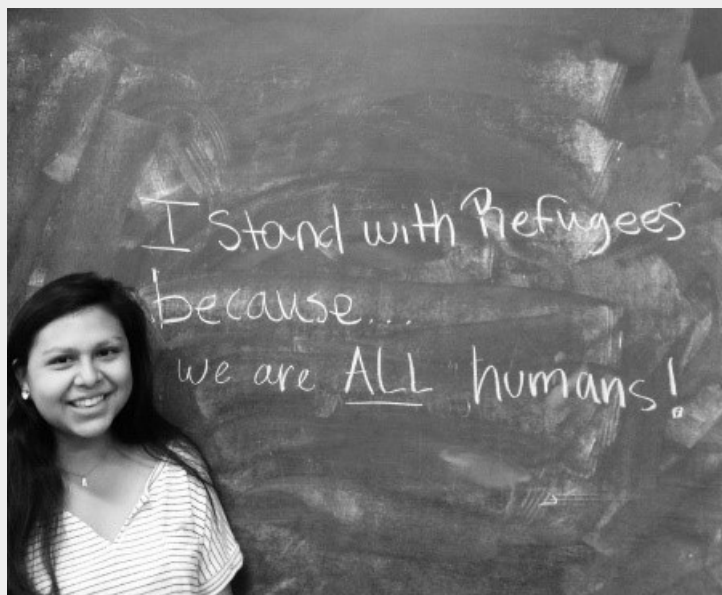
When ISIL left, our lives could return to normal. On the first day back at school we were all very happy. The students were delighted to be back and I saw many colleagues who I'd missed.

I'm now teaching catch-up classes for students aged 12 to 17 as part of a World Vision education program. Many students from western Mosul have come here because their homes have been destroyed. Our classes are much larger than they used to be and I now have an average of 50 students per class. It's difficult to give each student the support they need.

We also don't have a laboratory like we used to have before ISIL, which means that we can't do any experiments. I only have a board and marker to explain the lesson to the students. To get around this, I find videos on the internet and project them onto the board.

Many of the children that I teach are mentally and physically exhausted. They have witnessed extreme violence. Some have lost family members. I hope they will recover, but I know it will take some time. I love being a teacher. I want to set a good example and pass a message of hope onto my students for the future safety of the Iraqi people. We need to rebuild our country and for that, the students must be optimistic about the future."

No Lost Generation Student Chapters Also Go Back to School



Student at Mississippi State University during an advocacy campaign

The many Syrian and Iraqi children that are supported by No Lost Generation are not the only ones that have started a new school year. Some 53 No Lost Generation student chapters, based in the US, are also starting a new academic year.

The student chapters aim to educate and inform their local communities about refugee issues through events such as film screenings and panel discussions. No Lost Generation at the Mississippi State University even created a refugee camp simulation to enable students to experience life in a refugee camp.

The students also raise funds: this year the No Lost Generation student chapter at the University of Oregon aims to provide five young refugees from the Middle East with the opportunity and means to pursue higher education at their university.

Many members of No Lost Generation student chapters also support locally resettled refugees by partnering with local organizations; others provide remote support to organisations in No Lost Generation countries and refugee communities via email and skype.

According to Hope Leone, Co-Executive director of No Lost Generation at George Washington University, "Every campus should have a No Lost Generation chapter because global goals will not be solved without local initiatives".



American students experience living in a refugee tent.

Updates

No Lost Generation Silicon Valley Symposium in San Francisco: On 12 September 2017, a symposium was organized by Nethope, Microsoft, Worldvision, and UNICEF to provide a space for over 50 private-sector executives from key technology firms to collectively explore potential collaborations with No Lost Generation partners to help address some of the challenges faced by adolescents and youth who are affected by the Syrian and Iraqi crises. At the event, four young people from Syria shared their personal stories through [videos](#), speaking about the many challenges they face after being forcibly displaced from their homes and about their hopes for a better future. Adolescents and youth have limited access to Learning opportunities, and mentorship and pathways to employment. Opportunities for adolescent and young girls are even more limited. Well overall there is a 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, such as the development of a *Skybot*, a personal advising application that operates offline on mobile phones.

No Lost Generation Tech Task Force webinars: A webinar on the 13th of September elaborated on programmes and solutions which developed by Microsoft and featured two NGOs: Habitat Association and Arcenciel. Both are currently providing digital skills curriculum from Microsoft's Resources for Refugees with refugee populations in Turkey and Lebanon. Find out more about NLG webinars like this at <http://solutionscenter-staging2.nethope.org/resources>.

UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador Priyanka Chopra meets with Syrian children and youth in Jordan: During a two-day visit, Priyanka Chopra met with Syrian children, young people, and their families whose lives have been greatly affected by the conflict. On the first day, Chopra visited UNICEF supported a MAKANI center (which means "My Space" in Arabic) in a host community in Amman. Priyanka met nine-year-old Wardshan and her eight-year-old sister Ayat, which only recently started school again after a gap of two years, due to invalid documentation. On the second day, Chopra visited the Za'atari camp. Priyanka is also one of the No Lost Generation newest champions. The visit was prior to the NLG side event in New York the week after.



Priyanka Chopra meets with young girls from Syria. Credit: UNICEF, Sebastian Rich

Syrian girl reaches out to global level decision makers at the No Lost Generation side event in New York

York: On 20 September 2017, UNICEF and Save the Children co-hosted a No Lost Generation event at UNICEF House in New York in the margins of the UN General Assembly opening week. The event had a live portal which connected the New York venue with the Harsham Camp at the northern edge of Erbil in Iraq. Additionally, six high level panelists responded to questions from children affected by the crises in Syria and Iraq. One of the children was [Bana, a Syrian girl](#), who urged the panelist to help her get back to school. Directly after the event, Humanitarian Envoy and No Lost Generation Champion Dr. Al-Meraikhi [continued his conversation](#) with Bana. The diverse and engaged panel demonstrated the breadth of support for the No Lost Generation initiative. Panelist and No Lost Generation champion Muzoon Almellehan testified to the potential for refugee children themselves to achieve their potential and advocate on behalf of their peers. The coverage of the event via social media meant that over 111.1 million people were with #No Lost Generation and 27,800 engaged in support of No Lost Generation on social media between 19 and 22 September.



UNWRA's Commissioner General, Pierre Krähenbühl, intervenes from the floor during the NLG side event. Credit: UNICEF

[Jordan opens](#) its schools to Syrian refugee children without official IDs: "A bold and positive step forwards towards ensuring that every vulnerable girl and boy in Jordan goes to school" states by UNICEF Jordan Representative Robert Jenkins. Undocumented refugee children are now allowed to attend the double shift schools.

[Amal and George Clooney](#) support refugee children from Syria: The human rights activist couple are amongst the latest celebrities to champion education for Syrian children. The couple's Clooney Foundation for Justice

announced a \$2.25 million partnership with UNICEF to help Syrian children access quality learning opportunities. The partnership will fund seven schools in Lebanon to help 3,000 currently out-of-school Syrian refugee children get back on track.



Malala Fund teams up with ReBootKamp: Following an action plan, developed during the No Lost Generation EdTech Summit earlier this year, the Malala Fund will support ReBootKamp with a \$50,700 grants to implement a project that will equip 100 Syrian refugee girls in Jordan with invaluable technology and coding skills. ReBootKamp, an Amman-based non-profit, runs immersive coding bootcamps for Jordanians and refugees to teach them market-relevant skills to help them enter the rapidly growing technology industry.

No Lost Generation steer for Syria Top Donor Group: On 18 October, 2017, the Syria Top Donor Group was held in Doha, Qatar. UN Humanitarian Envoy and No Lost Generation champion Dr. Ahmed Al-Meraikhi, one of the No Lost Generation champions, spoke about No Lost Generation. During his speech, Dr. Al-Meraikhi emphasized that without the focus on Syrian children and youth in humanitarian response, the international community will fail to respond to the Syrian crisis. He emphasized that “Unless we address this situation urgently, we are letting down not just the children who did not ask for this conflict but continue to bear the brunt of its effects, we are also turning away from our commitment to maintain the human capital which will build the future Syria and contribute to stability in the region.” Humanitarian partners in No Lost Generation and the wider response continue to call for increased support from this group of donors and a fulfillment of all the pledges made in London and Brussels, as the response to the Syria crisis is experiencing lower than usual levels of funding for the time of year.

"My Voice Matters Too": Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Save the Children in Lebanon organise event on issues faced by children affected by armed conflict: The Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Save the Children organised the event “My Voice Matters Too” in Beirut on 31 October 2017. The seminar, held under the patronage of His Excellency the Minister of Social Affairs Pierre Bou Assi, brought together stakeholders including children, ministers and representatives from the Lebanese government and Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, international NGOs, CSOs, academics and diplomats.

The event highlighted the struggle of children in Lebanon in times of unprecedented conflicts, with participation from Lebanese as well as Palestinian and Syrian refugee children who discussed a range of issues that affect their lives and the communities they live in.

During the event, children and representatives from a range of ministries and humanitarian agencies (including UNICEF, UNHCR and UNRWA) took part in panel discussions on three thematics: Children’s Right to Be Heard and Participate, Children’s Right to Protection, and Children’s Right to Education. Children shared their experiences and concerns from their daily life and debated directly with key decision-makers in government and humanitarian agencies.



The event, organised by Save the Children and the Swedish Foreign Ministry, brought together decision makers and children from Syria, Palestine, and Lebanon to discuss issues that affect children's lives and future in Lebanon. Credit: Nour Wahid/Save the Children

Basel, a Syrian boy, set to address the United Nations: On Universal Children's day, November 20th, Basel Arashdan a 12-year-old boy from Syria, will share the story of his family's journey from Syria to Canada at the United Nations. "We moved to Jordan and lived there for two years and eight months and then there were some people who called us and asked us if we wanted to go to Canada." Basel now enjoys living in Canada; "We live here and it's safe." He is determined to help raise awareness for the people of Syria by sharing his story.

Emerging trends on *Voices of Youth*: Since its inception in late 2016 this blogging platform has published 160 blogs from adolescents and youth and reaches over 65,000 people monthly. The majority of blogs are from Syrian adolescents and youth (67%). Topics differed between males (42% of bloggers) and females (58% 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 organizations in Lebanon and youth hubs in Egypt. Voices of Youth also works closely with No Lost Generation partners at the regional level, such as NRC and Relief International, to scale up outreach to the most vulnerable adolescents and youth in all No Lost Generation countries and providing training and tools to support writing, making videos, webinars.



Young people at a Voice of Youth workshop on how to make a short film on smartphones. Credit: UNICEF

Upcoming Events

Translating Research Into Scaled Up Action: Evidence Symposium on Adolescents and Youth in MENA: On November 21 and 22 in Amman, a first of its kind, a No Lost Generation Evidence Symposium organized by the UN:NGO adolescents and youth group in MENA will review recent global and regional evidence and practices regarding adolescents and youth, showcase lessons learned, and promising practices in taking evidence into strategic policymaking and action, and explore ways to fill critical knowledge gaps.

Positive Pathways: A Summit on Psychosocial Support Programming for Children and Youth: On 22 and 23 November in Amman, Mercy Corps and War Child will host a regional event focusing on psychosocial support programming for children and youth affected by the Syria and Iraq crises, under the No Lost Generation umbrella. The event will bring together humanitarian actors and researchers to explore and discuss proven and promising psychosocial support practices and to show-case evidence and innovations from the region, covering the spectrum of psychosocial support programmes from the individual to the community level.

Securing a Future for Young People and Adolescents in Iraq and Syria: On November 16 at Capitol Hill, Washington, a No Lost Generation event will be organized to highlight the specific needs of adolescents and youth inside Iraq and Syria, across the three No Lost Generation pillars. The event will showcase how funding from the United States has contributed to No Lost Generation programming and what can be achieved with additional support.

No Lost Generation Tech Summit: On 21 and 22 February in Amman, No Lost Generation partners will host a Tech Summit which will bring together technology providers, innovators, humanitarian decision makers, and implementing agencies to streamline the process of selecting technology solutions that are proven effective for programmes reaching and engaging adolescents and youth affected by the Syrian and Iraqi crises. For more information, email [Mark Chapple](#).

New Resources



- **Profiles of Young Researchers-** لمحات من رحلات الباحثين الشباب: This document showcases the outcome of the

Participatory Action Research Programme, which was launched in 2016. During this project, 121 young people between 14 and 24 years old from Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria researched the lives of young people in host communities. The project will see the creation of guidelines for young people to lead community research and likewise to support and empower them in becoming advocates for change on issues that concern them.

- **The Syrian Wellbeing Collective Newsletter:** This network of 16 community based organizations, which was launched in July 2016, work together to increase the access to psychosocial support in Syria and to improve their work through cross-sector coordination, integrated programming, community mobilization and awareness raising. The first newsletter *Healing Minds, Inspiring Hope* gives an overview on the needs, the achievements since the collective's launch, including the organized events, as well as providing an overview on future action. Visit the [website](#) for more information.
- **Invisible Wounds: the impact of six years of war on the mental health of Syria's children:** This Save the Children report on the psychological toll of living through six years of war on the mental health of children is the largest and most comprehensive of its kind undertaken inside Syria. Over 450 children, adolescents, and adults participated in the process of making the report, revealing heartbreaking accounts of children terrified by the shelling and airstrikes, anxious about the future, and distraught at not being able to go to school. Yet, Syria's children are incredibly resilient and still dream of a better future. This report puts forward key recommendations to parties to the conflict, UN Security Council Members, UN Member States, donors, and Humanitarian agencies, to establish greater support for the right mental health and psychosocial support for Syria's children.
- **[New tool](#) measures resilience in adolescent Syrian refugees:** Researchers from Yale University, together with partners at universities in Canada, Jordan, and the United Kingdom, have developed a survey tool to measure resilience in children and adolescents who have been displaced by the conflict in Syria. This survey is designed to help researchers and service providers to craft effective interventions that bolster people's strengths and it will help humanitarian organizations evaluate their programs for young people and their families.
- **[Global Coalition](#) to Protect Education from Attack Toolkit:** This community of states which is committed to take concrete action to better protect student, teachers, school, and universities during armed conflict, continues to grow. On September 1, 2017, Burkina Faso became the 69th country to endorse the Safe Schools Declaration. A toolkit has been developed to guide understanding and implementing the "guidelines for protecting schools and universities from military use during armed conflict".
- **[Adapting to Learn, Learning to Adapt:](#)** This new report provides an overview of, and considerations for child protection systems strengthening in emergencies and targets all actors supporting child protection responses in humanitarian setting. It provides an overview of child protection systems strengthening in emergencies practice to date, and based on this, proposes certain key consideration with regards to systems for child protection practitioners.
- **Two reports on Displacement, Housing Land and Property and Access to Civil Documentation in the south and north west of the Syrian Arab Republic:**

These reports demonstrate that housing, land and property rights and civil documentation concerns are widespread among IDPs, in [southern Syria](#) and [north west Syria](#), and a foundational concern for the entire humanitarian response.

It provides an overview of the scale of the lack of documentation (deficits) and the consequent challenges the lack of documentation poses on children and youth. Based on the findings, these reports put forward recommendations for humanitarian agencies to improve the humanitarian response, with as key message: Humanitarian agencies should ensure that a lack of civil documentation does not prevent access to humanitarian aid.

- **[Forward together: INO Contributions to the Jordan Compact](#):** This report by the Jordan INGO Forum (JIF), identifies how actors within JIF have incorporated the Jordan Compact commitments into their own education and livelihoods programming. In addition, the report showcases case studies to highlight best practices, lessons learned, and current shortcomings and constraints. The report concludes by offering a set of recommendations.
- **[Sexual Violence Against Men and Boys in the Syria Crisis](#):** This report by UNHCR examines sexual violence against men and boys in the Syria crisis and their access to services in Jordan, Lebanon, and the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, a complex and under-investigated issue. It offers a starting point in addressing this issue by providing findings and key recommendations.

About No Lost Generation



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:

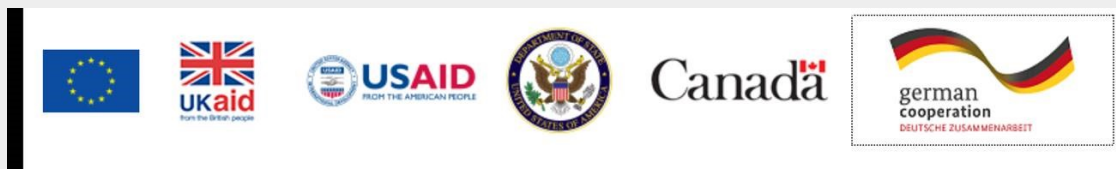
- Support No Lost Generation programmes: go to www.nolostgeneration.org and click on the logo of the organisation you'd like to fund.
- Start your own NLG group: download our campaigns kit from www.nolostgeneration.org, find some likeminded friends or colleagues, and get going.
- Spread the word: use #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

Partners steering the No Lost Generation initiative at the regional level through a working group undertook advocacy to ensure 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.

& 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 #6 !

This eNewsletter will be coming out every other month



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