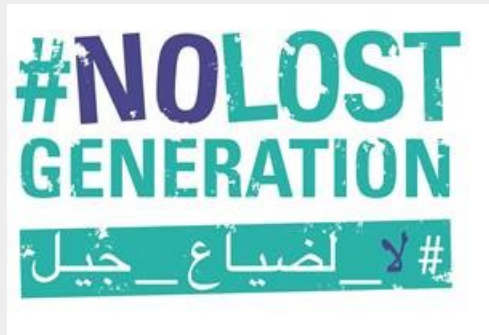


NEWSLETTER

ISSUE#6



The [No Lost Generation](#) eNewsletter 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 theme, story and/or programming example, please follow [this link](#).

As the Syrian crisis enters its eighth year, significant civilian casualties, displacement, and destruction continues. Palestine refugees are amongst the worst affected by the conflict. Of the 560,000 Palestine refugees registered with UNRWA in Syria prior to the conflict, around 254,000 have been displaced at least once within the country. Over 120,000 have fled to other countries, including approximately 33,000 to Lebanon and 17,000 to Jordan.

Of those remaining in Syria, approximately 30 per cent are children, and 95 per cent rely on humanitarian assistance to meet their most basic needs. Humanitarian access to the approximately 28,900 Palestine refugees located in hard-to-reach and besieged areas remains a key challenge.

Regionally, Palestine refugees face particular difficulties accessing safety outside Syria as neighbouring states have severely restricted their entry. There are also concerns over instances of *refoulement* and forced deportations, including of children. In Lebanon, Palestine refugees from Syria rely on UNRWA to meet basic needs, as the poverty rate among Palestine refugee families from Syria is estimated at 89 per cent and almost 95 per cent of those households are food insecure. In Jordan, Palestine refugees from Syria face a myriad of protection restrictions, including lack of legal status, difficulties in gaining and/or maintaining legal residency, limited freedom of movement in some cases, and the very real risk of *refoulement* for those who have entered irregularly. These factors limit their access to employment and public services, particularly for those without Jordanian documents.

Thus, the impact of the conflict in Syria on Palestine refugees has been severe and manifold. Coping mechanisms have been all but exhausted by multiple displacements, unchecked inflation, rising unemployment rates, and loss of property. Throughout the conflict, UNRWA has continued to provide a range of life-saving and life-sustaining assistance and services to Palestine refugees in Syria and the Agency's other areas of operation.

UNRWA has launched the global #DignityIsPriceless campaign in response to unprecedented funding reductions by the US Government. UNRWA is aiming to raise \$500m to protect the rights and dignity of #Palestine refugees, including around half a million affected by the Syria conflict. Please stand up #ForPalestineRefugees. More information is available at www.unrwa.org/donate

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

Children continue their education at safe learning spaces in Syria

Abir, 37, is one of 254,000 Palestine refugees who had to flee from the violence in different cities and gatherings across Syria. Originally from Yarmouk, the young mother, her husband, and their two children arrived at the collective shelter at the Damascus Training Centre five years ago, having left behind everything they owned.

“When the fighting increased and the sound of explosions filled the silence of the ghost town that Yarmouk became, we decided it was time to leave,” said Abir, mother-of-two. She was sitting in the back of the safe learning space at the Damascus Training Centre, quietly observing her two children’s interaction in the classroom. She added: “There was a lot of shooting and bombs, it was terrible. We no longer felt safe, our children were at risk; we had no choice but to leave.”

“When we left, my biggest concern was my children’s education, so I immediately enrolled Zeina, 13, and Mohammad, 11, in one of the UNRWA schools in Damascus. I strongly believe that an uneducated child has no future and no hope,” she explained.

As part of its Education in Emergencies (EiE) response in Syria, UNRWA has set up 14 safe learning spaces and 22 recreational playgrounds in communities and shelters for displaced Palestine refugees. These safe learning spaces provide children with a protected environment to continue their learning and also to engage in recreational activities, which help to build their social skills and contribute to their overall wellbeing and resilience.

“I have noticed a great level of improvement in Zeina’s behaviour and wellbeing. When we first arrived, she was isolated and refused to interact with other children. She also had violent and aggressive reactions towards people, she was completely traumatized. Then, with the help of the counsellors at the UNRWA schools and at the safe learning spaces, and after having attended psychosocial support sessions and recreational activities, she started engaging with others, smiling, and succeeding in school,” Abir proudly said.

Abir also spoke of the importance of the safe learning spaces, encouraging parents to enrol their children. “Children can benefit from English, Arabic, French, and Mathematics courses. These courses help them feel prepared and confident in school. The teachers are very supportive and they provide close follow-up for each student. They invite us for awareness sessions where they give updates on the improvements made by the children and inform us if they have concerns.”

The young mother expressed her happiness that Mohammad and Zeina are now comfortable and have made new friends. “This is the closest I can offer them to a normal life, I’m very grateful.”



Safe learning space, Damascus, Syria. © 2017 UNRWA

The Syria conflict continues to have a devastating impact on the more than 560,000 Palestine refugees registered

with UNRWA in Syria, of which an estimated 438,000 remain in the country. The conflict has rendered 70 per cent of UNRWA schools inoperative and children inside Syria have been repeatedly subjected to trauma resulting from prolonged exposure to war, stress and uncertainty.

Within this context, there was a need for a sustained and innovative approach to ensure that the most vulnerable children and youth are given the support they need to continue their education even during times of emergencies. In this regard, UNRWA has developed a multi-stranded, integrated Education in Emergencies (EiE) programme, which seeks to combine the strengths of the UNRWA education system, with new and innovative ways of delivering and supporting education. Between 2012 and 2017, the UNRWA EiE Programme has supported more than 71,000 children in Syria to continue their education and achieve their full potential.

UNRWA cooperates, at a strategic and operational level, with the Ministry of Education in Syria and also works closely with a wide range of regional partners, such as UNESCO, UNICEF and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC). UNESCO has technically and financially supported the UNRWA education programme since the early 1950s. UNICEF has drawn upon the self-learning materials developed by UNRWA, ensuring their wider distribution to children in Syria and beyond.

For more information about the UNRWA EiE programme, see: <https://www.unrwa.org/resources/about-unrwa/education-emergencies> and for more details about the EiE programme in Syria: <https://www.promisingpractices.online/unrwa/>

The Innovation Lab Empowers Youth in Lebanon

"My parents were jobless and I was at home all day doing nothing, while violence and despair surrounded us. One day I will travel to Lebanon" said 22-year-old Nidal a Palestine refugee from Yarmouk, an area of Damascus home to approximately 160,000 Palestine refugees. Nidal left Syria in 2014 at the age of 19, three years after the outbreak of the crisis.

He arrived to Lebanon alone, leaving his parents - originally from Gaza - and 2 younger sisters in Yarmouk.

Nidal is currently a dorm student at Siblin Training Center in his second year of Business administration.

"In few months I'll complete my studies here in Siblin. My plan is then to enroll in one of the Lebanese universities to study Business administration and obtain a Master's degree. I will open my own business in Syria one day" says Nidal with ambition and determination.

In Siblin, Nidal learned about the opportunity to join the Innovation Lab Programme, and the idea immediately appealed to him. The Innovation Lab is a space for youth and adolescents - particularly for the most disadvantaged ones - to be trained and involved as active partners in the design, development and implementation of business ideas. It offers professional readiness training courses and programmes, aiming to accelerate youth's potential and ideas that can have a social impact on their communities and can generate income for them.

Nidal told us how, once in Lebanon, he discovered his passion for drawing. He learnt on his own how to draw "mandalas", which are complex abstract geometric designs, usually circular in form. His dream is to open his own handmade carpet-design studio in Syria, along with other commercial activities, and be able to support his family and community.

Alongside his studies in Siblin, Nidal is currently working in a carpet shop, where he's able to put in practice his artistic ability and the skills acquired in the I-Lab. His objective for now is to broaden his network of carpet vendors and artisans in Lebanon and begin offering his service as a freelance designer.

In Nidal's own words "In the Innovation Lab there's room for innovation, it is a great opportunity that I would recommend to anyone who wants to develop their technical skills and broaden their perspective".

The Innovation Lab Programme is a key component of the newly established UNRWA Lebanon Youth Unit, which aims to help Palestine refugee youth by providing them with skill-building opportunities to expand their knowledge and professional readiness. The Agency also aims to engage youth as partners in programming and advocacy, to ensure their needs are met and their voices are heard. The Innovation Lab is run in partnership with UNICEF and two local organizations, DOT and NAWAYA that have an established name in the tech and entrepreneurship community in Lebanon and the region. These organizations are playing a key role in enhancing opportunities for marginalized youth.



UNRWA established an innovation lab for Palestine refugee youth in Siblin Training Centre, Lebanon; © 2017 UNRWA Photo by Carlos Perez

Updates

Funding Update

Country	Sector	Funding Required 2017	Funding Received 2017	%	Funding Date
Syria HRP	Education	\$ 266,453,021	\$ 113,100,000	42%	31-Dec-17
Syria HRP	Child Protection	\$ 84,000,000	\$ 30,600,000	36%	17-Sep-17
Syria HRP	Youth	\$ 301,056,950	\$ 146,582,950	49%	31-Dec-17
3RP	Education	\$ 841,000,000	\$ 274,660,437	33%	Jan-Sep 17
3RP	Child Protection	\$ 117,800,065	\$ 68,984,010	59%	Jan-Sep 17
3RP	Youth	\$ 143,044,572	n/a	n/a	n/a
Iraq HRP	Education	\$ 69,946,877	\$ 27,100,000	39%	31-Dec-17
Iraq HRP	Child Protection	\$ 22,910,375	\$ 11,133,289	49%	30-Aug-17
	Total	\$ 1,846,211,860	\$ 672,160,686	36%	31-Dec-17

Overall funding received for the No Lost Generation programming areas in 2016 was 71%; as the final figures come in for 2017 the year end rate is set to be significantly lower. Gaps in funding jeopardise the ability of No Lost Generation partners to reach the children and young people affected by conflict with the scope and quality of services they require in order to ensure their protection, access to learning, and (for adolescents and youth) opportunities for positive social and economic engagement.

- Translating Research into Scaled Up Action: Evidence Symposium on Adolescents and Youth in the MENA:** On 21 November 2017, in Amman, 120 young people, policy makers, donors, academics, and representatives of several organizations gathered to share evidence and recommendations around three key issues for the 124 million young people in the MENA: employment, violence, and participation and engagement. The Symposium gave opportunity for adolescents and youth from the region to engage, as over a third of the participants were adolescents and youth researchers, advocates, activists and reporters. Find out more about the outcomes [here](#). In addition, a donor briefing was held the next morning.



Adolescents and youth at the Evidence Symposium; ©UNICEF 2017

- Positive Pathways - A Summit on Psychosocial Support Programming for Children and Youth:** On 22 and 23 November 2017 in Amman, over 150 participants, representing donors, civil society organizations, regional humanitarian practitioners, academics, and young people gathered to explore and discuss the

psychosocial needs and support systems for children and youth across the region. The need and importance of psychosocial support interventions were highlighted by keynote speakers, panel discussions, and interactive workshops that shared research and showcased proven and promising psychosocial support practices.

- **Securing a Future for Young People and Adolescents in Iraq and Syria:** on November 16 at Capitol Hill, Washington D.C., a No Lost Generation event was held to highlight the specific needs of adolescents and youth inside Syria and Iraq, across the three No Lost Generation pillars. The event showcased how funding from the United States has contributed to No Lost Generation programming, and what can be achieved with additional support. Attendees heard live from young people in Erbil, Iraq on how the #NoLostGeneration initiative provides positive programming to support their hopes and aspirations.
- **UNRWA Commissioner-General Visits Syria where He Meets Palestinian Students:** UNRWA Commissioner-General Pierre Krähenbühl visited Syria from 18 to 20 November, meeting with Palestinian refugees, UNRWA staff, and senior government officials. These meetings were an important opportunity to discuss the situation of Palestine refugees in Syria, the need for ongoing steps to ensure their security and protection, as well as access to some of the delicate areas where Palestine refugees are located, such as Yarmouk. During a discussion at one of the UNRWA schools, three female students, Rama, Majd and Fidaa, spoke of the traumas they endured. Two lost their father during the conflict and the father of the third went missing. They expressed their determination to continue studying hard, dreaming to become engineers or lawyers and, despite the pain etched into their young faces, speaking warmly about the psychosocial support and education they receive. In addition, Krähenbühl met with a dozen students from the devastated Yarmouk Camp, who are determined to study and preserve opportunities despite their situation.



UNRWA Commissioner-General Pierre Krähenbühl visits the Agency's health centre in Khan Eshieh camp in Rif Damascus, Syria; © 2017 UNRWA photo by Taghrid Mohammad.

- **Virtual Exchange from Syria and Gaza for Quality Education for All:** This Autumn, students across 15 schools in Syria, Gaza, Belgium, the United Kingdom and Norway are connecting through the virtual exchange project, *My Voice – My School*. Through the *My Voice-My School* project, students are working with their overseas partner schools to explore the importance and impact of education, and develop a student advocacy project suggesting how education can be improved for all young people. The result reveals to all students the right of every child to a 'quality education' wherever they are.
- **Palestinian Startup Support Refugees with Free Legal Aid Via SMS:** Turkey is the largest host country in the region, hosting over 2 million Syrian refugees. As it is the only non-Arabic speaking country in the region, refugees often have no knowledge of the Turkish legal system, nor their legal entitlements. As a result, they are

more vulnerable to human rights violations. Souktel, a startup based in Ramallah, support Syrians with free legal advice services, translating communication between lawyers and refugees. As Souktel promotes: “Young refugees are extremely tech savvy, and the challenge is ensuring that their voices are heard. Tech providers can't build platforms in isolation, we need to take a human-centered approach to our work, and let the end users of these technologies lead the design.

- **[Young people](#) form the first-ever UNRWA student Parliament:** On November 21, 16 candidates representing all of the Agency's fields of operation, West Bank, Gaza, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria, came together to exchange experiences and discuss common initiatives on topics such as human rights, participation, and leadership. The student parliament agreed on a work plan for the coming year that will serve all 526,000 students the agency is supporting.
- **[UN HRC](#) adopts resolution with specific focus on attacks against children:** During a high-level panel discussion focusing on violations of human right of Syrian children, the United Nations Human Right council adopted Resolution 36/20. The council saw Syrian children's voices and there was a specific focus on attacks against schools and hospitals and the denial of humanitarian access. In addition, the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism (IIIM) continues to collect, collate and preserve information and evidence related to international crimes in Syria.

Upcoming Events

[No Lost Generation Tech Summit 2018:](#) 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 to address challenges that include education, employment, participation, and protection .

New Resources



- **Inter-agency guidelines: Programming with and for Young People in Humanitarian Settings:** This Guideline is developed to align strategies, approaches and programmatic responses to reach and empower all young people to be agents of positive transformation. While young people are often at the forefront of humanitarian response, including as first responders, demonstrating significant capacity to contribute to humanitarian efforts, they are rarely listened to and even more rarely treated as positive agents of change within communities.
- **Beyond Borders:** This report presents examples of how national, regional, and local governments around the world are already working with partners to welcome, empower, and protect migrant and refugee children by offering proof that practical solutions and effective programme responses for children on the move exist and can be replicated and scaled up.



© UNICEF/UN047914/Herwig

- **Reclaiming Dreams:** War Child's Reclaiming Dreams report on children's mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) highlights the importance of delivering holistic services to children and their support networks at multiple levels to comprehensively address their mental health and psychosocial needs. Three country case studies – CAR, Jordan and oPt – are used to examine the complexity of children's needs in protracted conflicts

and when they are part of a marginalised group. Without recognising the complexities in MHPSS delivery, the humanitarian sector will not be able to strengthen children and their communities' resilience in the long-term. War Child is calling for: 1% of humanitarian funding to be ring-fenced for mental health and psychosocial support and better quality PSS programming globally, informed by evidence and local understandings of mental health and wellbeing.

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 AND SUPPORTERS

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. A regional level working group co-led by:



includes the following partners:



Major donors to No Lost Generation so far include Australia, Canada, Denmark, EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis, EU humanitarian aid, Finland, France, Germany, Korea, Kuwait, Norway, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, United Kingdom and the United States.



-END-

Stay tuned for Issue #7 !

This eNewsletter will be coming out every other month





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