

INVESTING IN SYRIA'S CHILDREN AND YOUTH: A PROMISE WE ALL NEED TO KEEP

May 2022



**#NOLOST
GENERATION**

#لا_نُضَيِّع_جِيلَ

I. MILLIONS OF CHILDREN, ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH CONTINUE TO BE AFFECTED BY THE SYRIA CRISIS



Inside Syria alone, **6.5 million children** are in desperate need of assistance due to unprecedented levels of poverty and food insecurity.



3.1 million children internally displaced



2.6 million children registered as refugees in neighboring countries.



Nearly **6 million children** who have been **born since the start of the war in 2011** - 4.8 million inside Syria and 1 million in neighboring countries

As international attention is shifting away from the Syria crisis, the needs of Syrian children have never been more urgent. Following eleven years of conflict, two years of the COVID-19 pandemic and a deteriorating economic crisis, 2022 has seen the highest number of girls and boys in need ever recorded since the beginning of the war in Syria and the host countries (Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt) – more than 12 million. Inside Syria alone, 6.5 million children are in desperate need of assistance due to unprecedented levels of poverty and food insecurity.¹ The numbers are staggering.

Those forced to flee outside of Syria are equally affected- 5.8 million girls and boys living in neighboring countries (including from host communities) need access to basic services including education, medical care and food, civil documentation, and a safe place to learn and thrive.² Still the largest forced displacement crisis in the world, Syria continues to witness an upward trend of displaced children, with 3.1 million³ children internally displaced, and 2.6 million⁴ children registered as refugees in neighboring countries.

Children are suffering the most. The nearly 6 million children who have been born since the start of the war in 2011 - 4.8 million inside Syria and 1 million in neighboring countries – know nothing but a life of war and displacement. The psychological stress is highest among women experiencing domestic violence, and women heading households (an estimated 22% of Syrian families), and among children resorting to suicide at alarming rates.⁵



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¹ OCHA. 2021. [Syria Humanitarian Needs Overview](#), p. 7

² UNICEF MENA. March 2022. [Syrian Refugees Appeal, Humanitarian Action for Children](#), based on latest planning for 3RP 2022-2023.

³ OCHA. 2021. [Syria Humanitarian Needs Overview](#), p. 32

⁴ 3RP. 2022. Regional Strategic Overview, p. 6. <https://www.3rpsyriacrisis.org/rso/>

⁵ [CARE Syria Rapid Gender Analysis: The Future to Survive the Present – Syrian Arab Republic](#) (astoundingweb.org)



900 children in Syria lost their lives or were injured last year.



The total number of **children killed or injured** since the beginning of the war is now close to **13,000**.



28 attacks on education facilities and personnel were recorded in 2021



Half a million children under the age of five inside Syria, one in three, is chronically **malnourished or stunted**.

In 2022, Syria's children continue to be at risk of serious harm:

- 900 children in Syria lost their lives or were injured last year.⁶
- The total number of children killed or injured since the beginning of the war is now close to 13,000.⁷
- 28 attacks on education facilities and personnel were recorded in 2021.⁸
- Child labor and child marriage are reported as frequently occurring in 22% and 18% of assessed communities, respectively.⁹ However, the numbers are believed to be much higher and other sources speak of over 46% girls marrying before 18 in Syria¹⁰ and 41% among young Syrian women in Lebanon¹¹.
- Half a million children under the age of five inside Syria, one in three, is chronically malnourished or stunted. They face imminent risk of irreversible damage to their physical and cognitive development.

Syria's children are not only paying the price of 11 years of war. In 2021, the price of the average food basket had already increased by 97%.¹² Now, the crisis in Ukraine has further exacerbated food insecurity inside and outside of Syria. As the Middle East and North Africa imports nearly 90% of its food supplies¹³, the current food shortages and price hikes will continue to leave more Syrian children without the nutritious diets they need to learn and to grow into healthy adults, including in neighboring countries.

In host countries, the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic and a deteriorating economic situation have been eroding states' ability to effectively provide for refugees and host communities while also reversing the gains made over the last decade.

In host countries:



6,366,155 Syrian refugees and 12,923,138 host communities are in need of assistance.¹⁴



Nearly **one out of three** Syrian refugee school-aged children is **out of school**.¹⁵



Since 2019, the number of **children aged 5-17 engaged in child labor** has doubled.¹⁶

⁶ Reports of the SRSG CAAC for Syria, and UNICEF MENA, 2022

⁷ Reports of the SRSG CAAC for Syria, and UNICEF MENA, 2022

⁸ Reports of the SRSG CAAC for Syria, and UNICEF MENA, 2022

⁹ OCHA. 2021. [Syria Humanitarian Needs Overview](#), p. 6

¹⁰ CARE Syria Rapid Gender Analysis: [The Future to Survive the Present – Syrian Arab Republic](#) (astoundingweb.org)

¹¹ <https://plan-international.org/news/2021/11/25/girls-rights-are-a-casualty-of-syria-conflict/>

¹² WFP. March 2022. Lebanon: War in Ukraine means price rises amid climate crisis.

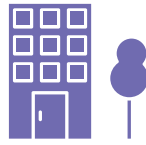
¹³ UNICEF. April 2022. Press Release; As the war in Ukraine continues, millions of children in the Middle East and North Africa at increased risk of malnutrition amid food price hikes.

¹⁴ 3RP. 2021. [Regional Needs Overview 2022](#), p. 4.

¹⁵ No Lost Generation. 2021. [Continued learning for all Syrian children and youth](#), p. 2.

¹⁶ 3RP. 2021. [Regional Needs Overview 2022](#), p.16.

Despite these increasing needs, host governments, humanitarian actors, local communities and donors continue to provide generous support to Syrian children and their families:¹⁷¹⁸¹⁹²⁰



In Jordan, **75% of Syrian school-aged children** living in **urban settings** and **85%** of Syrian school-aged children in camps are attending school as of 2021.¹⁷



In Lebanon, more than **1.1 million individuals** have **access to cash-based food** assistance through the 3RP.¹⁸



Specialized **protection services** were provided to **36,437 vulnerable children and their caregivers** in Lebanon and to 48,000 children in Turkey in 2021.¹⁹



Despite often insurmountable challenges, more than **4 million Syrian children** continue to **have access to education** in Syria.²⁰



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¹⁷ UNHCR. March 2022. [Vulnerability Assessment Framework, Preliminary Results 2021-2022](#).

¹⁸ 3RP. September 2021. [2021 Progress Report](#), p.12.

¹⁹ 3RP. September 2021. [2021 Progress Report](#), p.8.

²⁰ No Lost Generation. April 2021. Continued learning for all Syrian children and youth, p.6.

II. FUNDING DYNAMICS

To build on these efforts, more reliable, multi-year and flexible funding is urgently needed to protect and scale up durable solutions for Syrian children and youth, both inside Syria and in host countries. However, the humanitarian community continues to witness a concerning trend of funding cuts related to the Syria crisis:

2021



To prevent a lost generation, **donors and governments need to strengthen their investment** in millions of children.

Funding requirements	Funding received
2021 3RP requirements: 5,576,686,178 USD ²¹	46% funded²² as of 2022 – USD 2,540,013,126 USD received
2021 Syria HRP requirements: 4.22 bn USD ²³	46.4% funded- 1.96 bn USD received
Funding requirements per sector (3RP)²⁴	Funding received (3RP) ²⁵
2021 3RP Protection requirements: USD 777m required	57% funded- 441m received
2021 3RP Education requirements: USD 750.5m required	50% funded- 372m received
Funding requirements per sector (HRP)²⁶	Funding received
2021 HRP Protection requirements: 403.7m	28.8% funded- 166.2m received
2021 HRP Education requirements: 299.0m	19.3% funded- 57.6m received

This is not the time to leave Syrian children and their families behind. To prevent a lost generation, donors and governments need to strengthen their investment in millions of children who have known nothing but tented homes, makeshift schools, trauma and loss over the past eleven years. They represent the human capital Syria needs to recover, rebuild and move forward when the war ends.

²¹ 3RP. 2021. Regional Strategic Overviews 2021-2022, Financial Requirements, p. 6.

²² 3RP. 2022. [Regional Strategic Overview 2022, p. 7](#).

²³ OCHA. February 2022. [2021 Syria Humanitarian Response Plan](#).

²⁴ 3RP. August 2021. [Financial Summary Q2](#).

²⁵ 3RP. 2022. [Homepage. 3RP Sector Funding Q4 2021, consulted in May 2022](#).

²⁶ OCHA. February 2022. [2021 Syria Humanitarian Response Plan](#).

III. IN FOCUS: SYRIA AND LEBANON



SYRIA

a. A hidden pandemic: the deteriorating mental health state of children

Syria is not a safe place for a child to live. Grave violations against children in conflict have continued, including the killing and maiming of children, attacks on schools, the recruitment or use of children in armed forces and armed groups, rape and other forms of sexual violence, abduction of children and denial of humanitarian assistance. UNICEF estimates that one child has been injured or killed every eight hours on average during the past 10 years of conflict²⁷. In addition, tens of thousands of children remain in detention or “detention-like” conditions in northeast Syria²⁸ and in the so-called “widow camps” in the northwest.²⁹ In the northeast alone³⁰, there are more than 33,500 children of at least 60 nationalities in IDP camps and detention centers.

Almost one in five of all recorded suicide attempts in northwest Syria are undertaken by children,³¹ with child marriage and displacement being cited as the two main influencing factors in the rise of self-harm and suicides amongst adolescent girls.³² These, coupled with the ripple effects of 11 years of war, destruction, and the dramatic economic downturn in 2021, have exacerbated the living conditions for Syrians who continue to suffer extreme psychological harm. Lack of access to mental health and psychosocial support services (MHPSS) is further compounded by broad societal stigma attached to mental health issues.

In 2021, one third of children in Syria showed signs of psychological distress.³³ One in 10 people in Syria are now living with mild to moderate mental health problems, while one in 30 is estimated to suffer from more severe conditions.³⁴ The situation is particularly dire for women and children who live in “widow camps” in northwest Syria and in detention camps and centers in the northeast without access to critical services such as health care, shelter, education and protection.³⁵ In such settings, an estimated 75% of already vulnerable persons living with mental health conditions receive no treatment at all³⁶. Children in the camps are struggling to survive, with many separated from their families, injured or disabled because of the war.



²⁷ UNICEF. 2021. [Geneva Palais briefing note on the situation of children in Syria after ten years of conflict.](#)

²⁸ <https://www.nrc.no/resources/reports/the-darkest-decade-what-displaced-syrians-face-if-the-world-continues-to-fail-them>.

²⁹ World Vision. April 2022. [The women and children of Syria's widow camps: hardest to reach, most at risk.](#)

³⁰ <https://www.nrc.no/resources/reports/the-darkest-decade-what-displaced-syrians-face-if-the-world-continues-to-fail-them>.

³¹ Save the Children. 2021. [Press release: North West Syria: Number of suicide attempts and deaths rise sharply.](#)

³² Plan International. 2021. [In harm's way: adolescents girls in Northwest Syria.](#)

³³ UNICEF. March 2022. [Syria: children struggle with physical and psychological scars after 11 years.](#)

³⁴ WHO EMRO. 2022. [Who in Syria: Mental Health, consulted in May 2022.](#)

³⁵ World Vision. April 2022. [The women and children of Syria's widow camps: hardest to reach, most at risk.](#)

³⁶ WHO EMRO. 2022. [WHO-supported mobile teams deliver mental health care in Syria, consulted in May 2022.](#)

There are only a handful of local and international organizations which provide specialized MHPSS services – including individual counselling, psychological and psychiatric sessions. If left unaddressed, prolonged exposure to stress and violence, including any form of emotional, verbal and physical abuse, neglect and the absence of a nurturing and reliable adult support system, can have long-term effects and severe negative consequences for life. This is even more critical for children.

How can we address these gaps?

- Ensure that MHPSS interventions and adequate referral to address gender-based violence are integrated across response plans for the long term, including in the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan.
- Integrate MHPSS activities within existing funding plans for primary and secondary health facilities across northern Syria, with a particular focus on maternal and child facilities.
- Invest in mobile health and MHPSS services to facilitate easier access to MHPSS services for women and children in remote and isolated areas, as well as detention camps or other closed settings.
- Invest in capacity building for MHPSS staff and community outreach volunteers to enable them to identify and address a variety of mental health and behavioral issues among children and women.
- Expand MHPSS activities for girls and boys across education, child protection and health sectors.

b. Education under attack: the need for durable solutions

The impact of multiple crises has put a tremendous stress on the overstretched education systems inside the country where attacks on education infrastructure and personnel have also been a characteristic of the conflict. The UN verified 236 attacks on schools from 2018 to early 2020.³⁷ An estimated one in three schools cannot be used because they are damaged, destroyed, sheltering displaced families or used for military purposes³⁸, while in many cases existing sanctions and restrictions prevent their rehabilitation. 2.4 million Syrian children- including 40% girls³⁹ are not in school, deprived of education and other vital support needed to enable learning and development.

Additionally, the teaching workforce has been severely depleted, contributing to a significant teacher shortage, especially in preparatory and secondary schools, negatively impacting children's education.⁴⁰ Assessments have shown up to 30% of teachers who are working in critical areas remain unpaid.⁴¹ Not paying teachers inevitably leads to school closures. While many donors and UN-pooled funds support the payment of nurses, doctors, and social workers, they do not consistently pay for teacher salaries, exacerbating the situation further.

Children and youth living with disabilities are particularly vulnerable. 15% of Syrian children aged 12 to 19 have a disability.⁴² Many have been heavily affected by the conflict. A 2018 report indicated that over 3.3 million children inside Syria were exposed to explosive hazards, which may cause serious injury, loss of limbs or death.⁴³ Children with disabilities carry a double burden and continue to be disproportionately underserved and to face important barriers to education or healthcare. For example, only 44% of children with disabilities aged between 12 and 17 are attending schools.⁴⁴ They also face a heightened risk of abuse, neglect and exploitation and suffer from social stigma. The longer children are out of school the lower are their chances of reintegration and building a better future. Their future is at further risk in light

37 UN Security Council. 23 April 2021. [Children and armed conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic, Report of the Secretary General, p. 8. https://www.security-councilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/S_2021_398.p](https://www.security-councilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/S_2021_398.p)

38 UNICEF. 2021. [Press Release: after almost ten years of war in Syria, more than half of children continue to be deprived of education.](#)

39 UNICEF. 2021. After almost ten years of war, more than half of children continue to be deprived of education

40 SIRF Briefing. March 2021. *NGO recommendations for attendees of the sixth Senior Officials Meeting, unpublished.*

41 Ibid

42 UN Syria. 2019. [Disability: prevalence and impact. A Nationwide Household Survey Using Washington Group Methodology, p.7](#)

43 UNICEF. March 2018. [Press Release: No End in Sight to Seven Years of War in Syria.](#)

44 UN Syria. 2019. [Disability: prevalence and impact. A Nationwide Household Survey Using Washington Group Methodology, p.16.](#)

of an unclear pathway for recognition of their learning which is completed during displacement. When considering the right to education for Syrian children, wherever they are currently, having clear relevant learning pathways for a potential return to Syria or to the home community is vital.

How can we address these gaps?

- Education is a right and needs to be de-politicized. Ensure continuous, flexible and multi-year support to education in Syria. Funding must support children's learning irrespective of which authority is in power. With most Syrian children learning in the public education system inside Syria, investments in schools and their teachers are imperative for continued learning, both for children in and out of school.
- Allow humanitarian actors on the ground to assess whether humanitarian needs are most effectively met by emergency response or early recovery modalities to ensure the effective and efficient delivery of basic services for children and their families, including considering the rehabilitation of schools instead of setting up temporary parallel education facilities.
- Prioritize support to teachers: teachers require continued training (pre-service and in-service) to enhance their overall capacities. Additional training is needed to navigate blended learning, and psychosocial support to deal with their own stress and trauma and that of their students. Teachers must also be adequately remunerated for their efforts.
- Continue to engage with parties to the conflict and those who influence them to halt and prevent attacks on education and learning spaces and implement the Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use During Armed Conflict.
- Support girl-centered education and skills building, including by breaking the digital divide and to link girls' learning to access to employment and entrepreneurship.
- Support girls and boys, including those with disabilities, to prepare for the potential reintegration challenges they face on return, by providing accurate information on enrolment procedures to children and caregivers who are considering returning, language support and developing transition programming inside Syria. Authorities across the region and inside Syria must be supported to develop and simplify systems to recognize the equivalency of academic / professional / vocational diplomas / certificates / degrees with clear pathways for children and adolescents who have studied in other countries to return to learning in Syria.
- Ensure children have access to civil documentation, including birth certificates, which constitute proof of legal identity, while at the same time promoting an integrated response to education for all children, regardless of legal status.
- Empower their caregivers to build their capacities to support children's access to safe learning and education without discrimination of any kind. Support cash-based education responses, including education in multi-purpose cash and multi-sector programming. Poverty alleviation is key to enabling families to prioritize education and reduce the numbers of children who are not in school or are unable to continue learning.





LEBANON

a. Lebanese, Syrian and Palestinian children's mental health impacted by compounding crises in Lebanon

Lebanon's ongoing economic crisis is having a devastating impact on its public sector, including key public health and education services, while already vulnerable population groups are increasingly suffering from the impacts of currency devaluation and rising unemployment rates.⁴⁵ With the increase in food prices, food security has become a major concern as most Lebanese families and almost the entire refugee population are worried about having enough food to eat. According to the World Food Program (WFP), half of Syrian families residing in Lebanon are now food insecure, with female-headed households particularly at risk.⁴⁶ Many Syrian families are also unable to cover basic rent costs and face evictions.⁴⁷ In 2022, 87% of Palestine Refugees from Syria (PRS) residing in Lebanon are estimated to be living below the poverty line.⁴⁸

Despite rising mental health needs, MHPSS services are not widely available or accessible to vulnerable Syrian, Palestinian and Lebanese children and their families. According to a 2021 Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) report, some of these specialized services can only be found in private health facilities which most host and refugee families in Lebanon cannot afford.⁴⁹ Individuals with suicidal thoughts or attempts are being turned away from hospitals on a daily basis due to inability to pay hospital fees.⁵⁰ In addition, services provided by mental health professionals such as psychologists and psychiatrists, as well as much needed psychotropic medications, are either unavailable or too costly.

The mental health toll of this crisis is also particularly striking, with Syrian, Palestinian and Lebanese children being very much affected by socio-economic constraints as well as the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.⁵¹ A December 2021 World Vision assessment on the education needs and priorities of children in Lebanon showed that school closures had deeply affected Lebanese, Palestinian and Syrian refugee children in the country as they reported feeling sad, anxious, lonely and bored.⁵² UNRWA estimates that 1,275 Palestine refugee students dropped out during the school year 2020-2021 in Lebanon, of whom 55% left school as a result of psychological distress.⁵³ Most children lacked social interaction for lengthy periods of time during the pandemic, with an increasing number of caregivers reporting that their children were resorting to negative coping behaviors rooted in anger, and aggressiveness at home.⁵⁴ According to teachers, the mental health impact of the pandemic could also affect children's social and emotional learning skills in the long term.⁵⁵ A January 2022 study published by the American University of Beirut (AUB) also highlighted that 33% of young Lebanese demonstrate clinically significant signs of at least one psychiatric disorder, but only 5% were seeking treatment.⁵⁶

⁴⁵ The World Bank. January 2022. [Press Release: Lebanon's Crisis: Great Denial in the Deliberate Depression.](#)

⁴⁶ WFP 2020. [Press release: Nine out of ten Syrian refugee families in Lebanon are now living in extreme poverty, UN study says.](#)

⁴⁷ Norwegian Refugee Council. February 2022. [Press release: Lebanon – Syrian refugee face evictions as they take desperate measures to survive the winter.](#)

⁴⁸ UNRWA. January 2022. [Press Release : Palestine Refugees in Lebanon : Struggling to survive.](#)

⁴⁹ Jesuit Refugee Services. 2021. [Invisible burdens: prioritising mental health and livelihoods in Syria and Lebanon.](#)

⁵⁰ Idem.

⁵¹ Save the Children. 2021. [Lebanon – Education in Crisis: Raising the Alarm.](#) 1

⁵² World Vision. December 2021. Assessment Report on Education Needs and Priorities of Children in Lebanon with Focus on Syrian Refugees.

⁵³ UNRWA. 2022. Palestine refugees in Lebanon: Struggling to survive, p. 11

⁵⁴ World Vision. December 2021. Assessment Report on Education Needs and Priorities of Children in Lebanon with Focus on Syrian Refugees.

⁵⁵ Idem.

⁵⁶ Fadi T. Maalouf, Loay Alrojolah, Leila Akoury-Dirani, Marc Barakat, David Brent, Martien Elbejjani, Awel Shamseddeen and Lilián A. Ghandour. January 2022. [Psychopathology in Children and Adolescents in Lebanon Study \(PALS\): a national household survey.](#)

How can we address these gaps?

- Expand livelihood programs to include MHPSS services to support those most affected by the stress of poverty. An integrated livelihoods and MHPSS approach will empower individuals to become self-reliant and foster a sense of agency and hope, thus improving their overall mental health wellbeing. It would also alleviate the emotional impact of multiple crises on children and youth in terms of having to shoulder the burden of negative coping strategies by generating income through child labor while not being able to focus on a life as a child.
- Engage community groups and local NGOs to support positive coping mechanisms and reach those among the most marginalized and vulnerable – boys, girls or women – with intersecting disability, education and poverty factors.
- Invest in the availability and accessibility of mental health services, professionals and much needed medications across the country. MHPSS programs should be prioritized by the donor community, including programs that focus on the retention of professionals in Lebanon while also strengthening national health systems to enable service provision in the long term.
- Build on holistic MHPSS interventions with strong linkages to protection and education programs in the country so that children can remain socially active, productive and find the support they need when facing hardships and recurring crises.



b. A struggling education sector in Lebanon

The worsening economic situation and repeated school closures due to the political crisis and COVID-19 pandemic pushed three in ten youths to stop their education, while many are engaging in ill-paid, irregular and informal work to contribute to their family income.⁵⁷

Since the beginning of the pandemic in March 2020, there was a 14% drop in primary school attendance. During the 2020-2021 school year, only half of school-aged children attended any school.⁵⁸ Keeping children out of school for extended periods only makes them more susceptible to resort to negative coping mechanisms such as child labor and child marriage. Indeed, 13% of families in Lebanon are asking their children to work, as a way to cope economically.⁵⁹

Those who did not drop out reported that the quality of education deteriorated due to the difficulties of distance learning. Many families also reported that they could not afford the tools needed for online learning while being affected by the rationing of electricity and limited internet access. Today, as in-person classes restart, fewer children and teachers can afford to travel to school due to rising fuel prices. In addition, inflation and economic collapse has resulted in a significant decrease of teachers' salaries. Many parents pulled their children out of private schools and into the already overstretched and under-resourced public schooling system. Furthermore, political turmoil continues to cause suspension of classes, further impacting learning outcomes and children's wellbeing. In some areas, the school week has been reduced to 4 days due to limited resources at the school and family levels, while many public institutions are also only functioning for 2 days a week resulting of slower processing of public services linked to education and other essential needs. In 2021, a survey showed that 97% of children reported experiencing negative feelings during school closures, 59% confirming that these feelings got worse the longer they were out of school.⁶⁰

How can we address these gaps?

- Expand cash assistance to children and their families, providing them with food assistance, educational material and transportation, in order to reduce the risks of families resorting to child labor and other negative coping mechanisms such as early marriage, which would lead to further dropouts from school.
- Support teachers, education personnel and institutions by strengthening their capacity to re-engage in post-pandemic learning, particularly in low income and under-resourced settings.
- Keep schools open, ensure flexible and innovative approaches to expand reach and quality of learning, while strengthening preparedness to ensure education continuity through distance learning when needed and as the COVID-19 situation continues to evolve.
- Recognize the drivers for drop-out rates among girls and boys, and put in place measures to mitigate these risks, while also offering remedial or catch-up education when needed.
- Fund Accelerated Learning Programs which target children and youth who might be excluded from other educational programs, in order to widen access to formal education and help target out of school children even further.
- As public-school capacity continues to shrink, expand the role of both local and international organizations in formal education in order to preserve quality and enhance access to education.

⁵⁷ UNICEF Lebanon. 28 January 2022. [Press statement "Lebanese crisis forcing youth out of learning, robbing them of their futures"](#).

⁵⁸ Inter-agency coordination Lebanon. 2022. [Vulnerability assessment on Syrian refugees in Lebanon, p. 11](#).

⁵⁹ UNICEF Lebanon. January 2022. [Searching for hope, p. 4](#).

⁶⁰ Save the Children and Norwegian Refugee Council. May 2021. Impact of School Closures during COVID-19 in Lebanon, p.37-38.

IV. WAY FORWARD

As No Lost Generation we acknowledge the huge and generous efforts that neighboring countries hosting the majority of Syrian refugees have been doing for the past 11 years and continue to do despite the many challenges that these countries are facing. There are many barriers still to be removed and policies to be changed to ensure durable and lasting solutions for Syrian children. That support must be sustained, not reduced when needs are growing. A collective effort like No Lost Generation, bringing together different actors, sectors and countries to ensure the realization of the rights of children in and from Syria, is now more necessary than ever.

With this in mind, No Lost Generation (NLG) members recommend that all stakeholders involved in the Syria crisis response:

1. Work together with all stakeholders to bring an end to the conflict: The biggest loss is brought upon Syria's children. All parties to the conflict need to end the violence and come to the negotiation table to ensure a safe and peaceful environment for children to grow and thrive.



2. Protect children at all costs: All parties to the conflict must stop all grave violations against children and be held accountable by the international community for violations they committe



3. Preserve humanitarian assistance channels serving those in need: In Syria, life-saving humanitarian assistance should continue across Syria's borders and across lines of conflict, including through the renewal of UNSCR 2585 in July 2022, which is an essential lifeline for 1.7 million Syrian children in need in northwest Syria.



4. Strengthen gender responsive humanitarian assistance and engage women's and youth organizations. Intentional humanitarian assistance and strategic systems strengthening to meet the specific needs of girls, boys and women and draw on the agency and capacity of national NGOs and local organizations.



5. Invest in long term, reliable and flexible funding to protect and scale up durable solutions - including early recovery and resilience-focused initiatives, for Syrian children, in Syria and in host countries: This should include funding to remove all barriers to the education of Syria's children and integrate mental health as a key priority in programs. We call on donors and governments to remove conditions and restrictions that are harming children and leave the education, protection and mental health of Syrian children outside the realm of politics.



6. Empower communities and expand social protection schemes, to ensure that children and their families can cope with the multiple challenges they face. Syrian children and their families have proven for 11 years their incredible resilience and they deserve to be treated and supported as survivors. They are hanging in there, but they cannot do it alone. They still need our support.





The No Lost Generation initiative is an advocacy platform bringing together humanitarians, donors and policymakers championing the cause of children, adolescents and youth affected by the Syria crisis. Initiated in 2013 in support of the response in Syria and the top refugee hosting countries – Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and Egypt, we advocate to ensure that Syrian children and their host communities have access to education, protection and mental health and psychosocial support.

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