

December, 2016

Save the Children Responds to the Child Refugee Crisis

The Emergency

Children and families are on the move in unprecedented numbers, creating the highest level of displacement since World War II. The world is witnessing a rapid escalation in the number of people forced to flee from conflict, wars and persecution in Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq – moving toward countries of transit, such as Greece, Italy, Serbia, Lebanon and Egypt – seeking safety and relief of suffering in countries like Germany and other open-border European nations.

Thirty million of the 60 million registered refugees globally are children and youth – this is the same size as the population of Canada. From Syria alone children make up 48% of the refugees. These numbers are growing dramatically as a result of escalating crises in places where violence, persecution and conflict are uprooting entire populations.

Children and families are fleeing out of fear for their lives and embarking on perilous journeys. Many hope for the chance of a better life and the opportunity for asylum. But while they are on the move, they are extremely vulnerable.

Save the Children seeks your generous support for our Child Refugee Crisis Appeal, which will help us reach desperate children across the Middle East and Europe and in other locations where refugees are on the move.

Critical Needs Among Children and Families



With thousands of refugees arriving in countries that are a gateway to the core of Europe, the local capacity of government authorities is being pushed to the breaking point in some locations, including Jordan, Iraq, Egypt and Lebanon. Basic services are stretched to inadequacy as great numbers succeed in fleeing their homes, only to find little in the way of comfort or support – sleeping in the open or in public spaces, suffering from exhaustion and malnutrition, all the while left highly vulnerable to exploitation and harm.

Children are vulnerable to abuse and trafficking, families have no adequate shelter in informal camps and food is scarce in many places. The health needs are constant, since access to primary health care is severely limited, and conditions make children especially vulnerable to diarrheal diseases.

Save the Children's Response

Save the Children has been responding to crises around the world for almost 100 years. We quickly moved to meet the growing needs of children and families on the move. Here are examples of countries where our relief efforts are underway:

Greece

We have an established presence on the island of Lesbos, at the Northern Greek Border, on Chios, Samos, Kos, Leros, Athens and in

Northern Greece. We run Child Friendly Spaces across Greece and provide new mothers with safe, private spaces to breastfeed their babies. We also provide accommodation and support for vulnerable children who are travelling alone, and distribute emergency shelters, hygiene kits and baby kits.



Italy

Save the Children works at the southern borders of Italy, addressing the needs of children - particularly unaccompanied children - who arrive from across the Mediterranean Sea. We have set up child-friendly spaces that give children a safe place to play and socialize, release stress and talk about their experience with trained emergency staff. Support services are provided to child refugees at railway stations in Rome and Milan, and Save the Children has been offering care and guidance for girls and boys at government processing sites.

As of October, 2016, Save the Children has reached more than 5.1 million people in Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Egypt and Syria -- approximately 3.2 million children.

FYROM

Save the Children is collaborating with partners to provide Infant and Young Child Feeding program support and case management

activities. We're also distributing essential supplies and providing support to teams who are reuniting families. We're also providing capacity building for newly employed social workers.

Lebanon

In Lebanon, Save the Children has been providing an integrated response and since the start of the crisis has provided over 357,400 beneficiaries with shelter, education, child protection, food security and livelihoods and health services. By the end of 2015 we anticipated Save the Children would have helped more than 400,000 children and adults in Lebanon alone.

Egypt

In Egypt Save the Children is providing psychosocial group sessions for Syrian mothers, to help with positive coping mechanism and to build skills for stress management. We also provide psychosocial support sessions for children. We're conducting early marriage awareness sessions as well as first aid workshops and providing business skills training sessions for women and essential working skills training sessions and some job placement support.

Norway, Sweden and Finland

In Sweden more than 1,000 calls have been made through a helpline to link children with authorities and service providers. In Finland we run 4 Child Friendly Spaces in 4 reception centres. Norway now has 40 centres for unaccompanied minors across the country, with 800 children supported by volunteers and staff.

Your contribution will help to make a life-changing difference. There is no time to lose for these child refugees who are in a dangerous and desperate situation.