

CAFOD Syria Crisis Response

In September 2015, the Isle of Man Government's International Development Committee contributed ten thousand pounds to CAFOD's Syria Crisis Appeal. Following a project report in March 2016, CAFOD continues to work with local partners in response to the Syrian Crisis.

In 2016, an estimated 13.5 million people, including 6 million children, are in need of humanitarian assistance. According to current figures, 11.5 million Syrians require health care, 13.5 million need protection support and 12.1 million require water and sanitation, while 5.7 million children need education support, including 2.7 million who are out of school in Syria and across the region¹.

As the crisis in Syria enters its sixth year, Jordan continues to demonstrate hospitality for Syrians seeking refuge, despite the substantial strain on national systems and infrastructure. In Jordan, more than half of the registered Syrian refugees are children². Research conducted by UNHCR, and corroborated by Caritas' experience with refugees in Jordan, indicates that the prolonged conflict has been devastating both on the psychosocial wellbeing of children and in regards to missed schooling which provides critical social and intellectual stimulation as well as necessary skills and certification needed to access opportunities in their future.

CAFODs Syria Crisis Response

Since 2012, CAFOD and our local partners have reached 96,000 women, men and children, inside Syria and in neighbouring countries. This has included:

- Education for 2,230 children
- Food and non-food-items (NFI's) for 76,000 people
- Protection support for 1,100 people
- Shelter for 13,460 people
- Capacity Building for 865 partner staff.



Caption: Thirteen year old Khuzama is just one of the Syrian refugee students benefitting from the education programme being delivered by CAFOD and our partners Caritas Jordan and Catholic Relief Services (CRS). Photo by CRS/Caritas Jordan

¹ <http://www.unocha.org/syrian-arab-republic/syria-country-profile/about-crisis>

² <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/country.php?id=107>

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Jordan Education and Protection Programme for Syrian Refugees

At the beginning of the last academic year (starting September 2015), UNHCR reported 145,458 Syrian students registered in public schools in camps and host community settings³, indicating that 75,000 (35%) children are still out of school, highlighting the crucial role that informal education programmes play in ensuring educational needs are met.

CAFOD continue to support our partners Caritas Jordan and CRS, to provide improved, quality, age-appropriate education opportunities for Syrian refugee and vulnerable Jordanian students. In this academic year, activities including catch up classes, remedial classes, kindergarten classes, teacher training and individual and group counselling sessions have been delivered in Amman, Balqa and Zarqa, covering 5 schools. So far:

- 360 students (age 6-15, M: 52% F: 48%) who are not enrolled in formal schools have attended catch-up classes,
- 840 students (age 6-12, M: 48% F: 52%) who are enrolled in formal schools have attended remedial classes
- 250 children (age 4-5, M: 51% F: 49%) attended kindergarten classes across 4 kindergartens in 3 areas.
- 3085 children have benefitted from entering child friendly spaces (of which, caritas Jordan has 7).

In addition, the following has been achieved:

- 96 teachers have been trained on Child Centered teaching methods and ways to deal with the unique needs of refugees, including psychosocial topics (Child protection, SGBV and psychological first aid).
- 5 school-based counselors are now in place (1 per school) and will support Caritas Jordans Counseling unit. School-based Counselors have been trained on:
 - o Psychological first aid
 - o Child protection
 - o Communication and listening skills
 - o Stress management skills
 - o Internal referral mechanisms
 - o Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV)

Protection and Psychosocial Services

The Caritas Jordan Counseling unit are using a number of methods including observations to identify those children who may need individual or group support. Referrals are made by teachers, parents or school counsellors who then coordinate with the Caritas counselling unit and decide on the appropriate action. The most common type of cases reported are students with learning problems (21%), those exposed to child labour (18%) and those suffering from fear (16%).

Depending on the needs of students in each schools, support groups and group sessions are held. Topics include: How to control fear; child labour; domestic violence; building a higher self-esteem; how to manage behavioural problems. Some of the session subjects will not be limited to the students falling under this type of case; other students, who may be at risk according to the observation and assessment of the school counsellor, will attend those sessions as a method of prevention rather than being an intervention.

³<http://data.unhcr.org/jordan/sectors/2015/education/#indicator=&gender=&poptype=&funded=&appeal=&partner=&allocation=&monthrange=&location=&obj=®ion=>