

Good practices that bring the  
Global Refugee Compact to life

# Action for Refugee Children



## Cover image

Ten-year-old Maja (left) and Donya at the summer school where they met in Bihać, Bosnia and Herzegovina. Although Donya comes from Afghanistan and at first did not speak Bosnian, their shared love of dancing and mathematics helped them become fast friends. UNICEF and the European Union, in association with Save the Children and the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of the Una-Sana Canton Government, organized the summer school to support children from refugee, migrant and asylum-seeking families as they adapt to the national education system.

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# Overview

"Some people call us the lost generation. We are not lost. We have not lost our love for learning. We have not lost our dreams for our future. We have not lost our hope."

*Muzoon Almellehan, UNICEF's Goodwill Ambassador,  
Syrian Refugee and Education Advocate*

Every refugee crisis is a children's crisis. More than half of the 25.9 million refugees worldwide are under the age of 18. Refugee boys and girls are uniquely vulnerable: because they are children, because they are uprooted, because they have experienced or witnessed violence. These vulnerabilities put them at risk of more violence, abuse, exploitation and discrimination. However,

refugee children should not only be defined by their vulnerabilities. They are strong and resilient. They are determined to thrive, and their potential is limitless. They are not alone. In the Global Compact on Refugees, governments and stakeholders around the world have committed to make sure no refugee girl or boy is left behind.



## Seeking refuge and a childhood

Regardless of their legal status, children are children first, and their suffering and the discrimination against them is unacceptable and preventable. Every child deserves protection, care, and all the support and services she needs to survive and thrive. But too often that is not the case. Instead, for far too many, seeking refuge becomes an experience of loneliness, risks and deprivations, with major impacts in both the short and long term.

Indeed, access to safety, food, clean water, school, sanitation, or a secure and healthy environment to

For far too many, seeking refuge becomes an experience of loneliness, risk and deprivation.

grow and bond become a daily struggle. In a recent poll conducted by UNICEF among more than 4,000 uprooted young people aged 14 to 24, 49 per cent reported that they had not been able to see a doctor when needed; 58 per cent had lost a year or more of school; and more than one in three claimed that they had received no help from anyone – family, friends or institutions.



## Through the avenue of inclusion

Displacement should not prevent any child from exercising their rights or achieving their full potential. With the right policies and practices, and with host countries receiving appropriate support from the international community, we can address the drivers forcing children to flee their homes and protect their rights throughout the journey. We can respond to the needs

of children, both refugees and from host communities – whoever and wherever they are.

The Global Compact on Refugees provides the right framework to make this happen. States and relevant stakeholders have committed to work together to ensure that all children, including refugees and those in the

host communities, are supported through inclusive and strengthened national services; that their best interests will be given proper consideration; that national protection systems and cross-border cooperation schemes will be strengthened; and that this will be done with the active participation and engagement of refugee and host community children and youth.



The Global Compact on Refugees provides the right framing to make this happen. Through its provisions, states and relevant stakeholders have committed, among other things, to work together to ensure that all children, including refugees and those in the host communities, are supported through inclusive and strengthened national services.

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## We are not starting from scratch

It was a refugee crisis more than 70 years ago that brought UNICEF into existence. Our first executive director, Maurice Pate, put a sole condition upon his appointment: that UNICEF would serve all children of the world without distinction. This principle has guided UNICEF's work across more than 190 countries and territories and would, decades later, become a key element in the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Today more than ever, UNICEF still works for every child. Together with our partners, we ensure that refugee children are protected from harm and that they receive the support they need. We are there from the start, providing lifesaving humanitarian assistance when a crisis hits. We provide clean water, sanitation and access to health care. We run child-friendly safe spaces where displaced children can play, where mothers can rest and feed their babies in private and where separated families can reunite. We ensure that refugee boys and girls can go to school

and don't miss out on education. We help provide birth certificates that allow children to access services. We also look out for the most vulnerable refugee children: those who are alone and separated from their families, those who live with a disability, those who have special needs. No child is left behind. We are there at every step of the journey.

This booklet will take you on a journey along some of UNICEF's most successful programmes to support refugee girls and boys all over the world: building local capacity to provide clean water to refugee and host community children in the border area between Guyana and Venezuela; ensuring refugee children obtain birth registration in Ethiopia; providing early childhood education to local and refugee children in Jordan; ensuring refugee girls and boys can attend school in Turkey.

## A renewed commitment to refugee children

UNICEF is a fierce supporter of the Global Compact on Refugees and is working to help reach its objectives. In the Compact, states have committed to contribute their resources and expertise towards policies and programmes that take into account the specific needs of refugee girls and boys and promote their inclusion in host communities. The Global Refugee Forum offers a unique opportunity to make this happen. We can empower refugee children with cutting-edge solutions and make their

voices heard. We can make sure refugee girls and boys continue to learn, access health care and other services, and obtain legal identity. We can keep refugee families together and end the discrimination they often face.

**UNICEF calls upon governments, the private sector and all stakeholders to keep an eye on refugee children. Together, we can make sure that refugee boys and girls receive the support they need and that not one single child is left behind.**



## UNICEF's six-point agenda for action

At the heart of UNICEF's work in support of refugee children and young people is the six-point agenda for action

for #ChildrenUprooted. These points should guide governments and other stakeholders in their plans to implement the Global

Compact on Refugees. This is what stakeholders can do to stand up for the rights of refugee children:



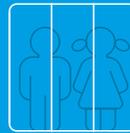
Press for action on the causes that uproot children from their homes.



Help refugee children stay in school and stay healthy.



Keep families together.



End the detention of children by creating practical alternatives.



Combat xenophobia and discrimination.



Protect refugee children from exploitation, abuse and violence.

# Good practices that bring the Global Refugee Compact to life



## Every child has the right to learn

Right now, 3.7 million school-age refugees are not in school. Only 63 per cent are enrolled in primary school, and these statistics become worse as the children get older, with long-lasting repercussions for their lives, as well as for the future of both hosting countries and those

of origin. The reality for hosting communities is also often dire, particularly in the poorest countries, and especially in those affected by conflict. Around the world, UNICEF works in support of national education systems to provide inclusive learning opportunities that prepare

all children and adolescents with the knowledge and skills they need to thrive. This includes making targeted efforts on behalf of children who are excluded on the basis of gender, disability, poverty, ethnicity or language, as well as those displaced or affected by emergencies.

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## Quality inclusive education in Turkey

Turkey hosts the largest number of refugees and asylum-seekers in the world, with the majority of registered refugees being Syrians who have fled the civil war in their country since 2011. Refugee children and young people in Turkey face numerous challenges, especially in education. In 2016, only about 36 per cent of the school-age refugee population was enrolled in school, posing a significant challenge for the education sector to accommodate an unprecedented number

of refugee children. To facilitate their access to formal education, UNICEF collaborated with the Ministry of National Education in strengthening the capacity of education personnel, improving and expanding learning spaces, and supporting students with access to essential supplies. Over a period of three years, the percentage of refugee children attending formal education nearly doubled from 36 per cent of children enrolled in 2016 to 62 per cent enrolled by the end of the 2018–2019 school year.



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## **An Education Response Plan for Uganda**

Over 1 million refugees have fled to Uganda in the past 2½ years, making it the third-largest refugee-hosting country in the world after Turkey and Pakistan. The Education Response Plan for Refugees and Host Communities aims to reach 567,500 refugees and host community learners (targeting those aged 3–24) per year, with \$389 million over 3½ years. Since 2018, gross enrolment has increased, at least 530 new classrooms have been constructed, 936 teachers have been hired, and there is now one textbook for every 10 refugee children – a vast improvement from one book per 51 children previously.

## **Quality non-formal education for uprooted children in Greece**

Refugees and other children on the move face a number of education-related challenges in Greece: they come from more than 20 different countries, with different language and cultural backgrounds; many of them have missed more than three years of education while displaced or due to conflicts and violence; some have never been to school; and some are illiterate in their language of origin. In Greece, UNICEF's Non-Formal Education (NFE) programme in camps and urban settings has benefited 14,676 children and adolescents and 4,155 adults since late 2016. NFE teachers have not only increased efficiency in language learning, school readiness and cognitive development, but they have also enhanced motivation, social-emotional learning, respect for diversity and teamwork.



## Equitable access to education in Syria

Syria and its neighbouring countries are facing one of the largest and most complex humanitarian crises in the world, both in terms of people in need and in terms of internal and external displacements. In partnership with the Education Above All Foundation and its Educate A Child initiative, UNICEF is promoting equitable access to quality learning, as well as self-reliance for children and young people affected

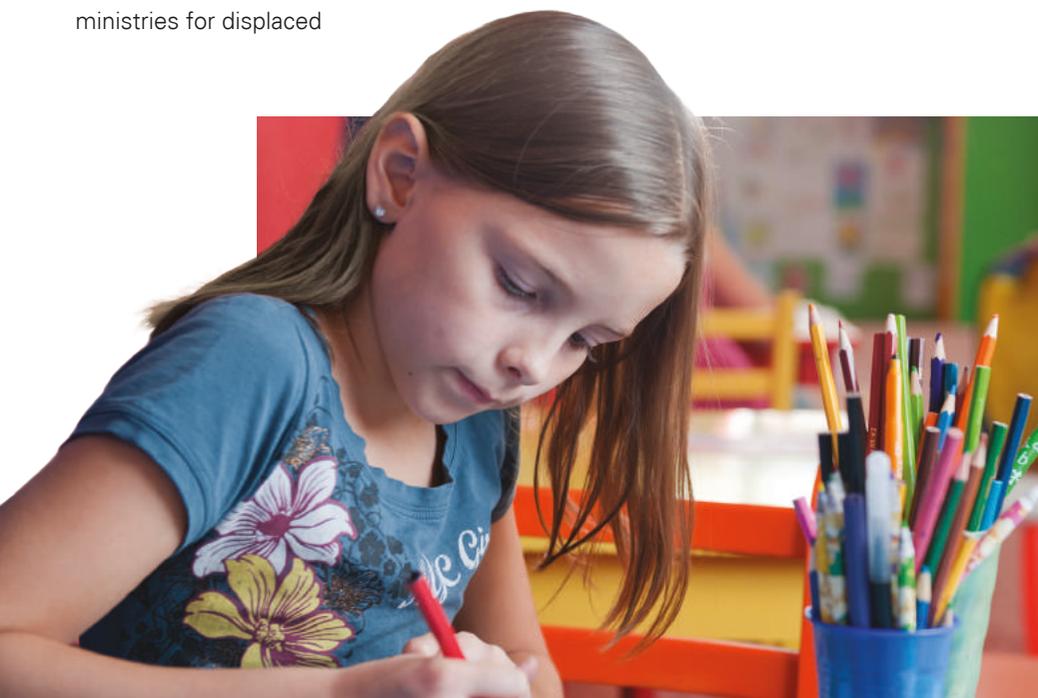
by the crisis in Syria. Since 2018, more than 139,000 out-of-school children have made progress in catching up on the education they have missed by enrolling in two alternative curriculums. UNICEF and its partners have also procured 836,624 textbooks, distributed self-learning materials to 113,200 children in Raqqa, supported the activation of 485 learning spaces, procured 52,000 school bags and recruited 7,097 teachers.

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## Education for children on the move in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Faced with an increasing number of refugee and migrant boys and girls staying in Bosnia and Herzegovina, state institutions, United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations have recognized the need to ensure that greater efforts are made to allow all children to exercise their right to an education. In December 2018, UNICEF reached an agreement with several education ministries for displaced

children's inclusion into primary schools. Activities include development of school plans, capacity development of teachers, monitoring of progress in education, assessment of the current educational status and identification of the areas for additional support children might need while in school. UNICEF is also supporting the state-level Ministry of Civil Affairs in adapting the manual for the inclusion of refugee and migrant children in the public education system in Serbia to the context of Bosnia and Herzegovina.



## The first 1,000 days can shape a child's future

Experiences in the first few years of life have a long-lasting impact on a child, shaping cognitive, language, motor, social and emotional development – in short, what we need to think, solve problems, communicate, express our emotions, build resilience and form relationships. These few short years ultimately affect health, learning and even earnings potential. Investing in early childhood development (ECD) is a cost-effective way to boost shared prosperity, promote

inclusive economic growth, expand opportunity and end intergenerational cycles of poverty. An April 2018 review of 26 active refugee and humanitarian response plans revealed that, compared with the ECD interventions recommended by the United Nations Nurturing Care Framework, the plans included on average only 58 per cent of the nutrition elements, 24 per cent of the safety and security elements, 22 per cent of the health elements, 10 per cent of the responsive-care

elements, and 9 per cent of the early learning elements needed for nurturing care. Governments need to take action to ensure that access to ECD services is fully granted for all children affected by crisis and displacement, including both refugee and host populations. Through tools such as the ECD kit for emergencies, UNICEF is already working with partners from the business community, governments and NGOs around this urgent need.

### Delivering early childhood development in Uganda and Kenya

An example of collaborating to create real change can be found in Uganda and Kenya, where Latter-day Saint Charities is supporting UNICEF's programmes for refugees and host communities as part of a multiyear programme called Learning for Life. To date, the initiative has reached 36,741 children. In Uganda, UNICEF added 213 new classrooms in 45 ECD centres and piloted

and scaled a parenting education programme that reached 8,161 parents, who were also trained on how to make toy kits using sustainable, local materials. In Kenya, UNICEF constructed six semi-permanent ECD structures, renovated 29 ECD centres, and built the capacity of 791 ECD teachers and 1,599 parents. These activities benefited both host and refugee communities, promoting their self-reliance as well as inclusion and integration.



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## Limitless education without borders

Worldwide, at least 175 million children are not enrolled in pre-primary education. The Sustainable Development Goal for education sets a clear objective to address this gap through Target 4.2: 'All girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so they are ready for primary school.' While we are still millions of children away from making this happen, UNICEF is working with the Global Partnership for

Education and UNESCO's International Institute for Educational Planning, based on a common vision to support national policy-makers and partners who need to make key decisions that will move the needle. The result is a new (and free) online course: 'Mainstreaming Early Childhood Education into Education Sector Planning'. This massive open online course is the first to cover integrated holistic planning specifically for pre-primary education, building capacity at the right technical level to make a difference.

## Cash transfers to expand early childhood access in Jordan

In Jordan, 47 per cent of Syrian refugees are children. According to official statistics from the Ministry of Education, 62.2 per cent of children in the country attend licensed KG2 (kindergarten through grade 2) classes, with a significant gap between Jordanian and Syrian children (67.8 and 11.2 per cent in school, respectively). To meet the educational needs of Syrian refugee children, UNICEF and the Ministry

of Education piloted the Hajati-KG2 programme in 2019. The programme aims at improving access to KG2 by means of non-conditional cash transfers and has thus far supported 512 families, also providing transportation vouchers and social assistance for the most vulnerable. According to UNICEF's preliminary analysis, 74 per cent of the beneficiary families (367 children) enrolled and attended KG2. Of these, almost all households (98.5 per cent) were refugees, mostly Syrians.



## Protecting refugee children from violence, exploitation and abuse

The dangers and desperation that drive children to leave their homes and communities expose them to many risks along their journeys, including violence, exploitation and human trafficking. The risks are compounded by inadequate and discriminatory practices such as immigration detention, social exclusion, and lack of access to basic services, including education and healthcare, throughout their journeys. UNICEF adopts a route-based approach to

strengthen protection and support for children with an extensive network it has developed through its work in 193 countries. This approach begins with strengthening national child protection systems to protect the rights and needs of all children within their borders. The child protection system then works across various sectors – including justice, health, education and social services – at the community, local and national levels, guided by relevant legislation

and policy to prevent and respond to violence against children. UNICEF links development and humanitarian responses to implement child protection services, including building the capacity of the social service workforce, strengthening case management to meet the needs of children, promoting birth registration, delivering mental health and psychosocial support services, and dismantling gender-related barriers for refugee women and children.

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## Child protection mechanisms in Rwanda

Despite efforts made by the Rwandan Government, such as the inclusion of refugees in its basic service systems, the Mahama refugee camp faced a lack of coordination between child protection actors inside and outside the camp, as well as a general lack of capacity in the social workforce. UNICEF stepped in to coordinate in-camp and out-of-camp child protection actors, as well as to strengthen the capacity

of the social workforce and paraprofessionals to provide adequate support to refugee children and young people. Capacity building reached all social workers and psychologists at the district level, who then provided hands-on supervisory support to community-based child protection volunteers in relevant districts, further enhancing the local capacity. This practice is sustainable, as it is embedded in the existing national child protection system.





## Centres for social welfare in Bosnia and Herzegovina

In 2018, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina with the development of the Guidelines for Centres for Social Welfare on child protection referral pathways for refugee and migrant children, as well as standard operating procedures for Centres for Social Welfare on the care of vulnerable refugee and migrant children. In 2018 and 2019, UNICEF, in partnership with the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Policy and Save the Children, built the capacity of national actors involved in the child protection response to improve their knowledge and skills in implementing

and monitoring child protection standards, providing psychological first aid, and supporting best interests determination. Of particular note is the support for deployment of additional professionals to the Centres for Social Welfare, which were overburdened with the increased caseload. These capacity-building efforts and support for enhancing the regulatory framework contributed to some 5,000 children in the period from June 2018 to August 2019 benefitting from quality support and improved protection standards. These benefits include faster appointment of legal guardianships, referral to reception facilities/shelter, case management, and mental health and psycho-social support.

## Birth registration for refugees in Ethiopia

Ethiopia has one of the lowest rates of civil registration, including birth registration, in the world. Only 3 per cent of children under 5 are registered by civil authorities at birth. In 2012, legislation was passed in Ethiopia to address the low levels of civil registration in the country. This proclamation, however, did not include stipulations for refugees. In 2017 and 2019, revisions were made to extend the scope of eligibility of registration services to include refugees and other non-nationals living in Ethiopia. Through advocacy efforts, as well as the construction of 'one-stop shops' expected to speed up the issuance of legal identity documents for refugees, UNICEF and UNHCR have aimed to uphold the fundamental rights of refugees and Ethiopian citizens to own valid identity documents, register their civil events and access a range of complementary services.

## A guardianship system in Italy

Italian Law 47/2017 included a model of voluntary guardianship services integrated into the existing system of reception and protection for migrant and refugee children. Under the law, volunteer guardians are citizens who are appointed in coordination with the Juvenile Courts, trained by the Regional Ombudspersons and monitored by the National Ombudsperson. To support the operationalization of the law, UNICEF invested in establishing a Guardian Support and Monitoring Office within the Ombudsperson's facility in Palermo, Sicily. In 2018, UNICEF opened two additional offices in Palermo and expanded the initiative into other regions (Calabria, Latium and Sardinia). During the first half of 2019, around 228 guardians supported a total of 286 unaccompanied minors. This model is now being integrated into the national system for supporting guardians.

## Community-based services delivery in Turkey

UNICEF established a comprehensive partnership framework with municipalities, NGOs and other partners to enhance delivery of community-based services for vulnerable children in Turkey through a network of safe spaces, community centres, outreach services and mobile teams in 32 provinces. From January to June 2019, almost 70,000 children benefited from structured psycho-social support programmes. Through other child protection services, 64,317 refugee children were identified and assessed – including 1,966 children with disabilities – of whom 46,835 were referred to specialized care services and 17,750 received specialized support and assistance. And through a collaboration between UNICEF and the Ministry of Youth and Sport, 1,543 children and adolescents in 35 youth centres were also screened by specialized personnel and received counselling services from a pool of UNICEF-supported psychologists.

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## Independent living for unaccompanied teens in Greece

The national child protection system in Greece has been struggling to cope with the growing number of unaccompanied and separated minors arriving in the country. Medium-sized residential shelters – hosting on average 25 to 30 children each – have been the primary model of care. However, demand continues to outpace supply, even though shelter accommodation capacity nearly tripled in the past four years. With UNICEF’s support, the first-ever supported independent living accommodation pilot scheme for minors aged 16-plus was implemented in January 2018 by Greek NGO METAdrasi to respond to the need to support unaccompanied adolescents close to reaching adulthood. So far, 33 teens have been accommodated in supported independent living. These minors are better responding to small-scale, community-based and holistic care provided in such living arrangements, greatly reducing the number of runaways.



## Including refugee children in child protection systems in Mauritania

Mauritania hosts nearly 55,000 people who have fled Mali; nearly 60 per cent are children and young people. At the Mbera camp, humanitarian actors working in the Child Protection Working Group, chaired by UNHCR and UNICEF, established a programme to promote the inclusion of refugee children in national systems

and host communities and to enhance their self-reliance. By August 2019, 433 people, including 189 women, had been trained to identify and manage the cases of 1,448 vulnerable children identified at Mbera camp. This list includes community facilitators, health and care workers, members of the community network for child protection, teachers, women’s associations and humanitarian staff.

## Water under fire

When one thinks of conflict, water and sanitation might not be the first things that come to mind. But in fragile and conflict-affected areas, access to safe water is often compromised: People are displaced into areas with limited or no services, infrastructure gets damaged or goes into decline, pipelines fall into disrepair, and simple tasks such as water collection and personal hygiene become dangerous. Without access to safe water and sanitation services, children fall ill, schools and hospitals do

not function, and there is increased risk of disease and malnutrition. In refugee and displacement contexts, children and young people are particularly vulnerable. UNICEF works to provide access to safe water and sanitation services, as well as to encourage safe hygiene practices, while advocating to ensure the inclusion of refugees into national systems as the only sustainable and most cost-efficient solution.



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## **A water utility in Ethiopia**

More than 99 per cent of refugees in Ethiopia originate from South Sudan, Somalia, Eritrea and Sudan. Most of the refugees are accommodated in 26 refugee camps, which have limited basic services and opportunities and depend largely on humanitarian assistance. Ongoing conflict, along with food insecurity, has led more than 309,000 refugees to the Gambella region bordering South Sudan. With a population of 436,000, the

region's resources and infrastructures are being increasingly stressed by this refugee influx. In 2014, UNICEF launched an ambitious project to provide a sustainable supply of safe, clean water to both refugee and host communities in Gambella, through a permanent distribution scheme. Thanks to the water utility, three refugee camps (180,000 people, approximately 64 per cent of them children) and host communities (30,000 people) receive water through a more sustainable management model.

## **A water network in Jordan**

UNICEF successfully completed the construction of new water and wastewater networks in Za'atari refugee camp in Jordan. The aim was to provide a more sustainable flow of clean water and safe sanitation to improve the lives of the nearly

80,000 people living in the camp, including 45,000 children and young people. By October 2018, all 14,363 households in the camp were connected to the wastewater network, resulting in the safe disposal and management of all wastewater generated by the households.

## A water treatment plant in Ecuador

Rumichaca is the major border point between Ecuador and Venezuela. The crisis in the latter has caused a significant increase in the number of people crossing the border daily, with peak crossings of 5,500 people per day. This put significant pressure on sanitation services available in the transit centres. As Rumichaca was not equipped with a water treatment unit, it was discharging grey water directly into the

environment. At the request of the Government of Ecuador to improve sanitation facilities in Rumichaca, UNICEF mobilized resources and partners to resolve this with the construction of a water treatment plant. Thanks to this initiative, direct discharge of residual water into the environment will be reduced by 75 per cent. A second phase is currently being designed for the purpose of reaching 100 per cent treatment of residual water at the Rumichaca border point.



## Water, sanitation and hygiene capacity in Guyana

Over the past year, Guyana has experienced an influx of Venezuelans seeking refuge from economic and political instability. Many are migrating to the capital city, Georgetown, or to communities near the Guyana-Venezuelan border. Barima-Waini is one of the regions receiving most of the newcomers. There

UNICEF has worked with partner Guyana Water Inc. to implement water supply and storage, sanitation and hygiene promotion interventions through community consultations. These interventions have targeted six host communities in the Barima-Waini region, touching 4,540 people, 1,106 of whom are migrants and 442 children.

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## Towards a bolder vision

UNICEF works with partners and governments around the world to expand work that drives progress across multiple key focus areas, which include education, child protection, health, nutrition, WASH, disability, gender, youth and community engagement. The power of combining focus areas allows us to work with refugees and

host communities more holistically as they navigate the trauma of becoming displaced during conflict. It is also a critical element towards long-term, systemic change. The following good practices showcase our work that best exemplifies the holistic implementation of our programming.



### Conditional cash transfers for refugee child education in Turkey

In 2017, UNICEF partnered with the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services; the Ministry of National Education; and the Turkish Red Crescent Society to launch the Conditional Cash Transfer for Education

programme for refugee children in Turkey. The programme provides regular cash payments to vulnerable refugee children to encourage school enrolment, improve school attendance and reduce dropout rates. The programme expanded significantly in 2018 and the first half of 2019.

By June 2019, nearly 511,500 refugee children had benefited. The child protection component of the programme reached over 67,000 children (49 per cent girls) and referred 6,250 children (43 per cent girls) with medium/high protection risks to specialized services.

## Integrating refugee response into district planning in Uganda

In Uganda, to which more than 1 million refugees have fled in the past 2½ years, UNICEF set out to embed refugee response in the regular planning cycle of local governments. UNICEF's process and guidance drew on traditional local government planning guidelines, as well as the UNICEF global results-based management materials. UNICEF supported workshops for results-based management and inclusive planning in all refugee hosting districts, provided technical support and guidance, conducted mappings, managed partnerships,

and coordinated and oversaw several activities. All districts that participated in the workshops were able to prepare local council resolutions and recommendations to integrate refugee response contingency needs in their development plans, budget estimates and mid-term reviews. Districts have also adjusted administrative monitoring and reporting frameworks to include refugee data. They are now able to access time-bound humanitarian support once it has been integrated in their annual plans; this implies that critical support can now be provided flexibly through government financing mechanisms to cover both immediate and recovery needs.





### **Self-reliance through basic social services in Ethiopia**

UNICEF's four-year (2017–2020) programme for Basic Social Services in Ethiopia aims at meeting the crucial needs of vulnerable communities by strengthening government and community systems, building capacity, and enhancing efficiency through strengthening linkages in services across refugees and host communities. Funded by UK Aid, the programme is providing basic services so refugee and host communities can live in harmony and prosper

together. The programme intends to provide more than 600,000 children – from both refugee camps and host communities – with access to quality education and sustainable sources of potable water. It is also strengthening service delivery in nutrition, health and child protection.

## No lost generation

The No Lost Generation initiative is a regional-level multi-stakeholder partnership co-led by UNICEF, Mercy Corps, Save the Children and World Vision, aiming to advocate to governments and humanitarian decision makers on the need for investments and policy shifts in the areas of education, child protection, and adolescents and youth. NLG was launched in 2013

## Assessing multidimensional poverty in Uganda

An assessment conducted by the Economic Policy Research Centre, in collaboration with UNICEF, Cardiff University and the Uganda Bureau of Statistics, was the first-ever attempt to use a consensus-based approach to compare the situation of multidimensional poverty among host and refugee communities in Uganda. By defining the needs of children in both communities, this survey will help the Government better respond to them. The data was obtained from sites in the districts of Arua, Yumbe,

to focus attention on the plight of children and youth affected by the Syria and Iraq crises and is now in its third phase, which will cover 2019–2022. A 2019 independent evaluation of NLG found that it had been highly effective, raising awareness and generating political will behind a common call for investment in the future. The evaluation also found that the initiative seemed to have positively influenced funding; the

levels and absolute sums of funding for education and child protection in NLG countries tend to be much higher. The effects of NLG are most easily discerned in the education sector, where had it not been for the unprecedented levels of investment made, an additional 2 million children would now be out of school in the Syria crisis-affected countries.

Adjumani, Kamwenge, Isingiro and Kampala. The exercise clarified the understanding of UNICEF and its partners around child poverty and deprivation by demonstrating a clear consensus across respondents about what constitutes an acceptable standard of living, with few differences between hosts and refugees. Using more conventional indicators of basic needs deprivation (for water, sanitation and shelter), the analysis showed that there are high rates of deprivation across all respondents, but particularly among those in the West Nile and South West refugee populations.





## Integrating refugee data into the Uganda equity atlas

Leveraging the Ugandan Government's commitment to promote transparency and accountability in the use of public funds, the Uganda Equity Atlas is a joint effort with UNICEF that aims to monitor the effective delivery of national programmes affecting children. This initiative provides a clear blueprint of where public resources are reducing socio-economic inequalities among children and adolescents and improving their lives – and where they are not. The information on the Atlas

provides an opportunity to understand information on the level of progress made by the districts in improving social outcomes. By including refugee population data, the Atlas provides comprehensive information on the overall population as well. This can help districts budget and plan resources to cover the overall population, including refugees. The information will feed into service-delivery analyses for each sector to ensure that refugees also benefit from basic social services, promoting more inclusive service delivery.

## Information Feedback Centres in Bangladesh's Rohingya camps

Extreme violence and persecution in Myanmar's Rakhine State have caused more than 900,000 Rohingya people – an ethnic and religious minority – to flee their homes. The majority fled across the border into Bangladesh. When Rohingya refugees began arriving in Bangladesh in August 2017, they had limited knowledge of what services were available or how to access them. By the end of August 2019, UNICEF had established 120 Information Feedback Centres (IFCs) in the Rohingya camps. Run by various United Nations agencies and NGOs, the IFCs have strengthened accountability to affected populations by improving information dissemination, service delivery, and feedback about lifesaving behaviours and practices. As of October 2019, more than 136,000 pieces of community feedback, queries, complaints and visitors to the IFCs had been recorded.

# In action with our partners for every child uprooted

Looking at the dimensions of the refugee challenge, one thing is clear: No one can tackle it alone. Hosting countries need the solidarity and support of the international community,

and within each country, a 'whole of society' approach is needed if we want to make a real difference in the lives of those seeking asylum and their receiving communities.

Looking at the scale of the refugee challenge, one thing is clear: No one can tackle it alone. Hosting countries need the solidarity and support of the international community, and within each country a 'whole of society' approach is needed if we want to make a real difference in the lives of those seeking asylum and their receiving communities.

UNICEF believes partnerships and collaborative relationships are critical to deliver results for children and to realize their rights. We work with a broad range of partners all over the world: governments, the private sector, civil society

organizations, United Nations agencies and, more importantly, affected communities, including children and young people themselves.

Starting within the framework of the One UN, UNICEF is working closely with UNHCR, as well as with other United Nations agencies, to jointly contribute to the objectives of the Global Refugee Compact. UNICEF and UNHCR are reorganizing their responsibilities to support refugee children more efficiently and effectively.

UNICEF works in close partnership with governments, supporting





them in the diagnosis of the major issues affecting children and young people, the formulation of policies and programmes to promote their rights, and the strengthening of the systems and workforce needed to bring them all to life. In the context of the Global Refugee Compact, UNICEF is uniquely equipped to contribute to building and strengthening the link between the much-needed humanitarian response to an ongoing refugee crisis and longer-term development solutions, including the gradual inclusion of refugee children into strengthened national systems.

The case of Ethiopia, explained in the previous section, is particularly interesting, as it portrays the collaboration of the second-largest refugee-hosting country in Africa with the support of a donor government - UK Aid. Another exciting example is the newly launched PROSPECTS partnership. Under the leadership of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the partnership brings together five agencies – UNICEF, UNHCR, ILO, IFC and the World Bank – to try to shift the paradigm from a humanitarian to a development approach in responding to displacement-related crises. All partners

are working together to promote education, protection and employment for refugee and host communities in eight countries in northern and eastern Africa and the Middle East.

UNICEF also works with the private sector in support of children's rights around the world. We are particularly proud of the increasing commitment of many companies to put their resources and expertise at the service of refugee and host communities. For example, Microsoft launched a partnership with UNICEF to address the education crisis affecting displaced

and refugee children and to ensure that they are protected from harm and exploitation. Microsoft will support UNICEF and partners to implement a digital case management system, Primero, to help social workers protect children worldwide; and, in collaboration with UNICEF and partners, will develop, adapt and mobilize the Learning Passport, a digital platform aimed at ensuring access to quality recognized learning in national systems.

Our work in promoting early childhood development is another example of the

ongoing collaboration with a wide range of partners. The practises in Uganda and Kenya reflected in this brochure speak to the critical role of faith-based organizations, such as Latter-day Saint Charities, in support of early childhood development and education programmes for refugees and host communities. Equally strategic is the involvement of private-sector partners that have a particular expertise and shared commitment in this field, such as the LEGO Foundation. Together, we have introduced play as a form of





psycho-social support for refugee children. Around 500,000 vulnerable and conflict-affected children in Iraq, Jordan, Ukraine and Egypt have been supported with child practitioner trainings and in-kind contributions of LEGO play materials.

Sesame Workshop also shares UNICEF's commitment to promote ECD for young children and caregivers, with an emphasis on reaching and supporting parents. We are aligned in our child-centred approach to programming and collaborate on joint advocacy, including

amplifying the visibility of ECD – particularly in emergencies – at high-level forums. To better pursue our shared goals, we leverage the respective strengths of each organization – namely, Sesame's multimedia content capacities and UNICEF's established expertise and global network, along with the #EarlyMomentsMatter campaign – to promote playful learning and parenting experiences to families in key geographies for refugee and migrant children. We hope to strengthen and expand the scope of this collaboration.

Another exciting example in the field of WASH is the collaboration with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in Lebanon, working together to identify and implement innovative technological solutions to treat wastewater generated by and discharged from informal settlements, which can serve as a model practice to improve global humanitarian responses in similar contexts.

All these partners are critical in helping us deliver our work. But we could do

nothing without the most important of them all: the affected communities themselves, including children and young people. Whether refugees, asylum-seekers, displaced people or members of the host community, they are loudly asking for their views and experiences to be considered. UNICEF is firmly committed to supporting them in this endeavour and is partnering with – and investing in – children and young people.



The journey is like a book: You open it while you start walking. The best things the journey taught me is how to deal with difficult situations and how to survive.



*17-year-old boy, Afghanistan*

UNICEF works in some of the world's toughest places to reach the world's most disadvantaged children. Across more than 190 countries and territories, we work for every child, everywhere, to build a better world for everyone. For more information about UNICEF and its work on behalf of children, visit [www.unicef.org](http://www.unicef.org).



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