



The difference we make
Middle East and Eurasia Regional Office
Annual Report, 2014



Save the Children

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In May 2014 the North West Balkans were hit with devastating floods which affected 1.5 million people in Bosnia and Herzegovina and 1.6 million in Serbia. Jovica, 3 years old, stands outside his flooded home at the Ivana Ribara Roma settlement in Serbia. Located next to the river Sava, the settlement was submerged in minutes as the river burst its banks. The settlement's residents had to resort to building new homes on higher ground from any materials that could be salvaged or sleeping in the back of vans and cars until the water subsided and they could return to the shells of homes that survived.

At Khazar transit camp in Iraq, a Save the Children Child Protection Officer who is a Syrian refugee himself, plays with Iraqi children who have been displaced in the midst of a sandstorm as they wait for a safe area to be opened just for them.



Report authored by Georgina Sword-Daniels and Simine Alam
Cover photo: Evan Schuurman/Save the Children
Back cover photo: Rosie Thompson/Save the Children
Other photos as credited.
All names have been changed to protect identities.



Karl Schembri/Save the Children



Meg Pruce/Save the Children

Introduction

2014 was yet another tumultuous year for the Middle East and parts of Eastern Europe. The ongoing crisis in Syria continued to dominate regional attention, with the sheer scale of the calamity almost impossible to comprehend. Various landmark dates came and went - the three year anniversary of the conflict, reaching three million refugees, more than ten million displaced from their homes - but the crisis continued. Sadly, Syria is not an isolated crisis but one part of a broader Middle East in crisis. Early in the year we saw major displacement due to events in Anbar province in southern Iraq. It was only in the middle of the year with the ISIS sweep into Mosul and other parts of Iraq and the formation of a caliphate spanning parts of Syria and Iraq that global attention focused on this group. Clearly the emergence of ISIS has been encouraged by the indecision, inaction and incompetence seen from the International Community in dealing with both Iraq and Syria. While not underestimating the impact of ISIS, the depth of the crisis in the region clearly surpasses the part played by this one grouping, and increased focus should be placed on other causes of suffering.

Almost predictably, we again saw another war in Gaza; the third since 2008/2009. Over 51 days, Palestinian children were once again traumatized, killed and injured in even greater numbers during the Israeli operation. The blockade that predated the conflict and which is still in place today means that Gaza remains a territory without hope. Unless we see clear and decisive action on the blockade and the ongoing Israeli occupation of Palestine, conflict and despair will continue indefinitely.

War was not restricted to the Middle East, with Ukraine becoming a major flashpoint in Eastern Europe. The numbers affected by the crisis were continuing to rise during the year. While the conflict in Ukraine was serious enough, clearly there are dangerous signs for other parts of Eastern Europe given the number of conflicts which have remained "frozen" over the past decade but which could easily escalate in the coming years. Natural disasters were also a feature of our region

during the year. The Balkans, in particularly Bosnia-Herzegovina, were hit by widespread flooding. Unnaturally cold winter storms also swept through the Middle East, making conditions for refugees and those internally displaced within Syria incredibly difficult.

Despite the scale of the conflicts and natural disasters, I was profoundly impressed by the work of our partners and staff. Indeed what was most satisfying was our ability as Save the Children to respond at significant scale across the region, while continuing with our longer-term development work. 2014 saw many of our country offices working at a scale unprecedented in the region. Jordan, Lebanon and Syria offices all saw significant increases in their programs. During the year, the Regional Office continued to grow in size and scope. We are now able to provide more direct support to emerging crises: for example establishing a program in Ukraine; but also assisting in increasing programmatic quality via the technical support on offer in areas such as partnership, engaging with young people, child protection and education. During the year, we established the position of Eurasia Director. In addition to the support that was provided to the country programmes in Eastern Europe, the position was able to begin to commence the development of common programmatic approaches in the sub-region. I am keen to see how our programmatic expertise developed during the past two decades in Eastern Europe can contribute to Save the Children globally.

The pages that follow provide an insight into the work we do in the most difficult of circumstances. While at times the heartache of our region can seem overwhelming, I hope that exciting work from our colleagues across 15 countries continues to provide hope.

Roger Hearn

Middle East and Eurasia Regional Director
Save the Children

With less than 20% of the estimated 460,000 plus Syrian refugee children in Lebanon enrolled in school in 2014, Save the Children's priority was to provide education programmes. Through our Back to School programme, we supported the enrollment of Syrian children in Lebanese public schools, either in 'first shifts' or 'second shifts,' through covering tuition, stationary, uniforms, books, transport and other costs. First shifts are the original teaching hours at public schools, and are open to Lebanese, Syrian and other students who were enrolled in school last year. Second shifts are classes that run in the afternoon, created specifically to enroll Syrian students and which follow a slightly shortened version of the Lebanese curriculum in Arabic.



8.2 million children reached in 2014 in 15 countries.

Key Middle East and Eurasia highlights in 2014:

- 4.4 million people reached directly*, including 2.7 million children
- 11.7 million people reached in total* including 8.2 million children
- Over US\$273 million spent on programmes to help the most vulnerable people across the region

Our History in the Middle East and Eurasia

- 1953: Save the Children opened our first office in the region, in Lebanon
- 1990: We began working in Eurasia following the fall of the Soviet Union
- 2010: We established our regional office, split between Istanbul and Amman staffed by 13 people
- 2013: We unified our regional office in Amman, with an expanded role to provide support to our existing country programmes and our regional response to the Syria crisis.
- 2014: The Regional office oversees 15 countries and 12 emergency responses across the region with 2,404 staff across the region.

*We make every effort to collect complete and accurate data even in the most difficult of operating environments. Direct reach refers to someone who received assistance from us or who participated in one of our programs. For example, someone who attended a class run by Save the Children on hygiene is a direct beneficiary. Indirect reach includes: people who benefited indirectly from our programmes. For example, if the person who attended our hygiene course then taught their family to wash their hands before eating, their family members are indirect beneficiaries. Total reach included people who benefitted directly and indirectly from our work.

Save the Children: an overview

Save the Children is the world's leading independent organisation for children.

Witnessing firsthand the devastating impact that World War I was having on children, Eglantyne Jebb and her sister Dorothy Buxton founded Save the Children in 1919 to do just that: save children. In 2014 Save the Children delivered emergency humanitarian aid and development programmes in more than 120 countries around the world.

Eglantyne and Dorothy's principles remain with us today through our five core organisational values; Ambition, Accountability, Collaboration, Creativity, and Integrity.

Save the Children in the Middle East and Eurasia

2014 witnessed another year of growth for the organisation in the MEE region and during the year we launched four additional responses to large-scale crises: in Iraq (following the displacement in Anbar and later Mosul), in Gaza (following Operation Protective Edge), in Ukraine (following the outbreak of conflict in the east of the country) and in the North West Balkans (in response to large-scale flooding in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia). Responding to rapidly escalating humanitarian crises meant our staffing levels across the region expanded from 1,474 national staff and 91 international staff at the end of 2013 to 2,265 national staff and 139 international staff by the end of 2014. Our total operating budget has gone from \$63m in 2012 to \$173m in 2013 to \$236.8m in 2014 and in 2014 our programs reached over four million people directly.



Save the Children

The Regional Office

The MEE Region has 12 Country Offices implementing programmes in 15 different countries with a Regional Office based in Amman, Jordan which was established in August 2013. The past year has seen the growth of the regional office from 33 members of staff at the end of 2013, to 56 members of staff at the end of 2014.

Key Highlights from 2014:

- The Regional Office advised and provided technical support to 9 country offices on logistical issues, including supporting countries to develop and embed logistics manuals into their operations.
- We carried out 19 deployments to 13 countries to provide technical support on Monitoring and Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL), Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), partnerships, child protection, education and youth. We supported more than 800 staff across the region with trainings and technical support.
- We developed a regional MEAL framework for the Middle East and Eurasia with inputs from all countries in the region and supported 10 countries with training in MEAL.
- Our newly developed Partnership Management Training Course was rolled out to 11 countries in the Middle East and Eurasia.
- The regional rollout of Psychological First Aid for child practitioners reached 349 persons from Jordan, Syria, Turkey, Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, the occupied Palestinian territory and Armenia.
- We carried out a regional mapping of Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Egypt and Syria.
- We developed a Regional Resilience Strategy for 2015 – 2018 and engaged 12 Country Offices, Save the Children members in the process. We also established a regional task force in Disaster Risk Reduction, represented by 12 Country Offices in the region.
- We scaled up our collaboration with the League of Arab States on child-centred Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in member states and provided in-country support to 4 Country Offices in DRR programming and implementation.
- We facilitated a partnership with the Women's Refugee Commission to pilot a tool to better reach adolescent girls in emergencies.
- We supported the roll out of the new Save the Children Gender Toolkit
- We successfully incorporated Emergency Preparedness Plans for 10 Country Offices

- We led Emergency Foundation Courses for 54 members of staff in country offices and partner organisations.
- We provided support for 5 new humanitarian responses: Iraq, oPt, Kobane, North West Balkans and Ukraine.
- We carried out 14 deployments in 8 country offices to support on Advocacy, Media and Communications.
- We reached 98 members of staff through trainings across the region in media, advocacy and communications.
- We developed a 5-year vision for Save the Children's role in Middle-Income Countries (MIC) defining the purpose and added value of our operations in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus.
- We successfully implemented numerous advocacy initiatives and campaigns with the participation of children across Eurasia raising public awareness on child rights.
- The Administration team successfully moved us into a new office to accommodate the increased number of staff members, and organized more than 50 workshops locally and regionally.

Our Vision:

A world in which every child attains the right to survival, protection, development and participation.

Our Mission:

To inspire breakthroughs in the way the world treats children and to achieve immediate and lasting change in their lives.



Ahmad Baroudi/Save the Children

How we do what we do

Our goals:

• Health & Nutrition:

No child under five dies from preventable causes and public attitudes will not tolerate high levels of child deaths.

• Education:

All children can read by the time they leave primary school; and children caught up in humanitarian crises have access to quality education.

• Child Protection:

All children thrive in a safe family environment and no child is placed in harmful institutions.

• Child Rights Governance:

All children, especially the poorest, benefit from greater public investment and better use of society's resources in realising their rights.

Our Theory of Change:

We are the innovator. We develop and provide evidence-based, replicable breakthrough solutions to problems facing children.

We achieve results at scale. We support effective implementation of best practices, programmes and policies for children, leveraging our knowledge to ensure sustainable impact at scale.

We are the voice of change. We advocate and campaign for better practices and policies to fulfill children's rights and to ensure that children's voices are heard (particularly those children most marginalised or living in poverty).

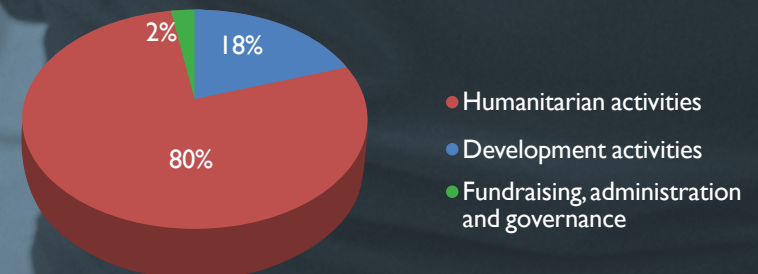
We build partnerships. We collaborate with children, civil society organisations, communities, government and the private sector to share knowledge, influence others and build capacity to ensure children's rights are met.

Save the Children is a full spectrum organisation.

We undertake:

- Humanitarian and Emergency Response Work
- Development Work

Save the Children spending by activity, Middle East and Eurasia, 2014



Nothing is more fundamental to our work than empowering children. Children are our partners in planning, implementation and accountability.

We work within communities and so we also work with communities. Partnerships are central to everything we do, and so when we implement a program it is a whole of community effort and not the passive receivership of aid.

Save the Children not only helps children directly, we also work with partners, families, communities, schools, state institutions, civil society and governments to benefit children.



Sisters Hala and Kalila take their filled water bottles back to their family who were sheltering in an UNRWA school shelter during Israel's military operation on the Gaza Strip. Save the Children worked with a local partner to distribute 4,000 litres of drinking water each day. Hala said "We just want to live our childhood."

The Middle East



Khalil Ashawi/Save the Children

“When we first came to this village there was no school but then Save the Children opened this school and I started to come here. Education is so important and the nice thing about this school is that I am learning a lot of things.”— Zaid, 9 years old who was forced to leave his home in Idlib 3 years ago due to the conflict and now lives in a village in northern Syria.

In 2014 we reached 4.1 million individuals directly, including 2.5 million children, and 7.6 million individuals in total across the Middle East.

Overview

Save the Children has been present in the Middle East since 1953. We have a long history of both humanitarian and development work in this complex region with a history of conflict. We operate seven country offices in the Middle East – Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Yemen, Egypt and the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) – serving a population of some 181 million people.

In 2014 the Syrian conflict and consequential refugee influx continued to escalate. More than one million people fled the crisis to neighbouring countries in 2014 and by October 2014 12.2 million people were declared in need of assistance inside Syria alone. We responded across the region with the provision of vital, often life-saving aid, to the millions in need; reaching children and their families inside Syria, those who had fled, and host communities and neighbouring countries struggling to support large numbers of refugees.



2014 also saw the regional manifestation of the ongoing crisis in Syria with the large-scale displacement of civilians in Iraq – more than 2.1 million Iraqis were displaced by the end of the year. Additionally in 2014, the occupied Palestinian territory was affected by operation Protective Edge, which cost the lives of over 1,500 civilians, including 538 children, in the Gaza strip and destroyed or damaged the homes of over 20,000 people.

The Middle Eastern Context in 2014:

- The complexity of the Syria crisis, including the escalating number of refugees (approximately 3.7 million registered Syrian refugees by the end of 2014) in the region, required us to continue our regional response involving six countries. In addition to the emergency response we advocated on key issues related to the crisis, including humanitarian access to affected populations in Syria and protection concerns in both Syria and refugee-hosting countries.
- The long-term protection crises in Yemen and oPt worsened, due to conflict in both countries, affecting millions of people. In response to this we launched emergency responses in the Gaza strip and scaled up our emergency response in Yemen.
- Adding to the already complex humanitarian crisis in Iraq caused by years of conflict and the Syria refugee influx, in January 2014 Armed Opposition Groups caused massive displacement in Anbar governorate, followed by another round of violence in June which led to an even bigger displacement of people into the Kurdish Region of Iraq from in and around Mosul.

Syria

Response type: conflict

Results: 554,554 total beneficiaries inside Syria

Budget: US\$33.7 million



The situation in Syria continued to deteriorate in 2014, further escalating the humanitarian crisis inside the country and in the region. In October the UN declared that 12.2 million people were in need of assistance, 7.6 million were displaced inside the country and in August the three millionth registered refugee arrived in the region. By September 4,465 schools had been destroyed or were being used as shelters, jeopardizing access to education for millions of children and serving as just one example of the devastating impact of the conflict on civilian infrastructure.

Despite the enormous, and increasing, challenges and dangers of gaining access to affected populations inside Syria, Save the Children worked to provide a multi-sectoral response offering education, child protection, healthcare, water and sanitation, food security, non-food items and shelter to over half a million individuals in the country in 2014.

Key Highlights from 2014:

- We reached 26,826 children across 8 Early Childhood Care and Development Centres and provided comprehensive support to 49 learning spaces across three governorates
- We refurbished five health facilities through which 63,892 patient consultations were provided addressing both life-saving and preventative health service requirements

- We provided five rounds of polio vaccination covering 248,709 children under the age of five
- We provided ongoing assistance to 4,191 children who attended our activities at 15 fixed and mobile CFS sites
- We distributed more than 87,000 food baskets to more than 172,628 individuals across 199 locations
- We reached 63,452 people with our water, sanitation and hygiene programming which included assisting populations in 47 sites to improve their access to a safe water supply and carrying out sanitation and hygiene promotion in 42 sites
- We distributed over 17,000 household kits during 3 months in 2013/2014, reaching 106,000 individuals

**NB: All the above activities were carried out with support from our partners*



Mohammed, 8 months old, has been brought to a health clinic supported by Save the Children because he has been suffering from flu. His mother regularly brings him to the clinic for his check-ups and to get any treatment he needs. Save the Children rehabilitated the health clinic and it now treats 240 patients a day. This clinic is one of five that Save the Children and our partner run, that provide around 131,000 people with access to essential healthcare.

Programme Spotlight on Education in Syria

“One day armed men came into the school and started shooting, and after that my mother said I could not go to school anymore,” says Nagham, 9, from Syria

In September Save the Children launched the report **“Futures under Threat”** to shine a light on the scale and extent of the education crisis for the children of Syria. Education has a catalytic effect on children’s well-being, development and future prospects as well as on peace, stability and economic development of a country. Basic education enrolment in Syria has fallen from close to 100% before the conflict to an average of 50%. In some areas, like Aleppo, which have seen active conflict for a prolonged period that number is closer to 6%. At least a quarter of schools have been damaged or destroyed. Almost three million Syrian children are out of school and half of refugee children are not receiving any form of education.

We are working inside Syria to reach children with formal and informal education. Our activities include supporting existing schools and setting up temporary learning spaces, providing children with school bags and recreational kits, training teachers and providing them with teacher kits. 18,500 children are currently attending our schools, more than 1,000 teachers and officials have received training, and 8,501 school bags were distributed. By the end of 2014, 21,500 children benefitted from our education activities.



A brother and sister walk through the playground of their school in northern Syria. This school is one of 55 schools supported by Save the Children and our partners in Syria. In a country which now has the second worst education enrolment rate in the world as a result of four years of deadly conflict in which schools have been frequently attacked, Save the Children rebuilds classrooms, provides learning equipment, and supports and trains teachers.

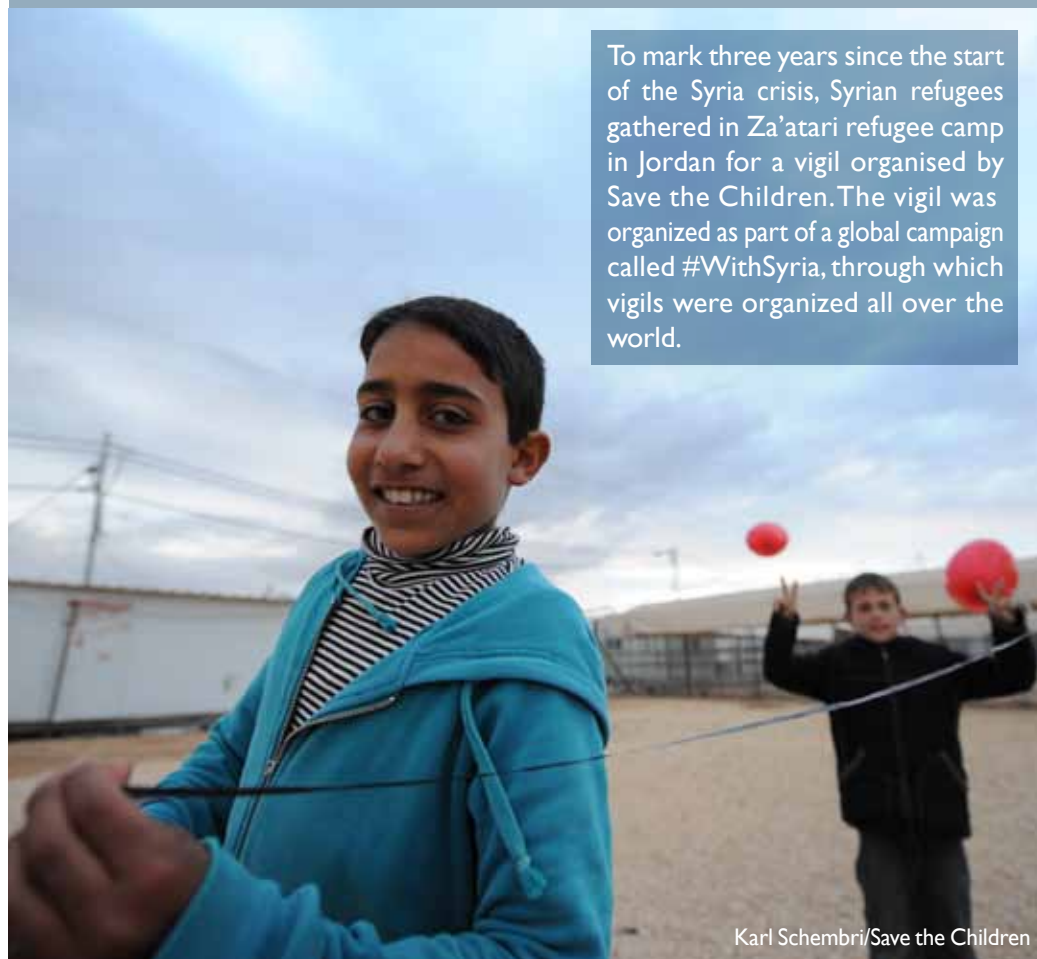
Khalil Ashawi/Save the Children

Jordan

Response type: refugee influx, development programming

Results: 351,170 direct beneficiaries, 272,656 indirect beneficiaries

Budget: US\$75.5 million



To mark three years since the start of the Syria crisis, Syrian refugees gathered in Za'atari refugee camp in Jordan for a vigil organised by Save the Children. The vigil was organized as part of a global campaign called #WithSyria, through which vigils were organized all over the world.

Karl Schembri/Save the Children

At the end of 2014 Jordan was hosting 620,441 registered Syrian refugees, although according to the Government of Jordan there were an additional 800,000 Syrians not registered as refugees living in the country. In Jordan we continued to respond to the immediate and medium-term needs of Syrian families and host Jordanian communities stressed from the influx of refugees.

Our programmes in Jordan were divided into three geographical areas of intervention, each of which have their own field office – North, South/ Central and Camps.

In 2014 we delivered programmes in education, protection, food assistance, child rights governance and livelihoods.

Key Highlights from 2014:

- We provided early childhood care and development services to 4,138 children below age 6 and their parents in camps and host communities
- We provided informal education, life skills and sports activities to more than 20,000 children, adolescents and youth in Za'atari camp and similar activities to 21,000 children in host communities
- We supported 55 public schools with small scale renovation, refurbishment of classrooms and provision of missing facilities such as bathrooms
- We provided 550 out-of-school and working children with informal education and psychosocial support services through our Drop-in-Centres
- We helped to remove 3,338 children from, and prevent 2,330 children from taking part in, exploitative labor by engaging them in appropriate child-friendly, educational and vocational services and supporting them and their families to improve their livelihoods
- We continue to provide food vouchers/e-cards to the entire population of Za'atari camp
- We provided cash assistance to 3,680 Syrian and Jordanian households unable to meet basic needs such as sufficient quantities of food, quality healthcare and education for children
- We laid the groundwork to create a national Child Rights Coalition by building the capacities of local community based organisations on child rights, child protection and child rights governance.

Bilal builds up the confidence to go back to school

Seven-year-old Bilal has been a refugee living in Za'atari camp for nine months. He fled the violence in Syria with his parents, aunt and his 1-year-old brother to find refuge in Jordan.



Rosie Thompson/Save the Children

Back in Syria before the conflict, Bilal's father dropped him off daily at school before going to the factory where he worked. Bilal was one of the top students in his sixth grade class and had many friends who he played with after school. After leaving his cousins, neighbors, and friends behind and coming to a place completely new to him, Bilal started to behave in a way that concerned his parents.

"First of all my son was never the type who preferred to be alone and that's always the feedback I was getting from the staff at the Child Friendly Space," said Bilal's mother Soad, "he would close his ears and eyes shut fearfully, and run into our caravan

whenever he heard a loud noise or an airplane fly over the camp."

As soon as the family arrived to the camp, Bilal began attending Save the Children and UNICEF's Child Friendly Space (CFS) where recreational activities were being held for the children. Despite the fact that Bilal did not want to make friends, he came to the CFS regularly. After settling into Za'atari, the family's priority was to enroll their seven-year-old son in school to continue his education.

"Every time we discussed school with Bilal, he would get angry, cry and completely refuse and change the subject," explained Soad. Her son had already missed three months of school in Syria and another month since being in Za'atari.

"There was shelling at school," said Bilal, "I hate the loud noise of shelling."

School reminded him of the violence in Syria. Since Bilal was at the CFS daily, his parents approached the CFS staff asking for their support in making their son feel comfortable about going to school again.

"We tried emphasizing the theme of school in our activities, and had children speak about their days at school in the camp, and tried to make Bilal see that school in the camp is just as safe and fun as the CFS that he was regularly spending time in," said a Save the Children animator who worked closely with him.

At the Child Friendly Space, Bilal has been learning to interact with children his age and participated in fun learning activities both indoors and outdoors. "Here I learned to draw, to wash my hands, brush my teeth and cut my nails," he said, "my favorite activity is playing football."

Bilal has been attending UNICEF's school in the camp for eight months now and has made many friends.

"At home he draws all the time and hangs his drawings all over the caravan and tells us he wants his house to look like the CFS," Soad explained happily. "I know the staff here looks after our children with great care," said Soad, "Bilal wouldn't have been in school if it wasn't for the CFS staff. They made sure he reached a point that he saw school to be just as safe as the CFS."

Egypt

Response type: conflict, refugee influx, development programming
Results: 674,340 direct beneficiaries, 1,111,882 indirect beneficiaries
Budget: US\$1.1 million



Mohamed, an 11-year-old Sudanese refugee, attending an anaemia screening held at a community centre run by one of Save the Children's local partners

Rachael Corbishley/Save the Children

Egypt is not only host to over 138,000 registered Syrian refugees but also hosts a large number of refugees and migrants from other parts of Africa and the Middle East who, along with poor Egyptians, are similarly affected by the current economic situation. Save the Children responds to the needs of other refugee and vulnerable communities with health and child protection programming.

Key Highlights from 2014:

- We signed a protocol with the Ministry of Education to provide Egyptian children with quality education, focusing on improving their skills and acquiring the knowledge they need to thrive in the 21st century
- We launched the Choices approach to **gender empowerment** in an urban context and reached 1,200 boys and girls to clearly address concepts -such as the difference between gender and sex, division of labour, practical and strategic needs, early marriage, Female Genital Mutilation, decision making within the household among young peers (10-15), in an attempt to try and change gender norms that are a main cause of women's inequality and increasing tension between genders
- We assessed 7,835 Syrian households (37,157 individuals) for the socioeconomic vulnerability assessment to enable UNHCR, the World Food Programme and implementing partners to better target their assistance to those most in need
- We reached 466,498 children with our health programming, 78,085 children with our protection programming and 157,146 children with our education programming

Programme spotlight:

Save the Children's **Choices programme** aims to improve gender equality in Egypt by changing the way adolescent boys and girls think about gender roles. The success of this program was featured in a New York Times article, which noted that "Save the Children's promising results working with adolescents has global implications." Egyptian women lag far behind their male counterparts in education and labour force participation, nearly 50 percent of women report domestic abuse by husbands, brothers or fathers, and the country is ranked as number 110 out of the 148 countries on the United Nations Development Programme's Gender Inequality Index.

These are statistics Save the Children is working to change, starting with children. The programme targets an equal number of 10 to 14-year-old boys and girls from the same community, many of them siblings, and uses an 8-session programme to talk about boys' and girls' hopes and dreams, differences in the way girls and boys are treated and whether or not this is fair and should be continued or changed. It encourages boys to stand up for their sisters or female neighbours, both at home and in school, and to show them equal respect. After completing the programme in Egypt, boys and girls were significantly more likely to say they believe a girl can make her own decisions about education and marriage, and the percentage of Choices students who agreed it is okay for a brother to hit his sister fell by almost half. The proportion of participants who said they accepted wife beating also declined.

Fatma, 12, has wanted to be a flight attendant since she took a trip to Qatar with her family two years ago. She liked being among the clouds, watching buildings and cars turn to toys as the plane gained altitude. "Traveling is my life goal," she said. It never felt like a real goal, though. It was more of a fantasy that danced through her head when she was washing dishes or doing laundry. The Choices programme made her feel "like

it could actually happen," she said. The programme has even changed the attitude of her twin brother Mohamed. Although he still feels uncomfortable imagining his sister as a flight attendant and fears for her safety, he said he would help her reach her dream "if it would make her happy".



Meg Pruce/Save the Children

Lebanon

Response type: refugee influx, development programming

Results: 277,692 direct beneficiaries, 318,092 indirect beneficiaries

Budget: US\$45.2 million

Khaled, 3 years old standing outside his family's shelter in an informal tented settlement for Syrian refugees in Bekaa – Lebanon.

Ahmad Baroudi/Save the Children



Lebanon has been the largest recipient of Syrian refugees, as a percentage of their population, in the region. By the end of 2014, there were over 1.1 million registered Syrian refugees, in a country which had a pre-crisis population of 4.2 million. Given Lebanon's fragile sectarian balance, proximity and spillover of the conflict and the huge burden of hosting so many refugees, Lebanon is itself on the precipice of crisis.

Save the Children is focusing its response both on supporting the enormous needs of Syrian refugees in Lebanon who often live in informal settlements in inadequate shelter as well as the host population straining under Lebanon's struggling economy.

Key Highlights from 2014

- We provided structured psychosocial (PSS) interventions for 14,269 children and 8,959 caregivers, implemented either directly or through 7 national partners
- We held recreational activities and provided key information for 30,865 children and 9,962 caregivers
- We have delivered education programming for 3,963 adolescent girls and boys through providing access to literacy and numeracy, English classes, computer classes, financial literacy, life skills and adolescent sexual and reproductive health training and related peer support groups
- We paid the enrolment fees for 2,243 children in public kindergartens

- We supported 10,188 children through our non-formal education programme

We supported the enrolment of 18,557 children during the 2013/14 school year in both first and second shift schools. This was done through community mobilization, the payment of a lump sum of 630 USD per child, provision of school-in-a-box materials (stationary/learning materials) and the organisation of school transportation. In first shift schools we covered the enrolment fees and uniform costs

- We began water, sanitation and hygiene activities in November 2014 and provided 2,322 people in informal settlements with safe water by the end of the year
- We provided 37,288 individuals with cash transfers
- We provided 239 youth with specialised training to improve their employment opportunities
- Winter shelter and/or assistance was provided to 84,947 individuals, including 49,538 children

Providing essential winter support in Lebanon

In the winter of 2014 Save the Children launched our biggest ever shelter campaign in Lebanon, making us the leading provider of shelter support in Lebanon. We provided shelter kits to families, enabling them to repair or reinforce their shelters for the winter and protect their children from sub-zero temperatures, icy winds, rain and snow while increasing their security, privacy and dignity. We supplemented this by distributing high thermal blankets to children living in the coldest conditions. Families also received cash grants to carry out essential rehabilitation work if they were living in unfinished buildings, like Sami, 10 years old, holding his younger brother Rawad, 1, at the door of their house, next to the newly installed window of their shelter in an unfinished house in North Lebanon.



Ahmad Baroudi/Save the Children

Iraq

Response type: conflict, refugee influx, IDP crisis, development programming

Results: 455,640 direct beneficiaries, 134,448 indirect beneficiaries

Budget: US\$17.2 million



Save the Children has been working in Iraq since 1991 and began supporting Syrian refugees in Iraq in 2013. At the end of the year more than 220,000 Syrians had fled across the border to neighbouring Iraq where we have provided education, child protection, water, sanitation and hygiene, shelter and non-food items and food security and livelihoods programming.

Adding to the already complex humanitarian crisis in Iraq caused by years of war and the Syrian refugee influx, in January 2014 armed groups caused massive displacement in Anbar governorate leading us to begin a response to the huge numbers of displaced people within the country. Again in June, another round of violence caused an even bigger displacement crisis into the Kurdish Region of Iraq (KRI) from in and around Mosul, leading us to rapidly scale up our response. By the end of 2014, 2.2 million Iraqis had been displaced from their homes.

Our response is largely based within KRI as this is where 96% of the Syrian refugee population and 40% of the internally displaced population is settled.

Key highlights from 2014:

- 11,778 children and adults were reached through Child Protection, Violence Against Children and positive discipline in every day parenting and child rights awareness raising activities in Sulaymaniyah and Basra
- At the end of 2014, 27 safe spaces had been established which are providing children with a chance to learn, socialize and express themselves, benefitting 27,428 children. 12 of these were established in 2013 to support Syrian refugee children and the 15 additional spaces were set up in 2014 to support displaced Iraqi children

- We reached 4,206 Syrian refugee and displaced Iraqi children through our Early Childhood Care and Development programming
- We have increased access to safe water for 83,561 children and their families and to safe sanitation and environmental health facilities for 80,459 children and their families
- We provided Food Vouchers to over 30,000 households

Displaced in Iraq

Shatha, 11 years old, is from Tikrit. When the violence started in her home town her family had to flee. At first they were living on the streets of Erbil and then they moved into a camp for displaced people. While Save the Children staff were distributing hygiene kits to newly displaced families in the camp, Shatha told her story. "The sun was killing us on the streets with its heat as we were living outside. So we came here to the camp to see how it is. I told my family it's better for us to live in the camp than in the park so we're staying here, but we're in need of everything. My mother told us when things get better in Tikrit, we will go back. There were attacks and a lot of people were killed. All the family had to leave. We saw dead people and bombs and all sorts of things. There were attacks even on schools and lots of deaths." Shatha later joined a child friendly space set up by Save the Children to provide recreational and educational activities for children in the camp.



Occupied Palestinian territory (oPt)

Response type: conflict, development and humanitarian programming

Results: 695,247 direct beneficiaries, 2,407,951 indirect beneficiaries

Budget: US\$14.3 million



Malak, ten, playing with her doll outside the ruin of her neighbourhood in Gaza. Malak and her family fled from their home in the middle of the night when the bombs started to fall, and returned to discover that only two rooms remained standing.

Anas Baba/Save the Children

While the humanitarian crisis within Gaza continues to be a major focus of our programming, the situation for children throughout the occupied Palestinian territory presents serious protection and livelihood concerns. The oPt context is a unique challenge for a child-rights based organisation; with long-term development needs alongside relatively regular, short-term emergencies (armed conflicts, violence and natural disasters). The ongoing occupation continues to have a significant impact on children here, who make up 51% of the population. They continue to be victims of persistent rights violations, including exposure to violence, risk of death and injury from both state and non-state actors, arrest and detention, displacement, lack of safe access to quality education, poverty, discrimination and restricted movement. Save the Children provides programming across Gaza, East Jerusalem and the West Bank to attempt to respond to the unique needs of children here and advocate for their rights.

Key highlights from 2014:

- We expanded our work in Child Protection in Emergencies across the oPt in 2014 and have become one of the leading agencies on Disaster Risk Reduction in the oPt, through mainstreaming Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Risk Reduction across our programming
- We reached 48,188 children in addition to 6,483 adults through our education programming
- We trained 400 teachers and counselors on inclusive education, introduced innovative teaching techniques and increased children's participation and awareness of their rights. Further support was specifically provided for children with special needs or learning difficulties.
- We expanded the 'Healing and Education through Arts' (HEART) programme in 22 kindergartens

- We carried out an assessment of all kindergartens following the impact of Operation 'Protective Edge' in Gaza
- We gave 2,450 school uniforms to children in the 1st grade and 1,476 school kits, including school bags and stationary, for children affected by the conflict in Gaza. Our extracurricular and psychosocial support activities also reached more than 7,000 children
- The Child Protection Programme directly reached 72,916 children (38,935 males and 33,981 females), who have accessed protection services in the oPt. In addition, the programme reached 109,072 adults directly.
- We helped 900 children through our psychosocial support programming
- We provided trainings and support to strengthen National Protection systems for children and legal consultation and legal representation to ensure the protection of children's rights
- We significantly expanded our work in Child Rights Governance, establishing a Case Management System for children with disabilities, along with significant awareness-raising and advocacy work on children's rights and violations against the most marginalised groups of children. 2014 saw a national review of Palestinian laws from the perspective of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which was ratified this year along with the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict.
- We directly reached 2,774 children and 3,108 adults through our livelihoods and youth development programming
- We increased yields for 86 farmers in Gaza by rehabilitating greenhouses
- We offered apprenticeship and internship opportunities to 1,527 young entrepreneurs and university graduates, along with career days and basic business and entrepreneurship training with linkages to micro credit institution programs
- We upgraded the facilities of 11 community centres, improving the quality of youth friendly services for approximately 11,000 youth in the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem
- We helped reduce the risk of sewage and storm water flooding for 137,000 people (including 104,600 children) living in areas affected by flooding, by providing the Gaza Coastal Management Water Unit (CMWU) with five mobile pumps
- We funded the rehabilitation of two municipal wells and the replacement of 1800 metres of damaged water and sewer pipelines in north Gaza benefitting 20,000 individuals

Responding to the emergency in Gaza



Children gather around the rubble of their destroyed home in the Gaza Strip.

On 7 July 2014 Israel launched a military operation on the Gaza Strip, Operation Protective Edge, which lasted until a ceasefire was signed on 26 August. During the 51 days of violence 2,257 Palestinians lost their lives including 539 children and at least 1,480 civilians. 77 Israelis were also killed including one child and three civilians. In the Gaza strip half a million people were displaced at the peak of the crisis and more than 20,000 homes were damaged or destroyed. To date 100,000 people remain homeless, and it is estimated that reconstruction may take twenty years at the cost of US\$6 billion.

Save the Children responded with a multisectoral response including child protection, education, nutrition, food security and livelihoods, shelter and non-food items and water and sanitation.

Save the Children interviewed Nada's father, Ahmad who said, "There are so many challenges to overcome now in Gaza – especially the health system. It doesn't work properly here; we need support for so many of our injured children after this war. We have lived through three wars over the last seven years. For any human anywhere in the world, this is too much. The blockade alone makes it so hard to survive – we cannot import what we need to rebuild, or get enough supplies, let alone with a war as well. Out of my five daughters, the only one uninjured in the war was Nada, and now sometimes she doesn't talk. She cries a lot. She is exhausted all the time, suffers nightmares. To think about the future is impossible."

Rabir Hamouda, the Psychosocial Support Worker who has been working with Nada to help her overcome her trauma, asks "What do you do when a child asks where their mother is, when their mother is dead? This is what I was facing here with Nada. These are impossible questions. When children are as traumatised as Nada, you cannot tell them immediately that their mother was killed, you need to bring them to reality gently – that their home was destroyed, that their family was hurt, and then you build up to telling them the truth about their mother. Even then you may need to tell them several times, as children traumatised like this can bury the truth.

We helped Nada and her father to cope with the nightmares and other symptoms of trauma, by talking to them and teaching her father how to support Nada to come to terms with her loss. For Nada, she needs to sleep near her father to feel safe; this needs to continue, and her father will continue to talk to Nada about her feelings and her fears. They can share their grief safely. This period, immediately after the trauma, is the most critical time, so we are supporting Nada to understand her new reality, and move through it."



Nada, 5, with a Save the Children psychosocial support worker. Nada's mother and two sisters were killed during an airstrike on their home in Gaza. Her other two sisters were severely injured. Nada is now being supported by Save the Children and partners, to overcome her trauma.

Anas Baba/Save the Children

Yemen

Response type: conflict, famine, development programming

Results: 1,068,363 direct beneficiaries, 3,097,810 indirect beneficiaries

Budget: US\$26.5 million



Najwa, 9 years old, visits a mobile health clinic in Hodeida.

Saleh Awadh/Save the Children

Yemen is facing one of the major humanitarian crises in the world today and is also the poorest country in the Middle East; at the end of 2014 61% of Yemenis were in need of some form of humanitarian assistance. Yemen is facing a major hunger crisis with 41% of the population unable to meet their basic food needs. 2014 also witnessed a resurgence of armed conflicts: as many as 80,000 children and adults were forced to flee their homes throughout Yemen due to localized conflicts and at the end of the year 2 million people were estimated to be living in conflict affected areas.

At the end of 2014, an estimated 8.4 million people lacked access to basic health care, and mothers were 57 per cent more likely to die in childbirth than elsewhere in the Arab World. 13.4 million people lacked access to safe drinking water, and 12 million had no proper sanitation facilities. Failing basic services threaten the health and development of more than half of Yemenis and contribute to child malnutrition and disease outbreaks. Save the Children responded through activities covering seven thematic areas and eight district governorates. In 2014, along with continued child rights governance, child protection and education programming, we expanded emergency programming in health, nutrition, food security and water and sanitation.

Key highlights from 2014:

- We supported 49 primary health care facilities in Amran, Sa'ada, Hodeida and Lahj governorates in all operational areas to provide high quality child health curative and preventative services.
- We supported 55 health facilities to provide a full package of reproductive health care for women of child-bearing age; 6,655 pregnant women received ante-natal care services.
- We rehabilitated 14 water points, 31 water ponds/tanks. We distributed 850 water storage tanks and ceramic filters, installed 21 water and sanitation facilities at health clinics and schools.
- We led 4,880 hygiene promotion sessions to raise awareness in communities about the critical stages of

hand washing, safe water chains, use of latrines and solid waste management.

- We carried out water trucking and rehabilitated water and sanitation facilities in 41 schools and health clinics in Al-Dhalea governorate
- A total of 11,827 children were treated for severe acute malnutrition, 15,661 for moderate acute malnutrition and 7,034 pregnant and lactating women for moderate acute malnutrition.
- We established 229 mother-to-mother support meeting groups which met regularly to discuss key issues in infant and young child feeding.
- We established 18 IYCF (infant and young child feeding) corners at health facilities which were used to provide counseling on maternal and child nutrition
- We established 15 Child Protection Committees with the capacity to monitor and identify, refer and prevent child protection risks, mainly in school environments
- In Amran we reached 1,670 children with risk-education on mines and explosive remnants of war
- 4,795 children were given psychosocial support, life and leadership skills training and safety learning in central and northern Yemen
- We supported three local partners to deliver programmes in Child Rights Governance, with a focus on monitoring of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, strengthening of national systems and awareness and capacity building.
- We continued to support the children's parliament which is entirely led by children to push advocacy issues which are important to Yemeni children; in 2014 the child parliament conducted awareness sessions in their schools on topics such as early marriage and child involvement in armed conflict. These sessions reached over 150,000 children
- We continued to be part of Save the Children's global EVERY ONE Campaign, whose vision is that no child under the age of five will die from preventable causes and public attitudes will not tolerate a return to high levels of child deaths. As part of this we organized the Race for Survival in Hodeida Governorate, where about 300 children ran calling on everyone to speed up the pace towards the 2015 Millennium Development Goal of reducing child mortality.
- We contributed to making children's rights a priority in the new constitution through advocacy with the Ministry of Human Rights in Yemen, with a focus on early marriage, child trafficking, child labour, health and nutrition and children's rights to expression and participation.



Noor Al-Een, 17 years old, is a former member of Yemen's Children's Parliament. She participated in a media training organized by Save the Children for the children's parliament and here she is practicing her reporting skills

Mohammed Awadh/Save the Children



A group of children in Dubrave, Bosnia and Herzegovina at their pre-school which is supported by Save the Children

Eurasia

In 2014 we reached approximately 300,000 individuals directly, including 200,000 children, and 4.1 million individuals in total, across Eurasia.

A Roma Child receiving rehabilitation services in Kosovo where Save the Children supports 8 rehabilitation centres



Save the Children

“Before, the mayor decided how to spend the city’s money and the people had to accept it. Now we want to know where the money goes. We learnt about the participatory budgeting process through Save the Children’s training and this knowledge will help us to understand how the money from the city council is spent” Orgeno 15 years old, Durres, Albania

Save the Children began working in Eurasia in the early 1990s, after the fall of the Soviet Union. In response to the political and social context, our work in the region focuses on building the capacity of individuals, families, communities and governments to ensure that children are protected and can fully access their rights. We have extensive programs in education, disaster risk reduction, child protection and child rights governance.

In 2014 we worked in Albania, Armenia, Kosovo, Georgia & Azerbaijan, the North West Balkans (Serbia, Montenegro, and Bosnia Herzegovina) and Ukraine. These countries have a combined population of 84.1 million people.

The Eurasia context in 2014

- High levels of poverty, unemployment, youth disengagement and low levels of social mobility are key challenges in the region and a focus of Save the Children’s work
- Child protection mechanisms and child rights legislation requires reform, strengthening or even creation in many countries. This is particularly true for children with disabilities, a key focus of our work in Eurasia.
- Supporting traditionally marginalized sections of the population, including women, people with disabilities and ethnic minorities, is key to economic development and so we focus on empowering these groups.
- In 2014 we responded to 2 humanitarian crises in the region: In May 2014 devastating flooding caused a massive humanitarian crisis in **Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) and Serbia, to which we responded.** Additionally the conflict in Ukraine resulted in a humanitarian crisis affecting 5.2 million people and we set up an emergency response in the country.



Children in Albania participated in Save the Children’s global ‘Race for Survival’ in October 2014, calling on authorities to accelerate efforts and end child deaths from preventable causes and to guarantee access to quality health services for all children no matter where they live, where they come from, or who they are.

Save the Children

Ukraine

Response type: conflict

Results: 3,996 direct beneficiaries

Budget: US\$3.1 million



Tatiana with her 2 children Palina and Timothy in front of the tent where internally displaced people wait to register at a centre in Dnepropetrovsk.

In April 2014 conflict broke out between opposition groups in Eastern Ukraine resulting in mass displacement and a large scale humanitarian crisis.

By the end of the year 4,771 people had been killed and more than 1 million displaced to other parts of Ukraine and to Russia. The humanitarian crisis was also affecting 5.2 million people.

Save the Children previously had a presence in Ukraine working through local partners and had responded to the displacement from Crimea in April 2014, however in response to the later escalation we launched a direct response in the Summer of 2014 and established ourselves as a leading response agency for children, helping to meet their immediate humanitarian needs, support ongoing rights-based recovery programming and ensure continued access to essential services.

We now deliver our humanitarian programming in three locations in Eastern Ukraine, with a main office in Dnepropetrovsk and a support office in Kiev.



Timothy, 5 years old, is from Donetsk Region in Eastern Ukraine. He was forced to leave his home with his mother and one of his sisters in June 2014, due to the fighting and rising tension there. Separated from his father and his other sister due to the crisis, he is now living in one bedroom with his mother and sister in Dnepropetrovsk. Timothy's mother is earning minimum wage and is worried about how she is going to afford accommodation for her family once they have to move out of their relatives' home. Ukrainian winters are long and bitterly cold, with temperatures dropping to -25 degrees Celsius.

With support from the European Commission's Department for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO), Save the Children provided cash transfers to 10,000 vulnerable individuals, to support them to meet their immediate winter priorities including warm clothing such as jackets, warm hats, gloves, footwear, or purchasing heating equipment or paying rent. Tatiana is registered in this programme and received a cash grant of 235 Euros to provide her family with essential support for the winter months. The grants are being issued to registered internally displaced persons who are either the head of a single female headed household or a family with two children.

According to Timothy, "It was sad to leave Donetsk and I really miss my dad. I also miss my friend Yaraslava. She was my next door neighbor. But she also had to leave Donetsk and I don't know when I'll see her again."

Kosovo

Response type: development programming

Results: 25,280 direct beneficiaries, 1,129,374 indirect beneficiaries

Budget: US\$2.2 million



At a centre for Early Childhood Education in Mitrovica, we support children of Roma Ashkali and Egyptian Communities

Save the Children in Kosovo advocates for legislation and policies both at local and national level, aiming to ensure that inclusive practices are incorporated and appropriate financial mechanisms are in place to support overall systemic responses, in order to achieve lasting positive changes for children. Our programmes in education, child protection and child rights governance directly reached 22,154 children, including children with disabilities, Roma Ashkali and Egyptian and deprived and 3,126 adults including teachers, educators, school directors, parents, community members, municipal authorities, and CSO staff. We further contribute to the regional programme, supporting our partners in Serbia, Moldova, Ukraine and Russia to work directly with children and adults in monitoring the CRC and in increasing their influence on Governments to improve the overall situation for children.

Key highlights from 2014:

- We established and supported the first ever Child Led Group at national level - Respect Our Rights - where 24 children of various ethnic groups produced the first child led national research, looking into the right to participation in decision making processes and the right to education, with 595 children respondents throughout Kosovo.
- We strengthened the work and the relationship with local municipalities through 6 established Children's Municipal Assemblies, engaging 198 children. The role of 14 Municipal Child Rights Coordinators and Officers was strengthened through trainings on Child Participation Principles.
- We enabled 217 children with disabilities to benefit from non-formal education activities in 8 supported community based rehabilitation centres.
- As a result of 64 awareness raising events on Inclusive Education, 1,089 parents and duty bearers have strengthened their understanding on reducing barriers for inclusion.
- 30 Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian children from deprived neighborhoods in south Mitrovica and their parents have access to a quality, stimulating learning environment in our early childhood centre.
- We supported and strengthened the cooperation between Save the Children in Kosovo, the University of Bologna and the University of Pristina (UP), which resulted in initiating a new Masters Programme on Inclusive Education and in integrating Inclusive Education courses in all Bachelor Programmes within the Faculty of Education in UP, which will overall aim to benefit an estimated 14,500 children with disabilities.
- For the first time, we led a joint national campaign with the Ministry of Education, raising public awareness on the right to inclusive education of children with disabilities, supported by a local artist ambassador, all calling for government and society attention toward the right to education for all children, with a presence in all 4 national media stations for 3 weeks.
- We worked with 10 schools and other institutions, including children, in setting up and strengthening functioning protection mechanisms in schools, in improving prevention programs on violence, and in raising awareness on elimination of all forms of Physical and Humiliating Punishment (PHP), thus enabling the creation of safe and secure environment.
- We developed the first Didactic Material for the Prevention of Violence in Schools in Kosovo, in accordance with the protocol for the prevention and referral of violence produced by the Ministry of Education. The manual will help teachers (grades 1-9) all over Kosovo to engage students on discussion of PHP, through the process of teaching, where they will be able to discuss and treat issues of violence, in order to raise awareness and prevent violence.

Georgia and Azerbaijan

Response type: development programming

Results: 9,055 direct beneficiaries, 1,832 indirect beneficiaries

Budget: US\$950,000

Children at a school in Adjara region, Georgia, carry out an earthquake simulation drill as part of a project in Disaster Risk Reduction.



SopoAnghuladze/Save the Children

Save the Children has been actively working in Georgia since 1993 and we have managed our programmes in Azerbaijan through this office. In Georgia the most significant violations of children's rights are related to domestic and gender-based violence, equity and equality of education and social services for the most vulnerable children. In Azerbaijan, refugees and asylum seekers do not have formalized, full access to public health care services and they lack legal access to gainful employment. In 2014 Save the Children achieved significant outcomes in protection, health and disaster risk reduction for children, youth and families in both Georgia and Azerbaijan. At the end of 2014 we unfortunately had to suspend our Azerbaijan programmes due to funding constraints and registration issues.

Key highlights from 2014:

- We reached 3,000 people through HIV prevention services for key populations in Georgia, through trainings, community-level interventions and referrals, healthy lifestyle education and other activities
- We carried out research on the phenomenon of street children in Georgia and produced an Operational Guide for practical implementation of programming for street children
- We supported 1,348 refugees and asylum seekers in Azerbaijan with access to primary and secondary health services, psychosocial support and health trainings focused on preventive care
- We supported 3,844 internally displaced people in Shida Kartli, Georgia with effective referral and psychosocial services and youth mobilization
- Through our regional 'Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction Project' (being implemented in Armenia and Georgia) we supported children with disabilities in special education institutions and kindergartens.

Armenia

Response type: development programming

Results: 25,951 direct beneficiaries, 611,600 indirect beneficiaries

Budget: US\$1.4 million



Children celebrate Save the Children's 20th anniversary in Armenia.

Save the Children

Save the Children has been working in Armenia for the past 20 years earning a reputation for delivering quality programs for children, and establishing strong and influential relationships with government and civil society networks. We have managed over US\$60 million in aid programs to the most vulnerable populations of Armenia, and continue to be one of the leading assistance providers in the country, with a focus on early childhood care and development, vocational education, school health and nutrition, child protection, disaster preparedness and livelihood development through income generation activities and work place creation.

Key highlights from 2014:

- In response to the influx of approximately 15,000 Syrian Armenian refugees to the country, we adapted our Early Childhood Care and Development model to respond to the needs of the displaced population by facilitating children's access to pre-school services
- We trained 553 teachers, representatives of vocational training centres in conducting inclusive classes while working with students with disabilities and we supported 402 people with disabilities to take part in vocational training courses in various subjects
- We organized a nation-wide campaign to raise employers' awareness and opportunities for employment of people with disabilities. The campaign secured employment for 205 people with disabilities, provided mentorship for 180 and internships for 198
- We provided input on child rights within the framework of the Joint Submission by a group of civil society organisations to the UN Human Rights Council 21st session of the Universal Periodic Review.
- We improved disaster preparedness in 21 schools and care institutions for children with disabilities, 20 inclusive schools and 21 kindergartens by establishing and training 45 disaster management teams, provision of emergency equipment and various other activities.

Knowledge on Disaster Risk Reduction can save lives



Save the Children

Syuzanna, 5, goes to a kindergarten in Artik town of Shirak province which is an earthquake prone area, and was hit by the disastrous earthquake in Armenia in 1988. Syuzanna has heard stories about it many times from her grandparents. “I have always been terrified of earthquakes,” Syuzanna said.

Syuzanna’s kindergarten was not safe and prepared to deal with a natural disaster. The emergency exit doors were blocked, there were no alarm and fire systems, and the staff was not trained to prepare for, mitigate and respond to disasters.

In 2014 the kindergarten was involved in Save the Children’s “Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction Project”, funded by the European Commission’s Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department. Significant improvements were made in the kindergarten: the main emergency exit was renovated and the door was replaced, three fire extinguishers were provided, a fire stand with relevant equipment was installed, evacuation signs were placed in the kindergarten, and a first aid bag was provided. In addition, two staff members were trained on Disaster Risk Reduction and cascaded their skills and knowledge to the remaining 24 staff, and some basic information on the right behaviour during emergencies was provided to 130 kindergarten children. A Disaster Management Team was created at the kindergarten, and a Disaster Preparedness Plan was developed.

After having gone through all these preparations, the project organized emergency evacuation drills which all the kindergarten’s children and staff participated in.

“Now I know that I don’t have to be afraid,” - Syuzanna said. “Our teacher told us what to do in case an earthquake happens. I shall cover my head with something hard, and go outside without panicking. I shall not run, make noise, or push my friends when leaving the kindergarten. Also I shall not go back. This is what I learned.”

Kindergarten Director Aida Muradyan said: “Projects of this type should be implemented for all institutions, and all people should be trained. If people possessed this knowledge years ago, the number of earthquake victims would not be so high.”

In Armenia, the project targets 20 inclusive schools, 21 kindergartens and 21 special schools. Overall, around 18,500 children with and without disabilities and 3,500 teachers/caregivers directly benefited from the project. The next phase will be to provide all these institutions with education materials to enrich their knowledge on preparing for, mitigating and responding to disasters.

Albania

Response type: development programming

Results: 49,224 direct beneficiaries, 1,395,870 indirect beneficiaries

Budget: US\$3 million



Save the Children

Save the Children has been working in Albania since 1999, focusing on basic Education and Early Childhood Care and Development, Child Protection, Child Rights Governance, Health and Nutrition and Humanitarian responses when necessary. We work in 10 districts of Albania, both urban and rural areas.

Key highlights from 2014:

- We assisted the Ministry of Education & Sports to develop a National Plan of Action for Early Childhood Care and Development
- We provided education programmes in 19 basic schools and 1 informal school site which reached about 32,835 people, including 12,544 children
- Approximately 1,500 Roma and Egyptian children were supported with education and received recreational, social and health support
- Our child protection programmes reached 8,327 people in Albania; we set up a network of local non-governmental organisations which is leading advocacy to set up a functional child protection system at the national level
- We finalized a draft law on social enterprises and proposed it to the Albanian authorities in order to give greater opportunities for reintegration of children in contact with the law
- We wrote a report identifying main achievements, gaps and recommendations in public expenditures on children in Albania, helping policymakers and advocates of children's rights to understand the extent to which budgets are sensitive to children's needs. We recommended increases in budget allocations for children in four sectors: education, health, social protection and juvenile justice
- We supported two representatives from Child Led Groups to present the child led report that analysed the situation of child rights in Albania at the 19th session of the UN Human Rights Council Universal Periodic Review
- We renovated and refurbished a health care centre in Gurre Commune, a rural area where pregnant women, mothers and children are particularly vulnerable
- We established three community groups on disaster risk reduction and trained children on how to react during disasters through participation in simulation and evacuation sessions

Children illustrated their feelings on budget allocations for children's issues in Albania through drawings at workshops led by Save the Children.



NW Balkans

Response type: development programming

Results: 172,507 direct beneficiaries, 742,487 indirect beneficiaries

Budget: US\$3.4 million



A girl participates in activities in an Early Childhood Care and Development unit at a school in Vitinica near Sapna where pre-school education was accessible to children in 2014 for the first time ever thanks to Save the Children

Save the Children

Save the Children's North West Balkans Office governs our work in Serbia, Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). In 2014 we continued our development programmes in addition to carrying out an emergency response to the large-scale flooding in two countries: BiH and Serbia. Our development work focused on education, child protection and child rights governance, and our emergency response focused on water, sanitation and hygiene, shelter and distribution of essential items for people affected by the floods, child protection and education. We worked with 21 local partners to deliver our programmes.

Key highlights from 2014:

- We established 46 units and 4 centres for early childhood care and development, providing increased and enhanced access and quality of education for children of pre-school age through branch schools in rural and remote areas in BiH. This adds up to a total of 161 ECCD units established throughout the country by Save the Children
- We provided better quality and inclusive education for 8,889 students in 36 primary schools in Tuzla Canton, BiH
- We provided 110 young people with vocational training and 68 of them were employed afterwards in 7 small-medium companies in BiH
- We supported 5 local organisations in BiH running drop-in centres for street children and children at risk
- We supported the establishment of 2 new drop-in centres for children on the move in cities in BiH bordering with Serbia and Croatia
- We developed a handbook providing guidance on how to improve the system of protection for Children on the Move in BiH, which included best international and regional practices that could be integrated
- We worked on strengthening the implementation of a newly adopted law on juvenile justice in BiH, by developing a training program for non-judicial professionals in applying the new law and capacity building of 495 non-judicial professionals, students of social work and journalism and representatives of media and authorities
- We prepared and submitted the Universal Periodic Review report for BiH to the UN Human Rights Council
- We worked with children from children's groups within civil society organisations to advocate on children's rights issues, holding a children's parliament in Montenegro and BiH and launching the initiative for establishing a sub-committee on children's rights in the Parliament of Montenegro. In 5 local communities in BiH we worked to empower Roma youth to become advocates for the improvement of Roma status and to help bridge the gap between Roma and the mainstream population.



Hundreds sleep in
evacuation centres
following heavy
flooding in Serbia.

Responding to the Floods in Bosnia and Serbia

In May 2014 prolonged heavy rainfall resulted in devastating flooding and thousands of landslides in BiH and Serbia. The floods were the worst in the region's history, affecting an estimated 1.67 million people in BiH and 1.6 million in Serbia. The weather continued to cause problems throughout the North West Balkans region until the end of the year. The floods repeated in August in both countries, affecting the communities already hit by the May floods, but also new communities. And yet again in September the floods and consequent landslides hit East Serbia, thus increasing the number of affected and displaced people, as well as the number of casualties.

As soon as the floods started Save the Children began responding to the emergency in both countries. By the end of 2014 our response had reached 118,217 people, including 70,052 children. We provided support to communities in both countries by ensuring that children and families have access to and use safe water and sanitation services, setting up safe places for children to develop, learn, play and build up their resilience after the emergency and providing access to inclusive and quality education and psychosocial support for children who had been affected. We also provided essential shelter support to flood affected communities.





Save the Children

Saudina, 16 years old, and her mother were evacuated to a military base in Zenica, north of Sarajevo, where Save the Children was carrying out recreational and psychosocial activities for displaced children, in addition to raising awareness on the dangers of landmines.

“Our house fell apart because of the landslide. A lot of trees in the neighborhood fell down, which made so much noise. The heavy rain started in the first days of May and everything was normal at first. But then our house was not only flooded, but actually swept away from underneath because of a landslide.

We had to move quickly, so we ran up in the mountains. We tried to find somewhere safe, and reached an abandoned house where we decided to stay. There were also other families there; the majority of this group was sick and elderly.

When we reached the next village, a helicopter evacuated us. At that time we were out of food. We were taken to a student dormitory in Zenica, but then when the students returned we had to move here. I think our whole village is here in this military base, the women and children at least. Our fathers and brothers had to stay back home to watch the animals. It's OK here at the centre, but I am worried about my father and brothers. Has the landslide destroyed our house completely? I don't know.”



Save the Children International
Middle East and Eurasia Office
Amman, Jordan

Rosie Thompson/Save the Children

PO BOX 941878
Amman, 11194
Jordan

Office Phone: +962 6 569 0155
Office Fax: +962 6 569 0188
www.savethechildren.net
Twitter: @savechildrenmee



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