

European Union 
Recipient of the 2012 Nobel Peace Prize®



EU Children of Peace

ECHO FACTSHEET

Facts & Figures

- 1 billion children live in conflict-affected areas
- **More than 28 million children** affected by conflict are out of primary school

EU action:

- **Over 108 000 children** from conflict affected areas around the world benefited from the initiative so far.



Key messages

The EU Children of Peace initiative is a legacy of **the Nobel Peace Prize** that the EU received in 2012 for its achievements in peace on the European continent.

EU Children of Peace is supporting a severely underfunded sector: **education in emergencies**. The initiative funds humanitarian projects for [children in conflict](#)* areas, providing them with access to schools where they can learn in a safe environment and with psychological support to heal their traumatic war experiences.

From the initial EUR 2 million allocated in 2012 for humanitarian projects helping conflict-affected children with education, the EU doubled the funding, allocating in 2013 **EUR 4 million for the EU Children of Peace projects**. In 2014, the EU is to allocate a total of EUR 6 712 500 million, including the contribution of EUR 500 000 from Luxembourg and EUR 250 000 from Austria. The EU will again be scaling up its funding for the next round.

Around **108 000 boys and girls from 12 countries** benefited from the projects so far. In its first year, the initiative, reached **28 000 children** from Pakistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Colombia, Ecuador and Syrian refugees in Iraq. The second year, the scope was increased to more than **80 000 children**, with projects including South Sudan, Chad, the Central African Republic, Somalia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Afghanistan, Iraq, Myanmar, Colombia and Ecuador.

Children account for half of the victims of conflicts across the world – and out of the 75 million children out of school worldwide, more than half live in conflict areas. **Over half of the EU's humanitarian aid budget goes to conflict-affected areas** and more than 10% goes to relief organisations that focus on helping children.

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Humanitarian situation and needs

There are over **1 billion children living in countries affected by conflict**, including 300 million who are under 5 years old (UN estimates). Children are particularly vulnerable during crises: they are among the civilian casualties of war, often recruited by armed groups, as combatants or intelligence sources, or used for sexual exploitation and forced labour and are also frequently victims of landmines and other unexploded ordnances. In 2013, an estimated **7 million children were refugees*** and **between 11.2 and 13.7 million children were displaced within their own country due to conflict**, according to the UN Refugee Agency. Adding to this, **28.5 million children were out of primary school in conflict-affected countries in 2013** (UNESCO estimates).

While children benefit from most of the humanitarian assistance delivered, sectors specifically targeting children such as child protection and education are strongly underfunded on the global level. Over the last decade, education was the least funded humanitarian sector, with almost two thirds of needs unfunded and an allocation of only 3% of overall humanitarian assistance. This is largely due to life-saving emergency relief often taking priority over education and other needs during a crisis. The EU's humanitarian projects funded under the Children of Peace initiative are meant to generate more awareness and advocate for the needs of children in conflicts globally.

In action: EU Children of Peace projects

EU Children of Peace and the Danish Refugee Council in the Central African Republic



Since the outbreak of inter-communal violence in December 2013, the recruitment of child soldiers, child labour, and physical and gender-based abuse of children in the Central African Republic have considerably escalated.

The Danish Refugee Council (DRC) is supporting 50 schools and developing a vocational training system in order to provide access to education for 14 400 children in the country. The project also includes the establishment of protective environments to support the social reintegration of 600 children formerly associated with armed groups. In parallel, the DRC will organise an awareness campaign targeting community, religious, civil and military leaders in order to facilitate the children's reintegration. 1 400 children targeted through the education activities will also benefit from much needed psychological assistance.

EU Children of Peace and UNICEF in Chad

Since March 2013, inter-communal conflicts in Darfur, Sudan have led to a constant influx of Chadian returnees and Sudanese refugees in and around the city of Tissi in eastern Chad. Thousands of them are children who no longer have access to basic education.



The funding under the EU Children of Peace initiative is supporting UNICEF's effort to provide access to education for 9 000 children and to set up some 60 primary school learning centres in eastern Chad. The project promotes "child-friendly school" approach to ensure emergency education in a safe and protective environment for children.

In 2013, EU Children of Peace supported UNICEF's project in Jalojai camp, Pakistan. The funding allowed for 3 000 children, including 1 500 girls, to receive education. For many this was the first chance to go back to school after their home towns were bombed. The money was also used to train the teachers and provide basic education material.



EU Children of Peace and Concern Worldwide in Afghanistan



The three-decade-old conflict in Afghanistan continues to be the cause of high levels of insecurity. Over 630 000 people are displaced within the country. As a result, access to education for children remains a challenge.

In Afghanistan, Concern Worldwide will improve access to and delivery of comprehensive emergency community-based education services for 1 500 conflict-affected children. Key components of the project are to deliver quality emergency education and to provide an accelerated learning package in a safe environment. 200 teachers will be trained on better quality teaching, especially for early grade literacy. In addition, two government schools and six community classes will be provided with improved latrines. The project also includes a child protection approach through creating a safe learning environment with appropriate action to ensure children are safe at home and at school.

EU Children of Peace with Triangle in Iraq



In Iraq, the internal sectarian conflict has displaced 2 million people since 2006, including the hundreds of thousands fleeing their homes following the 2014 attacks by armed opposition groups in Anbar and Ninewa provinces. In addition, over 226 000 people have fled the violence in Syria to find refuge in Iraq. As a result, local schools are facing difficulties in absorbing the influx of young Syrian refugees. Currently, only 10% of Syrian refugee children living in Iraq are receiving education.

The funds from the EU Children of Peace initiative will help the French NGO Triangle to provide primary education for 250 Syrian refugee children between the ages of 6 and 11 as well as psycho-social care and educational activities for 150 children between 3 and 18. The project will particularly focus on children in urban areas where access to services is extremely limited. Special courses help the children to improve their knowledge of the Kurdish language and catch up on classes lost due to the conflict in Syria so that 35% of them will be able to join public schools at the end of the year.

In 2013, ACTED ran an EU Children of Peace project in Iraq where it opened a Child Friendly Space and a Youth Friendly space in Domiz camp, near the border with Syria in Northern Iraq. The project offered a place where children could participate in supervised recreational and therapeutic activities. The project reached out to around 7 000 children.

EU Children of Peace and the Lutheran World Federation in South Sudan

The refugee children in the northern States of South Sudan have little or no formal education, coming from traditionally marginalised states in Sudan where the education system collapsed.

In South Sudan, the Lutheran World Federation will organise education and protection initiatives for children between the ages of 12 and 17, with a particular focus on those who have missed out on education due to conflict and displacement.

The project will provide children with an accelerated learning programme and safe school interventions giving them the opportunity to catch up with their peers. To enhance child protection in the refugee camps, child rights clubs will also be established in schools, and teachers will be trained on how to recognise and respond to child rights violations.



EU Children of Peace with UNHCR in Colombia and Ecuador



In Colombia, a decades-long internal armed conflict has resulted in what is currently the highest number of internally displaced people in the world. The internally displaced and refugee children are often deprived from education, especially in isolated and remote areas.

The project aims at improving access to education and protection for children and adolescents affected by the conflict in Colombia. Actions include the creation of protected spaces for children and young people; provide alternatives for the use of leisure time; provide human rights education, and psychological support. In Ecuador, the emphasis is on helping refugee children and adolescents by facilitating integration and enabling vulnerable children to attend school. Around

1 900 young internally displaced persons or people at risk of displacement will directly benefit from the action in Colombia. In Ecuador, 2 000 young refugees, asylum seekers and new arrivals will be assisted.

In 2013, UNHCR supported by EU Children of Peace improved access to education for 4 750 children affected by the violence in Colombia. Besides, it provided school uniforms and school materials, scholarships to be able to attend school in vulnerable areas and foresees renovation, construction or equipment of educational facilities as well as human rights education to prevent forced recruitment.

EU Children of Peace and War Child in the Democratic Republic of the Congo



In the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) the decades of conflict have inflicted a heavy blow on education. Schools have been destroyed or closed. Rapes, abductions, and forced recruitment of children by armed groups and the Congolese army continue to be a major concern.

The NGO War Child will give the opportunity to 9 700 particularly vulnerable children (children formerly associated with armed groups, victims of violence, unaccompanied minors) to access education and grow up in a protective environment. The project is being implemented through a holistic approach based on three pillars: protection, psycho-social assistance and education. Training will also be provided for over 1 500 adults, including teachers, school directors, parents and community leaders.

In 2013, EU Children of Peace supported the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) to rebuild schools and create safe education spaces to over 9 000 conflict-affected children in the North Kivu region. The project was implemented in consortia with Save the Children, who offered education to Somali refugee children in Ethiopia's Dollo Ado refugee camps.

EU Children of Peace and CESVI in Somalia



About 848 000 children in Somalia are in need of education. Many families do not support education based on lack of knowledge and misconceptions about schooling, and others lack the financial means to take the children to school.

With CESVI in Somalia, the EU Children of Peace initiative is supporting education and protection activities for children affected by conflict in Mogadishu and Gedo. This is being done through the creation of Safe Space Centres (SSC) that support children most vulnerable to abuse to enter into formal education. The SSCs will form links with schools and enrol children in formal education upon completion of the psychosocial support curriculum. In addition, material support (uniforms, books, shoes, pens) will be provided to children before they enter schools.

To foster the sustainability of the project, an element of training for parents, and the community mechanisms, based on the traditional Somali system, will be established to support children in their future educational needs.



EU Children of Peace and Finn Church Aid in Myanmar/Burma



Inter-communal violence between the Muslim Rohingya and Buddhist Rakhine communities in Rakhine State has resulted in the displacement of over hundreds of thousand people. This has seriously disrupted the education system.

In Myanmar, FinnChurchAid will support children affected by inter-communal violence in camps for internally displaced people (IDP) by providing access to both formal and non-formal education, as well as psycho-social support. The activities, which will be implemented in temporary learning spaces and child friendly spaces will answer the acute needs of 7 250 children with limited or no access to education in Rohingya and Rakhine IDP camps in Myanmar/Burma.

