

European Union 

Recipient of the 2012 Nobel Peace Prize®



PROJECT FACTSHEET

EU Children of Peace Syrian refugees in Iraq

Facts & Figures:

- 1 billion children live in conflict-affected areas, of which 300 million are under the age of five
- 7 million children are refugees
- 12.4 million children were displaced in their country in 2011
- There were 28 million conflict-affected children out of primary school in 2011
- There were 250 000 child soldiers in 2009
- Three out of the five countries with the highest child mortality rates in 2011 were conflict countries

**FUNDED
PROJECT:**

**OFFERING PROTECTION AND
EDUCATION TO SYRIAN
REFUGEE CHILDREN IN IRAQ.**



The EU dedicates its Nobel Peace Prize to education projects for children in conflict.
ec.europa.eu/echo/EU4children



Key messages

- Receiving the **2012 Nobel Peace Prize** for its achievements in peace on the European continent, the EU decided to dedicate the prize money to the most vulnerable, who are often the hardest hit by wars: **the children of this world.**
- Because each and every girl and boy in the world should have the opportunity to develop their talents and grow up in peace, just like European children, **the EU is investing the prize money in projects to provide 28 000 conflict-affected children with education**, in Africa, Latin America, the Middle East and Asia.
- Promoting education is also giving peace a chance to be a lasting peace. **We want "children of war" to become "children of peace".**

European Commission –
Humanitarian Aid and Civil
Protection

B-1049 Brussels, Belgium

Tel.: (+32 2) 295 44 00

Fax: (+32 2) 295 45 72

email:

echo-info@ec.europa.eu

Website:

<http://ec.europa.eu/echo>

Humanitarian situation and needs

As violence in Syria continues to intensify, the flow of refugees to neighbouring countries is increasing. **Over 2.1 million refugees have left the country, with approximately 201 000 fleeing across the border to Iraq by early November 2013.** Shelter, water, food, hygiene kits, and emergency medical rehabilitation for the disabled and injured are just some of the needs for those inside the camp, as well as for those living among local communities. **The UNHCR estimates that over 40% of the refugees in Iraq are under the age of 18,** which means that there are many problems regarding both the education and the protection of these uprooted minors. Conflict, insecurity and displacement have created a precarious situation whereby Syrian refugee children and youth have been exposed to violence and rising psychosocial problems and have faced a lack of necessary support from social services. A large number of children are suffering from emotional distress following the destruction of their homes, loss of friends and family members and the need to adjust to life in a camp.

The European Union's Humanitarian Response

The EU's humanitarian aid is committed to address the specific needs of children and adolescents affected by conflict. Its humanitarian aid department, ECHO, dedicates more than half of its funding to conflict-affected areas and 12% of its budget to child-focused relief organisations, much more than the global average. In 2011, it gave over EUR 100 million to projects implemented by UNICEF and Save the Children alone. The EU supports children affected by conflict, namely through child protection activities, psycho-social support, mine risk education, and actions against the recruitment of child soldiers. For this project in Iraq, launched under the Nobel Peace Prize, ECHO is funding ACTED with EUR 400 000 to provide child education and protection activities that enhance the well-being of vulnerable Syrian refugee children and youth affected by the conflict.

In action: Assisting Children Affected by Conflict

EU Children of Peace with ACTED at the Syria-Iraq border



As of October 2013, around 45 000 Syrian refugees now live in Domiz camp, near the border with Syria in Northern Iraq. Most Syrian families have faced traumatic situations and are struggling to find a sense of normality in their life in the camp. The harsh living conditions in Domiz make it difficult for the children and youth to readapt their lives: the lack of space which prevents recreational activities, as well as the numerous hazards that children are facing day to day, are examples of the obstacles faced by the Syrian children to their normal development and psychological wellbeing.

As part of EU Children of Peace, ACTED with support from ECHO, opened a Child Friendly Space and a Youth Friendly space in Domiz camp offering one of the few places where 295 children and youths at a time are able to participate in supervised recreational and therapeutic activities. The intervention also monitors the children's general protection needs, fosters peace building, and increases knowledge in child protection and education in emergencies, promoting child protection measures and increasing children's overall wellbeing.

One child at a time



Salama is 8 years old and she arrived at the refugee camp in December 2012 with her parents and 3 other younger siblings. She is one of 295 children registered to take part in the Child Friendly Space activities. "I like singing and coloring but I did not do that since we left home", she told ACTED staff. "I colored and played with my brothers with our toys before, but we did not do that before coming to the CFS". Now that Salama attends the CFS activities, she and her brothers can once again play together in a safe environment, equipped and adapted to their needs.

Photo: ACTED