

LIVE, LEARN & PLAY SAFE 2014-2016

Protecting Children at Risk in Egypt, Ethiopia, Sudan and Yemen



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MID-WAY PROJECT REPORT

January 2014 – June 2015



ABOUT THE REPORT

This is a mid-term report on the “*Live, Learn & Play Safe*” initiative, which is being implemented over the course of three years (2014-16) in six locations in Egypt, Ethiopia, Sudan and Yemen. The report presents a Regional Overview of the initiative, highlighting Key Trends, Key Results, efforts that have been made toward Regional Cooperation, the Way Forward that is currently envisioned, and Main Achievements by Location. Following the Overview, more specific information is provided on each of the six locations, featuring an analysis of the approaches used to address the risks children face, key achievements made (strengthening child protection systems; addressing secondary movement, trafficking and smuggling; enhancing alternative care arrangements; prioritizing family reunification; and meeting children’s developmental and livelihoods needs), and drawing on the resilience and hope for the future that binds children globally.



The Child Protection Unit of the UNHCR Division of International Protection compiled this report in collaboration with Child Protection teams, comprised of UNHCR and partner agencies in Egypt, Ethiopia, Sudan and Yemen.

To obtain further information on the initiative or to offer feedback on this report, please contact the UNHCR Child Protection Unit at: hqchipro@unhcr.org



Unaccompanied refugee children in Endabaguna Reception Centre in Shire, Ethiopia © UNHCR / R. Bryant

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REGIONAL OVERVIEW

In 2013, UNHCR developed a regional child protection initiative, *Live, Learn & Play Safe*, to be implemented in Egypt, Ethiopia, Sudan and Yemen over a period of three years (2014-16). It is the first child protection initiative developed by UNHCR for regional, rather than national, implementation.

The primary objective of *Live, Learn & Play Safe* is to improve the condition and well-being of refugee and asylum-seeker children in these four operations. The initiative targets, in particular, children originating from Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia and Sudan.



The initiative addresses the protection, assistance and solutions needs of the children with the aim to provide them with stability as well as prospects for a safer and more hopeful future in their location asylum. It also aims to better inform and protect them against dangerous and potentially life threatening actions, including trafficking. The project is implemented in six locations, and activities for each objective of the initiative are coordinated between these locations. (For details on the objectives, please see *UNHCR Child Protection Regional Initiative – Live, Learn & Play Safe 2014-2016, 2014*, available at: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/53bbc6314.html>.)

Live, Learn & Play Safe complements existing UNHCR initiatives, such as:

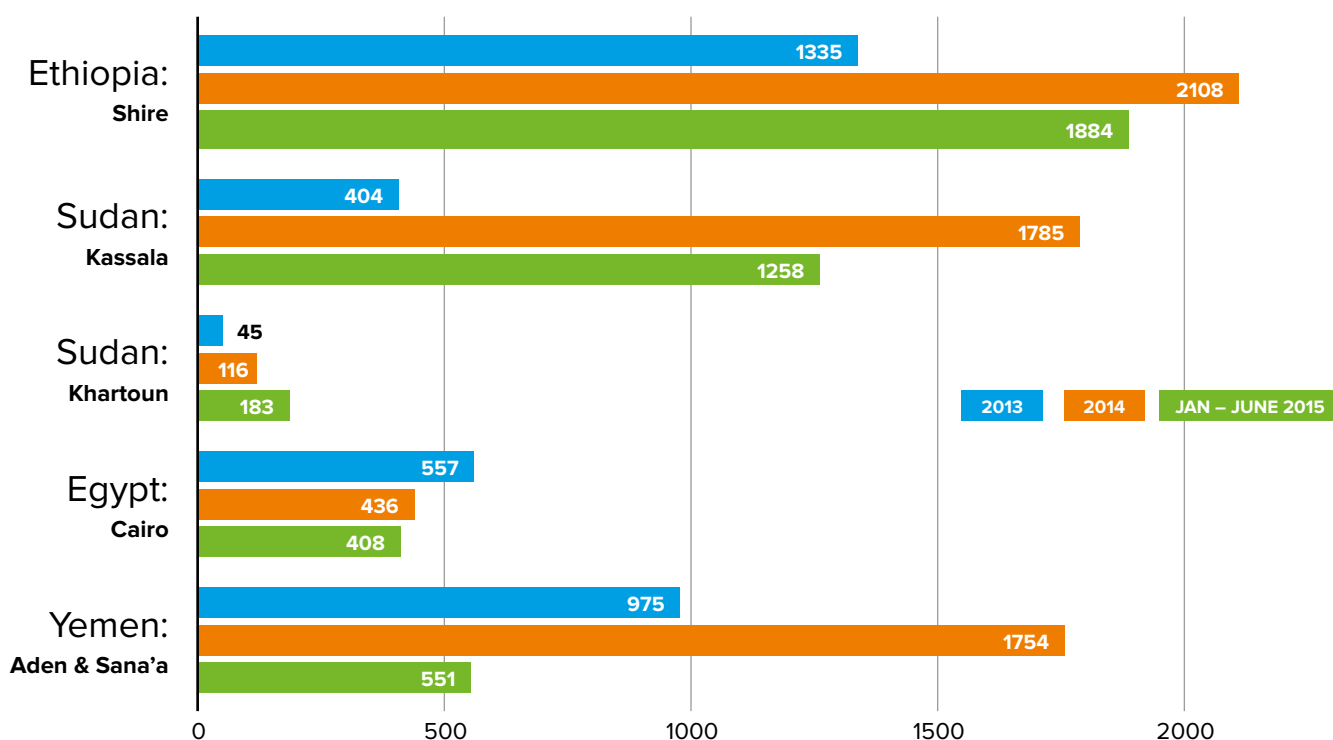
- 2012 Strategy and Regional Plan of Action: Smuggling and Trafficking from the East and Horn of Africa, available at <http://www.refworld.org/docid/51d175314.html>.
- 2015 Special Mediterranean Initiative: Plan for an enhanced operational response, available at: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/559f85f74.html>.

Key Trends

➤ **CHANGES OF MIGRATORY ROUTES IN THE REGION:** Previously, refugees from the East and Horn of Africa predominantly migrated toward Egypt/Israel. Since 2013-14, however, their migratory route has shifted gradually toward Egypt/Libya. While Egypt still receives a large number of unaccompanied and separated children, the risk of trafficking has decreased significantly in Egypt following an increased military presence in North Sinai. However, the large number of refugees and migrants, including unaccompanied and separated children, now travelling through Libya face other, equally severe risks.

➤ **LARGE INCREASE IN NEW ARRIVALS:** All locations in the region have witnessed an increase in the number of new arrivals of refugees and asylum-seekers. The increased number of children has placed more demands on the child protection programme. More specifically, the total number of arrivals of unaccompanied and separated children almost doubled in 2014 when 6,109 new arrivals were registered, compared to 3,316 in 2013. (See Graph 1) With 4,284 arrivals of unaccompanied and separated children in the first half of 2015, the increase continued in all locations with the exception of Yemen, where the number of arrivals decreased due to the outbreak of internal conflict in March. It is estimated that this trend will continue throughout 2015 and likely also in 2016.

Graph 1: Trends in New Arrivals of Unaccompanied and Separated Children (January 2013 – June 2015)



Note: *Live, Learn & Play Safe* is implemented in six locations in four countries. The figures for Aden and Sana'a have been combined for Yemen in the graph above.

Key Results

UNHCR Offices in the four countries collaborated with one another as well as with government systems and both international and national humanitarian and development partners to address the immediate and longer-term needs of children.

- A total of 13,460 unaccompanied and separated children received targeted assistance in the six locations.
- The number of young people engaging in dangerous and life threatening actions, such as resorting to trafficking or organised criminal networks, decreased significantly in two of the six locations: Shire (Ethiopia) and Khartoum (Sudan) – an important achievement, especially given the substantial increase in new arrivals.
- The project reinforced child protection expertise through the increased number of dedicated staff.
- Children enjoyed improved access to services to address their basic needs: shelter, health care, education, skills development, vocational training and recreational activities.
- Case management (including Best Interests Determination procedures) for children at risk was strengthened to systematically address their immediate and longer-term needs: identification and registration, Refugee Status Determination, alternative care arrangements, psychosocial support, counselling, and family tracing and reunification.
- Awareness raising and responsibility sharing amongst children, families and communities of protection risks, including those related to trafficking.

Regional Cooperation

UNHCR emphasized regional cooperation through, for instance, the development of uniform approaches to strengthen the child protection programme in the six locations. Two regional workshops were organized to enhance cooperation amongst the six teams and to guide implementation of the initiative.

➤ **JOINT ANALYSIS OF THE MOVEMENTS OF CHILDREN IN THE REGION:** Regular review of the trends and profiles of the children helped inform programming. Tracking of children remained a challenge, as many children did not contact UNHCR in all of the operations where they travelled. However, a system was in place in the three locations (Shire, Ethiopia and both Kassala and Khartoum, Sudan) where children were most likely to be travelling in order to exchange information on children missing due to presumed onward movements.

➤ **COMMON MONITORING AND EVALUATION (M&E) PROCEDURES:** A consolidated M&E plan was developed to allow operations to track and compare their achievements. The M&E toolkit contained both quantitative and qualitative reporting tools used by the six teams to regularly analyse and report their progress. This Report is an important M&E milestone in this regard, as the information and analysis reported by operations resulted from these M&E tools.

➤ **EXCHANGE OF BEST PRACTICES AND LESSONS LEARNED:** Best practices and lessons learned were shared and included in the plan of each operation, where relevant. Given the contexts in which the initiative was implemented varied, with both camp and urban populations being served and differing protection risks identified, activities were tailored to each specific context.

WAY FORWARD →

- Continue to prioritize activities related to child protection, education and solutions, as the influx of unaccompanied and separated children is likely to continue in 2015 and 2016.
- Support children with a renewed focus on alternative care arrangements.
- Assist communities to assume a central role in supporting unaccompanied and separated children.
- Build on the successes of the initiative to date and address challenges in the remaining period of implementation in order to meet the objectives of the initiative and ensure the impact is sustained beyond 2016.
- Maintain close collaboration between the six locations to ensure that the profiles of children at risk and related trends are well understood and that teams can adapt to changing needs.
- Continue to focus on children and to monitor their situation and well-being in the countries of asylum.

Main Achievements by Location

Egypt: Cairo

- Improved Best Interests procedures
- Provided counselling and psychosocial support

Sudan: Khartoum

- Improved identification of unaccompanied and separated children
- Established quality care arrangements

Sudan: Kassala

- Strengthened care and services at the Unaccompanied Children Centre
- Successfully reunified families in their countries of origin

Ethiopia: Shire

- Improved care arrangements
- Established community-based assistance for children

Yemen: Sana'a

- Strengthened case management procedures
- Ensured individual follow-up for unaccompanied and separated children as well as for children with specific needs

Yemen: Aden

- Developed a mechanism to separate children from traffickers
- Put in place a comprehensive service package at the Community Center

ETHIOPIA: SHIRE

HIGHLIGHTS ↗ JAN 2014 – JUN 2015

- 5,291 unaccompanied and separated children received targeted assistance.
- Over 16,000 children benefited from general improvements in child protection programming.
- New arrivals of unaccompanied and separated children increased by 58 per cent in 2014 and by 86 per cent in the first half of 2015. (See also: Graph 1)
- Group care was phased out and replaced by a community-based care arrangement for unaccompanied children in 2014.
- The average time spent in the Reception Centre was reduced from 60 days in 2013 to 20 days in June 2015.
- Onward movements decreased from 64 per cent in 2013 to 44 per cent in 2014 and to 22 per cent in the first half of 2015.
- The number of unaccompanied children resettled increased from 100 children in 2013 to 120 children in 2014. Another 100 cases were planned for resettlement in 2015.

Strengthening Child Protection Systems

The Administration for Refugee and Returnee Affairs (ARRA), the refugee agency of the Ethiopian Government, governs national services and assistance to refugees in Ethiopia. UNHCR worked together with ARRA and partners to ensure children had access to judicial institutions (e.g. police, courts), national schools at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels, and national health facilities. Despite advocacy efforts, refugee and asylum-seeker children did not have access to birth certificates. UNHCR will continue to collaborate with relevant protection partners with the aim of securing this access during the latter half of the initiative.

An increase in the number of UNHCR and implementing partner staff dedicated to child protection helped strengthen the overall child protection environment and ensure that the specific needs of the large number of unaccompanied children were identified and addressed. An Associate Child Protection Officer, seconded by UNICEF to UNHCR in November 2014, provided additional support. A total of 96 UNHCR, partner and government staff members (60 in 2014 and 36 in the first half of 2015) were also trained on child protection, child-sensitive communication, and child-friendly procedures in order to build the capacity of protection providers.

The Child Protection Standard Operating Procedures were revised to clarify roles and responsibilities around the protection of children. Its scope was also expanded to encompass all children at risk, rather than limiting its relevance to unaccompanied and separated children. The Child Protection Strategy was reviewed and updated to guide and unite partners and UNHCR around common goals and approaches.

Initial Best Interests Assessments were conducted for 33 per cent of unaccompanied and separated children soon after their arrival at the Reception Centre in 2014. This rate was maintained in the first half of 2015 although the number of new arrivals had almost doubled. All children were assessed at the camp level when recommendations were made for follow-up. It remains a priority to strengthen the capacity of UNHCR and partners to conduct thorough Best Interests Assessments in order to identify and best respond to the specific needs of each child.

Thirty vulnerable children and survivors of abuse, neglect, violence and exploitation (including unaccompanied and separated children as well as children with families) were identified in 2014. In the first half of 2015, that number had risen to 121, demonstrating that improved case management systems and procedures facilitate the identification of children in need of targeted support and assistance. All of the children identified were referred to appropriate services according to their protection and assistance needs.

30
in 2014

Stronger case management led to the identification and assistance of a higher number of vulnerable children and survivors of abuse, neglect, violence and exploitation.

121
JAN 2014 –
JUNE 2015

The participation of the refugee community was essential in identifying and addressing the needs of children. Community-based mechanisms (outlined in Table 1), which were strengthened in all four camps, helped facilitate this process. Child Parliament activities and other mechanisms, which were established and strengthened during the reporting period, helped promote the participation of children, by providing them with a platform to voice their concerns and seek solutions to the challenges they face. These community-based structures were difficult to sustain, however, due to the high turnover and loss of trained adult members, given that adults also left the camps and engaged in onward movements.

Table 1: Community-based mechanisms developed in Shire, Ethiopia

Community-Based Committees and Groups dedicated to Child Protection	2014	2015
Child Welfare Committee, Foster Parent Association, Refugee Incentive Workers Association	4	12
Children's Committees, Groups and Other Child Participation Structures	2014	2015
Child Parliament, Child Rights Club, Mini-media Club, Disability Association, Youth Association	4	20

“ I feel very proud because I serve children and I develop my leadership skills.”

Tesfalem, a 12 year-old refugee boy, describes being a member of the Child Parliament in May Aini Camp in Shire, Ethiopia. Tesfalem is responsible for representing unaccompanied and separated children in the camp and their interests and needs related to Water and Sanitation. He brings forward their proposals and discusses them with other members of the Child Parliament. Together, they formulate recommendations and present their conclusions to adults in the community and to UNHCR and partner staff.

Addressing Secondary Movement, Trafficking and Smuggling of Children

The number of children reported missing due to assumed onward movements decreased from 64 per cent in 2013 to 44 per cent in 2014 and to 22 per cent in the first half of 2015). This was an important development, especially considering the substantial increase in new arrivals. Children were less likely to leave the camps (e.g. May Aini Camp) where services and assistance were of higher and more consistent quality. A desire to reach their relatives, a majority of whom reportedly lives in Europe, was cited as the principal motivating factor for the onward movements of these children.

In collaboration with IOM, UNHCR conducted awareness-raising activities, trainings and workshops on the risks of trafficking for refugees, local community representatives, and law enforcement agents. A Joint Anti-Trafficking Taskforce was also established under the leadership of IOM with support from UNHCR and ARRA. This heightened attention to the dangers of trafficking helped refugees and local communities develop greater awareness of the risks and the capacity to address them.

Enhancing Alternative Care Arrangements

The duration of stay in the Endabaguna Reception Centre was reduced from an average of 60 days in 2013 to less than 30 days in 2014 and to 20 days by June 2015. The Office improved the conditions at the Centre by constructing a dormitory for girls, a recreation hall and a perimeter wall, by improving the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) facilities, by maintaining existing social and health services, and by ensuring regular monitoring of the Centre and its activities. In January 2015, an agreement was reached with ARRA to ensure the presence of a child protection partner to conduct recreational activities and provide psychosocial support to children at the Reception Centre.

During the reporting period, children were assessed in the Reception Centre and, subsequently, transferred to the camps and placed in the most appropriate care arrangement, depending on their specific needs. The placement of children in a certain type of care arrangement depended first on family tracing activities within the camps. If relatives were identified within the camps, children were placed with them in kinship care (as outlined in Table 2).

Table 2: Placement of refugee unaccompanied and separated children in care arrangements (Shire, Ethiopia; June 2015)

Kinship Care	585
Foster Care	59
Community Care	1,884
Independent Living	24
Total	2,652

A key achievement of the project in Shire was the closure of the group care arrangement for unaccompanied children in 2014. This form of care arrangement, which is analogous to institutionalization, was gradually phased out and transformed into community-based care arrangements. Through the latter, families and adults within the community ensure close supervision and care of the children through varied approaches, including kinship care, foster care, community care and supervised independent living.

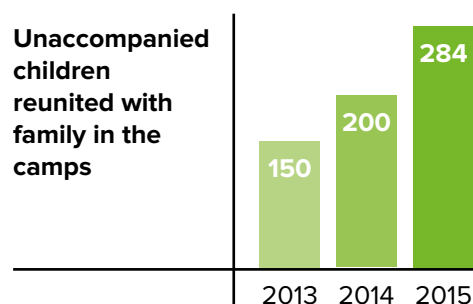
Unaccompanied children under the age of 13 years were prioritized for foster care. When foster care was not available, women from the refugee community were designated to help the children with washing, cooking and cleaning and to offer emotional support. During the reporting period, 17 “house mothers” provided day-to-day care to unaccompanied children under 13 years of age.

Although beneficial and substantially improved from the group care model, the community care model was not always optimal and did not provide the same care and support as could be provided in a foster family setting. Some support families or adults also engaged in onward movements, often leaving the children alone. However, considering the demographics in Shire, with a majority of single male households, the community care model was deemed the most appropriate option in terms of stability and protection for many children.

The construction of 180 additional permanent shelters and the renovation of existing ones were necessary to support community care, especially considering the continuous influx of new arrivals. The Office also recruited 202 Refugee Incentive Social Workers to conduct home visits and monitor the situation of children in care arrangements.

Family Reunification

Revised procedures and camp-based family tracing and reunification methods were developed to support newly-arrived unaccompanied children looking for their families in the camps or elsewhere in Ethiopia. Relevant staff were assigned to these activities and trained in communication with children to improve their skills in identifying and assisting children in need of family tracing and reunification. As a result, the number of children reunified with their families continued to increase in 2014 and in the first half of 2015.



Meeting Children’s Developmental and Livelihoods Needs

An estimated 75 per cent of unaccompanied and separated children were enrolled in primary and secondary education, and 10 per cent were enrolled in a vocational training activity as of June 2015.

Children enjoyed access to education in schools operated by the government agency, ARRA, and the International Rescue Committee in camps or in the host community. The construction of eight classrooms, the furnishing of two libraries, and the purchase of 5,500 text and reference books strengthened the primary education available to persons of concern. In collaboration with ARRA, UNHCR also developed procedures for communication and information sharing on the enrollment and attendance of children at school. Social workers responsible for the children in community-based care arrangements were trained to monitor school attendance and to promote the engagement of children in training activities and psychosocial support programmes.

Younger children and their families, including unaccompanied and separated children, benefited from access to Child Friendly Spaces as well as from Early Childhood Care and Education centres, which were established in all camps in early 2015. Older children participated in vocational training activities (e.g. metal fabrication, electrical installation, computer training, hairstyling and beauty, tailoring, food preparation and masonry).

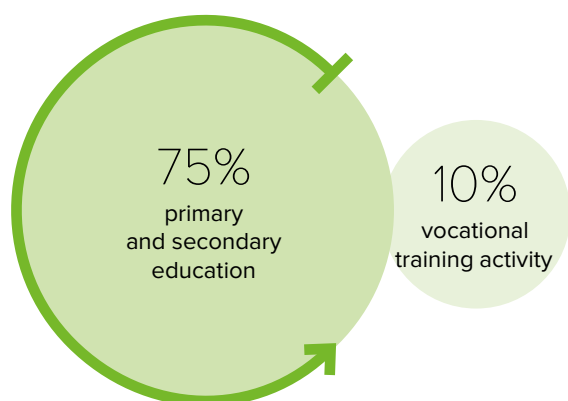


Figure: An estimated average of the total number of unaccompanied and separated children who were enrolled in academic and training activities as of June 2015.

PARTNERS

- Administration for Refugee and Returnee Affairs
- Innovative Humanitarian Solution
- International Organization for Migration
- International Rescue Committee
- Jesuit Refugee Services
- Norwegian Refugee Council
- UNICEF

WAY FORWARD →

- Increase the support and assistance provided to foster and kinship families.
- Offer accelerated learning opportunities to school-aged children who arrive after the enrolment deadline to prepare them for the next enrolment period.
- Develop age-appropriate Information Education Communication material and videos to raise awareness around the risks of trafficking.
- Improve and increase the coverage of Best Interests Assessments at the Endabaguna Reception Centre, and enhance the quality of case management procedures and databases in the camps.

SUDAN: KASSALA

HIGHLIGHTS ↗ JAN 2014 – JUN 2015

- 3,154 unaccompanied and separated children received targeted assistance.
- The number of new arrivals quadrupled in 2014 and increased by an additional 50 per cent in the first half of 2015. (See also: Graph 1, page 5)
- Children benefited from strengthened case management procedures.
- The conditions and basic services in the Unaccompanied Children Centre were improved.
- The families of 278 children benefited from a successful reunification programme in their countries of origin.

Strengthening Child Protection Systems

Refugee and asylum-seeker children enjoyed access to national health services, to Family and Child Protection Unit services and to national education services (with the exception of new arrivals who faced language barriers). Not all children received birth certificates, but progress has been made to register all newborns under three months old in seven camps. Preparations are under way to roll out mobile registration campaigns in the two remaining camps.

UNHCR worked in close cooperation with the Commission for Refugees and line ministries to strengthen capacity for child protection interventions. Furthermore, a Child Protection Working Group (CPWG) was set up in Kassala with members representing government agencies, UNHCR, UNICEF, and a local non-governmental organization and partner. Monthly meetings allowed for exchange of information and ideas and served as a platform to address child protection issues (e.g. children in conflict with law, family reunification within Sudan, child-friendly procedures, etc.) collaboratively.

The Best Interests Determination Panel in Kassala was strengthened through regular meetings and trainings, and a Best Interests Determination Panel was established at camp level in Shagarab, where the Unaccompanied Children Centre is located, to review cases for family reunification in the country of origin. A total of 120 government and partner staff participated in capacity-building activities (e.g. workshops and review sessions on child protection and Best Interests procedures).

Addressing Secondary Movement, Trafficking and Smuggling of Children

With a stronger child protection team, the Kassala operation succeeded in arranging a Best Interests Assessment for each unaccompanied child within 72 hours of arrival. These interviews revealed plans for onward movement, if they existed, enabling staff to tailor interventions and to inform each child of existing options (i.e. family reunification in Sudan and abroad), in order for them to exit the camp legally and safely.

Children were counseled on the risks associated with onward movement through regular focus group discussions conducted by the child protection team. Additionally, in close collaboration with anti-trafficking colleagues, awareness-raising sessions on the risks of trafficking were organized. In the reporting period, six children were identified as victims of trafficking. They benefited from fast-track assessment and registration procedures, as well as medical treatment and psychosocial support.



Refugee children at the Unaccompanied Children Centre in Kassala, Sudan © UNHCR

Although significant improvements were made in the identification of children at risk and the case management provided to them, the number of children reported as missing due to assumed secondary migration remained particularly high. Of the total population of unaccompanied and separated children, 70 per cent engaged in onward movements in 2014 and 66 per cent in the first half of 2015. Children reported that the desire to meet their families in Sudan or abroad coupled with a lack of educational and work opportunities in the camp motivated them to move onwards.



Enhancing Alternative Care Arrangements

Unaccompanied children arriving in Kassala were placed in the Unaccompanied Children Centre in Shagarab Camp. Significant renovations and improved management of the Centre allowed for 24-hour supervision and regular monitoring of children by social workers, as well as an increased number of activities. These improvements made it possible to offer higher quality assistance to more children: in 2014, the Centre accommodated an average of 156 children per month while, in the first half of 2015, this number increased to 238. Children reported feeling safe and cared for in the Centre. However, the high number of new arrivals impacted the conditions and the availability of some services. Other forms of alternative care arrangements are planned for the remaining duration of the project. For example, foster care and small group care programmes are being developed for older boys who prefer living independently. Social workers will continue to monitor these programmes regularly.

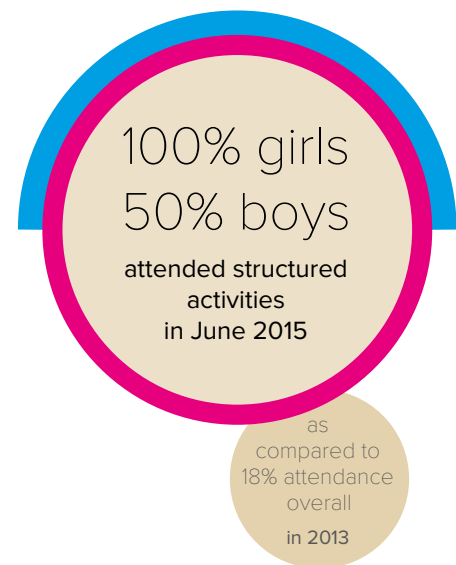
Family Reunification

Significant improvements were achieved in family tracing and reunification as all children registered in the Unaccompanied Children Centre received counselling on family reunification options. A total of 332 children were supported with family tracing and reunification procedures between 2014 and the first half of 2015. The Office prioritized Best Interests Determination procedures for all unaccompanied and separated children interested in reunification with their families in the country of origin. As a result, in the first 18 months of the project, a total of 278 children were successfully reunited with their families through family reunification convoys that were sent to the country of origin, arrangements with the parents to collect their children directly from the camp, or private sponsorship. Family reunification within Sudan remains a challenge due to a lack of formal procedures.

Meeting Children's Developmental and Livelihoods Needs

Given an increase in the number of new arrivals of unaccompanied children alongside a high rate of onward movement, efforts were made to expand the language and literacy programme (i.e. to include Arabic, English and Tigrinya) in the Unaccompanied Children Centre, as well as to develop vocational training opportunities for older adolescents. The number of unaccompanied children attending structured activities, including literacy and language classes, thus, increased. As of June 2015, almost 100 per cent of girls and 50 per cent of boys were engaged in activities, as opposed to an average of just 18 per cent of all unaccompanied children in 2013.

Nonetheless, challenges remain, as non-Arabic speaking children lack access to formal education and local authorities do not prioritize livelihoods trainings.



PARTNERS

- Commission for Refugees
- Sudanese Red Crescent
- Human Appeal International
- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- Ministry of Social Welfare

WAY FORWARD →

- Continue exploring with government partners how to implement training programmes that would improve the learning opportunities available to unaccompanied children and build their capacity for future employment and integration.
- Establish formal procedures for family reunification within Sudan.

SUDAN: KHARTOUM

HIGHLIGHTS ↗ JAN 2014 – JUN 2015

- 363 unaccompanied and separated children received targeted assistance.
- Onward movements decreased from 34 per cent in 2013 to seven per cent as of June 2015.
- Six times more children have been identified and reached since the launch of the initiative in 2013.
- A total of 70 per cent of the children benefited from educational or livelihoods activities.
- A majority of children are placed in family-based care arrangements.
- Children reported increased satisfaction in the quality of the arrangements.

Strengthening Child Protection Systems

Refugee and asylum-seeker children enjoyed access to public health care and to national child protection services. The Family and Child Protection Unit responded to any child in conflict with the law, regardless of documentation. Children did not have full access to birth certificates or to public education services due to restrictions on refugee registration and documentation.

The number of unaccompanied and separated children who benefited from Best Interests procedures rose substantially from 30 per cent in 2013 to 85 per cent in 2014 and in the first half of 2015. This was particularly notable given that six times more unaccompanied and separated children had been identified during the same reporting period.

Efforts were made to improve community outreach, including by training eight members of the community to serve as Volunteer Social Workers and to engage community members in the identification and referral of children to relevant services. Their work resulted in a significant increase in the identification of unaccompanied and separated children from an average of six per month in 2014 to over 30 per month in the first half of 2015. In addition, young people were encouraged to play an active role in identifying challenges affecting refugee youth and to promote solutions. Narrative Theatre events, prepared in partnership with Ahfad University in May 2015, served as one platform for their involvement.

Addressing Secondary Movement, Trafficking and Smuggling of Children

As demonstrated in other locations, identification is a critical step to protect children at risk of engaging in dangerous and life threatening actions, such as resorting to trafficking or organised criminal networks, in a large scattered urban environment, like Khartoum. A key concern for Khartoum in earlier years was an inability to identify and follow-up with the highly mobile population transiting through the city. Through enhanced outreach activities, the number of unaccompanied and separated children identified had increased six-fold since the launch of the project, with just 45 cases identified in 2013 and more than 363 identified by June 2015.

45
in 2013

The number of UASC identified was six times higher since the launch of the project.

363
by June 2015



Unaccompanied children living independently (with friends) in Khartoum, Sudan © UNHCR

The responses children provided during Best Interests Assessments were analysed and compared at the beginning of the initiative and again after one year of its implementation. An exceptionally high retention rate was noted amongst children identified as unaccompanied or separated, despite their intentions to move onward, as stated during their first point of contact. In fact, as of June 2015, onward movement was only seven per cent, although 69 per cent had expressed plans to move onwards. It is likely that the high retention rate correlates with improved support and case management services: all identified unaccompanied and separated children were individually assessed and offered educational, health and financial support.

The number of unaccompanied and separated children identified as victims of trafficking was relatively consistent with seven per cent in 2014 and eight per cent in 2015. However, the actual number is estimated to be higher, considering a large number of newly-arrived unaccompanied and separated children remained unidentified and were presumed to transit only briefly through Khartoum before moving onwards to other destinations via Libya or Egypt, without encountering UNHCR.

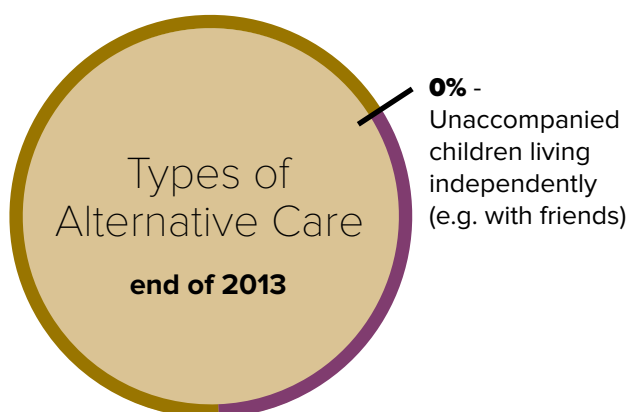
The deteriorating protection environment for refugees in Khartoum contributed to their decision to leave and expose themselves to the risks of onward movements, including trafficking. A key challenge faced by undocumented refugees and, in particular children and their caregivers, was their lack of access to refugee registration in Khartoum. Undocumented refugee children, whether accompanied, unaccompanied or separated, also faced a particularly high risk of detainment. At least 154 children of concern identified by UNHCR were detained between January 2014 and June 2015.

Enhancing Alternative Care Arrangements

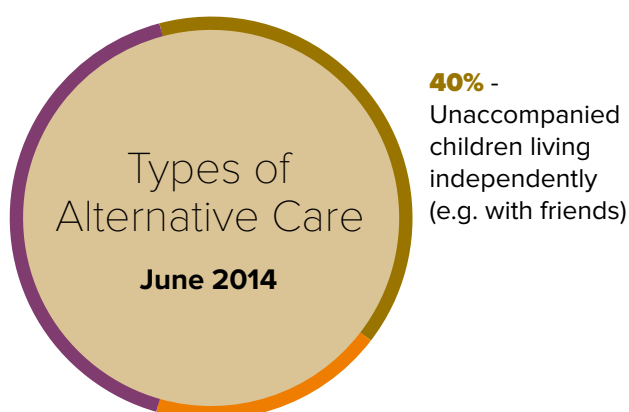
A newly-created case management system ensured that support provided to children was tailored to their individual needs. Despite a rapid increase in the number of children identified as unaccompanied or separated, the majority (60 per cent) was supported in family-based care arrangements (19 per cent in kinship care and 41 per cent in foster care) as of June 2015. The remaining 40 per cent consisted of unaccompanied children supported to live independently, usually sharing accommodation with friends in small groups around the city.

70% – Unaccompanied children living in foster care (e.g. with a non-related adult caregiver)

41% – Unaccompanied children living in foster care (e.g. with a non-related adult caregiver)



30% – Separated children living in kinship care (e.g. with extended family members)



19% – Separated children living in kinship care (e.g. with extended family members)

The number of unaccompanied and separated children who raised complaints about their care arrangements declined from 48 per cent in 2014 to 18 per cent in 2015. This improvement may be attributed to the Alternative Care Guidelines, which were developed during a participatory workshop with caregivers and children in June 2014. Amongst other standardized procedures, the Guidelines supported a cash-based assistance programme whereby children and caregivers visit the Office on a monthly basis to receive their assistance and report concerns.

Family Reunification

Approximately 50 children approached UNHCR to help trace and be reunified with a relative in a third country, predominantly in Europe. The majority of these children had already commenced private family reunification proceedings with the sponsor abroad and sought assistance from the Office regarding UNHCR materials, travel documents or exit permit requirements. The Office also supported a small number of unaccompanied and separated children who had exhausted family reunification procedures with referrals through the UNHCR resettlement process.

Meeting Children's Developmental and Livelihoods Needs

It is estimated that 70 per cent of unaccompanied and separated children benefited from educational or livelihood activities as a result of the project. As of June 2015, 221 children had been supported with development opportunities, including formal schooling and vocational training, compared to just 16 children at the onset of the initiative.

A total of 129 unaccompanied and separated children as well as other children at risk graduated from a three-month vocational training programme at a training centre owned and managed by refugees. Many of these children also benefited from on-the-job training placements in small businesses. Academic fees were also covered for an additional 69 children to enrol in, or continue, their formal education; unaccompanied and separated children as well as the biological children of caregivers benefited from this support.

PARTNERS

- Ahfad University
- Commission for Refugees
- Ministry of Social Welfare
- National Council for Child Welfare
- Police Family Child Protection Unit
- UNICEF
- Vocational Training Centre

WAY FORWARD →

- Explore a child protection partnership to ensure adequate follow-up of unaccompanied and separated children and to conduct home visits and help strengthen community outreach.
- Coordinate with government counterparts (i.e. Ministry of Social Welfare, Police Family and Child Protection Unit, National Council for Child Welfare) to facilitate the access of refugee children and families to national service providers.

EGYPT: CAIRO

HIGHLIGHTS JAN 2014 – JUN 2015

- 1,637 unaccompanied and separated children received targeted assistance.
- Children at risk in the East and Horn of Africa were prioritized, and Syrian children also benefited from overall improvements in child protection programming.
- Children received prioritized assistance: registration, fast-track Refugee Status Determination, counselling on the risks of trafficking immediately upon registration, improved access to psychosocial support, and educational and developmental activities.
- Unaccompanied and separated children were difficult to monitor due to their dispersed location throughout Cairo.

Strengthening Child Protection Systems

Access to national child protection and social services remains limited for Sub-Saharan African refugee and asylum-seeker children. They face particular challenges accessing education due to various factors, including restrictions inhibiting attendance at public schools, discrimination, lack of English or Arabic language skills, and prolonged truancy in their country of origin. Sudanese refugee girls and boys have restricted access to the public school system, while Somalis, Ethiopians, Eritreans and Yemenis are unable to access public schools altogether. Syrian children, however, enjoy full access to public education.

The establishment of a Child Protection Unit at the onset of the project allowed UNHCR to address the risks of unaccompanied and separated and other children at risk in a more comprehensive manner. The Child Protection Unit conducted 735 Best Interests Assessments during the reporting period, and the Best Interests Determination panel made decisions on appropriate durable solutions for 82 unaccompanied children in 2014 and an additional 25 in the first half of 2015.

Capacity building was a priority during the reporting period: 55 UNHCR and partner staff members were trained on child protection, child communication and child-friendly procedures in 2014, and an additional 29 staff members were trained in the first half of 2015. A gap remains in the capacity of the operation to conduct coordinated follow-up and monitoring of unaccompanied and separated children. A series of modular trainings focused on case management are planned for the second half of 2015 for both UNHCR and partners.

The National Council for Childhood and Motherhood (NCCM) is a governmental body in charge of social welfare issues, working through Child Protection Committees (CPC) at the governorate level and through sub-committees at the district level. The role of the CPC is to identify children at risk and carry out preventive, referral and rehabilitation interventions and follow-up. UNHCR supported the NCCM to develop a decree with specific reference to the protection of foreign children, including refugee children. In promoting and strengthening Egypt's child protection system, UNHCR and other national and international child protection actors continued to engage with the NCCM and participated in a three-day training in March 2015 to provide members of the Child Protection Committees at the district level with technical assistance on the identification of children at risk.



Refugee unaccompanied and separated children participating in a Capoeira class in Cairo in November 2014. © UNHCR

Addressing Secondary Movement, Trafficking and Smuggling of Children

Registration of unaccompanied and separated children was prioritized in order to strengthen protection, in particular with regard to the risks of trafficking. Children 15 years old and younger as well as adolescents aged 16 and 17 years with heightened protection risks were fast-tracked for Refugee Status Determination. Individual and group counselling on the risks of trafficking were provided upon registration to all 436 unaccompanied and separated children who arrived in 2014 and all 408 who arrived in the first half of 2015.



Targeted outreach and awareness-raising activities, conducted in collaboration with trained community child protection volunteers and advocates, contributed to the identification of unaccompanied and separated as well as other children at risk. These community workers shared information on available services, mentored and monitored unaccompanied and separated children, and helped strengthen services available to children identified as victims of trafficking.

The trafficking phenomenon heavily affected the migratory route between the Horn of Africa and Egypt through mid-2013, at which time a decrease in the number of victims of trafficking was observed. This number remained low through the end of the reporting period. Since 2012, 385 victims of trafficking have been recorded, the majority of whom had been resettled to third countries by mid-2015. As of June 2015, 122 victims of trafficking, including 19 unaccompanied and separated children remained in Egypt and were at different stages of the resettlement process.

The Child Protection Unit, which was put in place during the reporting period to conduct protection-related activities, oversaw the registration of new arrivals. However, because the added responsibility of registration resulted in delays in protection assessments, the responsibility of registering unaccompanied and separated

children was reassigned to the Registration Unit in May 2015. The registration of new arrivals will still be prioritized, but the objective is for the Child Protection Team to focus on assessments in order to reduce the backlog of unprocessed older cases so that all children may be interviewed.

Enhancing Alternative Care Arrangements

Boys aged 15-17 years who prefer independent living arrangements represent a majority of the children of concern in Cairo. UNHCR distributed monthly cash grants to 1,637 unaccompanied children to support them in securing their own living arrangements. Of these children, 299 children lived in alternative care arrangements, and 78 per cent of them received regular monitoring visits by trained psychosocial workers in 2015. The provision of alternative care for unaccompanied children and other children at risk remains a challenge, as the national child protection system does not support the provision of shelters and accommodation for unaccompanied refugee children. UNHCR will continue to distribute cash grants to support independent living but will also promote more community and family-based care arrangements to ensure a safer protection environment for children at risk.

Family Reunification

A coordinated approach, involving Best Interests Determination and resettlement or family reunification procedures, was necessary to restore family links for children who were unaccompanied and separated, victims of trafficking or survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), in cooperation with National Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies, offered family tracing services and family reunification in a majority of African countries. Where such services were deemed to be in the best interests of the child, the Office initiated a referral to the International Committee of the Red Cross. In 2014, 247 refugee children were supported with tracing and family reunification in their countries of origin. Between January and June 2015, another 99 unaccompanied children benefited from the International Committee of the Red Cross tracing services.

Meeting Children's Developmental and Livelihoods Needs

Unaccompanied and separated children were referred to language classes (i.e. English or Arabic) and enjoyed access to informal schooling in community schools and in classes organized by the partner agency, Catholic Relief Services (CRS). During the reporting period, 19 community schools received financial support and 27 teachers were trained.

“ I love to learn. Before I joined the classes at CRS, I couldn't read, write or speak in English, but now I am able to at least read and write and I am also trying to speak and listen in English.”

In the statement above, Hakeem, a 16 year-old refugee boy, describes his experience as a student in the English Classes offered by Catholic Relief Services in Cairo. In addition to educational benefits, Hakeem also referenced the importance of having meals and transportation provided to help him attend classes. Hakeem became friends with other children who participated in the classes and met regularly with them outside the programme.

UNHCR's operational partner, St. Andrew's Refugee Services (StARS), contributed by offering a hybrid psychoeducational programme for unaccompanied and separated children with classes (i.e. language, mathematics, computer) tailored to the needs of individuals as well as a bi-weekly psychosocial activities group. Between January and December 2014, 134 unaccompanied and separated children benefited from both StARS' educational programmes and its safe space for social interaction and life skills development. As of June 2015, an additional 126 unaccompanied and separated children were enrolled in StARS programmes.

UNHCR coordinated a range of recreational activities to promote resilience and coping mechanisms amongst refugee children: 350 youth benefited from therapeutic art programmes and other activities targeting adolescents. The pilot project, "Social Capoeira Initiative 2014", allowed 300 children and youth with specific needs to participate in an activity that combined psychosocial support with physical activity. Additionally, six UNHCR-supported community centres provided space and social support for children to engage more actively in their communities.

PARTNERS

- Caritas
- Catholic Relief Services
- International Committee of the Red Cross
- Psycho-Social Services and Training Institute (PSTIC)
- St. Andrew's Refugee Services
- Tadamon
- UNICEF

WAY FORWARD →

- Prioritize the advancement of quality case management to ensure the follow-up and monitoring of all children at risk in 2016.
- Facilitate collaboration between the child protection team and other units, partners and the community to identify and reach more children and to reduce the backlog of children awaiting Best Interests procedures.
- Pursue developmental and livelihoods opportunities, together with partner Catholic Relief Services, to increase the number of children enrolled in these activities in 2015.
- Collaborate with partners and other national actors (e.g. National Council for Childhood and Motherhood, Child Protection Committees) through the Egyptian Child Protection Network to strengthen cooperation around child protection.

YEMEN: SANA'A

HIGHLIGHTS ↗ JAN 2014 – JUN 2015

- 631 children received targeted assistance.
- Children benefited from stronger case management and regular follow-up and monitoring.
- Between March and May 2015, the project was severely affected by the armed conflict in Sana'a.
- A Family Centre was opened in June 2015 providing children with access to educational, recreational and sports activities in a safe environment in spite of the ongoing conflict.

Strengthening Child Protection Systems

UNHCR worked closely with relevant government sectors to ensure children enjoyed non-discriminatory access to national services (i.e. government health services, public education, birth registration, child protection and social welfare). Due to the armed conflict, however, this access was disrupted as of March 2015.

UNHCR partners facilitated the issuance of birth certificates to refugee children: 373 children received birth certificates in 2014 and an additional 25 received them in 2015. Other refugee children received their birth certificates directly from the Civil Registration Authority (CRA). UNHCR began discussions with the CRA to enhance the data collection system in order to better track birth certificates issued to refugee children directly by the government. In collaboration with the Ministry of Education, an effective coordination mechanism was put in place to facilitate enrolment in public schools. Due to insecurity, however, from March 2015 onwards, public schools were closed, birth registration was delayed, and collaboration with government sectors was hindered.

In 2014, a child protection focal point was hired to strengthen the Best Interests procedures and a total of 176 Best Interests Assessments were conducted. From January to June 2015, a total of 230 Best Interests Assessments were conducted or updated, with all unaccompanied and separated children having their Best Interests procedures completed. UNHCR's partner, the Millennium Development Fund, began activities in May 2015 and will continue implementing the project henceforth.

Support was provided to a Child Protection Committee, which was established in 2015 and includes two child members. This Committee identifies, responds to and refers children at risk and also advocates on behalf of child protection issues. Four refugee children became members of the Yemeni Children's Parliament in 2014 and participated in three sessions with government staff to advocate on child protection issues (e.g. early marriage, child-free prisons). In addition to these child leaders, the participation of other children and community members was also supported during the reporting period.

Addressing Secondary Movement, Trafficking and Smuggling of Children

Many unaccompanied and separated children came to Yemen with the intention to smuggle themselves to Saudi Arabia. Since the onset of the project, UNHCR Sana'a has conducted awareness-raising activities on the risks of trafficking. Upon identification of children at risk, a Best Interests Assessment was conducted and those who expressed a desire to leave Yemen were advised against it, encouraged to consider alternative options and informed of the initiative and how it could support them in Yemen.

The cases of missing children who were believed to have moved onward were confirmed through regular counselling and follow-up home visits. In 2014, out of 163 unaccompanied and separated children in Sana'a, only

seven were confirmed to have moved onward. From January to June 2015, six unaccompanied and separated children left Sana'a in search of safer areas due to the insecurity in Yemen. Additionally, 11 children with specific needs left Yemen with their families and returned to Somalia.

Since March 2015, it has been difficult to identify children victims of trafficking due to the lack of communication and coordination with government entities and partners working at the border and entry points.

Enhancing Alternative Care Arrangements

All registered unaccompanied children were immediately placed in care arrangements (foster families or group shared accommodation). The guidance on care arrangements was updated with refugee community leaders. Both children and foster families received financial assistance and regular monitoring and counselling. The community was fully engaged in the identification of suitable foster families or the location of accommodation for children living independently. Arrangements were sometimes difficult, as it was challenging to find foster families for children over the age of 12 years as well as for children with mental or physical disabilities. The economic conditions in Yemen also rendered it difficult for foster families to care for unaccompanied children, as many were unemployed.

Separated children in kinship arrangements were supported with counselling, monitoring and regular home visits as well as with financial assistance, with respect to relevant criteria.

“ I was scared, tired and hungry. I didn't have any food or water for 24 hours.”

Filbert, a 14 year-old refugee boy, took the risky journey to Yemen in search of hope. On the way, he faced danger and countless challenges. He spent 24 hours in the middle of the sea, not knowing if he would make it to shore.

After arriving safely in Yemen, he began another journey of survival. A group of men offered to take him to Sana'a, where his maternal aunt lived. He, then, was united with her and she sent him to the UNHCR Office for registration. His case was fast tracked and, soon thereafter, he obtained refugee status. To provide him with critical medical support, due to his lifelong medical condition, Thalassaemia, he was referred to UNHCR's health partner, International Medical Corps, for medication and follow-up.

Despite incessant fatigue and sickness, Filbert dreams of continuing his education, viewing this as critical to future employability. He currently attends the Family Centre of the Millennium Development Foundation, where he is enrolled in English and Arabic language classes and participates in recreational activities alongside other children. He expresses delight in being able to access such a place, despite the distressing circumstances in the country.

Family Reunification

During Best Interests Assessments, children were offered family tracing services through the International Committee of the Red Cross. UNHCR and the International Committee of the Red Cross worked together to coordinate the referral of cases for family tracing, related appointments and feedback on tracing results. In 2014, only one child was reunited with his family. In the first half of 2015, four cases were referred to the International Committee of the Red Cross after they indicated their intention to reunify with their families. Later, however, they changed their minds and declined family reunification services. Some children cited a fear of exposing their families as the reason for the exceptionally low interest in family tracing and reunification, while others described a general disinterest in returning to their countries of origin and a desire to continue their transit through Yemen toward wealthier countries.



Refugee children playing in a Family centre opened in June 2015 in Sana'a, Yemen © UNHCR / L. Abdulrab

Meeting Children's Developmental and Livelihoods Needs

Effective coordination with the Ministry of Education facilitated the successful enrolment of refugee children in public schools and the quick resolution of issues related to refugee education.

Adolescent refugees benefited from a variety of classes (computer, English and Arabic languages, ticket booking and hotel management, driving, crafts, cooking and hairstyling). Unfortunately, only English and computer classes were maintained after the conflict started in March 2015.

A Family Centre was opened in June 2015, offering recreational and sports activities, remedial and literacy classes, life skills training, and both English and Arabic classes. Only 32 refugee children were enrolled in the Centre, as most children were too scared to leave their homes due to relentless airstrikes and anti-aircraft shelling. The security situation in Yemen will undoubtedly remain a key factor in the continued implementation of related activities.

PARTNERS

- Adventist Development and Relief Agency
- Charitable Society for Social Welfare
- Civil Registration Authority
- International Committee of the Red Cross
- International Medical Corps
- International Relief for Development
- Intersos
- Millennium Development Foundation
- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Social Affairs

WAY FORWARD →

- Coordinate with community leaders, area leaders, foster families, child protection committees and police officers to track missing children and to identify child survivors and those at risk of trafficking.
- Train foster families on child protection issues and psychosocial first aid.
- Contract professional English teachers to enhance the quality of English classes in the Family Centre.

YEMEN: ADEN

HIGHLIGHTS ↗ JAN 2014 – JUN 2015

- 2,398 unaccompanied and separated children received targeted assistance.
- Children who arrived along the coast in Yemen were separated from traffickers. Counselors advised them on the risks to which they were exposed and assisted them with legal procedures.
- Children were transported in safety to Aden or to the camp, where they were enrolled in a comprehensive programme and referred to targeted services.
- The armed conflict destroyed most structures and paralysed the infrastructure in Aden in March 2015.

Strengthening Child Protection Systems

Despite a weak national system and high turnover of government staff, UNHCR and partners benefited from close collaboration with various government departments. Several coordination and advocacy meetings with local authorities and relevant departments were organized to facilitate the access of persons of concern, including children, to national services. The Office of General Security in Aden provided a full-time female investigator to support the SGBV Unit within the Basateen Police and enable women and children who were survivors of SGBV and trafficking to report incidents in a confidential and safe environment. Staff members from the Prosecutor's Office, the Office of Social Affairs and National Safe Shelter were involved in all UNHCR trainings on child protection and Best Interests procedures. The Office of Social Affairs participated on the Best Interests Determination Panel and provided safe shelter to children at risk within their families.

UNHCR sought to build the capacity of the community through trainings, regular meetings and the provision of transport and telecommunication incentives for all committee members. The community members, especially young people and women, were actively involved in referring children at risk to partners, helping unaccompanied, separated or trafficked children find safe shelters within the community, and ensuring their physical protection. Nineteen refugee young people were actively involved in managing child-friendly activities in the Community Centre. UNHCR supported the Alghaith Refugee Association to provide activities (e.g. accelerated learning programmes, literacy programmes, day-care services, language and computer courses, and awareness-raising activities).

At the onset of the armed conflict in March 2015, the facilities of UNHCR partners were closed. However, the staff continued to work in the field and provided food and non-food items to unaccompanied children in the group care shelters and to those placed with foster care families. At the beginning of June, the clashes reached the Basateen area, destroying infrastructure and buildings, and resulting in the closure of schools and community centres as well as the discontinuation of services for children. Children fled to mosques, schools and open areas. The counselors who stayed in Aden maintained contact with the children and provided them with cash assistance. In the coastal reception centres, newly-arrived children were rescued, registered and provided with initial registration documentation. Because transportation to the camps was no longer possible, children were forced to travel through insecure, lawless and heavily militarized areas from the coast through the central governorates. However, spontaneous arrivals in the camp were still provided with services by UNHCR.

Addressing Secondary Movement, Trafficking and Smuggling of Children

A mechanism was established in reception centres along the coastal area and in Kharaz Camp in order to identify and respond to children who were victims of trafficking, abuse or abduction. UNHCR provided training to the police and the coast guard to identify trafficking cases. Children were separated from traffickers, and counsellors were hired to inform them of the risks of trafficking and to provide them with information on available services. A total of 197 children were identified as victims of trafficking in 2014, and an additional 19 were identified in the first half of 2015.



Identified children were transported to safe shelters or placed within the community of Kharaz Camp or the urban area of Basateen, Aden. While the children were in a safe place that was regularly monitored, UNHCR was able to start legal procedures without affecting their security. Legal processes were conducted for 25 cases of children victims of trafficking in 2014. UNHCR followed these cases closely and initiated family tracing in collaboration with the International Committee of the Red Cross and community members. The Somali Consulate was engaged in tracing the families of the trafficked children and their contribution helped strengthen advocacy efforts and build confidence within the community.

Between March and June 2015, 331 unaccompanied and separated children new arrivals identified on the coast were not supported with transportation to the camp or Aden due to the outbreak of armed conflict. They were left without any protection assistance and forced to continue their journey on their own to their destination of choice.

Enhancing Alternative Care Arrangements

A total of 809 children transported from the coastal areas were received by counsellors in the camp or in Aden and placed in two types of care arrangements, according to their age and gender.

Boys older than 12 years were placed in rented shelters with a caregiver from their community and provided with food, non-food items and hygiene materials. Caregivers were carefully selected and trained on how to support the children and manage the shelter. All children placed in shelters were regularly monitored by UNHCR and partner staff. Girls of all ages and boys younger than 12 years were placed in foster families. The caregivers in the foster families were provided with a monthly cash allowance, counselling and guidance on how to manage and care for the children. Of the children placed in foster care, 100 per cent received regular visits by counsellors. Separated children were placed with their relatives and received support such as a monthly cash allowance, school material, facilitation of documentation and enrolment in schools.



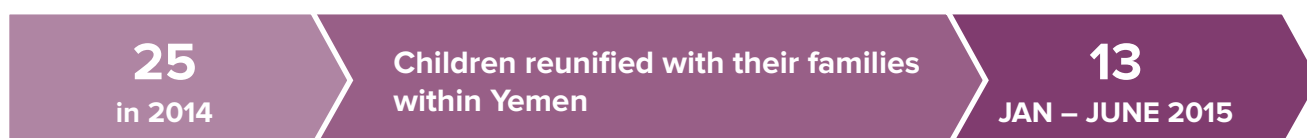
Additional resources allowed the Office to rent shelters and accommodate the increasing number of new arrivals. Incentives provided to caregivers encouraged them to continue their role for a longer period of time, creating continuity, establishing trust between the children and their caregivers, and contributing to a more positive family atmosphere. Additionally, 20 partner and UNHCR staff members were trained in child protection (e.g. Best Interests procedures), and 30 counsellors were trained to monitor protection issues and both prevent and resolve conflicts.

In March 2015, the armed conflict destroyed most of the shelters in Basateen and children were displaced to mosques, schools and the camp. Counsellors continued to monitor them and provided them with cash assistance. Should the situation improve, the shelters will require significant renovation.

Family Reunification

UNHCR and the International Committee of the Red Cross strengthened their collaboration in 2014 and established a family reunification mechanism for children identified as victims of trafficking. Based on the results of Best Interests Assessments, more than 50 cases of trafficked children were referred and supported with transportation for interviews with the International Committee of the Red Cross for family tracing and reunification purposes. Only one child was willing to return to his country of origin and the International Committee of the Red Cross initiated the tracing process to return the child home. Despite the general unwillingness of children to return to their countries of origin, the established mechanism is important as a contingency measure. If the situation deteriorates further in Yemen, it is possible that more children will prefer to return home and the established procedures will support them to do so.

Children were also supported to reunify with their families in Yemen during the reporting period: 25 children were reunified with their families in Yemen in 2014, and an additional 13 were reunified in the first half of 2015.



Meeting Children’s Developmental and Livelihoods Needs

All unaccompanied and separated children of school age were enrolled in education programmes between January 2014 and March 2015, regardless of whether they possessed a birth certificate or not. Children enjoyed access to primary and secondary education, and those with relevant language skills and sufficient test scores benefited from accelerated programmes within the public school system. Younger children were enrolled directly in national schools as it was easier for them to learn the language.

A community centre offering language and remedial classes was established to help older children who needed to improve their language skills before they could be enrolled in public schools. The centre provided unaccompanied and separated children and other children at risk with easy access to confidential counselling, educational and recreational services/activities, and peer support which was otherwise not easily available to children in Yemen. In March 2015, the Community Centre was closed as it was seriously damaged during conflicts.

PARTNERS

- Alghaith Refugee Association
- Association for Development of People with Special Needs
- Charitable Society for Social Welfare
- Danish Refugee Council
- International Medical Corps
- Intersos
- Millennium Development Foundation
- Office of Education
- Office of General Security
- Prosecutor Offices
- Office of Health
- Office of Social Affairs
- Society for Humanitarian Solidarity
- Yemeni Red Crescent
- Solidarity Association for Development

WAY FORWARD →

- Explore the possibility of reuniting children with their families in their countries of origin, should the situation deteriorate in Yemen.
- Reinitiate assistance (including transportation to Aden and the camp) provided to unaccompanied and separated children in coastal areas, as soon as the situation improves.
- Renovate the Community Centre as well as shelters for unaccompanied and separated children, when the conflict ends, to ensure care arrangements and both educational and recreational activities are maintained.
- Equip the Community Centre with computers and other equipment, and offer both vocational training and counselling to children who may have been traumatized by the conflict.
- Organize trainings to develop the capacity of UN-HCR and partner staff around child protection.



