



Save the Children®

SYRIA

October 17, 2019

Conflict in Northeast Syria Driving Mass Displacement; Save the Children is Mobilizing Aid



Your support is critical.

The intense fighting in northeast Syria is driving tens of thousands of civilians away from their homes. Many were already living in temporary camps after having been displaced at least once during Syria's relentless eight-year-old war. Children and families are arriving at schools and in camps where conditions pose grave threats to their health and safety. Our staff have visited schools being used as shelters and report that food and clean water are in short supply. Poor sanitation may lead to diseases. Children are also exposed to exploitation and stressed by the sudden upheaval in their lives.

Immediate needs.

We have already delivered medicines to camps receiving new families and provided "psychological first aid" to children and families sheltering at schools. As conditions and security allow, we will mobilize our local staff to deliver relief supplies and food, support children's emotional well-being, reunite children who've been separated from their families and address mothers' and very young children's nutritional needs.

"We are doing everything we can to assess and meet the needs of the population who have been widely displaced in different locations...Once again, like hundreds of thousands of Syria's children; babies are caught in a war they were born into."

-Sonia Kush, Save the Children Syrian Response Director



COUNSELLING

We are providing psychological first aid to traumatized children and counselling to pregnant and nursing mothers.



FOOD

We are screening children for malnutrition as well as distributing food to displaced children and families.



CLOTHING & BLANKETS

We are procuring winter kits and will be distributing them throughout the coming months as temperatures drop.

Your support saves lives: Save the Children has served conflict-affected children and families in northeast Syria since 2014. We are ready to scale up relief operations to help alleviate needs that this mass displacement is creating.



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Our Seven Years of Work on Behalf of Syrian Children

Save the Children has worked with and through partners inside Syria since 2012, addressing the most urgent needs of conflict-affected children and their families. We are committed not only to immediate relief but to providing access to health care and education and supporting the emotional well-being of children who've experienced the horrors of war.

Right people, right place, right time.

We have dozens of expert humanitarian staff based in the region who are working nonstop to support programs inside Syria and strengthen and monitor our partners' activities.

Saving lives and keeping children healthy.

Our emergency health and nutrition programs in northwest Syria focus on providing life-saving maternal, newborn and child healthcare services. We support a maternity hospital and health centers that serve the basic health needs of thousands of children and adults every month. In one recent month, 465 babies were born at the maternity hospital. We also counsel breastfeeding mothers so their babies do not become malnourished. We also set up safe water and sanitation systems in camps of displaced families that help protect them from lethal disease outbreaks.

Distributing life-saving supplies.

We provide food and essential relief supplies when children and families are forced to flee shelling, air strikes and ground combat for safer places – most often in temporary camps and settlements. As winter approaches and cold temperatures and precipitation chill children to the bone, Save the Children and its partners provide families with warm clothing and outerwear and heaters for their tents. We also distribute cash vouchers to the most vulnerable families. This allows them to control their finances and the flexibility to decide for themselves to buy what they need most.

Protecting children and keeping them safe.

A generation of Syrian children has grown up knowing nothing but war and displacement. They continue to experience terror and the trauma of being separated from their parents or seeing their loved ones killed. We have opened child- and adolescent-friendly spaces that offer children physical protection in a secure place where they can learn, play, and heal. We also provide psychological and emotional support and work to identify unaccompanied and separated children and reunite them with their families.

Educating children during emergencies.

Education is an integral part of our humanitarian response in Syria, as education is a child's right, essential to their development. We support educational facilities including formal schools, informal learning centers in camps and early childhood development centers. Save the Children is the only international non-governmental organization to co-lead a global UN cluster, the Education Cluster, to develop coordinated responses for education in crises such as Syria's conflict.

How you can help

The fighting in northeast Syria and the mass displacement it has created is testing our capacity to meet the needs of more children and families on the move inside the country, while maintaining other vital programs. Your support gives us the flexibility to scale up relief already under way and sustain our commitment to improve access to healthcare, water and sanitation and education for the most vulnerable Syrian children.

Your support saves lives. For more information on how you can help go to savethechildren.org/syria.