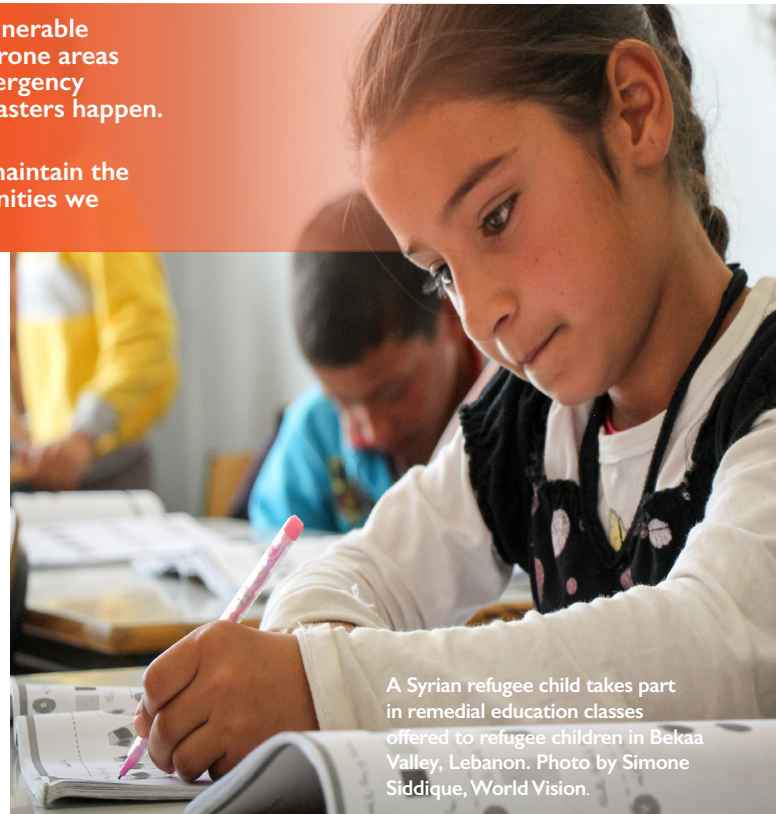


# Protecting Children in Emergencies



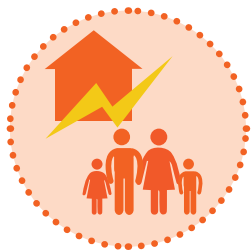
World Vision works to meet the needs of vulnerable children and their families living in disaster prone areas and to demand their rights, by providing emergency preparedness and emergency relief when disasters happen.

We place the interests of children first and maintain the highest level of accountability to the communities we serve, our supporters and partners.

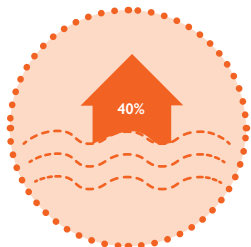


A Syrian refugee child takes part in remedial education classes offered to refugee children in Bekaa Valley, Lebanon. Photo by Simone Siddique, World Vision.

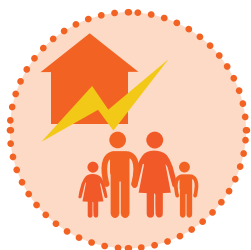
## WHAT IS HAPPENING



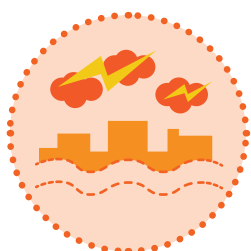
**More than 5.65 million Syrian Children** are living in dire circumstances in Syria. (UNICEF, 2015)



In 2014, Bosnia and Herzegovina experienced the worst flood in the last 120 years; **40% of the country's population was affected.** (Humanity Road Report for Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, May, 2014)



**250,000 children were displaced** as a result of the most recent conflict in Gaza, which killed more than 500 children and left thousands traumatized. (OCHA, 2015)



Climate related disasters have increased by **more than 40% over the past 10 years.**

## HOW WORLD VISION HELPS CHILDREN IN EMERGENCIES

- **Child Friendly Spaces:** A structured and safe place where children and youth meet other children to play, learn competencies to deal with the risks they face, be involved in educational activities, and relax in a safe place. These spaces provide children a sense of safety, structure, and continuity while also providing support to help them process their experiences and deal with their emotions.
- **Family and Community-Based support:** Emergencies are hard on the whole family. As a result, World Vision works with parents and caregivers to give them the support they need in order to be able to provide for and protect the children in their care.
- **Education:** Access to education is a primary concern for children in emergency situations where often educational facilities have been damaged or destroyed. Additionally, in the case of refugees, it is hard for children to be enrolled in school. World Vision works to restore schools after emergencies while also providing informal and remedial educational opportunities for displaced children in order to prepare them for success in mainstream education.
- **Advocacy:** World Vision works with local populations to reach out to leaders and ensure that injustices are addressed and children's needs, especially in the area of protection, are prioritised.



A young girl stands next to the rubble that used to be her home in Gaza. Photo by Mohammed Awad, World Vision.

## HELPING CHILDREN LIVE AMIDST ONGOING CONFLICT

Most children 6 and older in Gaza have lived through at least three major military conflicts during their short lifetimes.

The long-term psychological and psychosocial impacts of these events cannot be overstated. Part of World Vision's ongoing work in the areas where we are active in Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza is to help build resilience, tolerance and understanding between Palestinian and Israeli children.

World Vision is active, bringing information and building the capacity of affected communities. The organisation also regularly organises activities in order to advocate on behalf of the most vulnerable children in this context.

## HOPING FOR THE BEST; PREPARING FOR THE WORST

We work with communities to strengthen household and community resilience to mitigate the adverse impact of disasters and climate change through:

- 1. Reducing vulnerabilities**  
by identifying conditions that make the community more susceptible to upheavals caused by natural or man-made situations that can threaten lives or livelihoods.
- 2. Mitigating the impact of hazards**  
by implementing projects or procedures that reduce or prevent future damage.
- 3. Developing and enhancing skills and knowledge**  
of households, communities and institutions to reduce disaster and climate-related risk. The greater the capacity, the more resilient the community can be.



World Vision staff delivered food and hygiene packages to children and their families affected by historic floods in 2014 in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Photo by Aida Sunje, World Vision.

*Especially in the first days of a natural disaster, families—children in particular—are very vulnerable. They need food, water and hygiene items to survive. To help protect and provide for children in emergencies, World Vision often responds to emergencies using prepositioned goods to ensure the first round of support comes quickly.*

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