

**Action Document for EU Trust Fund to be used for the decisions of the
Operational Board**

1. IDENTIFICATION

Title/Number	Education and Protection Programme for Vulnerable Syrian and Host Community School-aged Children, in Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey		
Total cost	Total estimated cost: EUR Total amount drawn from the Trust Fund: EUR 90,000,000 Indicative country split: Turkey: 25.5 MEUR Lebanon: 58 MEUR Jordan: 5 MEUR Regional component: 1.5 MEUR		
Aid method / Method of implementation	Delegation Agreement – Indirect Management to UNICEF		
DAC-code	11110; 11220 15160; 16015	Sector	Sector: Basic education, Human rights; Social services (incl protection women and children)

2. RATIONALE AND CONTEXT.

2.1. Summary of the action and its objectives

The Syrian conflict has caused one of the worst humanitarian crises, forcing millions of Syrians to seek refuge in neighbouring countries and displacing millions more internally. 13.5 million people continue to require humanitarian assistance,. The toll on children has been devastating and more needs to be done to secure a better future for children affected by the crisis in Syria, the region and beyond. There is a recognition that countries hosting Syrian refugees cannot cope with this massive refugee crisis in the medium to long-term without significant additional support from the international community. This is especially true for Lebanon and Jordan. With their comparatively small population and limited resources, such a burden is posing a growing threat to these partner countries' economic, social and political stability. Turkey hosts a large refugee population, with an increasingly strong impact on public services and infrastructure in some areas. It is against this background that the EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis, 'the Madad Fund' does support delivery

of London commitments, The 3RP¹, the Compact with Lebanon and Jordan and the Facility for Refugees in Turkey (FRIT) , as well as the respective Joint Humanitarian and Development Framework (JHDF) developed by the EU Delegations.

Within the larger framework to bridge the humanitarian-development nexus with support for refugees and host communities in the region, the response from the Madad Fund is also intended to support the main pillars of the *'No Lost Generation'* initiative which are **education, child protection and youth engagement**. The programme aims at scaling up access to education and improving its quality as well as at expanding access to child protection services.

In continuity with the long-standing cooperation between the EU and UNICEF in relation to the response to the Syrian crisis, UNICEF is working in close cooperation with the Madad Fund to provide education, learning and protection from harm to hundreds of thousands of Syrian refugee children, youth and vulnerable peers in neighbouring countries. For the school year 2017/2018, following the rationale to guarantee a coherence of aid and a sufficient degree of predictability of resources, the Madad Fund-UNICEF partnership remains accountable to address the provision of quality education and protection mechanisms to Syrian refugee children/caregivers and vulnerable children/caregivers in the main host countries, through a regional action in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey.

The proposed Action builds forward on previous Madad support, ensures its scaling up to the same target groups and its programme support is expected to mirror the relevant strategic priorities. In particular, the proposed Action deals with *"Access to Basic Education"* focussing on *guaranteeing quality education and protection for Syrian refugee children in the host countries*. In order to guarantee consistency of aid for the school year 2017/2018, the programmatic intervention will result into an increased support to the same target groups and operations will have to mirror the relevant strategic priorities identified by hosting countries and in coordination with other donors.

In line with the Madad Fund Overall Objective *"to provide a coherent and reinforced aid response to the Syrian crisis on a regional scale, responding primarily to the needs of refugees from Syria in neighbouring countries, as well as of the communities hosting the refugees and their administrations, in particular as regards resilience and early recovery"*, the Action will contribute to the Specific Objective 1 of the current Result Framework, namely: *"to guarantee quality basic education and protection for Syrian refugee children in the host countries."*²

2.2. Context

2.2.1 Country context, if applicable.

The magnitude and proportionality of the Syrian refugee crisis has placed an enormous burden on the delivery of all basic services, especially during the last two years. The shared reality of refugees and host communities has meant that greater numbers of poor and marginalised children in Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey are at a larger risk than ever of being excluded and exploited. The concentration of refugees in poor host communities has meant that refugees and host communities share access – or lack thereof – to the same basic services.

¹ <http://www.3rpsyriacrisis.org/>

² https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/sites/near/files/eutf_madad_results_framework.pdf

Lebanon

Lebanon, a country of 4.4 million people before the crisis, now **hosts approximately 1.01 million Syrians registered as refugees by UNHCR and an estimated 200,000 - 300,000 unregistered, with children and adolescents accounting for more than half of this population.**

The education system in Lebanon was already weak before the refugee crisis and divided into public, private, and free private schools. Currently, only 30% of Lebanese children in school age go to public schools. With the growing number of Syrian refugee children arriving in Lebanon and the structural deficiencies of the system, the national education structure has faced difficulties in coping with the new demand. In 2012, the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) issued a memorandum instructing public schools to enrol Syrian refugees in the morning shift together with Lebanese students, regardless of their residency status. In order to accommodate a greater number of students, in 2014 the Ministry allowed afternoon shifts for Syrians and other non-Lebanese children (i.e. Iraqi refugees and migrants), reaching incrementally 25% of public schools by the school year 2016/2017 (313 schools out of the existing 1278).

To date, out of the 488,832 Syrian school age children (3-18) present in country, nearly 58% are still out of school, with the highest percentage reported in the Bekaa (80% children out of school). The figures drop dramatically in the transition to secondary education: the rate of attendance in secondary and TVET remains very low, with only 10% (out of the 57,669 registered youth) enrolled in the school year 2016/2017.

To be noted that correct figures on enrolment, retention and dropout in the formal education remain an important information gap that needs to be addressed appropriately. Figures are in fact fragmentary and based on partial reporting from school directors. The same applies to non-formal education (NFE) activities, where a reporting and data collection system between MEHE and NGO partners in NFE has not been established as yet. To be noted that NGO partners have no access to school data.

As the Syrian conflict persists, instability and insecurity continue to impact the daily lives of boys, girls, adolescents and their caregivers in Lebanon, exposing them increasingly to protection violations, including abuse, neglect, family separation, and exploitation such as worst forms of child labour. Lack of access to livelihoods for families continues and the majority of children are not able to access educational opportunities, children are increasingly forced to bring in income for their families or engage in armed violence to meet this need. **A baseline survey showed that 42 per cent of Syrian children were experiencing higher than normal levels of distress, which is having a negative impact on the physical, cognitive, emotional, and social development of boys and girls.**

Jordan

In Jordan, there are more than **650,000 Syrian refugees, including more than 232,000 school-aged children** (5-17 years old). Syrian children in Jordan are at an increasing risk of exploitation and exposure. One result of limited financial resources is an increased reliance on child labour to meet basic needs.

Syrian children in Jordan face multiple barriers in accessing education. According to verified enrolment data from the Ministry of Education (MoE), as of end of 2016, 125,000 Syrian children were enrolled in public schools. An estimated 107,868 Syrian refugee children were

out of school. **The number of Syrian school-age refugee children and the out-of-school rate remained stable between December 2015 and December 2016.** An estimated 40,210 Syrian refugee children were out of any form of education.

Following the London Conference and as part of the Jordan Compact Commitments on Education, the Government of Jordan, with technical and financial support of UNICEF and with the direct budget support of the EU and other donors in the sector, has committed to enrol all Syrian children in the 2016/2017 school year.

Turkey

Turkey hosts more refugees than any other country in the world, with over 2.9 million Syrians under Temporary Protection, along with more than 300,000 asylum-seekers and refugees from elsewhere, predominantly Iraqis and Afghans. Almost 1.3 million – or 45 per cent – are children.

The overwhelming majority of Syrian refugees in Turkey – 91 per cent – reside in host communities, mostly in the southeast of the country, but also increasingly in Istanbul, Izmir, Ankara and other large cities in the north and west. A small proportion of Syrian refugees – 9 per cent – live in camps along the Syrian border. Turkey is both a host and transit country, a waypoint on the journey into Europe. Since January 2015, over 1 million people have made the dangerous sea journey from Turkey to Greece. In 2016, approximately 400 died in the attempt. While no official data for this population exist, assessments show that refugees transiting through Turkey are particularly vulnerable, due to their reluctance to register with the authorities and so access health and other basic services. Under the framework of the EU-Turkey Readmission Agreement, a total of 916 people have been re-admitted to Turkey since March 2016. Most were from the Middle East, Africa and South Asia.

Almost 1.3 million of the Syrians under Temporary Protection in Turkey – or 45 per cent – are children. According to MoNE, nearly 500,000 Syrian school-aged children are enrolled in schools across the country – representing an over 50% increase from the end of the last school year in June 2016. Nevertheless, it is estimated that some 370,000 Syrian refugee school-aged children remain out of school and many adolescents and youth require access to relevant technical and vocational skills training as well as language classes. Language remains a main obstacle for Syrians in Turkey, contrary to what happens in other neighbouring countries.

Though official data remains scarce, the crisis has also had a clear and significant impact on the psycho-social well-being of Syrian refugee children. In addition to the traumatic impact of the war, children and youth have been struggling with material deprivation, lack of opportunities to interact with their peers, and limited access to basic services. As a result, according to a report from the Government of Turkey, nearly 50% of Syrian refugees think that they or their family members are in need of psychological support, and about 25% of the children suffer from sleeping disorders. There is a tendency to turn to negative coping mechanisms, such as child marriage and child labour.

Child labour is also a major concern for Turkish communities. The numbers of Turkish child workers is estimated at over 850,000 as per the latest official survey conducted by Turkstat in 2012.

2.2.2 Sector context: policies and challenges.

▪ Lebanon

Education.

The Syrian refugee influx has dramatically increased the demand on the public education system in Lebanon, challenging the capacity of a system, which was already limited prior to the crisis with only 30 per cent of Lebanese children, estimated to be attending public schools. As such, the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) launched the '*Reaching All Children with Education*' (RACE) plan to provide Syrian refugee and vulnerable Lebanese school-aged children with access to quality learning opportunities in safe and protective environments. The 3-year plan costed nearly 600 million USD. At the end of the school year 2015/2016, RACE reached 151,697 non-Lebanese children, with 238 public schools opened in the second shift in the same school year.

A longer vision was introduced under "RACE II" plan 2016/2021, aimed at (i) enhancing access to formal and non-formal education (including compulsory and, secondary education, and TVET) of 250,000 Syrian children, (ii) improving the quality of education services and (iii) strengthening the public education system (including accurate education data collection/monitoring and information management). The RACE II Plan has an estimated cost of USD 350 million per year.

In the school year 2016/2017, through RACE 204,000 Lebanese children and almost 195,000 non-Lebanese children (aged 5-14 years) were enrolled in public schools. In the school year 2011/2012, 3,000 Syrian children were enrolled in public schools out of a much smaller population of refugees. Main donors in support to RACE are the EU, Germany, USAID, World Bank and DFID that have channelled most of the funds through UNICEF, UNHCR and the World Bank Trust Fund. Other contributors are Italy, the Netherlands, France and Norway, Canada and Australia amongst others.

The increase in enrolment over the years is partly due to the waiver of school fees for child enrolment in public schools, the increase in the number of second shift schools (from 88 schools in 2013 to 314 schools in 2017) as well as more focussed interventions aiming at improving education quality. Moreover, Lebanon is the only country in the MENA region that has an operational *Non Formal Education (NFE) Framework*, including two certified NFE programmes, namely the *Accelerated Learning Programme (ALP)* and the *ECE (Early Childhood Education)*.

Yet, despite these successful steps, a large majority of the Syrian refugee children face with significant barriers to access and remain outside the formal education system due to lack of validated permits, language and curriculum differences, safety concerns, transportation costs and distance to schools, poverty and increased vulnerability causing household reliance on income from child labour, and violence and discrimination in schools.

This re-emphasises the need to continue investing in access to education as a component of RACE II, addressing demand and supply barriers that impede the enrolment into formal education. In the recent Brussels conference the participants emphasized the need to reach the remaining out of school children aged 6-14, to strengthen non-formal education delivery for older children and youth and to offer Accelerated Learning Programmes (ALP) for those who have missed 2 or more years of education.

Protection

Due to the protracted displacement and dire economic situation, an increasing number of families are resorting to negative coping mechanisms, such as child marriage and child labour,

gender-based violence (GBV) including worst forms of child labour (such as children living and working on the streets, children engaged in the agriculture sector and children engaged in armed violence).

UNICEF's 2016 household survey in Lebanon indicates that Syrian refugees are more highly engaged in child labour compared with other vulnerable population groups in the country. Information gathered directly from children working on the street in Mount Lebanon cited that **67 per cent of children interviewed worked up to ten hours a day**. Children reported exposure to physical violence, sexual harassment and attempted sexual exploitation.

Children and youth continue to be victims of armed violence resulting from the impact of the Syrian conflict on Lebanon where they are **at a higher risk of exposure to extreme forms of violence resulting in physical, psychological and emotional forms of harm**.

Despite such challenges faced by vulnerable children and women in Lebanon, the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) and UNICEF with the significant support from the EU since its start has been implementing the *National Plan to Safeguard Children and Women in Lebanon*. Adopted in October 2014 and extended until June 2017, the National Plan aims to improve the quality of life and mitigate the protection risks of vulnerable women and children in Lebanon. The plan is outlined under four pillars: *i) Prevention, ii) Response, iii) Mainstreaming child protection in others sectors and iv) Systems Building*.

Currently, MoSA and UNICEF are conducting a review of the MoSA National Plan to highlight key achievements, lessons learnt and best practices in order to derive at key recommendations for way forward and to produce a new plan covering the period 2017-2021. The revised MoSA Plan should be ready in the autumn 2017.

▪ **Jordan**

UNICEF has supported the Ministry of Education to expanding schools in refugee camps in 2016, bringing the total of schools in camps to 44 schools in 16 complexes, providing education to 32,000 children by end of 2016. The Ministry of Education also opened additional 100 double shifted schools during the fall 2016 that work in morning and afternoon shifts bringing the total to 198 schools operating double shifts. The Catch-up education programme was also rolled out serving 1,000 Syrian refugee students (9-12 years old) to reach children who have missed more than three years of schooling, for them to accelerate their learning, and enrol in the formal system. In addition, another 1,620 students (13-18/20 years old) were enrolled in MOE-certified Non Formal Education/Drop out programme. Two nationwide *Learning-for-All* campaigns were conducted to boost enrolment, identify out-of-school children and provide referral and registration support, helping enrol additional 3,000 Syrian refugee children into formal schools and additional 700 children into the catch-up programme.

UNICEF successfully advocated with the Ministry of Education to hold summer school sessions for children newly enrolled into formal education and catch-up classes during the second semester 2016/17, in order to enable them to progress to the next grade in September 2017.

However, Syrian children continue to face multiple barriers in accessing education, and are also at an increasing risk of exploitation and exposure to the worst forms of child labour due to lack of income sources for their households, exacerbated by limited financial resources, and resulting increased reliance on child labour to meet basic needs. In addition to household dependence on their labour earnings, the main barriers faced by Syrian children in accessing

formal education are:

- *Distance to school, lack of reliable, safe transportation to and from school, as well as apprehension to travel distances to and from school on unsafe roads or after dark when the afternoon shift schools has ended;*
- *Violence, including discrimination, bullying and physical and emotional harassment in school and on the way to schools;*
- *Difficulty keeping up with Jordanian curriculum;*
- *Poor learning achievements; and poor employment prospects upon completing basic education.*

In addition, specific groups within the Jordanian population face similar barriers to education. Girls and boys from the Jordanian marginalized minority group commonly known as the *Dom* are amongst the most marginalized children in Jordan. Despite holding full citizenship rights, these children face discrimination; deprivation of basic rights; and grave protection risks and concerns. Only an estimated 10 per cent of Dom children are accessing formal education.

▪ **Turkey**

The scale of the crisis has placed enormous strain on the country's basic services and infrastructure, particularly in the areas of education and child protection.

Education has been one of the main priorities of the Facility for Refugees in Turkey (FRiT). The EUR 300 million grant to Ministry of National Education (MoNE) 'Promoting Integration of Syrian Children into Turkish Education System' is the cornerstone intervention to support the education sector coping with the massive influx of refugees in Turkey. This project intends to support the integration of Syrian students to Turkish education system via language competence improvement programs, transportation, scholarships, training of trainers and raising awareness on relevant opportunities and services delivered by Turkish institutions.

Syrian refugees in Turkey in the compulsory schooling age have two pathways to education. Within formal education, the government has opened the doors of the public schools to Syrian refugee children, where they are taught in the Turkish curriculum. The other pathway is through the Temporary Education Centres (TECs), which apply an adapted Syrian curriculum in Arabic. These schools are run by the Ministry of National Education (MoNE), but also include support by various NGOs, individuals and community organisations.

Since the beginning of the 2016-2017 school-year, the Ministry of National Education (MoNE) has accelerated the gradual integration of Syrian children into Turkish public schools (TPSs), focusing on grade 1 and kindergarten children. Despite the huge efforts, as stated above an estimated 370,000 school-aged Syrian refugee children are still out of school.

UNICEF has been and continues to be a key partner for MoNE and other relevant institutions, complementing support both in formal and non-formal education sector, child protection and social cohesion.

2.3. Lessons learnt.

By the beginning of March 2016, when UNICEF and the EU signed the contribution agreement, almost 5 million people, including over 2 million children, had been forced to take refuge in Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, Iraq, and Egypt making it the largest displacement crisis

globally. The toll on children has been devastating and “an entire generation of children is, and could be lost forever, with profound long-term consequences for Syria, the region, and beyond.”

On operations, the cooperation is grounded on the long standing partnership that the EU and UNICEF have established in responding to the Syrian crisis since 2012 – ENI Special measures and Madad. An external **Results-Oriented Monitoring (ROM)** visit, conducted through external experts in January 2017 came out with some important recommendations which will be addressed by the programmatic framework within this new phase of funding, in order to ensure effectiveness and impact of aid, as follows:

For Lebanon: *1) redesign project components to serve underserved at risk girls, boys and women identified by NGOs during outreach activities; 2) ensure that future programming recognizes the need to design programmes serving children at risk of early marriage or who have already been married, children living with disabilities and children working; 3) consider paying particular attention to support children with special needs and developing accessibility to children with disabilities at school;*

For Jordan: *1) involve Bani Murra and Turkman (Dom major sub-groups) parents and community leaders on Makani Centers outreach, teaching and administration and ensure consultations to design appropriate strategies for each group; 2) design indicators to measure results/impacts of informal education, PSS, life skills and awareness sessions; 3) design the provision of education services aligned with protection mechanisms;*

Regional: *consider the possibility to interrupt Sahabati, as an online education tool;*

Communication and Visibility: *1) make additional efforts to raise awareness of EU-UNICEF partnership in the region and work closely with Arabic speaking regional media to better communicate on the projects and EU's role; 2) enhance EU visibility in the schools in Lebanon and in Makani Centers in Jordan;*

2.4. Complementary actions

In March 2016, the Madad Fund made a contribution of 90 M EUR to UNICEF to support children and young people affected by the Syria crisis. The project funded by the Madad Fund titled, "*Generation Found: EU MADAD II Trust Fund - UNICEF Partnership: Investing in the future of a Generation of children and young people affected by the Syria Crisis*" is being implemented in Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey and operations will end by the end of November 2017, covering parts of school year 2015/2016 and 2016/2017. In complementarity with that, the present Action will benefit from some activities funded under the ongoing program, including the 'Back to School Campaign' in Lebanon which will take place in June 2017.

The Turkey component of the Action will be designed as complementary to the Agreement entitled "*Towards increased access to inclusive quality education, a protective environment and positive youth engagement opportunities for Syrian and Turkish children and youth*" (ending in September 2017) and avoid duplications with the 300 M EUR EU education grant disbursed to MoNE, under FRiT.

Moreover, UNICEF Jordan is supporting the Ministry of Education in 2017, to ensure that Syrian refugee children access quality education, with a total EU-budget of EUR 88 million specifically on the education sector.

An all-encompassing response must tackle barriers to education in a comprehensive manner, mostly in its social, economic and legal aspects that prevent children and young people from attending school, across different cycles, levels and kinds of education (basic and secondary education, TVET and higher education). Shortcomings and lessons learnt in RACE I as well as analysis and understanding of out-of-school children and of drop-out must be used by implementing partners to design an appropriate multi-sectorial programme that intervenes jointly and effectively at policy, political and programmatic levels (specific regional approaches might be required, i.e. in Lebanon -Bekaa).

The present Action is intended to build on the positive achievements already registered during the present school-year and set the basis to guarantee education and protection services for Syrian children and vulnerable population during school year 2017-2018.

2.5. Donor co-ordination

The proposed support will be implemented in close coordination with the Ministries of Education and the European Union Delegations in the targeted countries, ensuring complementarities with the direct budget support currently provided by the EU to the national Government, through bilateral cooperation and/or through humanitarian assistance provided to Syrian refugees.

In Turkey, Madad-implemented Actions will be framed under the FRiT funding mandate.

In general, funding from MADAD will ensure continuation and scale up of the successful models and continued coordination with other actors, including other EU-initiatives, UN-Agencies and Government partners.

3. DETAILED DESCRIPTION

3.1. Objectives

The **overall objective** of the proposed Action is to invest in the future of a generation of children and young people affected by the Syria crisis, in Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey.

Accordingly, Specific country-Objectives have been identified and prioritized as follows:

- Lebanon.

SO1 Education: "to contribute to the access to and retention in public education of Syrian refugee children into formal education for the school year 17/18."

SO2 Child Protection: "to contribute to strengthening the national Child Protection system of Lebanon to prevent and respond to violence, exploitation and abuse of children, women and girls and to ensure justice for children in Lebanon; as well as to providing dedicated social services, taking into account people with disabilities."

- Jordan.

SO1.1 Education: "to leverage the national network of Makani centres to identify children out of school, refer them back to formal schools, and support their successful enrolment and retention into the formal school system."

SO1.2 Education: "to provide certified education services to vulnerable children (13+ years old) ineligible to enrol in public schools in camps and host community, through the non-formal education/Drop out programme."

SO2 Child Protection: "to provide a safe and protected learning environment, and opportunities to develop their life-skills and actively engage in community life and social cohesion to marginalised children from the Dom communities through the Makani programme."

- Turkey.

SO1 Education: *"to increase access to inclusive quality formal and non-formal education opportunities for refugee and vulnerable Turkish children."*

SO2 Child Protection: *"to improve psychosocial well-being, emotional stability and the protective environment for refugee and vulnerable Turkish children."*

SO3 Social cohesion: "to increase engagement opportunities for Turkish and Syrian adolescents and youth "

- Regional component.

The objectives of the regional component are:

SO1 Child Protection: "to provide technical assistance and oversight for the response in Syria and the neighbouring countries affected by the Syria crisis, with a focus on identifying and replicating good practices and fostering cross learning. "

SO2 Adolescents and Youth Engagement: "to implement selected targeted interventions for children who have been displaced by the conflict with limited access to education opportunities, protection and basic services."

3.2. Expected results and main activities

In Lebanon.

- **Education.**

1) Paid subsidies for registration fees into formal education in Lebanese public schools.

The provision of registration fees for Lebanese and Non-Lebanese children should be organized through the Ministry of Education and Higher Education's *Programme Management Unit (PMU)*. Related costs include paying teachers, school directors and supervisors, running costs of the school as well the parent council fees and depreciation costs to be spent on maintaining and improving school facilities.

2) Provided transportation for non-Lebanese children enrolled in Formal Education for the school years 2017-2018.

In Lebanon, the decision of parents to send children to formal education is influenced by several factors by marginalized households who face inadequate financial resources, and educational systems barriers, as explained under Section 2.2.2, where transportation is a major concern for the second shift schools. In order to mitigate this major obstacle for access to quality education, the Action will include the provision of transportation to the children when necessary.

3) Conducted academic, health, and PSS monitoring visits in Second Shift Schools for scholastic year 2017-2018.

DOPS (*Departement d’Orientation Pedagogique et Scolaire*), is the quality assurance department of the MEHE. It is a performance monitoring unit under the General Directorate of Education, mandated to continually assess the performance of schools and teachers throughout the scholastic year. DOPS counsellors perform academic, psychosocial, and health visits to all public schools in Lebanon, including second shift schools.

▪ **Protection.**

1) Strengthened political commitment, accountability and national capacity of social, justice and education and health sectors in Lebanon to legislate, plan, and budget for scaling up interventions that prevent and respond to violence, abuse, exploitation, and neglect.

Through a strengthened partnership with *MoSA* and other line Ministries with roles related to protection of violence, abuse and exploitation of children and women (*i.e. Ministry of Higher Education, MEHE; Ministry of Public Health MOPH; Ministry of Justice*) a new *Policy Plan for Child and Family Welfare* will be developed. Children with disability: Issues of children with disability will be an integral part of the new Policy Vision/Plan. Specific considerations to children with disability will also be factored in the existing Standard Operating Procedures for child protection case management. Along with the new Policy Vision/Plan, the Action will support the development of a specific Strategy to address the increasing concerns of Child Marriage and Child Labour, by UNICEF in close partnership with MOSA, the *Higher Council for Childhood (HCC)*, line Ministries (Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Education and Higher Education, Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Interior and Municipalities, etc.) and civil society actors.

2) Guaranteed access to boys, girls and women at risk or survivors of violence have access to an integrated package of quality prevention and response services in the most disadvantaged localities in Lebanon.

UNICEF will continue to ensure - through partners - the provision of case management and specialised services for those in need, including provision of family-based care, judicial protection, emergency shelter/interim care, individualised counselling including mental health services and facilitation of access to vocational training for adolescents and/or livelihood opportunities.

Activities under this component include:

- Child and Family Welfare Services - building long-term capacity;
- Support specialized services for children and women with disabilities;
- Working with other sectors for sustainable child protection services: continued support and engagement with other sectors – *i.e. Health, Education, WASH* - will remain critical in ensuring appropriate service and response to children and women affected by violence, abuse and exploitation.

UNICEF will work on mainstreaming disability issues in the training packages of community-based and focused based PSS, as well as into CP and GBV case management. In addition, for Syrian children, UNICEF will support the provision of specialized services through NGOs.

3) Increased capacities of children, families and communities in the most disadvantaged localities to promote practices that protect them.

Building on the past experiences and partnerships, the present Action will continue support “safe spaces” interventions conducted by UNICEF, where women and girls at risk access life-skills and other social support to increase confidence and build resilience.

Under this Result, inherent activities will include actions directed to Preventing Gender-based violence and other protection issues affecting women and girls, and Preventing Violence, Abuse and Exploitation with targeted focus on vulnerable populations.

The MOSA Social Development Centres (SDCs) and its ‘satellite’ centres will be important – but not exclusive – avenues for reaching vulnerable groups including children with already known risks and those faced with issues such as child marriage, child labour or other forms of exploitation and abuse, including children affected by armed conflicts/violence

Under SP Protection, the role of Lebanese and international civil society organisations (CSOs) actors is fundamental, especially in the delivery of protection services across the country. Under the supervision of MoSA, UNICEF will establish partnerships with specialised CSOs. It will be ensured that know-how is transferred from International CSOs to Lebanese ones, to enhance the national component of the Lebanese protection system and guaranteeing long-term sustainability.

The 'EU-UNICEF Child Rights Toolkit: Integrating child rights in development cooperation' will be used along the process of SO Protection. The Toolkit explores ways on how:

- To operationalize international commitments on child rights within different phases and sectors of development cooperation programming and external action;
- To support partner governments in implementing their commitments under international treaties and standards to protect, respect and fulfil children's rights.

In Jordan

1) 20,000 vulnerable boys and girls out of school are referred back to formal schools and supported through the scholastic year to stay into the formal school system.

Community-based Makani centres will identify children out of school, refer them back to formal schools, and support their successful enrolment and retention into the formal school system. The foremost goal for UNICEF Makani partners is referring children to certified education (formal school or *non-formal Catch-Up Programme* or *Drop-Out Programmes*) and supporting their retention. In the specific case of mobile communities from Informal tented settlements and Dom communities, to facilitate the retention of children from mobile communities in formal schools, UNICEF will advocate with school principals and field directorates to facilitate the movement of students files from one location to the next, noting that the majority of mobile communities only move once or twice a year.

2) 1,500 marginalised children and youth (10-24 years old) from the Dom community are reached with an integrated package of education, protection and engagement services.

The Action will provide 1,500 vulnerable children and youth from the Dom community with structured learning support services (Arabic, Math, Science and English), with psychosocial

support services as well as with opportunities to positively engage in their communities, through skills building programmes that support them in their daily lives. Whenever possible and in the best interest of the child, children out of school will be referred back to formal education with the support of UNICEF Makani partners and taken into account to continuously adjust the strategy to the need of the specific group. Furthermore, UNICEF will look into directly supporting literacy skills of mothers within the Dom community, to equip women who have little or no formal education with basic skills to enhance their ability to cope with the challenges of the daily lives, thereby raising their self-esteem and promoting their active role in the education and protection of their children.

3) 1,850 students (13-20 years old) out of school and ineligible for formal education are reached with certified education services through the scale up of the Non-Formal Education (NFE)/Drop-out programme.

The Action will support the Jordanian Ministry of Education in scaling up the NFE/Drop-out programme implemented by Questscope with funding support from UNICEF and USAID, to ensure that vulnerable children out of school access quality education opportunities. Within the 1,850 students directly supported by the Madad Fund, 70 per cent being Syrian and 30 per cent being Jordanian, since Syrian youth are more likely to be out-of-school compared to Jordanian youth.

In Turkey.

▪ Education.

UNICEF will continue to closely coordinate with and complement the efforts by the Government of Turkey and other partners to prioritize the provision of inclusive quality education opportunities for Syrian and vulnerable Turkish children focusing on: *a) increased equitable access to learning; b) improved inclusive quality education; and c) building a strengthened, resilient education system.*

1) Maintained and increased access to formal education opportunities and ensured adequate, conducive and child-friendly learning environments for Syrian children under temporary protection:

- Capacity-building including training of Syrian and Turkish teachers;
- Teacher Incentives Programme for Syrian volunteer teachers;
- Non-formal education;
- School Maintenance Costs, to maintain and ensure safe, healthy and conducive learning environments;
- The provision of essential learning materials;

▪ Protection:

2) Access to quality child protection and psychosocial support services is increased and the quality of specialized child protection interventions is improved:

- Maintain and expand the network of community-based centres to strengthen early identification, referral and response mechanisms, including case management services, for children in need of care and protection.
- Provide quality child protection and psychosocial support services and awareness raising for refugee children and youth in community-based safe spaces and centres which are being implemented in camps and host communities as part of the support of the European Union, including the European Union Trust Fund.

- **Social cohesion:**

- 3) Engagement opportunities for Turkish and Syrian adolescents and youth are increased:
 - Sustain and expand community-based social cohesion programmes targeting Adolescent and Youth.

Regional component.

- **Child Protection.**

- 1) Regional partnership(s) with institutions specialized on youth engagement and livelihood are identified and supported by the Action, in order to foster the development of comprehensive and evidence-based programmes that address the complex needs of children and youth at-risk, including those who were recruited and used in conflict and armed violence and child labourers.
- 2) Strengthened child rights documentation mechanism and related advocacy initiatives.
- 3) Documentation, knowledge generation and knowledge management initiatives related to child protection programming within the context of the NLG and the Syria crisis, with a focus on the Children and Armed Conflict (CAAC) agenda, are supported

- **Youth Engagement.**

- 1) Availability of critical data on most vulnerable adolescents and youth is improved.
- 2) In partnership with adolescents and youth, increased visibility on the issues of relevance for adolescents and youth.
- 3) Institutionalization of adolescent and youth participation in humanitarian programming is supported, building on existing systems of participation in shaping, implementing, monitoring and advocating for adolescent and youth programmes.
- 4) Technical support and capacity development of Government and NGO partners at country level in positively engaging adolescents and youth in social cohesion, civic engagement and entrepreneurship/self-employment initiatives is provided.

Communication and Visibility-related activities will be covered under the Regional component of the Action and focus on the provision of high-quality, wide-reach Arab and English communication content, including the involvement of high-level personalities/Ambassadors to grow audience and engagement.

3.3 Risks and assumptions

Risks include the following points:

- The **security situation inside Syria** does not worsen dramatically resulting in a massive influx in the number of refugees across borders. To mitigate this risk, the Madad Fund and UNICEF will monitor the situation inside Syria and at the borders with Lebanon, Turkey and Jordan and will remain in contact with the Madad Fund

informing on any impact a change in operating circumstances has on the achievement of programme objectives.

- UNICEF is able to **work effectively with all partners including Government counterparts**. In all its operations across countries, UNICEF maintains a close partnership with relevant Government Ministries in Jordan, Turkey and Lebanon and will continue negotiations to ease administrative procedures and expedite implementation of activities.

The assumptions for the success of the project and its implementation include:

External factors:

- Security situation inside Syria does not worsen dramatically resulting in a massive influx in the number of refugees across borders;

Internal factors:

- UNICEF and implementing partners are able to engage effectively with all counterparts and engage in a proactive dialogue with concerned stakeholders including Government actors, avoiding any administrative and/or bureaucratic challenge which could result into hindering the planned activities;
- Willingness of beneficiaries from refugee and host communities to engage in a more sustainable and accountable manner with the project, beyond the limited perspective of an ad-hoc benefit;

Corrective measures will be adjusted within implementation and tailored according to the intrinsic needs; however, in order to reduce risks and to prepare for potential threats, the Contracting Authority and UNICEF have set the basis for a responsible intervention, through the following joint steps:

- EU will monitor the situation inside Syria and at the borders with Lebanon and Jordan and will remain in contact with the Madad Fund informing on any impact a change in operating circumstances has on achievement of programme objectives;
- EU is committed to maintain a close partnership and a sustained policy dialogue with all relevant Government Ministries in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey to ease administrative procedures and expedite implementation of activities;
- UNICEF will continue to invest efforts on establishing a positive exchange with countries' MoE and Higher Education, in order to ensure operational alignment and follow-up with ongoing national initiatives, such as the RACE II Programme in Lebanon;
- UNICEF will intensify its efforts on working with partners on community-outreach activities to raise awareness on the benefits of formal schooling to parents and community leaders, in Jordan;

3.4 Cross-cutting issues

Projects funded under this programme will integrate a Rights-Based Approach in each step of the project cycle from identification, formulation, implementation, monitoring to evaluation.

The following cross-cutting issues will be particularly stressed within identification of the planning framework and mainstreamed during operations:

- **Gender:** ~~Understanding that gender is a major driver to many child protection issues and recognizing that gender-based violence still affects many women and girls,~~ specific focus will be given to challenge gender norms and stereotypes through all child protection related interventions. Targeted interventions to address gender-based violence will also be pursued.
Through collaboration with other Programmes of UNICEF, in particular the Youth Programme, women may also gain access to other livelihood opportunities. Coordination and synergies between the UNICEF and other UN-Agencies supporting gender-based violence interventions, i.e. UNWomen, UNHCR and UNFPA will be ensured through the Gender Working Group (chaired by UNWomen and where UNICEF is a regular member) and through other informal mechanisms. For example, careful geographic mapping and continued dialogue at technical level amongst UN-Agencies and with Government partners help avoid duplication and ensure synergies with regards to the “safe space” model which is also supported by UNFPA and UNHCR.
- **Disability:** Building on the Result Oriented Monitoring (ROM) recommendations, the Action will focus on the needs of the most vulnerable populations, including children with disabilities. With specific relevance to the Lebanese component, as highlighted in the Intervention Logic, the proposed Action will promote the development of inclusive education focusing in particular on the need to include more children with disabilities in mainstream schools. To achieve this, the Action shall plan intervention at the level of access, quality and system strengthening. Operation will include development of inclusive education policy and roadmap, capacity building of ministries, schools teachers and admin staff and other non-formal education providers, community outreach activities, provision of equipment/supplies, transportation and specialized support services.
- **Good governance and civic participation:** Madad-UNICEF interventions aim to empower and actively engage with civil society, particularly adolescents and youth, enabling them to participate in policy making that affects their lives. Such measures enhance the political and social dialogue between decentralized and centralized governments and their constituencies, increasing ownership of the policies and making governments more accountable.

3.5 Stakeholders

The following stakeholders have been identified:

- EU Member States contributing to the Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis;
- Lebanese *Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE)* and *Lebanese Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA)*, *Ministry of Labour*, *Ministry of Public Health*, *Ministry of Justice*, *Ministry of Interior and Municipalities*, *the Higher Council for Childhood (HCC)*
- *Jordanian Ministry of Education (MoE)* and *Jordanian Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MoPIC)*
- *Turkish Ministry of Education*
- Specialized civil society agencies and NGOs

- Final beneficiaries: *Children aged 6-14 residing in Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey, including Syrian refugees, internally displaced people, vulnerable population, as well as the Dom community in Jordan.*

3.5.1 Lebanon.

In Lebanon, all stakeholders in education activities should be aligned with the *Reaching All Children with Education (RACE) Plan*, in the context of the *Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP)*, the instrument developed and used for joint planning, coordination and resource mobilization. The RACE executive committee is chaired by the MEHE and comprises UN representatives and the donor community, including the EU.

Similarly to Education, the Child Protection activities are to be aligned with the above mentioned LCRP, jointly developed and endorsed by UNICEF and the Government of Lebanon. UNICEF Lebanon and UNHCR co-lead the Child Protection and GBV Sectors through the *Child Protection in Emergencies Working Group* and the *GBV National Technical Task Force*. The main Governmental counterpart for the Child Protection and GBV Section is the MoSA, with which an Annual Rolling Work Plan is signed on a yearly basis.

3.5.2. Jordan.

UNICEF is the sector lead for the education response and sub-sector lead for child protection and a major player in youth engagement programmes. Through the coordination role UNICEF has worked to ensure resources are allocated efficiently, efforts are not duplicated and that the most urgent gaps and support needs of service providers are addressed.

The main implementing partner for the proposed programme will be the Ministry of Education, as well as national and international NGOs.

3.5.3. Turkey.

Implementation of activities will be undertaken by UNICEF in collaboration with national and provincial authorities such as the Ministry of National Education (MoNE), Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD), Ministry of Family and Social Policy (MoFSP), Ministry of Youth and Sports (MoYS) and GAP (Southeast Anatolia Project – Presidency of Regional Development Administration), Governorates, Gaziantep Municipality and Adana municipalities, among many other municipalities, as well as UN agencies, and national and international NGOs such as the Turkish Red Crescent Society (TRCS), Refugee Education Trust (RET), Save the Children (SCF), Development Workshop (DW), Association for Solidarity with Asylum Seekers and Migrants (ASAM), Support to Life (STL) and International Middle East Peace Research Centre (IMPR). Other partnerships might be explored in the course of the implementation phase.

Within this setting, the EU partnership including the EU Trust Fund has been instrumental in promoting collaboration between different stakeholders.

4. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

4.1 Financing agreement

In order to implement part of this action, it is not foreseen to conclude a financing agreement with the Government of the partner countries, referred to in Article 184(2)(b) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012.

4.2 Indicative operational implementation period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 3.2 will be carried out for a maximum of 18 **months from adoption of this Action Document by the Operational Board targeting the school year 2017-2018³**. Extension of the implementation period may be agreed by the Manager which will be communicated immediately to the Operational Board.

4.3 Implementation components and modules

In line with the above objectives and results, the implementation will be delegated to UNICEF by way of a delegation agreement -indirect management- because of its relevant collaboration with the national Ministries of Education, the local authorities and relevant partners particularly in support to formal education and because of their extensive capacity as pillar assessed agency. UNICEF has extensive experience in the geographic areas targeted by the EUTF Madad and a proficient expertise in providing education services in crisis contexts. UNICEF has an excellent track record about managing grant contracts for the EU and it is best placed in view of building forward and expanding existing Actions.

4.4 Indicative budget

Module	Amount of total budget	Third party contribution
Indirect management	90 M EUR	
Total	90 M EUR	

- The costs of Evaluation and audit and Communication and visibility will be included in the projects' budgets and/or contracted separately via service contract(s).

4.5 Performance monitoring

Monitoring shall be ensured primarily through EU Delegations in-country and in particular with the assistance of specific Trust Fund field & liaison officers posted within the EU Delegations. In addition, the EU Trust Fund is planning to launch an independent M&E exercise to accompany all Fund programmes and ensure that targets are met and lessons learnt can be incorporated into other EUTF actions.

The purpose of the Madad EUTF Monitoring and Evaluation Framework would be to assess, across various levels, the degree to which the Overall Objective of the Trust Fund has been achieved.

Partners implementing this Action will comply with the ad hoc Monitoring and Evaluation Framework developed for the MADAD Fund as well as with the reporting requirements and tools being developed by the EU Trust Fund.

³ The implementation period of the contract must remain within the duration of the Trust Fund (currently 15 December 2019).

The monitoring and evaluation exercises mentioned above will represent milestones in the implementation of the activities. These regular assessments will constitute a basis for a possible decision of suspension or revision of activities, should the conditions on the ground not allow for their proper implementation.

4.6 Evaluation and audit

Projects shall carry out an obligatory final evaluation, and one external audit per year. Whenever possible, evaluations will be jointly carried out by partners. This will also contribute to harmonise further and higher education support to Syrian refugees and to the host countries in the region, in order to make technical co-operation more effective in line with current EU guidelines.⁴

Without prejudice to the obligations applicable to contracts concluded for the implementation of this action, the Commission may, on the basis of a risk assessment, contract independent audits or expenditure verification assignments for one or several contracts.

4.7 Communication and visibility

While communication and visibility of the EU is a legal obligation for all external actions funded by the EU, to date the visibility of the EU's support to the Syrian crisis, in particular in neighbouring countries affected by the crisis, has been insufficient. The public perception is that the EU is not addressing the Syrian crisis, when in fact it is the largest donor. The lack of visibility to the EU's actions weakens the EU's political traction in the region and its standing in Europe.

Therefore, communication and visibility is an important part of all Madad Fund programmes factored into the implementation in order to underline its importance at all stages of the planning and implementation of the Programme.

All visibility actions by Madad Fund implementing partners outside areas of conflict should be stepped up. Each implementer will have to draw up a comprehensive visibility and communication plan for their respective target country/community and submit a copy for approval to the Madad Fund and relevant EU Delegation. The related costs will be covered by the budgets of the contract as part of the project.

The measures shall be implemented by the implementing consortium/ia, its contractors, and/or its grant beneficiaries. Appropriate contractual obligations shall be included in, respectively, procurement and grant contracts.

The Communication and Visibility Manual for European Union External Action together with specific requirements to highlight the Madad Trust Fund shall be used to establish the Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action and the appropriate contractual obligations.

⁴

EC Guidelines No. 3, *Making Technical Co-operation More Effective*, March 2009.