Child Protection

An Overview of Children's Protection Needs in Syria
2018

"This is more than Violence"

#NOLOST GENERATION

Supported by iMMAP

Terminology

Abduction of children is the removal, seizure or capture of a person under 18 years of age, either temporarily or permanently, for the purpose of any form of exploitation of the child or other unlawful purpose. It may take place within a country or across borders.[1]

Caregiver is someone who provides daily care, protection and supervision of a child. This does not necessarily imply legal responsibility.[2]

Child is a person below the age of 18 as per Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

Child Protection is the prevention of and response to abuse, neglect, exploitation of and violence against children in emergencies.[3]

Child labour is work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity, and that is harmful to physical and mental development. It refers to work that is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful to children. Child labour interferes with children's schooling by depriving them of the opportunity to attend school, obliging them to leave school prematurely, or requiring them to attempt to combine school attendance with excessively long and heavy work. The worst forms of child labour are a subset of child labour and must be eliminated as a matter of urgency. This includes hazardous work, forced or bonded labour, the use of children in armed conflict and trafficking children for sexual or economic exploitation and illicit work.[4]

Child Marriage is defined as a formal marriage or informal union in which one or both spouses is under the age of 18.[5]

Child Recruitment and Use refers to a child who is associated with an armed force or armed group, or who has been recruited or used by an armed force or armed group in any capacity, including but not limited to children used as fighters, cooks, porters, messengers, spies or for sexual purposes. It does not only refer to a child who is taking or has taken a direct part in hostilities. Recruitment refers to compulsory, forced or voluntary conscription or enlistment of children into any kind of armed force or armed group.[6]

Children with Disabilities refers to persons up to the age of 18 who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual, or sensory impairments that, in interaction with various barriers, may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.[7]

Family-based care is a type of alternative care that involves the child living with a family other than his or her usual primary caregiver. This is a broad term that can include foster care, kinship care and extended family support for child-headed households.[8] For children who require interim care, family-based care should be the first consideration, and should be prioritised for infants and young children. Children should be placed with their siblings, wherever possible. Where family-based care is not possible, consideration may be given to small-group care within the child's community.

Explosive Hazards include landmines, explosive remnants of war and improvised explosive devices.[9]

Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism in Syria is a Security Council-mandated Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) that was activated in Syria following the listing of parties to the conflict for grave violations against children in the Secretary-General's Annual Report on Children and Armed Conflict. The Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism is tasked with timely documentation of grave violations against children in Syria with a view to feeding information into regular Security Council reporting and providing an evidence basis for advocacy, dialogue and response. Throughout the report the MRM in Syria is referred to as the *MRM4Syria*.

Orphan is a child who has lost both parents (as a result of death). In many countries a child who has lost one parent is considered an orphan, but this term should be avoided as it can result in the unnecessary placement of a child in alternative care, rather than being supported by their surviving parent.[10] In Syria, an orphan is a child who has lost one or both parents.[11]

Psychosocial Distress is a broad term used to describe a range of symptoms and experiences of a person's internal life that are commonly held to be troubling or out of the ordinary.[12]

Residential care is a group-living arrangement in a specially designated facility where salaried staff or volunteers ensure care on a shift basis. Residential care is an umbrella term that includes short- and long-term placements in institutions, small group homes, places of safety for emergency care, and transit centres.[13]

Sexual Violence is any sexual act, attempt to obtain a sexual act, unwanted sexual comments or advances, or acts to traffic a person's sexuality, using coercion, threats of harm or physical force, by any person regardless of relationship to the victim, in any setting, including but not limited to home and work. It can take many forms, including rape, sexual slavery and/or trafficking, forced pregnancy, sexual harassment, sexual exploitation and/or abuse, and forced abortion.[14]

Separated children are children who have been separated from both parents, or from their previous legal or customary primary caregiver, but not necessarily from other relatives. These may, therefore, include children accompanied by other adult family members.[15]

Unaccompanied children are children who have been separated by both parents and other relatives, and who are not being cared for by an adult who, by law or custom, is responsible for doing so.[16]

Violence against Children refers to all forms of physical or mental violence, injury and abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse. Violence against children can occur in different settings including the family, schools, alternative care institutions, detention facilities, places where children work and communities.[17]

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Whole of Syria (WoS) Child Protection Area of Responsibility (AOR)

There are over 60 child protection organisations, including UN, INGO, national NGOs and government departments operating in 14 governorates. The Child Protection Area of Responsibility works to prevent and respond to abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence against children. The Child Protection AOR's work is in line with the No Lost Generation (NLG) strategic framework and is driven by two operational priorities: i) strengthening the quality of community-based child protection interventions and (ii) expanding the availability of quality specialised child protection services, including case management. This includes systematising efforts to build a sustainable child protection workforce as a way to scale up reach. Advocacy and evidence generation on child protection concerns underpin these priorities.

Cover: A child carries a bag of firewood she bought for her family in besieged east Ghouta
Photo credit: ©UNICEF/2015/Syria/ Rural Damascus/Al Shami

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Introduction

In its seventh year, the conflict in Syria continues to take a huge toll on the lives of children. Against a backdrop of violence, continuous displacements and worsening socio-economic conditions, children in Syria endure multiple protection risks and violations of their rights on a daily basis. Grave child rights violations remain a critical concern with countless children killed and injured through persistent use of explosive weapons in civilian areas, recruitment and use of children by all parties to the conflict, torture, detention, abduction, sexual violence, attacks on schools and hospitals and denial of humanitarian access particularly to children living in UN-declared besieged areas[18]. The crisis has also impacted on the wellbeing of caregivers, pushing children's main source of protection to a breaking point. Children endure violence in their homes, schools and communities, often from those entrusted with their care. Children face constant risks associated with explosive hazards, lack civil documentation to prove their existence, and out of sheer desperation many girls and boys are married off at a young age and withdrawn from school to work, often in dangerous condition. This toxic environment leaves many girls and boys deprived of their psychosocial needs and in a position of profound and prolonged distress.

This is more than Violence: An Overview of Children's Protection Needs in Syria is the compilation of Child Protection Data collected for the 2018 Syria Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO). It aims to provide analysis of child protection needs and risks to support child protection actors in programme development, resource mobilisation and advocacy to respond to the protection needs of children in Syria.

This report should be read alongside the 2018 Humanitarian Needs Overview and 2018 Protection Needs Overview. Child Protection actors working to prevent and respond to abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence against children are encouraged to consider the breath and diversity of issues affecting children in Syria. Child Protection issues should be viewed as interconnected and compounding, as children rarely experience a particular protection issue in isolation of other protection issues and vulnerabilities.

The longer the conflict continues, the greater the long-term impact will be on children in Syria. However, in spite of extreme adversity, most children in Syria are showing considerable resilience and coping abilities. While it will take time for children to heal from their experiences, the children that participated in this assessment shared their wishes for a brighter future – the conflict to end, to resume their education, to play in safety and to live as children.

The reader should note that the 2018 HNO data collection exercises focused on humanitarian needs and protection threats, and did not comprehensively explore community or individual resilience, strengths and positive coping mechanisms.

CHILDREN OF SYRIA IN NUMBERS[19]

1 in 3 girls and boys in Syria has known nothing but a lifetime shaped by conflict[20]

5.3M girls and boys in Syria are in need of humanitarian assistance

2.5M girls and boys are internally displaced

Over **1M** girls and boys live in hard to reach locations

172K girls and boys live in besieged locations

Two-thirds of girls and boys live in extreme poverty[21]

1.75M girls and boys are out of school and 1.35 million are at risk of dropping out

Overview of the 2018 Findings

Figure 1: Common words used by adolescent girls (left) and adolescent boys (right) in FGDs on the impact of the conflict on children in Syria

Death and Injuries

3.3 million children remain exposed to the risk of explosive hazards. In 43 per cent of assessed communities, respondents reported the presence of explosive hazards and 33 per cent reported knowing cases of injury or death as a result of explosive hazard contamination. Children are reported to be exposed to threats while playing, by mistaking unexploded weapons for toys. The heavy use of explosive weapons and high level of contamination in some inhabited areas, or areas to which children and their families want to return, can prevent girls and boys from accessing basic services such as healthcare and education.

Child Labour

Many children are involved in economic activities that are mentally, physically or socially dangerous and which limits – or denies – their basic rights, including to education. In 82 per cent of assessed communities, respondents reported that child labour was an issue of concern, with 34 per cent of communities reporting it to be a common or very common issue. While both girls and boys are involved in child labour, boys are more likely to be involved in more hazardous forms of labour and girls are more likely to be involved in domestic work. Working children are exposed to a wide range of protection risks, such as exploitation and verbal, physical and sexual violence.

Child Recruitment and Use by Parties to the Conflict

In 47 per cent of assessed communities, respondents reported that child recruitment and use was an issue of concern, with 18 per cent of communities reporting it as a common or very common issue. Children are used in frontline combat roles, receive military training and serve in support roles such as guarding checkpoints. Payment of salaries, ideology and family or community influence continue to be incentives.

Detention and Arrest of Children

Children have been arrested and detained on the basis of their alleged association with opposing armed groups.

Abduction of Children

In 24 per cent of assessed communities, respondents reported that abduction of children was an issue of concern, with 8 per cent of communities reporting it as a common or very common issue. Boys and girls of all ages have been abducted and are most often taken away together with their relatives and deprived of their liberty in the context of suspected affiliation with an opposing party to the conflict. Motives are reported to include: extortion, sexual exploitation, and for use as a bargaining chip when negotiating prisoner exchanges.

Unaccompanied and Separated Children

In 52 per cent of assessed communities, respondents reported that separation from caregivers was an issue of concern, with 12 per cent of communities reporting it as a common or very common issue. Children are separated for both accidental and deliberate reasons, including due to: death of caregivers, divorce of caregivers and economic reasons. Most separated children live in kinship care arrangements in the community, however deteriorating economic situation and breakdown of family and community safety nets may be adversely impacting community-oriented custody patterns.

Violence against Children

In 51 per cent of assessed communities, respondents reported that family violence was an issue of concern, with 25 per cent of communities reporting it as a common or very common issue. Girls and boys of all ages are considered almost equally affected by family violence. Changes in family structure, gender roles, deteriorating financial and living conditions have contributed to increased stress and violence against and between family members.

Sexual Violence

Under-reporting of sexual violence is a common issue making it difficult to assess the extent to which girls and boys in Syria are affected. While boys and girls of all ages can be a target of sexual violence, adolescent girls were perceived by respondents to be at highest risk. A pervasive fear of sexual violence is limiting girls' movements outside of the home and therefore her access to education and community life.

Child Marriage

Since the onset of the conflict, there have been reports of an upward trend in child marriages, although the scope remains unknown. In 69 per cent of assessed communities, respondents reported child marriage is an issue of concern, with 20 per cent of communities reporting it as a common or very common issue. Child marriage is used as a negative coping strategy to respond to economic difficulties and protection concerns.
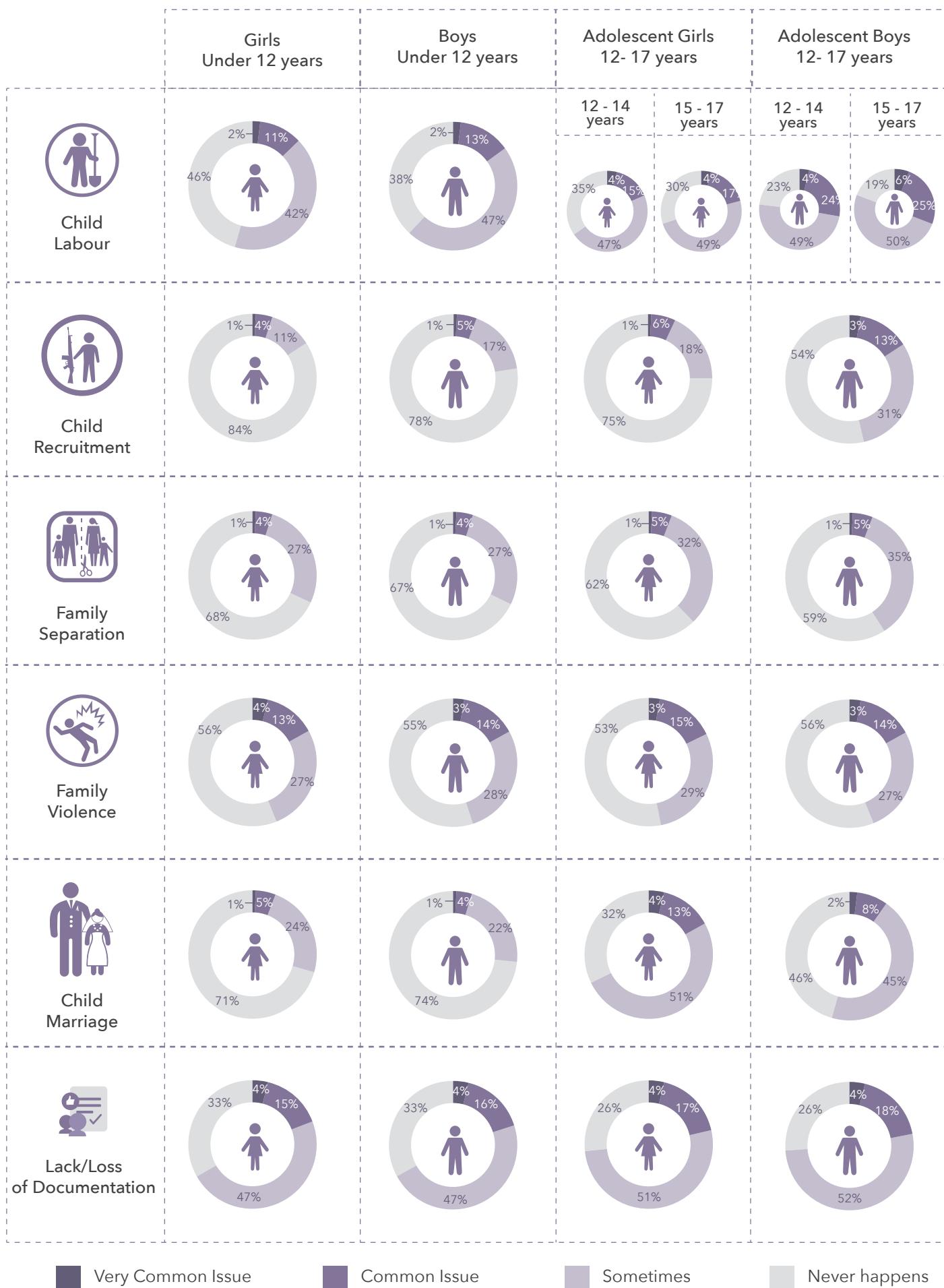
Civil Documentation/Birth Registration

Obtaining civil documentation such as birth certificates is a major challenge for children across Syria. in 83 per cent of assessed communities, respondents reported that the lack/loss of civil documentation was an issue of concern, with 31 per cent of communities reporting it as a common or very common issue. Unregistered children may face difficulties in accessing basic services and enjoying their rights, including health, education and freedom of movement, and can be at risk of statelessness.

Psychosocial Distress

Children's experiences of violence in their daily lives in their community, schools and homes, along with repeated displacements, loss of or separation from family members and friends, dramatic deterioration in living conditions, divisions in their community, and lack of basic social services is profoundly affecting children's well-being and development.

08

	Girls Under 12 years	Boys Under 12 years	Adolescent Girls 12- 17 years		Adolescent Boys 12- 17 years	
			12 - 14 years	15 - 17 years	12 - 14 years	15 - 17 years
Child Labour	2% 11% 46% 42%	2% 13% 38% 47%	35% 4% 15% 47%	30% 4% 17% 49%	23% 4% 24% 49%	19% 6% 25% 50%
Child Recruitment	1% 4% 11% 84%	1% 5% 17% 78%	1% 6% 18% 75%		54% 3% 13% 31%	
Family Separation	1% 4% 27% 68%	1% 4% 27% 67%	1% 5% 32% 62%		1% 5% 35% 59%	
Family Violence	4% 13% 56% 27%	3% 14% 55% 28%	3% 15% 53% 29%		3% 14% 56% 27%	
Child Marriage	1% 5% 24% 71%	1% 4% 22% 74%	32% 4% 13% 51%		2% 8% 46% 45%	
Lack/Loss of Documentation	33% 4% 15% 47%	33% 4% 16% 47%	26% 4% 17% 51%		26% 4% 18% 52%	

■ Very Common Issue ■ Common Issue ■ Sometimes ■ Never happens

Graph 1: Percentage of communities in which respondents reported child protection issues; disaggregated by age and sex

Overview of Methodology

Multiple data collection exercises were conducted through Jordan, Syria and Turkey hubs between July- August 2017:

- Multisector Needs Assessment led by OCHA covering 2,506 communities

- Syria Hub Protection Needs Assessment covering 1,635 communities

- Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) through the Jordan and Turkey Hubs covering 41 communities

The geographical coverage of each data collection exercise was different with some overlap between exercises. In total 4,185 communities (out of 5,651 communities/74 per cent) in 254 sub-districts (out of 272 sub-districts/ 93 per cent) were covered by one or more exercise.

The core data presented in this report draws upon data gathered through the Multisector Needs Assessment and Syria Hub Protection Needs Assessment. FGDs and secondary data generated in 2017 were used to provide qualitative information on context and illustrative examples to help explain and interpret the quantitative data.

The data collection did not seek to gather information on specific violations or identify perpetrators. Other mechanisms have been set up for this purpose. Rather, the objective was to obtain perceptions and observations of the child protection situation inside Syria from key informants and focus group participants. **The indicators and questions aimed to capture the perceived *'frequency of occurrence'* of an issue in a geographic area, rather than the extent, impact or gravity on the population. Occurrence refers to protection risks that were described as happening _sometimes_ or as being _common_ or _very common_.** The data is aggregated at the community level and presented at the governorate and national level.

CHALLENGES AND LIMITATIONS

- The aim of data collection was to provide sufficiently robust information to inform humanitarian planning, programming, resource mobilization and advocacy. However the data collection exercise was not able to obtain a statistically significant sample of the total population.

- The findings of the assessment are primarily based on key informant interviews (KI) and FGDs, and as such there is an inherent risk of bias.

- Due to the sensitive nature of protection-related questions some issues may be under-reported, such as sexual violence.

- Enumerators inside Syria were not protection or child protection experts, which may have impacted their understanding of some questions.

- Multisector data collection exercises were with adults and they were asked to speak on behalf of girls and boys,

which may have impacted the data.

- The inability to achieve a gender balance among enumerators and KIs may have impacted answers to questions particularly relating to gender-based violence (40 per cent of the female enumerators interviewed female KI).

- Enumerators, KI and FGD participants in some incidences were from the same community, which may have affected responses to more sensitive questions.

- Limited geographic coverage of FGDs.

- Cultural perceptions of childhood and gender could cause bias in the perceptions of the nature and extent of child protection issues faced by adolescent boys and girls. For example, boys who live outside of the family may not be perceived as separated, and cultural perceptions around the appropriate age of marriage may have influenced how child marriage is reported.

BIAS AND MITIGATION STRATEGIES

- The use of purposive methods introduces the potential for bias. To mitigate this, data was triangulated with information from secondary sources and through discussions with child protection sector members.

- Prior to data collection all enumerators were trained to mitigate bias in a number of ways, such as conducting interviews in private settings with no audience present, and raising awareness of potential biases such as confirmation bias.

- Questions were phrased to remind respondents to speak on behalf of their community, not their household, and to remind respondents that child protection issues apply to all people under the age of 18.

- Questions were phrased to ask respondents about the severity of an issue which enabled deeper understanding of protection concerns.

- Questions included sex and age disaggregation, which enabled the data to describe the gender dimensions of protection issues affecting children.

- Tools were adapted specifically for the FGDs with adolescent girls and boy aged 12-17 years. Almost half of the FGD were conducted with adolescent girls and boys.

*Refer to **Annex 1** for a full overview of the methodology and **Annex 2** for the assessment tools.*

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Assessment Findings

Death and Injuries

> Like any other child on a sunny day, friends Majed, 13, and Omar, 11, headed to a public park near their homes in a neighborhood in the eastern parts of Aleppo to play and ride their bikes. The two children found a strange green metal object buried in the sand. It looked like a soda can," says Majed, 13, recalling the tragic incident. *"I stepped on it and it exploded. "I was thrown in the air but I never went unconscious,"* he said. *"I was worried about Omar, I didn't know how to help. Two men came and rushed us to the hospital in a taxi. I was so cold and in pain. I watched Omar die in the car 5 minutes later... I will never forget that day."*
>
> The bomb had taken Omar's life and severely injured Majed. Shrapnel pierced through his body and face caused a large part of his intestines to be removed and almost amputated his foot.
>
> *UNICEF/Syria 2017*
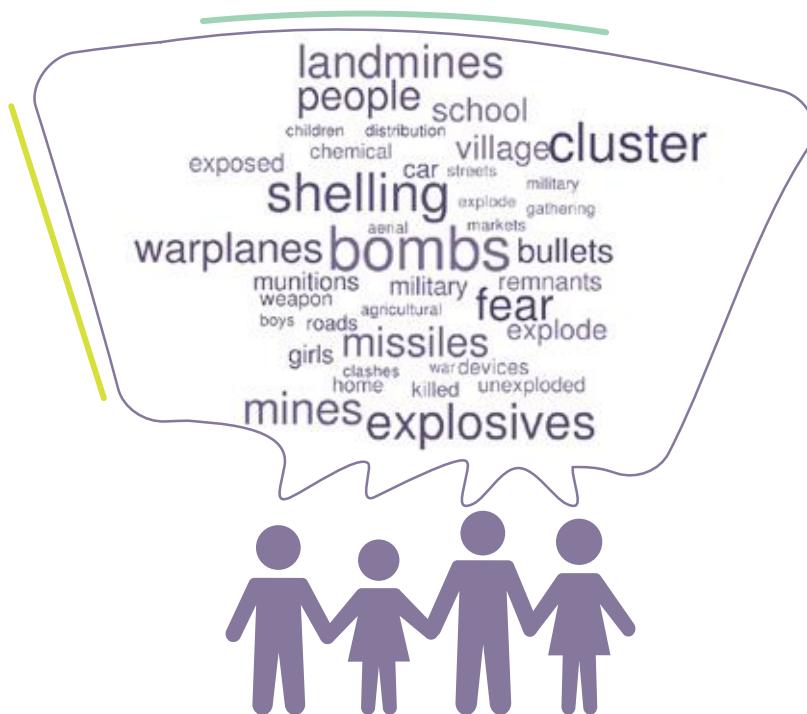
Figure 2: Common words used by adolescent girls and boys in FGDs on the types of hazards in their communities

DEATH AND INJURIES OF CHILDREN FROM EXPLOSIVE THREATS

"
"My nephew had his arm amputated because he was playing with a bomb. He had found it in the street and started playing with it thinking it was a toy. It exploded in his hand."

(FGD with Women, Idleb)
"

Scores of girls and boys have been killed and injured since the beginning of the conflict, and 3.3 million children[22] remain exposed to the risk of explosive hazards. Explosive weapons with wide-area effects continue to be used in populated areas, increasing the likelihood of more child deaths and injuries. While accurately counting the number of conflict-related deaths remains challenging, particularly among children (casualty data is often not gender or age disaggregated), according to WHO conflict related deaths are the main cause of death among adolescents (10-19 years of age) in Syria.[23, 24]

According to the 2018 HNO Data Collection exercises, in 43 per cent of assessed communities, respondents reported the presence of explosive hazards and 33 per cent reported known cases of injury or death as a result of explosive hazard contamination.[25]

Children are exposed to threats while playing and by mistaking unexploded weapons for toys. The appeal for children of the intriguing shapes and colours of explosive hazards and landmines is a well-documented problem, and illustrated in the following FGD quote: *"a teenager brought home a mine from the agriculture fields thinking it was a toy. Three days later, the mine exploded, killing him and his brother"* (FGD with Boys, 12-17 years, Al-Hasakeh). Children are also exposed to explosive hazards while scavenging for valuable waste to sell: *"a little girl had found a small object and tried to break it open to extract the copper inside in order to sell, but it was a cluster bomb. It exploded and took away her leg"* (FGD with Boys, 12-17 years, Aleppo). Blast injuries from landmines and explosive remnants of war cause particularly severe injuries to young children because the vital organs of their smaller bodies are lower and closer to the centre of the blast, resulting in increased likelihood of death.[26]

The heavy use of explosive weapons and high level of contamination in some inhabited areas, or areas to which children and their families want to return, can prevent girls and boys from accessing basic services such as healthcare and education. In around 25 per cent of assessed communities, respondents indicated explosive hazards exist on route to schools. When displaced families return to their homes, they are at increased risk because they do not know where landmines and explosive ordinances have been left in their communities.

FGD participants described the movement restrictions they have placed on their children to limit their risk of being killed or injured by unexploded ordinance and landmines. This coping strategy also limits childrens' opportunities, for example, access to education and to socialize with other children. *"We even forbid our children from going outside. They cannot live their daily lives, or go get us things. This is out of fear that they might stumble onto something, especially since unexploded ordinances come in the shapes of toys,*

rocks, or anything that might get the attention of children" (FGD with Women, Dara'a).

"Children lack information about explosives. There was a group of children playing in the street when an unidentified object exploded, killing three of them and injuring one" (FGD with Men, Dara'a). These explosive hazards will continue to cause risk of death and injury to children long after the end of the conflict. The experience with remnants of war from other conflicts reinforces the need for clearance and risk education as lifesaving interventions. FGDs indicated Risk Education is effective when available: *"our community has had many*

awareness-raising campaigns for the remains of war. Mothers now pay a careful attention to their children; they tell their children what is dangerous and what to avoid" (FGD with Women, Dara'a).

Refer to sections on Disability and Access and Availability to Humanitarian to Services for more information.
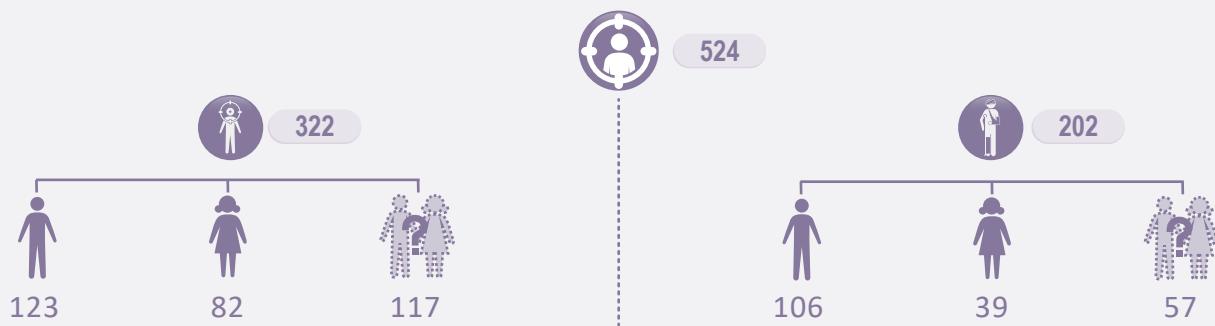
SUMMARY OF DEATHS AND INJURIES IN SYRIA: MRM4SYRIA, JANUARY-JUNE 2017

In the first half of 2017, airstrikes on civilians continued to be the main cause of child casualties (37 per cent of verified incidents); children were also affected by shelling of civilian areas (22 per cent); Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) attacks (22 per cent); victim-activated IEDs and unexploded ordnance (six per cent); shooting (four per cent); execution (four per cent); sniper attacks (five children); crossfire (four children) and torture (one child) according the United Nations Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism on Grave Violations against Children (MRM4Syria).[27]
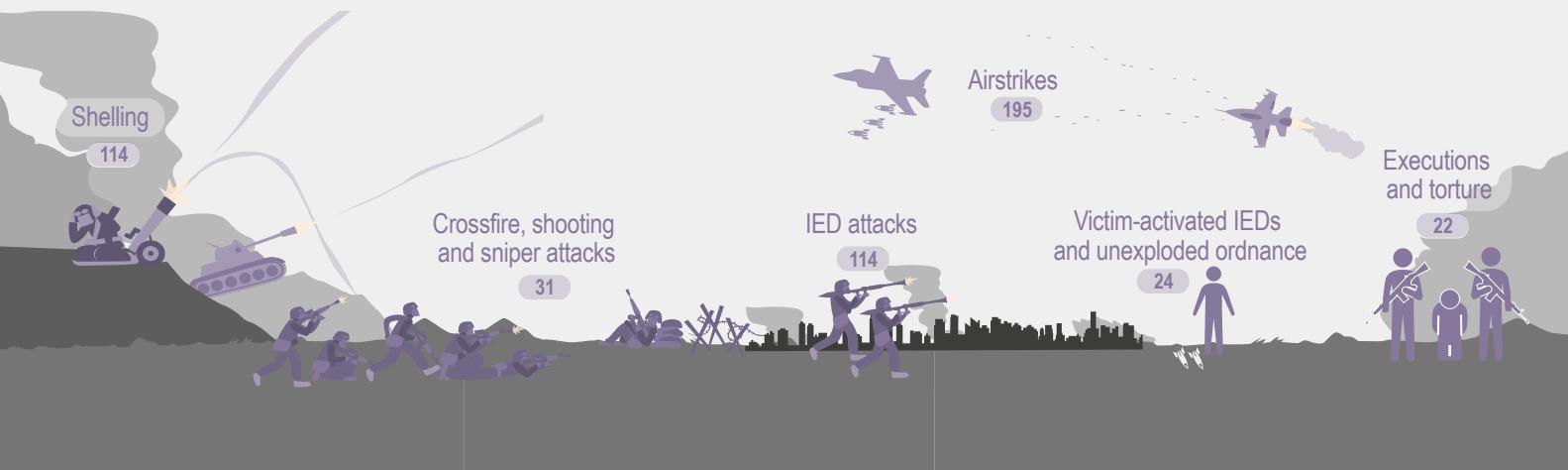
Killing and Injuring of Children

524

322

123   82   117

202

106   39   57

MAIN USE OF WEAPONS FOR KILLING AND INJURING CHILDREN

Shelling
114

Crossfire, shooting and sniper attacks
31

Airstrikes
195

IED attacks
114

Victim-activated IEDs and unexploded ordnance
24

Executions and torture
22

DEATHS AND INJURIES OF CHILDREN FROM ACCESSIBILITY OF SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS

"
"Living at wartime is itself a hazard. There are weapons shops, children holding grenades, guns in residential areas, and ammunition depots everywhere".

(FGD with Men, Aleppo)
"

Both adolescent and adult FGD participants spoke of the accessibility of small arms and light weapons: *"before the conflict, weapons were never used. Now everyone has a weapon"* (FGD with Girls, 12-17 years, Quneitra), and the risks it exposes to civilians in their communities: *"mostly when they clash in the village there is gunfire and shooting, and we cannot study because of it"* (FGD with Boys, 12-17 years, Idleb).

References were made to deaths or injuries as a result of children mishandling weapons at home: *"the father leaves his weapon in front of his family and accidents happen, especially among children who do not understand or know what these things (i.e. weapons) are"* (FGD with Girls, 15-17 years, Dar'a); and *"there was an incident where a child killed his own mother as a result of messing with a gun because the father had left the gun at home"* (FGD with Girls, 15-17 years, Rural Damascus). Weapons and ammunition depots close to people's homes or in their homes were also seen as potential threats: *"there is the problem of the spread of weapons and bomb stocks in the village and houses. Many injuries have happened, and a girl died due to an ammo explosion"* (FGD with Men, Idleb).

The ready availability of small arms and light weapons not only results in death and injuries of girls and boys, but may also facilitate the use of children as combatants.[28] Access to small arms/light weapons may be seen as an acceptable means of boys attaining the status of manhood, including proving a sense of identity and self-worth which may otherwise be difficult to find in the midst of conflict, as demonstrated through this view: *"when a child carries a weapon, he feels like he has become a man"* (FGD with Men, Dara'a).

Refer to sections on Child Recruitment and Use of Children and Psychosocial Distress for more information.

DEATHS AND INJURIES OF CHILDREN FROM ACCIDENTS

Not all threats facing children are of a direct consequence of the conflict. Globally, unintentional injuries are a leading cause of death among children. This includes deaths from road-traffic accidents, drowning and fire-related burns. However, when normal healthcare and accident rehabilitation services are disrupted by conflict, the risk of long-term or permanent injury from these "ordinary risks" becomes far greater. For example, both adolescents and adult participants in FGDs expressed concern around traffic accidents. In one example a woman explained how her nephew was injured: *"the children had no playground to play in… There are young careless drivers; they ran him over"* (FGD with Women, Rural Damascus). Displacement can also put children closer to previously unfamiliar risks, such as road traffic, rivers and explosive remnants of war. Children with existing disabilities can be at particular risk of physical injury in such situations.[29]

Refer to section on Disability for more information.

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"
"I drew an armed man shooting an innocent man because I know a lot of people who died since the beginning of the war," says Khalil, 11 years old.

*Photo credit: © UNICEF/2016/Syria/Khalil*
"

Child Labour

" Maher, 14, is the eldest of his three siblings. After his father passed away, Maher became the only bread winner for his family. *"I left school when I was in the sixth grade after we left our home and my father died. We needed an income to survive. My daily allowance from my work here is between 500 to 700 SYP [US$ 1 to US$ 1.5]. It is barely enough to buy a pack of bread,"* Maher says.

Photo credit: ©UNICEF/2017/Syria/Rural Damascus/Almohibany

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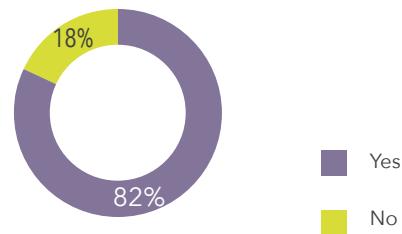
> "We see children working everywhere, even in jobs that are not suitable for their ages. Too many of them have become the breadwinners of their families" (FGD with Men, Rural Damascus).

18%

82%

Yes
No

Graph 2: Percentage of assessed communities in which respondents reported Child Labour preventing school attendance

Child labour was a problem in Syria prior to the crisis[30], however the humanitarian situation has greatly exacerbated the issue. As a result, many children are now involved in economic activities that are mentally, physically or socially dangerous (i.e. child labour) and which limits – or denies – their basic rights, including to education. In its most extreme forms – such as child recruitment and use in the conflict, or sexual exploitation – it is a grave violation of children's rights.[31]

While the exact number of children in Syria affected is impossible to know, available data suggests the proportion of children affected is very high. Respondents to the 2018 HNO data collection exercises were asked their perceptions on child labour: 82 per cent of assessed communities reported that was occurring, with reports of the issue being common or very common in 34 per cent of communities.

While girls and boys of all ages are known to be engaged in child labour, respondents felt adolescents were the most affected groups - boys 15-17 years (81 per cent), boys 12-14 years (77 per cent) and girls 15-17 years (70 per cent).[32]
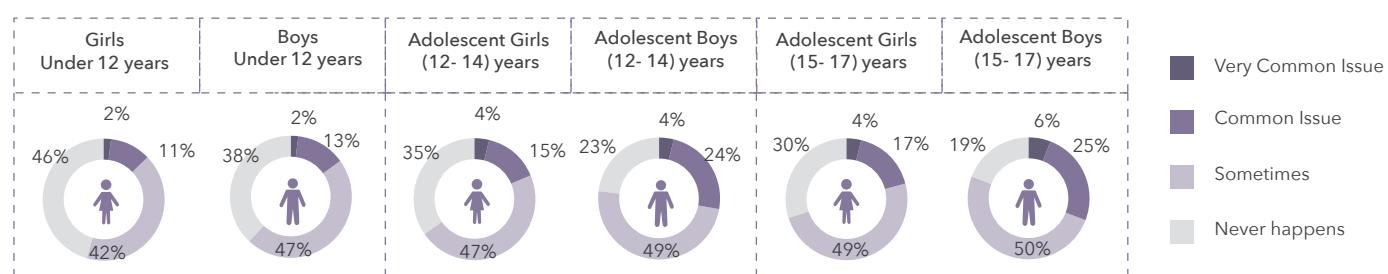
The highest levels of child labour were reported in Quneitra and Al-Hasakeh governorates (girls and boys of all age groups); followed by Aleppo (for girls of all age groups), and Dara'a (for boys of all age groups). A slightly different picture emerged when only common and very common responses were considered: Ar-Raqqa and Aleppo governorates (for girls and boys of all age groups) were the highest, followed by Al-Hasakeh governorate (for girls of all age groups), and then Quneitra (for boys of all age groups).

TYPES OF WORK
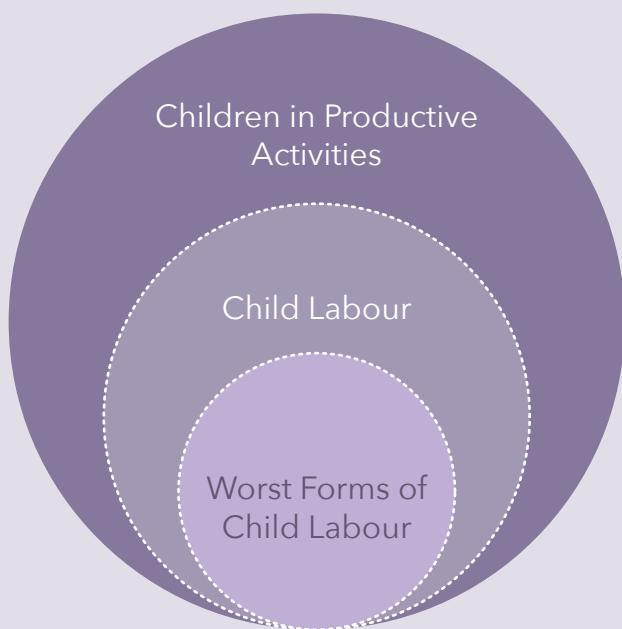
FGD participants reported that children are engaged in some of the worst forms of child labour: working with parties to the conflict in combat and support roles; smuggling; operating heavy machinery in factories and workshops; working as blacksmiths, in oil refineries and quarries; begging; scavenging through garbage for valuable waste. Preliminary findings from a UNICEF assessment on child labour in Rural Damascus and Homs also identified children working in chemical factories.[34] Survival sex was mentioned in FGDs, this issue is sensitive and by its very nature usually quite concealed. The mention of sexual exploitation of girls and boys by even a small proportion of respondents is alarming and highlights the vulnerability some families are facing and the increase in high risk behaviours.

Even more children are reported to be involved in labour activities that may not be classified as "worst forms", but that still deprive them of their childhood, potential and dignity and is harmful for their development.
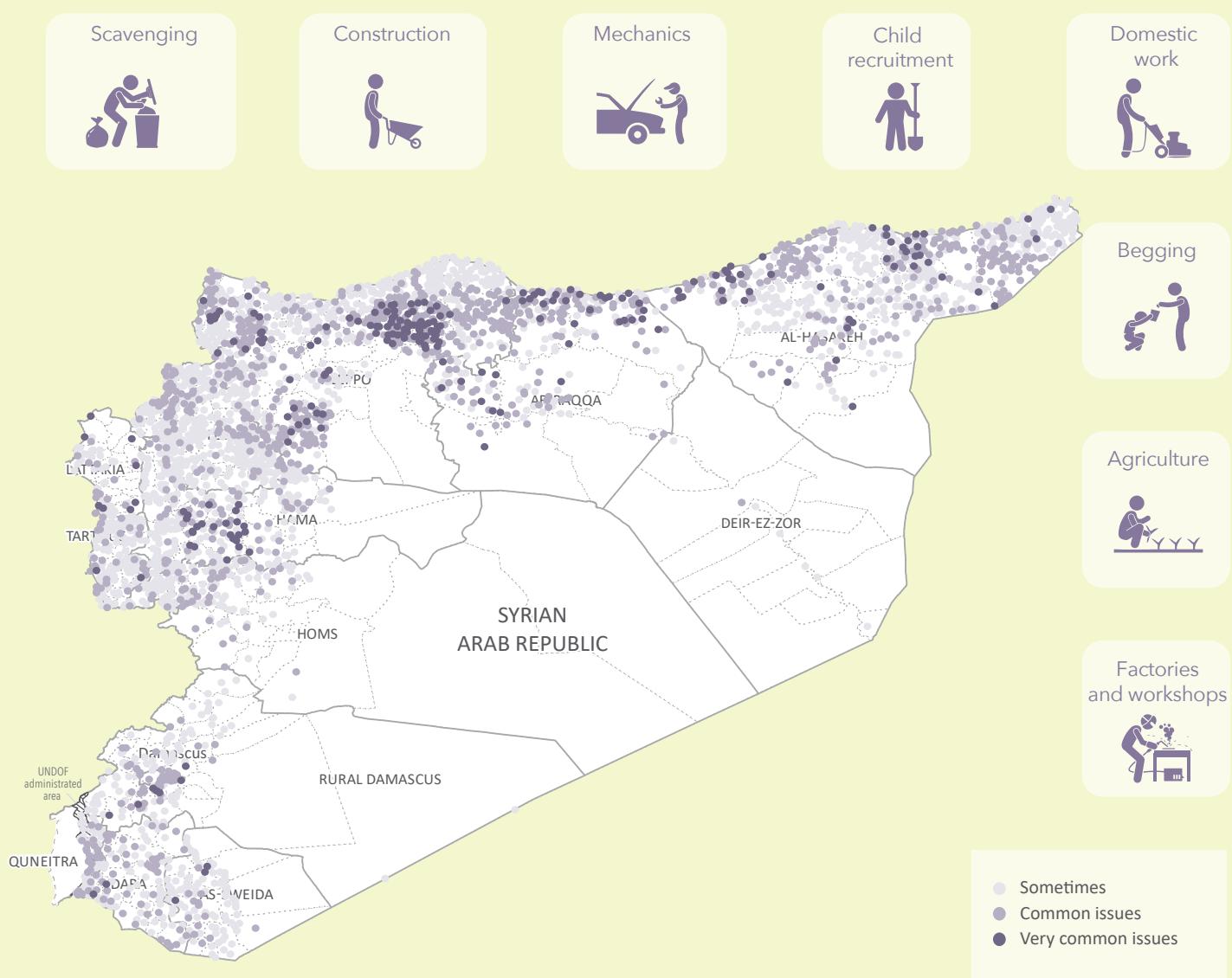
Refer to section on Child Recruitment for more information.

16

| Girls Under 12 years | Boys Under 12 years | Adolescent Girls (12- 14) years | Adolescent Boys (12- 14) years | Adolescent Girls (15- 17) years | Adolescent Boys (15- 17) years |

2% / 46% / 11% / 42%
2% / 38% / 13% / 47%
4% / 35% / 15% / 47%
4% / 23% / 24% / 49%
4% / 30% / 17% / 49%
6% / 19% / 25% / 50%

Very Common Issue
Common Issue
Sometimes
Never happens

Graph 3: Percentage of assessed communities in which respondents reported the occurrence of Child Labour that prevents school attendance; disaggregated by age and sex[33]

Children in Productive Activities

Child Labour

Worst Forms of Child Labour

- **Children in productive activities:** Not all work done by children should be classified as child labour. Work that does not affect children's health and personal development or interfere with schooling can be contribute to children's development and provide them with skills and experience and help prepare for adult life.

- **Child labour** is work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity, and that is harmful to physical and mental development. It refers to work that is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful to children. Child labour interferes with children's schooling by depriving them of the opportunity to attend school, obliging them to leave school prematurely, or requiring them to attempt to combine school attendance with excessively long and heavy work.

- **The worst forms of child labour** are a subset of child labour and must be eliminated as a matter of urgency. This includes hazardous work, forced or bonded labour, use of children in armed conflict and trafficking children for sexual or economic exploitation and illicit work.[35]

Scavenging

Construction

Mechanics

Child recruitment

Domestic work

Begging

Agriculture

Factories and workshops

AL-HASAKEH

ALEPPO

AR-RAQQA

LATTAKIA

HAMA

DEIR-EZ-ZOR

TARTOUS

HOMS

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

DAMASCUS

RURAL DAMASCUS

UNDOF administrated area

QUNEITRA

DARA

AS-SWEIDA

- Sometimes
- Common issues
- Very common issues

Map1: Types of work girls and boys are engaged in that prevent school attendance

GENDER AND AGE DIMENSIONS

While both girls and boys are involved in child labour, boys are more likely to be involved in more hazardous forms of labour. Girls are more likely to be involved in domestic work (e.g. cooking, cleaning, hairdressing and sewing), possibly owing to cultural and social norms around work outside of the home: *"a lot of people prefer that if the girl wants to work, it is better for her to work from home"* (FGD with Women, Rural Damascus). Girls' work may be both paid and unpaid. Both girls and boys are involved in agriculture work. The data is not clear on the age at which girls and boys start working: they often start below age 12 and at times as young as five.[36]

REASONS

Repeated displacements, family separation and poverty have put immense pressure on families and pushed large numbers of children into the labour market. The IMF [37] estimates over two-thirds of Syrians are now living in extreme poverty, unable to meet basic needs. Survival options are significantly reduced for the estimated one million children living in hard-to-reach areas and the 172,000 children living in besieged locations.[38] A growing number of children, in particular boys, are the primary breadwinner for their household and/or their financial contribution makes a significant difference to the war-time survival of their family: *"my father is an old man, so he can't work. My younger brother and I are the ones who support our household"* (FGD with Boys, 15-17 years, Aleppo). Some children are also reportedly forced to support their families against their will, for example being sent out to beg.

RISKS

Girls and boys of all ages are reportedly performing work beyond their capacities and working long hours. *"A seventh grader harvesting potatoes and tomatoes would have to carry sixty or seventy baskets. Each basket weighs 50 kilograms. A child cannot do this, but necessity drives all"* (FGD with Women, Dar'a). They are working in unsafe environments, both in terms of the nature of the work and their treatment by employers.

Working children are also exposed to a wide range of protection risks, such as financial exploitation and verbal, physical and sexual violence (including fear of these forms of violence) at the hands of employers. Girls working in the homes of others were said to be at risk of harassment and rape. *"Many families allow their daughters to work as housecleaners for people they do not know. These girls face degrading verbal and sexual abuse. This happened to the daughter of my neighbour"* (FGD with Women, Idleb).

Children are at risk of death or serious injury when operating heavy and dangerous equipment if they are inadequately trained or unaware of the risks associated with their tasks; working in agriculture fields and scavenging for valuable waste may expose children to explosive remnants of war and diseases; and factory work exposes children to dangerous chemicals/fumes. These risks are in addition to the negative psychosocial impacts children suffer from engaging in work that is beyond their capacities.

"Most boys living in my camp are working in car repairing. This work is very hard, and they are beaten and insulted; however, they are forced to be silent because they are in need of money" (FGD with Boys, 15-17 years, Aleppo).

"A man wanted to buy gasoline from a boy around 11 or 12. He wanted to see if the barrel was full, so he tried to use his lighter, but it was broken. The boy used another lighter; the father was inside; suddenly the whole shop and the father caught fire." (FGD with Boys, 12-17 years, Dar'a).

"I work with my father. We sell fuel," Ayman, 9 years, says. *"I work after I finish school until the evening but I still want to study because I want to become an engineer when I grow up,"* he adds.

Photo credit: ©UNICEF/2017/Syria/Rural Damascus/Almohibany
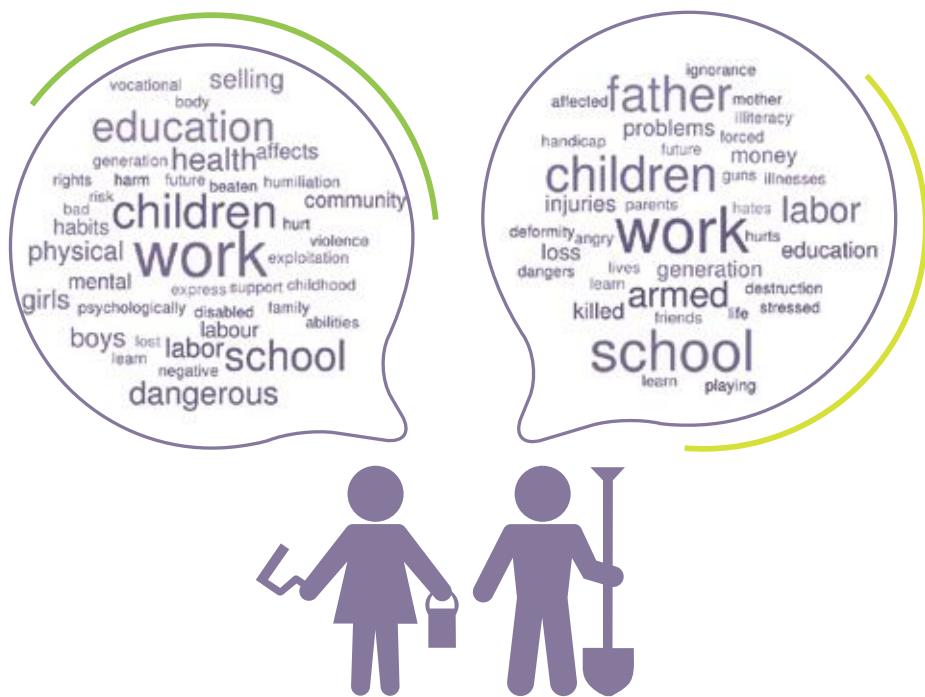
Figure 3: Common words used by adolescent girls (left) and adolescent boys (right) in FGDs on the impact of Child Labour

THE LOSS OF EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The link between education and the future emerged through strongly in the focus group discussions as children – particularly those aged 12 and over – were acutely aware that their prospects of a better life are intrinsically tied to completing their education.[39]

1.75 million children in Syria are out of school and 1.35 million are at risk of dropping out. One in three schools cannot be used because it is destroyed, damaged, sheltering displaced families or being used for military purposes.[40] Children are killed or injured while at school or on their way to/from school. For girls and boys living in besieged locations, their access to even the most rudimentary education is even more compromised.[41]
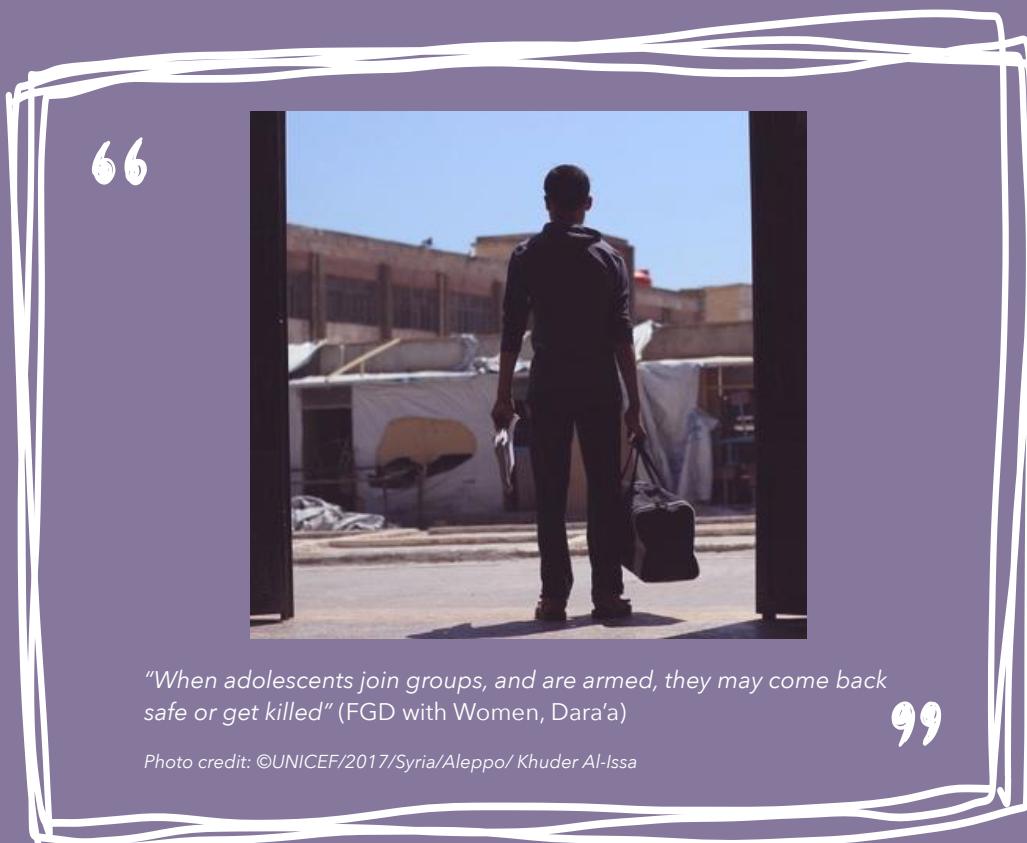
The link between lack of access to education and child labour is clear. As many children cannot access schools or report seeing no value in continuing their education, they seek work opportunities. There is no doubt that education is one of the keys to preventing child labour – without access to quality education, children often have few alternatives to premature entry into the workforce.

Where children do have opportunities to continue their education, they report that constant and immense stress from the conflict is impacting their ability to focus on learning.

Saleh, 15 years, made the trip from his village in southern rural Aleppo to sit for his final Grade 9 exams. *"I wanted to set a good example for my younger siblings,"* said Saleh, the eldest of seven children. *"I know that if I continue my learning despite all the dangers and challenges, they will be encouraged to do the same."* Saleh added. Saleh missed a year of schooling when violence escalated in his village.

Photo credit: ©UNICEF/2017/Syria/ Rural Damascus/ Khudr Al-Issa

Child Recruitment and Use by Parties to the Conflict
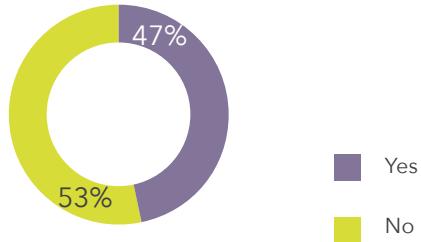
"When adolescents join groups, and are armed, they may come back safe or get killed" (FGD with Women, Dara'a)

Photo credit: ©UNICEF/2017/Syria/Aleppo/ Khuder Al-Issa

According to the Paris Principles a child associated with an armed force or armed group refers to any person below 18 years of age who is or who has been recruited or used by an armed force or armed group in any capacity, including but not limited to children, boys, and girls used as fighters, cooks, porters, messengers, spies or for sexual purposes. It does not only refer to a child who is taking or has taken a direct part in hostilities. Recruitment refers to compulsory, forced and voluntary conscription or enlistment of children into any kind of armed force or armed group.

"Can you see how they post fifteen year old children at roadblocks? How can he remember that he is a child?" (FGD with Women, Rural Damascus).

47%

53%

Yes

No
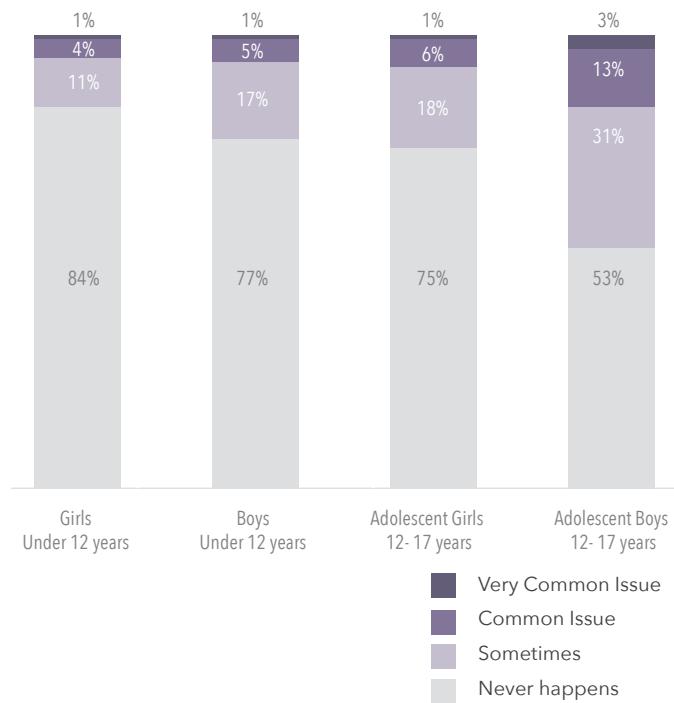
Graph 4: Percentage of assessed communities in which respondents reported the occurrence of Child Recruitment

Recruitment and use of children in the Syrian conflict has increased sharply according to the 2017 UN Secretary General's report on Children and Armed Conflict[42]. Children are known to be used by parties to the conflict in frontline combat roles, and receive military training. They also serve in support roles such as guarding checkpoints, as aides-de-camps and for sexual exploitation. Disturbingly, children have been used to conduct suicide attacks and perform executions[43]. Children have been killed and injured in hostilities, as well as arrested and detained for their alleged association with armed groups[44]. The Commission of Inquiry (COI) on the Syrian Arab Republic continues to receive numerous allegations of children being recruited, placed in training camps and, in some cases, sent to active front lines[45].

While it is not possible to provide information on the total number of children affected across Syria by child recruitment use, as part of the 2018 HNO data collection exercises respondents were asked their perceptions on its occurrence. Forty seven per cent of assessed communities indicated that child recruitment was occurring, with reports of the issue being either common or very common in 18 per cent of communities. Adolescent boys 12-17 years were considered most affected (47 per cent of assessed communities), followed by adolescent girls 12-17 years (25 per cent), boys under 12 years (22 per cent) and girls under 12 years (16 per cent).

Ar-Raqqa and Al-Hasakeh governorates (girls and boys of both age groups), as well as Deir Ez Zor for boys aged under 12 years and 12-17 years reported the highest occurrence of child recruitment.

	Girls Under 12 years	Boys Under 12 years	Adolescent Girls 12-17 years	Adolescent Boys 12-17 years
Very Common Issue	1%	1%	1%	3%
Common Issue	4%	5%	6%	13%
Sometimes	11%	17%	18%	31%
Never happens	84%	77%	75%	53%

Very Common Issue
Common Issue
Sometimes
Never happens

21

Graph 5: Percentage of assessed communities in which respondents reported the occurrence of Child Recruitment; disaggregated by age and sex

AGE AND GENDER DIMENSIONS

The use of young children in the conflict has been well documented for several years. The 2017 report by the Secretary General on Children in Armed Conflict (based on 2016 data) found 20 per cent of verified cases involved children under the age of 15[46], a trend that continued in 2017. Eighteen per cent of verified cases in the first half of 2017 involved children below the age of 15, including as young as 12 years of age[47]. Boys continue to be the most affected by recruitment by parties to the conflict, although girls are also known to engage in combat and support roles. Girls have also been used as sexual slaves to fighters in extremist groups[48].

*Refer to section on Sexual Violence for more information.*
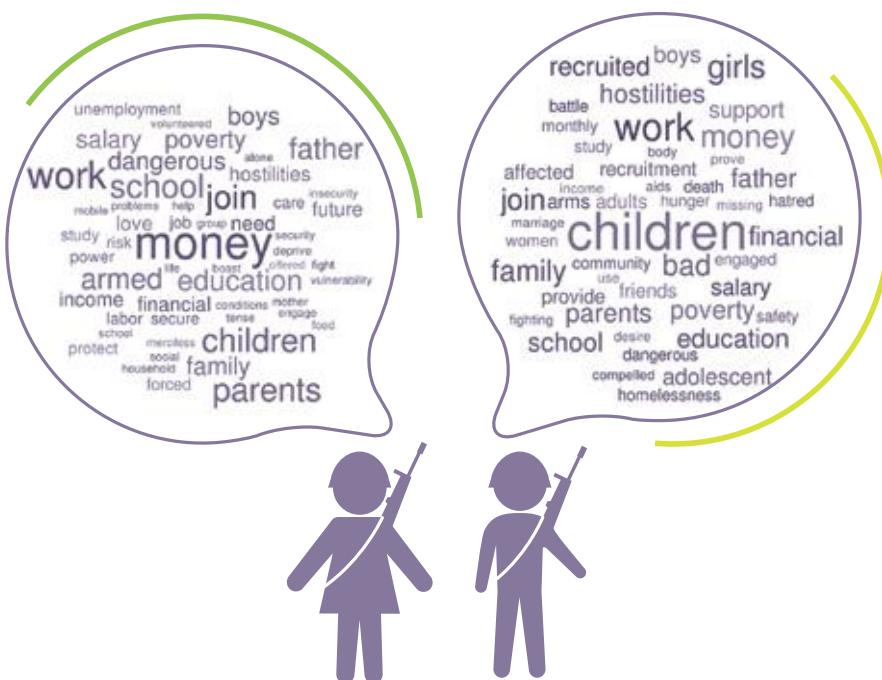
Figure 4: Common words used by adolescent girls (left) and adolescent boys (right) in FGDs on the reasons for recruitment

> "His father recently died leaving behind the mother and a number of little children. He was forced to join the armed groups due to their financial situation and lack of work opportunities. He did not want to, but had to do it for money. He became tense and angry all the time. He became withdrawn from normal life, including school and his friends. He dreams of going back to studying." (FGD with Boys, 12-17 years).

DRIVERS

Payment of salaries, ideology and family or community influence continue to be incentives.[49] Issues expressed in the FGDs helped to deepen the understanding of drivers of vulnerability that to child recruitment, such as: financial incentives; education; family, peer and community pressure; psychosocial factors.

FINANCIAL INCENTIVES

As described under Child Labour, families in Syria are under immense financial pressure, with many families unable to meet their basic needs. With limited safe employment options, joining the conflict, may offer children the possibility of securing a regular income to support their household. FGD participants repeatedly referenced financial incentives when discussing recruitment, for example: *"children fight for money"* (FGD with Girls, 15-17 years, Idleb), *"we want to join the armed groups for the salary"* (FGD with Boys, 12-17 years, Dar'a) and *"In cases where the father has passed away, the eldest son joins armed groups to provide financial support for his family"* (FGD with men, Dara'a).

These financial incentives range from $30 upwards to $400 per month depending on a range of variables: status of the child (e.g. married or single); role or level of affiliation with the group (e.g. part time/full time, combat/support); location and foreign sponsorship, etc.[50] International Alert's 2016 report 'Why Young Syrians Choose to Fight' found the need to earn a living is a primary push factor to joining the conflict and that "the ideologies of particular armed groups play – at most – a secondary role in driving recruitment", with many children only attracted to the higher salaries different groups offer.[51]

EDUCATION

The loss of schooling has profound effects as it removes positive structured environments and influences where children previously found routine and purpose through learning and socialisation. FGD participants directly linked children's loss of hope in the future to dropping out of school and joining armed groups: *"there is a new phenomenon for our teenage boys – they are refusing to continue their education claiming that education is futureless in light of this war. Most of them join the armed groups while they are still underage"* (FGD with Women, Idleb). The absence of education for many - and the provision of education by some extremist groups – compounds vulnerability and reduces alternative avenues for participating in the conflict.[52]

FAMILY, PEER AND COMMUNITY PRESSURE

Families, particularly fathers and 'role models' in the community, were identified as key influencers in children's engagement with parties to the conflict: *"my husband forced him (my 15 year old son) to join the armed group and leave school claiming that education is not going to do the country any good during the war"* (FGD with Women, Idleb). In a grim illustration of the complex choices some families are forced to make, a mother in another FGD described how she pressured her son to join an armed group to support the household: *"I was forced to send my child, who is still 12 years old, to one of the armed factions in order to have a salary and provide for the rest of the family… I sacrifice one so that the rest may live"* (FGD with Women, Aleppo).

PSYCHOSOCIAL FACTORS

Children's experiences of violence, displacement and loss significantly contribute to feelings of insecurity, fear, distress, injustice, anger, powerlessness, hopelessness and uncertainty for the future. Experiencing these disturbing emotions can further drive children to join the conflict. Joining parties to the conflict may elevate a child's sense of purpose, control and significance. A theme repeated throughout the FGDs was that of **concepts of masculinity** linked to fighting and weapons, and that boys need to assume new roles and responsibilities beyond their ages as "protectors" of their families and communities: *"children have participated in hostile actions mostly in order to receive financial support and to prove that they are grown-ups"* (FGD with Girls 15-17 years, Aleppo).

In some situations children may have been forced to join through abduction or may have joined due to fear, intimidation and indoctrination such as through schools and training camps. *"Two little girls who are less than nine years old blew themselves up at a police station, and the same thing happens with little boys. ISIS starts training its child recruits from the age of under five years old"* (FGD with Men, Rural Damascus). Children's prolonged exposure and possible desensitisation to violence may also be factors facilitating indoctrination and recruitment.[53] *"Extremists take advantage of children's lack of awareness and enthusiasm for jihad. Children are subjected to brainwashing"* (FGD with Men, Rural Damascus).

IMPACT

Recruitment and use of children by parties to the conflict is a grave child rights violation with severe physical and emotional long-term consequences.[54] Once recruited, children are exposed to tremendous violence – often forced both to witness and commit violence, while also themselves being abused, exploited, detained, injured or even killed as a result.

Refer to section on Psychosocial Distress for more information.

Map 3: Assessed communities in which respondents reported the occurrence of child recruitment– disaggregated by age and sex

SUMMARY OF RECRUITMENT AND USE OF CHILDREN IN SYRIA: MRM4SYRIA, MARCH 2011-MARCH 2017[55]

- The MRM4Syria verified 1,940 cases of recruitment and use of children by parties to the conflict in Syria, which occurred between March 2011 and March 2017, over a period of six years.

- The MRM4Syria further gathered 320 allegations of recruitment and use over the same period. The number of cases meeting the threshold of verification is high.

- The verified cases include 1,910 boys (98%) 30 girls (2%). Overall, 77% of the children recruited – almost four in five – were used in combat roles (armed and in uniform, actively participating in hostilities, sometimes with prior military training).

- A majority of children were aged between 15 and 17 years (1,282 children – 66%) while nearly one in three children were below the age of 15 (562 children – 29%), including children as young as four years. 68% of the children below 15 were used for combat roles.

- Cases were verified in 12 out of the 14 governorates in Syria, with five governorates together accounting for almost 85% of violations: Aleppo (38%); Deir Ez-Zor (17%); Dara'a (12%); Rural Damascus (10%); and Ar-Raqqa (8%).

- Cases involving girls were verified in six governorates (Aleppo, Al-Hasakeh, Ar-Raqqa, Deir-ez-Zor, Homs and Idlib). Thirteen girls, as young as eight years, were used as wives/sex slaves of combatants; and 17 girls were used in military functions.

- Nearly 75% of all cases of recruitment and use of children below age 15 occurred in Deir-ez-Zor (207 cases), Aleppo (155 cases), and Ar-Raqqa (56 cases). Children below age 15 accounted for two-thirds of all recruitment in Deir-ez-Zor and half in Al-Hasakeh.

- Verified cases were attributed to at least 77 separate and distinct parties to the conflict across Syria. The verified numbers are not indicative of the scope of the issue, but rather of the cases it was possible to capture and verify.

DETENTION AND ARREST OF CHILDREN

Children continued to be arrested and detained on the basis of their alleged association with opposing armed groups.[56] The MRM4Syria verified the arrest and detention by parties to the conflict of 75 children aged between 10 and 17 years, including 49 boys and 26 girls during the period January-June 2017. In 71 of the cases, the status of the children remained unknown at the time of writing; in 37 of the cases, the detention of the children was aggravated by torture and ill-treatment; in one case a child was subjected to rape; and in another case the child was executed.[57]

ABDUCTION OF CHILDREN[58]

"
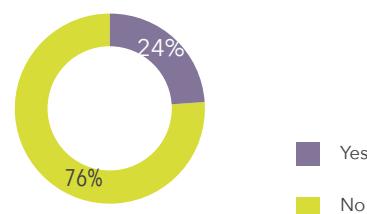
"The Stories of Kidnapping Never Stop" (FGD with Men, Rural Damascus)

"
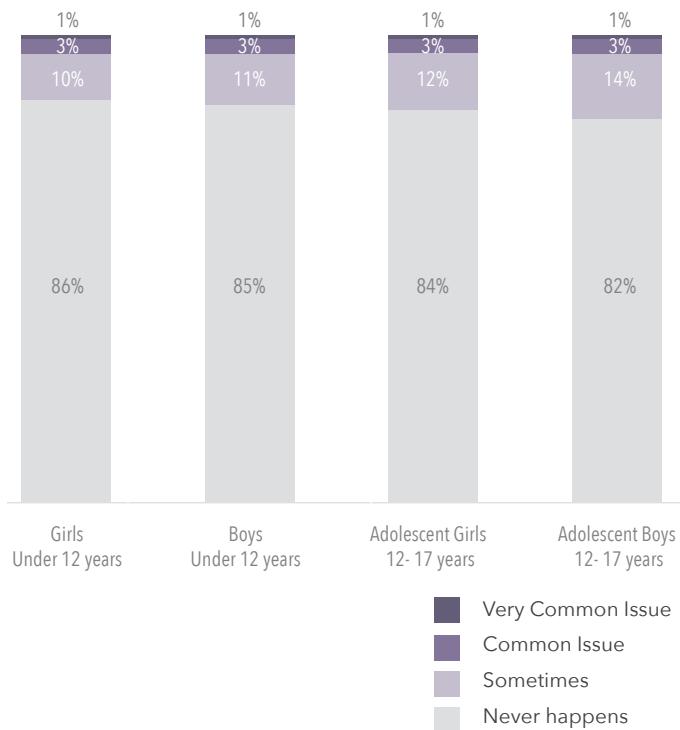
In a pattern that has continued since the beginning of the conflict, boys and girls of all ages – from a few months to 17 years old – continue to be abducted. Girls and boys are reported to be almost equally affected. According to the 2017 report by the Secretary General on Children in Armed Conflict, girls and boys were most often taken away together with their relatives and deprived of their liberty in the context of suspected affiliation with an opposing party to the conflict. Girls have been abducted by extremist groups and Yezidi girls captured in Iraq in 2014 continue to be trafficked into and within Syria for use as sex slaves.[59] The Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic has also documented the capture and use of children as hostages by armed groups.[60]

Respondents to the 2018 HNO data collection exercises were asked about their perceptions on abduction: 24 per cent of assessed communities reported that it was occurring, with the issue reported to be either common or very common in 8 per cent of communities. Similar levels were reported among all child population groups: adolescent boys 12-17 years were mentioned as most affected (18 per cent) followed by girls 12-17 years (16 per cent), boys below 12 (15 per cent), and girls below 12 (14 per cent). A similar pattern was observed in responses about men and women, with the risk perceived to be slightly higher for men (22 per cent) than women (17 per cent).

24%

76%

Yes

No

Graph 6: Percentage of assessed communities in which respondents reported the occurrence of Abduction

	Girls Under 12 years	Boys Under 12 years	Adolescent Girls 12-17 years	Adolescent Boys 12-17 years
Very Common Issue	1%	1%	1%	1%
Common Issue	3%	3%	3%	3%
Sometimes	10%	11%	12%	14%
Never happens	86%	85%	84%	82%

- Very Common Issue
- Common Issue
- Sometimes
- Never happens

Graph 7: Percentage of assessed communities in which respondents reported the occurrence of Abduction; disaggregated by age and sex

Ar-Raqqa and As-Sweida governorates have the highest proportion of assessed communities indicating the occurrence of abduction, 61 per cent and 53 per cent respectively, (girls and boys of all age groups).

REASONS

The disintegration of community structures and rule of law in some locations have created conditions that leave children vulnerable to abduction. Motives are reported to include: extortion (i.e. ransom), sexual exploitation (particularly of girls), and for use as a bargaining chip when negotiating prisoner exchanges. Organ trafficking was also identified as a motive for kidnapping in a few FGDs[61]. Common abduction sites were said to include: outside the home on the street and at checkpoints. Night time was identified as a particularly dangerous time.

GENDER DIMENSIONS

While the data suggests girls and boys are both at risk of abduction, the impacts for girls and boys are likely to differ tremendously. The 2017 Report of the Secretary-General on conflict-related sexual violence highlights the close association between kidnapping of girls and sexual violence,[62] and the 2017 GBV AOR report "Voices" explains that this may not only threaten a girl's physical and psychological well-being, but also threaten her reputation and honour, and therefore her family's honour.[63] This view was echoed in 2018 FGDs: *"a friend of mine was kidnapped for a whole month and after that she came back and we heard her father slaughtered her"* (FGD with Girls 12-14 years, Aleppo).

FGD participants, both adolescents and adults, described a prevailing sense of fear that children will be abducted.

They explained the restrictions placed on the movements of children, particularly daughters, to limit the risk: *"these problems have made my parents reluctant to send me to school… I try not to go out except with my parents for safety"* (FGD with Girls, 12-17 years, Dar'a) and *"children are prevented from playing for fear of being kidnapped"* (FGD with Girls 15-17 years, Idleb). One mother said she locks her 14 year old daughter in the house when she goes out for work explaining that *"the absence of law, the deterioration of education as well as abject poverty pushed many towards crimes of kidnapping and robbery"* (FGD with Women, Idleb). *"The person who kidnaps somebody does not distinguish whether the kidnapped person is a man, woman, boy, an elderly person or a young person. Most of the time there is no distinction"* (FGD with Men, Rural Damascus).

Refer to section on Sexual Violence for more information.

Unaccompanied and Separated Children

12-year-old Mohammad lived 4 months with his five siblings, including a nine-month old toddler in a temporarily home for unaccompanied children before being reunited with their uncle; the closest surviving relative after their parents were killed. The six siblings had been living alone for almost two months in a single bedroom before being brought to the home.

Photo credit: ©UNICEF/2017/Syria/Aleppo/ Khuder Al-Issa
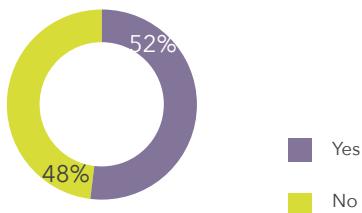
"Because of the war and the crisis in the country, many children are without family either because of the death of their parents, arrest of their fathers, or because of divorce and the remarriage of their parents"
(FGD with Men, Aleppo)

- Yes 52%
- No 48%
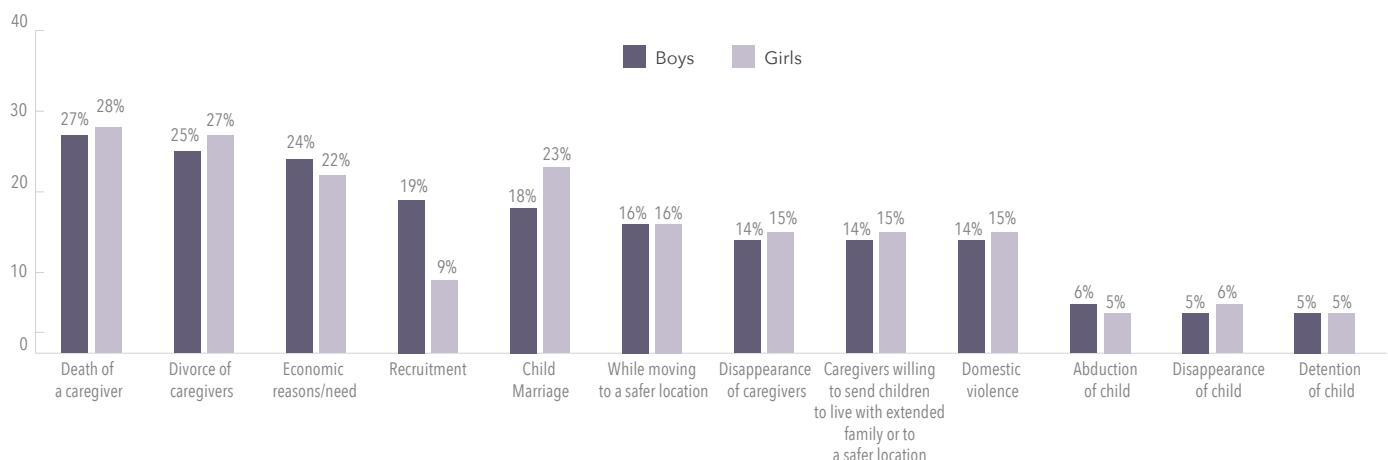
Graph 8: Percentage of assessed communities in which respondents reported the occurrence of Family Separation

Respondents to the 2018 HNO data collection exercises were asked their perceptions on unaccompanied and separated children: 52 per cent of assessed communities reported that separation was occurring, with reports of the issue being either common or very common in 12 per cent of communities. Adolescent boys (41 per cent) and girls (38 per cent) between 12-17 years were reported to be the most affected child population group.

Ar-Raqqa, Lattakia, Rural Damascus and Homs governorates had the highest proportion of communities reporting the occurrence of unaccompanied and separated children. Reasons given include: high levels of conflict (Ar-Raqqa), evacuations (Homs and Rural Damascus) and high numbers of IDPs (Latakia).[64] There was a significant difference in the perception of respondents in Deir Ez Zor about which groups of children are most affected: in 70 per cent of communities respondents indicated it was a concern for adolescent boys (12-17 years) compared to only 12 per cent for adolescent girls.[65]

SCALE

There is no accurate data available on how many children have been separated from their families, but assessments from sector members are helping to shape the picture. The Household Protection Monitoring Report for Southern Syria undertaken by IRC and UNHCR, found 9 per cent of assessed households in Dara'a and 7 per cent in Quneitra are caring for a separated child.[66] The Nutrition Sector found less than 2 percent of children under five were not living with their usual caregivers.[67]

Graph 9: Percentage of assessed communities in which respondents reported the occurrence of Family Separation; disaggregated by age and sex

EVENTS THAT HAVE LED TO CHILDREN (UNDER 18) NOT LIVING WITH THEIR USUAL CAREGIVERS

Graph 10: Percentage of assessed communities which respondents reported events that led children to not live with their usual caregiver; disaggregated by sex

27

REASONS

2018 HNO data continues to show patterns of both accidental (involuntary) and deliberate (voluntary) separation. Respondents were asked their perception on reasons children are separated from their usual caregivers. The most common reasons for all child population groups were: death of caregivers (27 per cent), divorce of caregivers (26 per cent) and economic reasons (23 per cent). Respondents also reported child marriage to be a common cause of separation for girls (23 per cent), and child recruitment for boys (19 per cent). Other reasons were moving to a safer location, disappearance of the caregiver, caregiver willing to send the child away, family violence, abduction of the child, disappearance of the child and detention.[68]

Issues expressed during the FGDs help to deepen the understanding of the complex causes of separation. FGD data indicated a clear link between separation and widowhood, divorce, and remarriages due to the death, detention or disappearance of husbands. In particular, when mothers remarry (often out of necessity or pressure by the family) children are at heightened risk of being left to be cared for by extended family members, usually their (maternal) grandparents or aunts/uncles. In some instances children have also been abandoned, left to care for themselves (and their siblings) following the divorce or remarriage of parents. *"Children are separated from their parents because of divorce, death or lack of family cohesion"* (FGD with Girls 12-17 years, Dar'a) and *"a mother who could no longer shoulder the responsibility of providing for her six children and disabled husband deserted them and got married to someone else. The eldest daughter, who is 10 years old, is taking care of her brothers and sisters because there is no adult to do that"* (FGD with Girls, 15-17 years, Dar'a). Children born within unions where one or both parents are under the legal age for marriage (child marriage) were identified as a group particularly at risk.

Refer to section on Child Marriage for more information.

Besiegement and checkpoints: Whereby newly erected checkpoints cut off family members from each other were also identified as a cause of separation in the FGDs. **Migration**, when either children or parents have made the journey to Europe and await reunification, was also cited as a cause of separated family members: *"because of immigration to Europe, families are divided. This (request for family reunification) causes separation for years"* (FGD with Girls, 15-17 years, Idleb). **Evacuations** as part of local ceasefire agreements were also considered an issue leading to the separation of children from their usual caregivers.

Separation from parents or previous carers places children at increased risk and makes them vulnerable to a number of protection threats. In some cases, separation can become permanent due to the lack of harmonised systems for registering, tracing and reunifying families by humanitarian organisations.

28

Figure 5: Common words used by adolescent girls and adolescent boys in FGDs on the reasons for child separation from their usual caregiver

INFORMATION GAPS

There are a number of information gaps related to potential separation including: children of foreign fighters including those born within Syria, and children born out of rape in ISIL areas or elsewhere. Care arrangements of these children may be compromised, including due to access to civil documentation/identity documents and the ensuing social stigma. Girls abducted and married and/or sex enslaved to fighters may no longer have possession of their documentation. They might also be too afraid to come forward and be reunited with their families.

CARE ARRANGEMENTS FOR UNACCOMPANIED AND SEPARATED CHILDREN

"
"After the death of a father and a mother's (re)marriage, children usually live with the grandfather or uncle or the aunt" (FGD with Boys, 12-17 years, Aleppo)
"

FGD data indicates the majority of children in Syria that are separated from their parents or other usual caregivers live in kinship care arrangements in the community, a pre-existing cultural norm. Care is most often provided by maternal grandparents or aunts/uncles.

Syria does not have a comprehensive law that addresses legal issues around alternative care.[69] However, provisions in the Personal Status Law describe who has the right of custody, and the order of custody in case of revocations. For example: Article 139 specifies that the mother has the primary right to custody of her children, and this right is passed through the female line.[70] Article 138 states a woman may lose her right to the custody of her children if she remarries a man outside of her deceased husband's immediate family.[71] This may explain why children were reported to be left with their maternal grandparents or with their aunts/uncles instead of staying with their mother when she remarries, so as she does not lose custody. There was limited data from the FGDs on what happens when a father remarries.

Hamdan, 75 years, accompanied his little grandson out to the mosque; they returned to find their house collapsed on the whole family *"my son and his family all were killed under the ruined house… and I am looking after the orphan. We have nothing left… and all I want is to raise my little grandson. I need some cloths for the kid…but I cannot afford them".*

Photo credit: IOM/2017/Syria/Aleppo/ Wael Abboudi

RISKS

For some time, there has been an indication that the deteriorating economic situation and breakdown of family and community safety nets may be adversely impacting community-oriented custody patterns. Grandparents might not be able to take care of their grandchildren due to age, health issues or worsening economic situations. Children might end up caring for themselves or taking up caring responsibilities beyond their age and maturity through, for example, engaging in child labour or other negative coping mechanisms.

While little was mentioned about violence, abuse or neglect when cared for by their grandparents, the FGD data indicated that children were more at risk in care arrangements provided by their aunts/uncles. Children were said to be more exposed to violence, abuse and neglect, not treated equally to other children in the household and often engaged in child labour as illustrated in the following quote: *"they (children) live under the mercy of their uncles, a large number of which… beat them, make them work, and discriminate between them and their own children"* (FGD with Women, Idleb). Likewise, children in kafala[72] arrangements may be exposed to new protection risks due to the breakdown of this traditional community mechanisms that normally serve as a protective factor. The vulnerability of children may be exacerbated by the absence of formal or community monitoring systems to routinely check on the wellbeing of children in alternative care arrangements.

EMERGING ISSUES

Worryingly, 2018 HNO data continues to suggest an increase in residential care centres (orphanages), as well as an increase in demand for such facilities. There are no official registration processes or harmonised standards governing how these institutions are run, and no formal monitoring or other safeguards are in place in opposition-held areas. As a result, there are no common criteria based on which children can be placed in these residential care centres (e.g. parents might send their children there because they perceive the child will be better cared for). However, one FGD respondent explained that the placement of a child in residential care is only possible where immediate extended family is not available. Despite these shortcomings, many FGD participants spoke favourably about this type of care and indicated a need for additional care centres: *"there are no orphan care centres in our area; there is urgent need for a shelter to accommodate unaccompanied children"* (FGD with Men, Aleppo). Several FGD participants voiced their concern about the lack of quality of care measures, and the risks children face when they move out from these types of centres and have to integrate back into the community. There might be very limited follow up during and after the transition phase.

ADOLESCENTS' EXPERIENCES AND OBSERVATIONS ON CARE ARRANGEMENTS

"This incident happened with me. My father has been detained for 7 years and my mother left us and went to Lebanon and got married. Now we are with our grandmother" (FGD with Girls, 12-17 years, Dara'a)

"I know many children whose fathers were killed and whose mothers got married and left them to their grandparents. Those children are always homeless because the tents of their grandparents can't house them all' (FGD with Boys, 15-17 years, Aleppo)

Violence against Children in the Home and in Schools
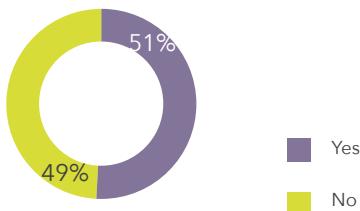
> 66
>
> *"Children who are suffering violence at home by their father and mother may fail to find anyone to help them"*
> (FGD with Women, Dara'a)
>
> 99

> "Any kind of problem the family suffers is reflected into the form of violence against the children. Any problem, any financial dilemma, all would turn into anger, from which the children would suffer"
>
> (FGD with Women, Dar'a)
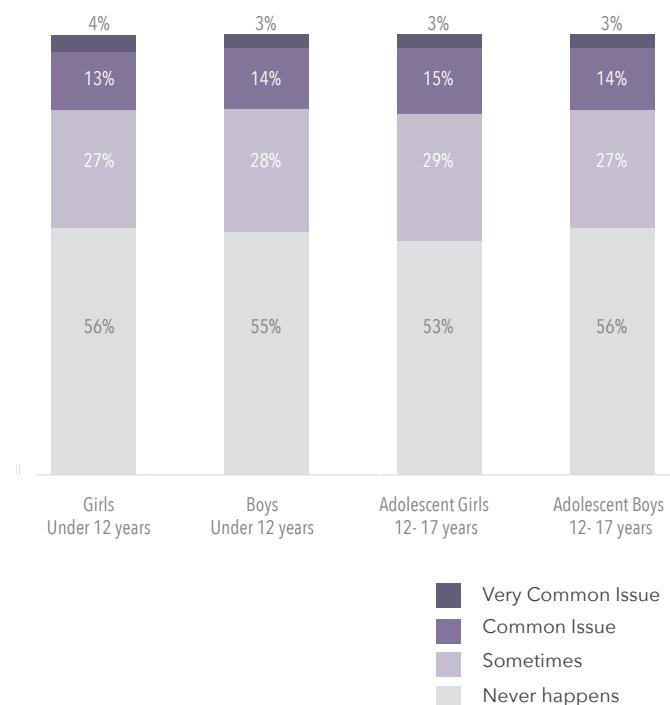
Graph 11: Percentage of assessed communities in which respondents reported the occurrence of Family Violence

Graph 12: Percentage of assessed communities in which respondents reported the occurrence of Family Violence; disaggregated by age and sex

Family and social structures are undergoing a dramatic transformation due to the conflict. Gender roles have shifted, with many women becoming the main providers for the household as their husbands are absent, injured, disabled or dead. For many men, their role as the main provider of needs for his family has been disrupted: *"women have replaced men in most cases. Most women lost their husbands and had to get out of the house to work and then go back to work and play the role of both father and mother"* (FGD with Girls, 12-17 years, Aleppo). Deteriorating financial and living conditions, including inadequate/temporary housing, insufficient water and sanitation facilities, and no or very limited private space can contribute to increased stress and violence among family members. These stressors do not go unnoticed by children, as adolescent girls in one FGD observed: *"there is the violence by fathers and mothers against their children as a result of hardships and the economic situation"* (FGD with Girls, 15-17 years, Idleb).

Respondents to the 2018 HNO data collection exercises were asked about their perceptions of family violence[73]: 51 per cent of assessed communities reported that it was occurring, with reports of the issue being either common or very common by respondents in 25 per cent communities. Girls and boys of all ages were considered to be almost equally affected by family violence: girls 12-17 years (47 per cent), boys 12-17 years (44 per cent), boys below 12 (45 per cent) and girls below 12 (44 per cent).

FGD participants (both children and adults) spoke of stressed parents, particularly fathers, and the ensuing violence in the home. They described a vicious cycle of violence - men towards women, mothers towards children, children towards each other: *"parents beat their children or older children beat the younger ones. Everybody is trying to get advantage of weaker persons"* (FGD with Boys, 15-17 years, Aleppo). In two extreme examples, FGD participants shared cases in which a girl was repeatedly beaten by her father until she died, and in

another case a man had chained a 12 year old boy to a piece of iron and was beating him while the child cried for help. Girls were mentioned as being of more at risk than boys of verbal/emotional abuse in their homes.

Violent discipline at home is one of the most common forms of violence experienced by children across the world. Children of all ages are at risk, however it can be particularly harmful to younger children given the increased potential for physical injuries.

Girls and boys can also be indirectly effected by violence, such as when they witness violence between their caregivers. Global evidence has shown that children, including infants, who witness violence at home or whose mothers are victims of domestic violence are at heightened risk of also experiencing violence at home. There is also evidence to suggest that children exposed to domestic violence are more likely to act aggressively towards their siblings or peers, and to carry violence into adulthood either as victims or perpetrators.[74]

Children that have experienced violence in the home may face specific barriers to disclosing abuse, especially when the perpetrator is a caregiver, close family member or friend due to fear of the consequences, family loyalty, or feelings of shame. Adolescent FGD respondents indicated that if they had problems they would seek help from family members rather than service providers. In cases of abuse, the absence of entrusted adults, coupled with the disintegration of community structures and rule of law in some parts of Syria, may leave children without adequate support when they need it most.

Refer to section on Psychosocial Distress for more information.

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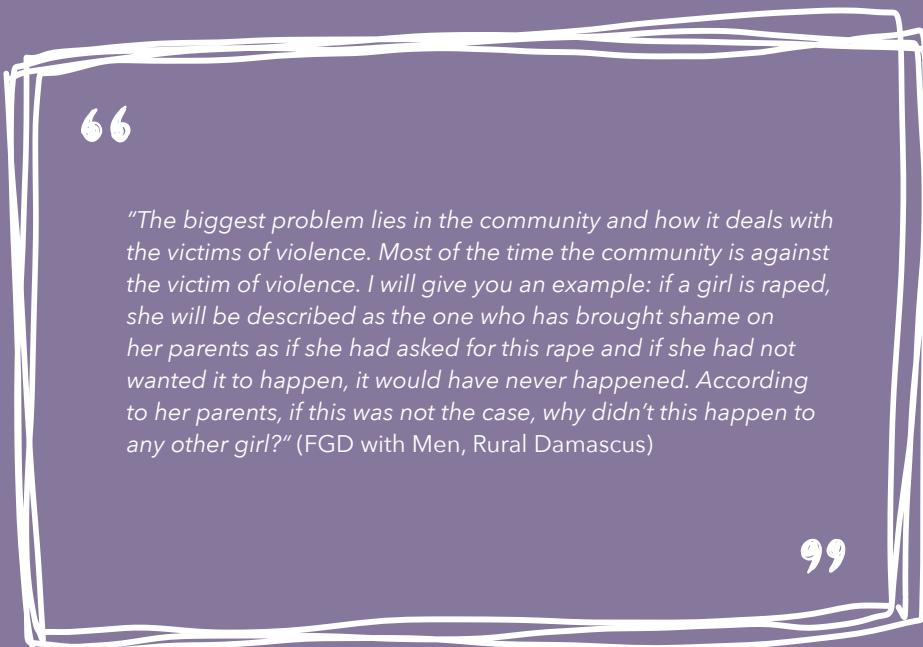
VIOLENCE IN SCHOOLS

"
> "The cases of teachers using verbal and physical violence have increased"
> (FGD with Men, Rural Damascus)

"

Not only have armed actors deliberately targeted schools during the war, but girls and boys also experience interpersonal violence at school and on the way to school from teachers and peers.

Harassment was identified as a major reason for girls to drop out of school, as they feel they cannot walk outside of the home freely without a male family member. *"I do not leave the house unless accompanied by either my brother or my mother"* (FGD, Girls, 15-17 years, Aleppo). The use of physical violence by teachers appears to be pervasive, with many references by children and adults throughout the FGDs, for example: *"female students are subjected to violence by their teachers"* (FGD with Girls, 15-17 years, Idleb); *"the English teacher keeps beating him up"* and *"children suffer violence from their teachers and have become afraid of going to school"* (FGD with Women, Dar'a). For many children in Syria, their schools have become fearful places of violence rather than safe places for learning and growth.

Sexual Violence

> "The biggest problem lies in the community and how it deals with the victims of violence. Most of the time the community is against the victim of violence. I will give you an example: if a girl is raped, she will be described as the one who has brought shame on her parents as if she had asked for this rape and if she had not wanted it to happen, it would have never happened. According to her parents, if this was not the case, why didn't this happen to any other girl?" (FGD with Men, Rural Damascus)

> "The most common type of violence in our community is the violence against girls and sexual violence"
> (FGD with Girls 12-17 years, Idleb)

Under-reporting of sexual violence is a common issue in every context due to fear of retaliation, misplaced stigma and shame, limited availability or accessibility of trusted service providers, impunity for perpetrators, and lack of awareness of the benefits of seeking care.[75] This makes it difficult to assess the extent to which girls and boys in Syria are affected by both conflict-related sexual violence, and sexual violence in other settings.

In 27 per cent of communities assessed as part of the 2018 HNO data collection exercises, respondents reported sexual violence was occurring, with reports of the issue being either common or very common in 12 per cent of communities. While boys and girls of all ages can be a target of sexual violence, adolescent girls (22 per cent) were perceived by respondents to be at highest risk followed by adolescent boys 12-17 years (17 per cent), girls below 12 (16 per cent) and boys below 12 (15 per cent).

It is interesting to note that perceptions of occurrence of sexual violence against men and women were very similar to those of girls and boys, which could indicate that it is an issue affecting all population groups, but more likely relates to the way the data was collected that has influenced the responses, for example, respondents and/or enumerators may have felt uncomfortable discussing sexual violence due to the sensitive nature of this issue

Refer to section on Methodolgy -challenges and limitations- for more information.

Overcrowded collective shelters, camps, workplaces, and the community were all mentioned as locations were sexual violence occurs.

The FGDs indicated girls are more affected by sexual violence. Several references were made to sexual violence against boys. In one FGD with men (Dar'a) an incidence was mentioned: *"four days ago, a 10-year-old boy was raped by a 20-year-old*

man" and in another FGD with women (Idleb), one mother mentioned her fear: *"my son is mentally disabled and I fear for him of sexual violence because he can't think or understand anything".* Adolescent participants in one FGD described the differences in perception and response to sexual violence suffered by girls as compared to boys. Sexual violence against a girl is associated with the reputation of the whole family, not the individual: *"when a girl is raped, this problem is solved by either marriage or murder. When males experience sexual violence, the chief men can mediate to solve this problem. Sexual violence experienced by males is easier to solve than the one experienced by females"* (FGD with Girls 15-17 years, Dar'a).

STIGMA

SCI's report 'Invisible Wounds' [76] found that some girls who have been raped or sexually harassed have resorted to suicide attempts, fearful of a scandal or still afraid of the person who assaulted them. The high value placed on a girls' "honour" – her virginity and reputation – can lead to punishment, social exclusion and, in extreme cases, "honour" killing[77]. Survivors may be considered a burden because speaking out could bring shame on the family: *"the most important thing for the man is that nobody speaks badly about him. If his daughter is raped, he either kills her or forces her to shut up, and considers her responsible for bringing shame upon him"* (FGD with Women, Rural Damascus). Boys in FGDs also talked about if girls brought shame on the family there was *"fear of being killed in the name of honour"* (FGD with Boys 12-17 years, Aleppo).

RESPONSE

Survivors of sexual violence are often reluctant to seek help due to misplaced feelings of shame, stigma, social exclusion, and fear of "honour" killings or reprisals. The trauma resulting from, and the social stigma attached to, sexual violence often deters victims and their families from coming forward. These concerns came up repeatedly in the FGDs: *"some people do not talk about the sexual violence because they fear disgrace and scandal, so they keep quiet"* (FGD with Women, Dar'a).

This may be further compounded by the shortage of survivor-centred services across Syria, fears of services not being confidential, or stories of others being mistreated when seeking services. *"The girl does not think of any services*

CONFLICT-RELATED SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST GIRLS AND BOYS[78]

The 2017 Secretary-General report on Conflict-related Sexual Violence states 'that sexual violence continues to be used by parties to the Syrian conflict as a systematic tactic of warfare, terrorism and torture'. Girls have been most vulnerable in the context of house searches, at checkpoints, in detention facilities, and after kidnapping, while boys have been subjected to sexual violence during interrogations in detention centres.

The 2017 Secretary-General report on Children and Armed Conflict shows incidents of sexual violence attributed to parties to the conflict remain under-reported, with only eight verified cases, however data does confirm trends of girls being forced to marry fighters and forced into sexual slavery. The limited number of verified cases should not be taken as indicative of scope, rather of the challenges in reporting incidents and verifying this type of violence.

because there is no confidentiality or trust, and she is worried about stories of honour, especially when the man is one of the relatives or has influence and can do what he likes" (FGD with Women, Rural Damascus). With regards to judicial redress, the system is considered weak and there is a general sense of impunity, i.e. perpetrators get away with their crimes: *"even if we had the courage to talk, it would be useless because there is not proper law that holds people responsible"* (FGD with Women, Rural Damascus) and *"there was a family who killed their daughter and buried her at midnight. They asked them why they did that, and they said they were free to do what they like"* (FGD with Women, Dar'a).

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Respondents to the 2018 HNO data collection exercises were asked to consider if sexual harassment occurs towards children in their communities. Adolescent girls (12-17 years) were considered the most affected groups (26 per cent of assessed communities). There were several references to sexual harassment in the FGDs, and participants felt it happened most often to girls: *"sexual violence is harassment of girls, especially school girls, at the end of the school day"* (FGD with Boys, 12-17 years, Dar'a). Markets, schools, roads and other open areas were locations mentioned where sexual harassment usually took place.

Adolescent FGD participants described a pervasive fear of sexual violence that leads girls to stay home. They described how their freedom to engage in educational activities or socialise with peers is limited, and the isolation they experience as a result: *"girls are afraid of going to markets because they might be sexually abused there"* (FGD, Girls 12-17 years) and *"we are extremely afraid of harassment. Therefore, we cannot apply for courses, as we fear coming back alone. We have cancelled attending these courses. If we found someone to accompany us, we would go in groups, and if we did not, we would be obliged to cancel going"* (FGD, with Girls, 12-17 years, Idleb).

Refer to section on Abduction and Availability and Access to Humanitarian Services for more information.

DEVASTATING CONSEQUENCES

Children who experience sexual violence are at high risk of long-term psychosocial and health consequences including sexually transmitted infections, as well as experiencing complications during and after pregnancy. They risk social exclusion and even death through so-called "honour" killings.

CHALLENGES FOR CHILDREN IN DISCLOSING SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Children's capacity to disclose their experiences of sexual violence is impacted by their age, sense of safety, available resources, and culture and social norms that might not encourage children to speak out or to have a voice. Children may be afraid of the consequences of speaking out, especially when the perpetrator is known to them.[79]

Child Marriage

> " I knew a little girl whose parents were very poor. They married her to an old man who had lot of money. He married twice before her and he treated her very badly. He beat her so much and one day he broke her hand and even put out a cigarette on her body. The girl is now divorced, but she wants to return to him for the money". (FGD with Women, Hama).
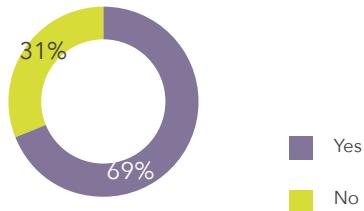
> "I know one of the girls whose father denied her education and married her at an early age. When her husband died in a battle, her father married her to another man. Shortly after her second marriage, her husband divorced her. Her father married her for the third time. When I see her, I feel that she is very mentally ill and very depressed"
>
> (FGD with Girls, 15-17 years, Idleb)

31%

69%

- Yes
- No

Graph 13: Percentage of assessed communities in which respondents reported the occurrence of Child Marriage
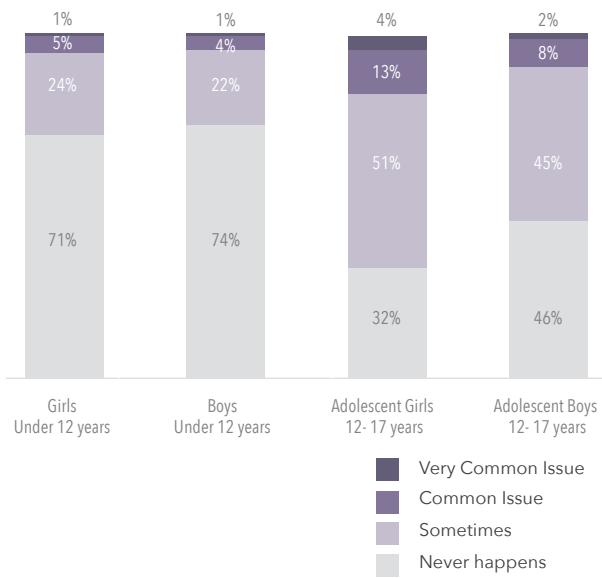
Since the onset of the conflict, there have been reports of an upward trend in child marriages,[80] although the scope remains unknown.

Respondents to the 2018 HNO data collection exercises were asked their perceptions on child marriage: 69 per cent of assessed communities reported that it was occurring, with reports of the issue being either common or very common in 20 per cent of communities. While girls and boys of all ages were indicated to be affected by child marriage[81], adolescent girls 12-17 years (68 per cent) were considered the most affected group, followed by adolescent boys 12-17 years (54 per cent), girls below 12 years (29 per cent) and boys below 12 years (26 per cent).

The highest proportion of assessed communities indicating the occurrence of child marriage were in Ar-Raqqa (97 per cent), Quneitra (89 per cent) and Rural Damascus (87 per cent) governorates (girls and boys of all age groups).

Child marriage continues to be one of the main GBV concerns affecting girls. Girls as young as 13 years were said to be getting married.[82] Child marriage was mentioned repeatedly by the FGD respondents as a negative coping strategy to ease the financial burden on the family: *"early marriage happens when the girl's father can no longer afford spending on her and when there is no stability; they would let her marry and get rid of her"* (FGD with Girls 12-17 years, Idleb). Marriage was also seen by communities as a strategy to protect girls from harm, including the threat of sexual violence and when a girls' father is absent: *"a lot of girls were forced to get married by their parents or because of their father's death"* (FGD with Girls 12-17 years, Rural Damascus).

Issues related to girls' and boys' **readiness** to handle such responsibilities at a young age and what consequences that could have for the girls were mentioned in the FGDs, for example, the girl would suffer physical violence by their young male spouse. As one boy said *"early marriage threatens*

	Girls Under 12 years	Boys Under 12 years	Adolescent Girls 12-17 years	Adolescent Boys 12-17 years
Very Common Issue	1%	1%	4%	2%
Common Issue	5%	4%	13%	8%
Sometimes	24%	22%	51%	45%
Never happens	71%	74%	32%	46%
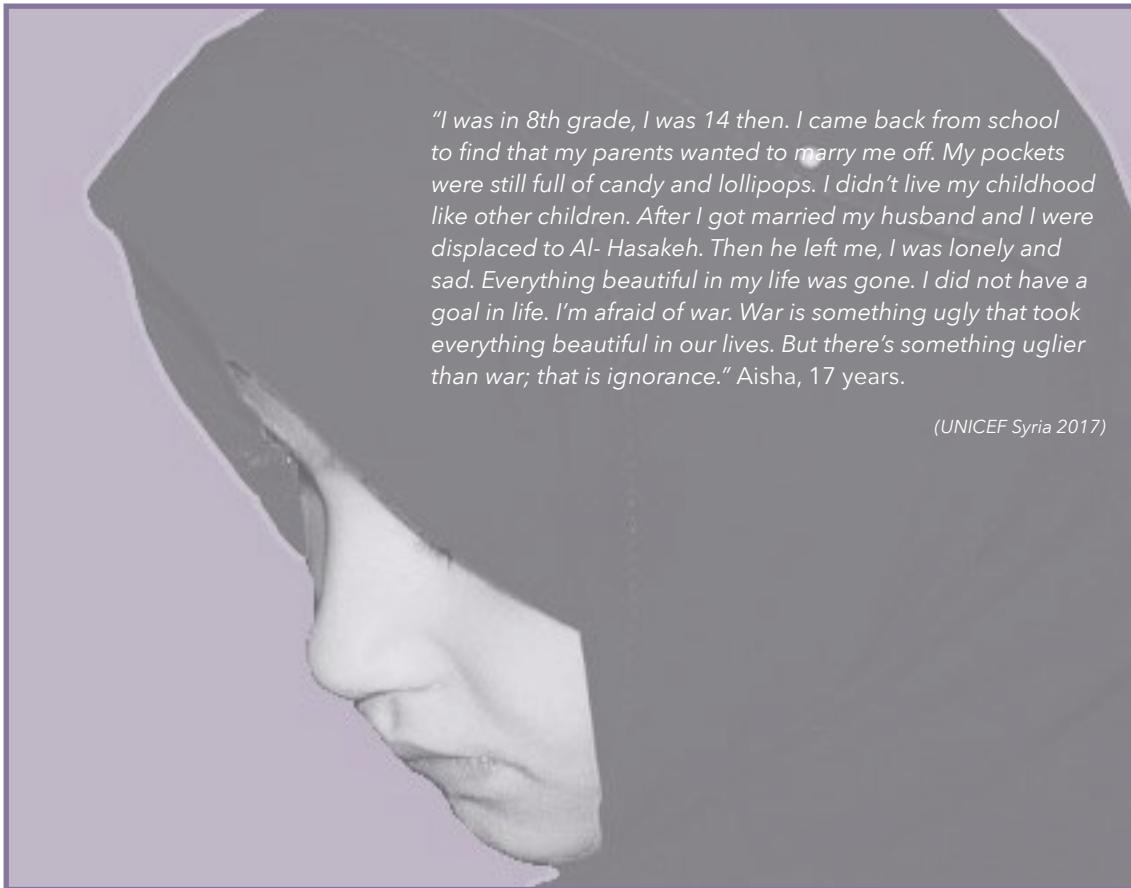
Graph 14: Percentage of assessed communities in which respondents reported the occurrence of Child Marriage; disaggregated by age and sex

safety because a young husband does not have enough awareness to deal with his wife, he cannot be responsible for a family, the wife might be beaten because of the husband's immaturity" (FGD with Boys 15-17 years, Aleppo). Similarly, issues were cited around the psychosocial stress caused by child marriage: *"the problem of early marriage for girls leads psychological problems and girls being deprived from enjoying their childhood"* (FGD with Girls 12-17 years, Aleppo) and *"early marriage leads to misunderstanding and psychological problems"* (FGD with Girls 12-17 years, Aleppo).

The FGD respondents also mentioned the risk of **divorce** as young couples struggle to deal with the responsibilities of marriage: *"a girl who is 15 years old would get married only to be divorced two months later"* (FGD with Women, Dar'a). Divorce imposes increased stigma on girls. Girls' movement restrictions seem to continue after divorce, and also hamper their access to humanitarian assistance for herself (and her children): *"girls before marriage can go out of the house and come back freely. However, after marriage they cannot go out and come back freely"* (FGD with Girls 12-17 years, Aleppo). Moreover, the children born into these child marriages were seen to be at greater risk of being abandoned or left to be cared for by their relatives.[83] *"When they are divorced, they leave the baby to his grandparents to take care of him; this has increased a lot lately"* (FGD with Girls 15-17 years, Idleb).

Some girls try to oppose the marriage, often with severe consequences: *"a girl, 14 years old, was forced by her family to marry someone she does not like, to the extent she was hit in front of him. Her fiancé started to hit her too, and so she fled the camp on her wedding day to Damascus and later the girl's family disowned her"* (FGD with Girls, 15-17 years, Rural Damascus). Incidences of suicide or attempted suicide by girls due to issues related to child marriage, such as pressure to get married or forced marriage to a partner she does not like, have been reported by health workers in Syria.[84]

Refer to sections on Sexual Violence and Civil Documentation for more information.

37

"I was in 8th grade, I was 14 then. I came back from school to find that my parents wanted to marry me off. My pockets were still full of candy and lollipops. I didn't live my childhood like other children. After I got married my husband and I were displaced to Al- Hasakeh. Then he left me, I was lonely and sad. Everything beautiful in my life was gone. I did not have a goal in life. I'm afraid of war. War is something ugly that took everything beautiful in our lives. But there's something uglier than war; that is ignorance." Aisha, 17 years.

(UNICEF Syria 2017)

Photo credit: Pixabay.com

CHILD BRIDES

Even though some countries permit marriage before age 18, international human rights standards classify these as child marriages, reasoning that those under age 18 are unable to give informed consent. Generally children are considered to not have the ability and/or experience to anticipate the implications of an action, and they may not understand or be empowered to exercise their right to refuse.

Child marriage is a manifestation of gender inequality, reflecting social norms that perpetuate discrimination against girls. Young girls who are married are often required to perform heavy amounts of domestic work, are under pressure to demonstrate their fertility, and are responsible for raising children while they are still children themselves. Due to the difference in age and maturity with their typically adult partners, child brides are not in a position to effectively discuss contraceptive use; therefore they face a greater risk of sexually transmitted infections and unwanted and frequent pregnancies. Married girls and child mothers have limited power to make decisions, are generally less able to earn income, and are vulnerable to multiple health risks, violence, abuse and exploitation.[85]

Civil Documentation/ Birth Registration

"

"I worry a lot about my children because they do have identification papers. I have a feeling that they do not exist, they are just numbers, their lives have no purpose" (FGD with women, Idleb)

"

Figure 6: Common words used by adolescent girls and adolescent boys in FGDs on Civil Documentation

40

"I am married but I have neither a family-record book nor an ID. I can't register my children in the personal-status department or in schools, and I don't have a marriage contract. I am afraid of travelling because they might take my children because I don't have anything proving that they are my own children"
(FGD with Girls, 12-17 years, Dar'a)

Obtaining civil documentation such as birth certificates is a major challenge for children in both government and non-government-controlled areas in Syria. Prior to the conflict more than 95 per cent of children were registered at birth and therefore had access to national services, however gaps and/or delays did exist in registering children born out of illegal or unregistered marriages or children born to parents not married.[86]
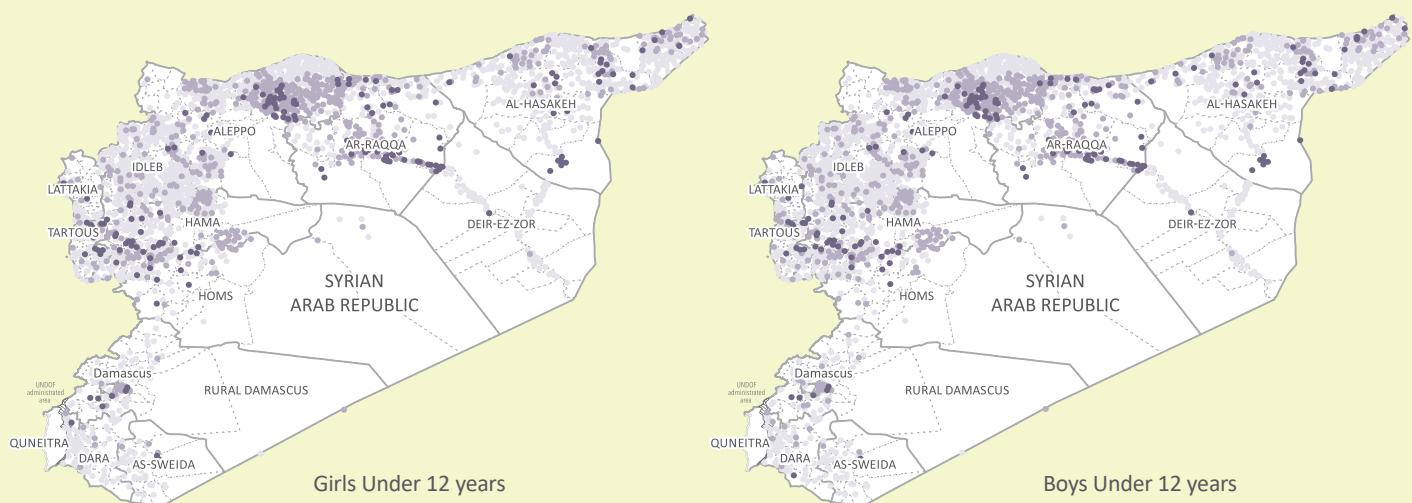
Findings from the 2018 HNO data collection exercises found in 83 per cent of assessed communities respondents reported that the lack/loss of civil documentation was an issue of concern, with respondents in 31 per cent of communities reporting it as a common or very common issue. Processes for families to address the lack of civil documentation can be complex and lengthy. Some reasons why children do not have civil documentation include parents' fears about approaching authorities to register the child or obtain official documents,

as well as documents being lost due to displacement or when fleeing the fighting.
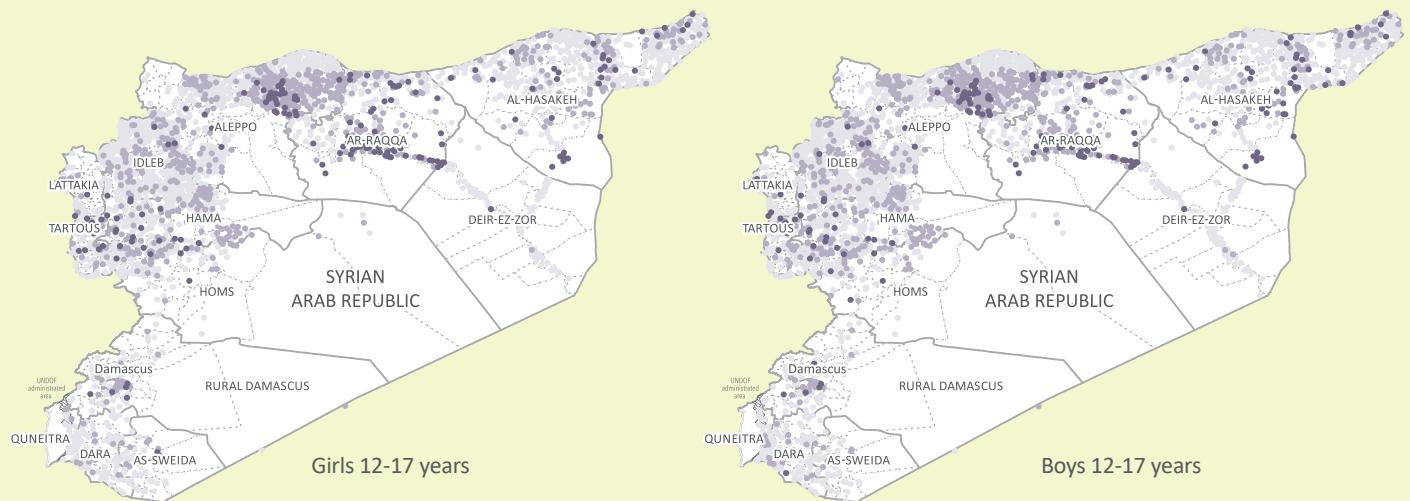
Two recent assessments by NRC and UNHCR found 51 per cent of children under five years old were not listed in their family booklet, and 13 per cent of children under five years old in the north-west of Syria had no proof of any kind of their birth. In the south, one quarter of children under five had no formal record of their birth: neither in a family booklet, a birth certificate, or even a birth notification document.[87] These assessments found children who turned 14 during the conflict – the age at which they would normally apply for a national ID card – were at particular risk of having no documentation.

Legally registering children in their family booklet is critical in Syrian society. Registration provides official recognition of the child's existence, identity and nationality. Family booklets are more commonly used as proof of identity for children under 14 than birth certificates. Without registration, it is not be possible for children to obtain other critical documents such as an ID card or passport. Other civil documentation such as residency papers or marriage certificates, which also require proof of identity, may become difficult or impossible to obtain. Syria amended its legislation in February 2017 to increase financial penalties for delaying registration, which has only created additional barriers for IDPs and returnees to register their children.[88] *"For example, there is a family which consists of 12 people, there are 3 or 4 of them who are not registered in the family booklet. The problem is when distributing aids, they won't have a share"* (FGD with Boys, 12-17 years, Dar'a).

● Sometimes   ● Common issues   ● Very common issues

Girls Under 12 years

Boys Under 12 years

Map 3: Assessed communities in which respondents report the lack/loss of Civil Documentation – disaggregated by age and sex

Girls 12-17 years

Boys 12-17 years

Map 4: Assessed communities in which respondents report the lack/loss of Civil Documentation– disaggregated by age and sex
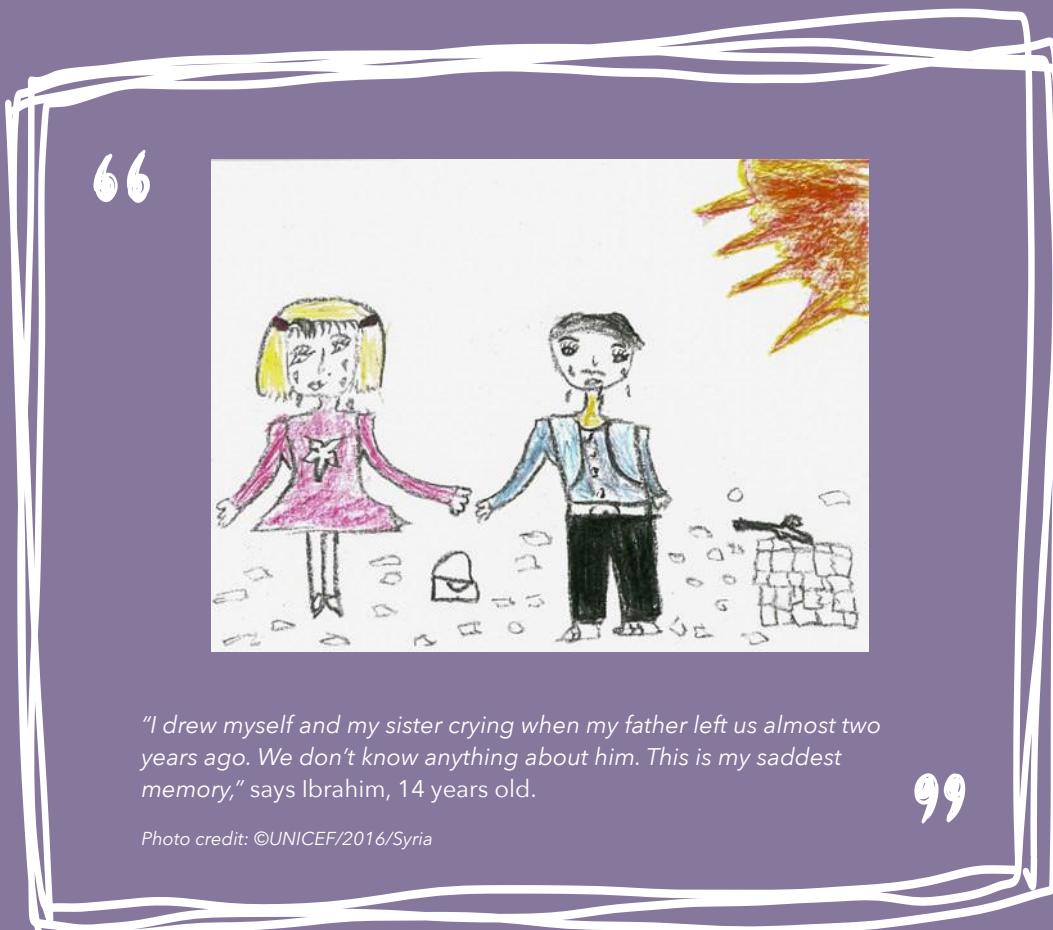
Documentation for children born in ISIL-held areas is particularly problematic. Even where certificates have been issued, people have destroyed them out of concern they will identified as supporters and subjected to reprisals or arrest. Children born in Syria to foreign fighters, where either one or both parents are not Syrian nationals, face specific additional obstacles in obtaining official documentation. Likewise children with unknown or deceased parents continue to face challenges with civil documentation.

IMPACT ON CHILDREN

Unregistered children may face difficulties in accessing basic services and enjoying their rights, including health, education and freedom of movement. Without documentation, they may be unable to flee from fighting and move to safer locations. For infants and young children, the absence of records verifying their age, identity and family relations also places them at much greater risk of family separation, and makes family tracing and reunification far more difficult if they become separated. Adolescents whose births had not been registered may be unable to prove their age, which places them at increased risk of child protection concerns such as child marriage, recruitment, trafficking, child labour, sexual exploitation and being prosecuted or detained as adults. In the absence of documentation establishing their parentage and place of birth, children can be at risk of statelessness.[89]

Psychosocial Distress

"

"I drew myself and my sister crying when my father left us almost two years ago. We don't know anything about him. This is my saddest memory," says Ibrahim, 14 years old.

Photo credit: ©UNICEF/2016/Syria

"

> "Since the beginning of the war there has been a constant fear of shelling. We are terrified when we hear a warplane flying near. Our life before war was very different from our life now. We go out to find that there is someone who is torn into pieces because of shelling. Sometimes we hear the sound of motorbike and think that it is a warplane. Other times we are awoken by the sound of a barrel bomb falling into a field" (FGD with Girls, 12-17 years)

Children's experiences of violence in their daily lives within their community, schools and homes, along with repeated displacements, the loss of or separation from family members and friends, the dramatic deterioration in living conditions, divisions in their community, and lack of basic social services have had damaging physical, social and psychological consequences, with profound effects on their well-being and development. As one boy said: *"we face death every day and we find no one to help; all this violence makes us aggressive"* (FGD with Boys, 12-17 years, Al-Hasakeh). Changes in children's behaviour and other physical manifestations of the traumas they have suffered have been well documented since the beginning of the crisis, and were recently reaffirmed in SCI's report 'Invisible Wounds'. These include frequent nightmares and difficulty sleeping, aggression, bedwetting and frequent urination, substance abuse, loss of the ability to speak and speech impediments.

The experiences of girls and boys are greatly shaped and influenced by societal expectations around them. Through the FGDs, adolescent girls expressed great frustration at the restrictions placed on them by their families, and differences in how girls and boys are treated: *"girls have to stay at home"; "girls cannot be free"; "whatever girls do is shameful"; "girls cannot go to school"; "parents choose friends for their daughters who cannot choose their own friends"; "parents pick on girls and keep an eye on them even when they go to school"; "girls' ambitions are so limited".* When discussing boys the girls said: *"boys can make mistakes, and they are not to be blamed"; "addiction to drugs has become common among boys recently, yet they are never brought to account"; and "boys may do whatever they like"* (FGD with Girls 15-17 years, Aleppo).

Consequently many girls report feeling isolated due to the restrictions placed on their movements, including going to school, visiting their friends and participating in community life, as described in other sections of this report. For most girls and their parents, fear is the driving force behind these restrictions – in particular of sexual violence and harassment. *"When boys and girls are exposed to violence, they do not do anything. Girls surrender to cases of violence such as forcing them to marry a particular person, leading to psychological problems such as depression and isolation"* (FGD with Boys, 15-17 years, Idleb).

Refer to sections on Sexual Violence and Child Marriage for more information.

Meanwhile, many boys have had to take up roles and responsibilities beyond their age as the primary breadwinner and/or head of their household. They are engaged in a range of income generating activities, which can include participating in forms of child labour and joining armed groups. As described in other sections of this report, these new responsibilities may give boys an elevated sense of purpose, control and significance, but over the longer term may also fuel frustrations with their growing responsibilities and lost future.

"Violence affects adolescents' daily life. They do not go to school, do not have family talks, and they tend to seek the company of young, aggressive children, as they feel more comfortable with them" (FGD with Boys 12-17 years, Al-Hasakeh).

Through the FGDs both adolescent boys and girls expressed uncertainty about their futures, often linked to lack of educational opportunities and meaningful livelihood opportunities. Children questioned the value of continuing their education, with boys often viewing work as more useful in the short term.

Figure 7: Common words used by adolescent girls and boys in FGDs to describe security concerns children have in their communities

IMPACT

For seven years children have been the direct targets of violence, witnessed violence, or committed violent acts themselves. The short and long-term impacts of these experiences differ for each child, and are influenced by a range of resilience and vulnerability factors. Such factors can include a child's age, their care arrangements, and any previous exposure to violence. New research is also revealing the long-term neurological impacts of children's repeated

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exposure to violence, which can lead to toxic stress. This chronic condition deteriorates children's brain tissues and increases their risk for cognitive, emotional and behavioural difficulties later in life.[90]

"Violence has increased among teenagers because they have become accustomed to sights of death and blood. Most of them had joined armed groups as a reaction to protect themselves. Many of them were exploited. Their passions and impulses were abused. Many others were killed" (FGD with Women, Idleb).

As mentioned under the section *Recruitment and Use of Children*, the tactics of some extremist groups has included deliberate efforts to desensitize children to violence through prolonged exposure to violent acts. With time, some children may have come to believe that violence is acceptable and that it can happen without consequence. For example, during an FGD, an adolescent boy described an incident where a child had mirrored the extreme violence he has seen by trying to slaughter his three-year-old sister with a knife.

In Syria, some social and family support structures have been eroded through years of conflict. As a result, many girls and boys have been unable to experience a safe childhood: *"the most serious effect is that they have lost their childhood and lost their innocence in this case"* as one female respondent expressed what these children have experienced. Another girl expressed her desire *"to be safer… to find a solution for fighting and explosions… I want to live my childhood like the childhood my mother tells me she had, without fear and without being displaced from one place to another"* (FGD with Girls, 15-17 years, Aleppo).

Positive child development and psychosocial wellbeing requires family, community, social structures such as formal education or engagement youth clubs or activities, and opportunities to learn age appropriate socio-emotional skills. Families and caregivers are usually the most important source of protection and guidance to ensure children's well-being. While it will take many years for these children to heal from their conflict-related experiences, both girls and boys who participated in the FGDs showed a remarkable ability to cope

and expressed their wishes for a better future: *"I hope to play safely with my friends without fear"* and *"I would stop this war and take care of this generation so that we can build our county again"* (FDG with Boys, 15-17 years, Dar'a).

Wael, 14, stands in front of his father's shop in the besieged east Ghouta in Rural Damascus, behind the beans he planted in metal barrels. *"My dad put the barrels and filled it with soil to protect us from a shelling. That's when I thought to plant beans in the barrels so we don't feel hungry anymore,"* Wael says.

"Wael is in a state of fear after witnessing an incident where many people were killed in a shelling at a local market" his father says. *"So I put these barrels to give him some sense of safety and protection from shelling."*

Photo credit: ©UNICEF/2017/Syria/Rural Damascus/Almohibany

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What is toxic stress?

The unrelenting stress caused from trauma, violence, abuse, neglect or deprivation can weaken children's developing brains, with long-term consequences for learning, behaviour, and both physical and mental health – referred to as toxic stress. When toxic stress responses occur continually, or are triggered by multiple sources, it can have a cumulative toll on an individual's physical and mental health—for a lifetime. The more adverse the experiences in childhood, the greater the likelihood of developmental delays and later health problems.[91] Parents experiences toxic stress in their own early childhoods may have a harder time providing the stable and supportive relationships needed to protect their children, perpetuating an intergenerational cycle of toxic stress.[92]

Children with Disabilities

> " Hasan 10, collects water for his family. He and his friends try to find some fun in their daily water fetching routine *"I like to play with my friends when we collect water,"* *says Hasan. A couple of months ago, shrapnel hit Hasan's neck. The injury eventually* *affected the movement of the right part of his body. "My hand is slightly tilted all the* *time because of the shrapnel in my neck. I usually use my left hand to carry the jerry* *can,"* says Hasan. "
>
> *Photo credit: ©UNICEF/2016/Syria/Aleppo/ Khuder Al-Issa*

> "The most serious threats to a disabled person are: bombardment, escaping from bombardment, and the absence of someone who can help him. His chances of getting killed are much higher than those of a healthy person" (FGD with Girls, 15-17 years, Rural Damascus)

The experience of children with disabilities[93] is often one of marginalization and disempowerment, as many live isolated lives and struggle against stigma, discrimination and an environment that does not accommodate their needs, and excludes them from social participation.[94]

Girls and boys with disabilities are at heightened risk when violence escalates. Families may be faced with a difficult choice - assist their child with a disability at risk of being killed, or flee without the child and help others to safety. Even if they do reach safety, these children may face additional challenges: they may lose an assistive devises and/or caregiver and thus become extremely vulnerable to physical violence, and to sexual, emotional and verbal abuse[95] and their access to humanitarian assistance and basic services such as education may be hampered[96] among many other concerns.

Girls and boys with disabilities are often at heightened risk of violence, abuse or exploitation, as well stigma in their homes and communities. This vulnerability was described in the FGDs: *"children with special needs are the most vulnerable to violence"* (FGD with Men, Rural Damascus); *"children with disabilities are bullied by other children"* (FGD with Girls, 12-17 years, Aleppo) and people with disabilities (including children) are being *"marginalized, ridiculed, or exploited"* (FGD with Girls, 12-14 years, Rural Damascus).

Despite the known vulnerabilities of children with disabilities, their particular needs are often not taken into account in humanitarian aid efforts[97], they are may be invisible in registration, needs assessments and excluded from access to mainstream assistance programmes. Adolescent FGD respondents described some of these challenges: *"the disabled have a difficulty in obtaining them (services); their health conditions are not considered and they wait in queues just like other people do"* (FGD with Girls, 12-17 years, Damascus) and *"children with special needs do not go to school. There are no schools for the disabled children"* (FGD with Boys, 15-17 years, Rural Damascus).

Refer to section on Availability and Access to Humanitarian Services for more information.

Since the beginning of the conflict scores of children have suffered both direct and indirect conflict- related injuries. Direct injuries are those sustained by child civilians during hostilities, while attempting to flee an incident or while playing with explosive items. Children have also been impacted indirectly, for example injuries that have not received adequate medical treatment. Less than half of Syria's heath facilities are fully operational.[98] This lack of health, rehabilitation and other support services may lead

Figure 8: Common words used by adolescent girls and adolescent boys in FGDs to describe people with disabilities in their communities

to serious and long-term consequences for injured children, and heighten the risk of developing permanent physical and psychological impairments, thus depriving children of realizing their rights to experiencing a positive childhood.

The 2018 HNO data collection exercises did not provide information on children living in households with a caregiver that has a disability and/or children who take care of a parent or caregiver that has a disability. However an assessment undertaken by Handicap International found high levels of distress among people injured by explosive hazards, including two-thirds of respondents reporting that they were unable to carry out essential daily activities because of their feelings of fear, anger, fatigue, disinterest and hopelessness.[99] This would have a huge impact on their ability to provide quality care to their children.

Refer to section on Psychosocial Distress for more information.

1.2 Million Children

There is no accurate data available on children who have a permanent disability from conflict related injuries in Syria[100], nor is there accurate pre-crisis data. However, the 2018 HNO estimates 2.9 million people living with a disability and are in need of humanitarian assistance, which means approximately 1.2 million children in Syria are living with a disability.[101]

Availability and Access to Humanitarian Services

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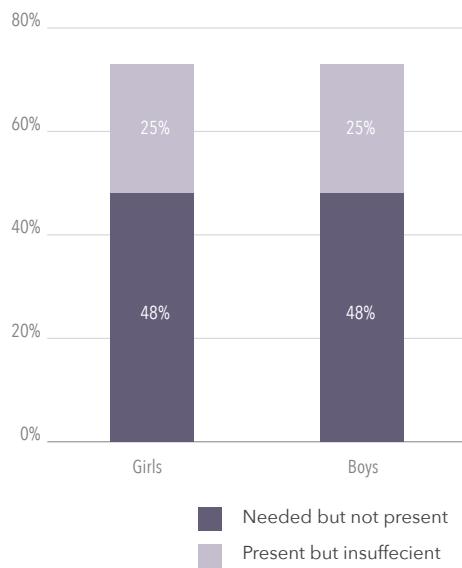
Mothers and their children gather around a mobile health clinic in the east of Aleppo city. With no functioning, public health centers in eastern Aleppo and little cash among families who are returning to pay for private healthcare, the mobile health clinics provide essential primary health services free of charge. Most common cases for children are related to malnutrition, diarrhea and water-borne diseases. Another challenge is the growing number of young children whose parents were killed in fighting. *"These children are left to be cared for by their grandmothers, deprived by default of natural breastfeeding and even complimentary infant feeding, which they can't afford to buy,"* said Bana, a young volunteer.

"

Photo credit: ©UNICEF/2017/Syria/Aleppo/ Khudr Al-Issa

AVAILABILITY AND ACCESS TO CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES

The demand for child protection services continues to outstrip the supply. In almost 50 per cent of assessed communities, respondents reported a need for protection services for children, and a further 25 per cent of communities reported these services present, but insufficient to meet their needs.
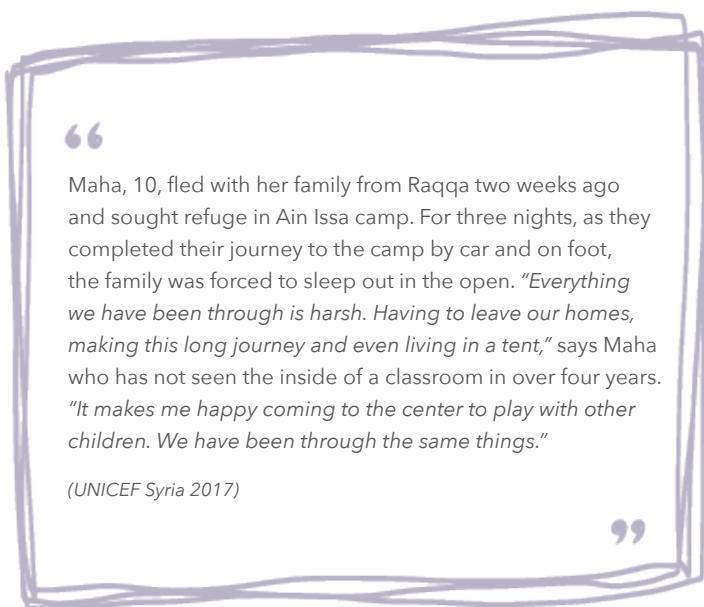
Graph 15: Percentage of assessed communities in which respondents reported the supply and demand of Child Protection services for girls and boys.

The provision of effective child protection services requires first and foremost sustained presence and a strong foothold at the community level. Such presence continues to be hampered by access and security issues, for example, in some situations the escalation of hostilities has forced partners to periodically suspend day-to-day services, adjust the delivery modality or relocate elsewhere. The sheer magnitude and complexity of child protection concerns, such as those outlined in this report, continue to outstrip the available technical expertise and partnership opportunities.

In some situations, girls and boys face additional challenges to access protection assistance as their needs are not taken into full account when designing services, for example, children with disability and girls' restricted movement outside of their homes. There may also be stigma associated with using some services. These issues were touched upon in several FGDs: *"girls can never visit those centres because of community traditions that prevent them from going out so that they do not experience violence"* (FGD with Girls, 15-17 years, Aleppo) and *"services and care centres are rare and we cannot go because our families do not allow us to present our psychological and social problems"* (FGD, Girls, 15-17 years, Idleb). For boys the situation seem to differ: *"young man could go by himself to the doctor to take care of him if he experienced violence more than young women because they cannot go outside alone"* (FGD with Girls, 15-17 years, Rural Damascus).

Despite these views, most FGD respondents spoke positively about the services available in their communities: *"child psychological support is considered the most advanced type of services we have had so far"* (FGD with Women, Dar'a) and *"there are educational sessions in the town as well as the psychological support centre. I feel very happy when I receive these services"* (FGD with Girls, 12-17 years, Aleppo).

> "
>
> Maha, 10, fled with her family from Raqqa two weeks ago and sought refuge in Ain Issa camp. For three nights, as they completed their journey to the camp by car and on foot, the family was forced to sleep out in the open. *"Everything we have been through is harsh. Having to leave our homes, making this long journey and even living in a tent,"* says Maha who has not seen the inside of a classroom in over four years. *"It makes me happy coming to the center to play with other children. We have been through the same things."*
>
> *(UNICEF Syria 2017)*
>
> "

ACCESS OF CHILDREN TO OTHER HUMANITARIAN SERVICES

Respondents to the 2018 HNO data collection exercises were asked about their perceptions on barriers to access humanitarian assistance. Discrimination was reported in 30 per cent of assessed communities as a barrier. Girl headed households (9 per cent), boy headed households (8 per cent), unaccompanied girls (7 per cent) and unaccompanied boys (6 per cent) were included among the groups at risk of experiencing discrimination as a barrier. Children living in women headed households and with divorced mothers were other affected groups (both 12 per cent). The needs of specific population groups must be considered in the design and implementation of all humanitarian assistance particularly as experiences of discrimination can compound existing risks and increase vulnerability to protection threats such as economic exploitation.

Participants in the FGDs raised several other issues impeding access: movement restrictions of women and girls was seen as a significant barrier to their equal access to services, as was the lack of documentation. People with disabilities were also noted to face barriers: *"they do not have access to services because no one is linking them to services"* (FGD with Boys, 12-17 years, Al-Hasakeh).

Girls' and boys' access was also perceived to be impeded by sexual harassment (girls: 12 per cent and boys: 8 per cent)

and requests for sexual favours in exchange for humanitarian assistance (girls: 8 per cent and boys: 5 per cent).[102] Boys and girls in the FGDs also discussed similar concerns with the delivery of humanitarian assistance: *"some women have given up receiving aid because of the provocative treatment they receive from distributors"* (FGD with Girls, 15-17 years, Idleb) and *"in the camps, some distributors use their authority to sexually abuse women"* (FGD with Boys, 15-17 years, Aleppo). The mention of these concerns, even by a small proportion of respondents, is highly alarming and demands immediate action by the humanitarian community.

Graph 16: Percentage of assessed communities in which respondents reported the occurrence of the request for Sexual favours in exchange for assistance (to the left) and Sexual harassment (to the right) experienced during delivery of humanitarian assistance

Linkages with
Other Sectors

GBV and Child Protection Concerns

"Girls and women are those most at risk of having their freedom and movement restricted, out of fear for their safety and reputation". FGD, Girls, 12-17 years, Aleppo.

Main concerns

- Girls and boys at risk of being sexually exploited or abused when engaged in child labour, e.g. domestic labour which is the most common type of work for girls outside their homes.

- Survival sex (risk for both girls and boys).

- Girls more at risk of sexual violence and exploitation by parties to the conflict (child marriage, rape etc).

- Girls more at risk of verbal/emotional abuse in their home.

- Child marriage used as a coping mechanism.

- Children born out of unions were one or both parents are under 18, risk of the child being left to be cared for by relatives, abandoned or unregistered (no birth certification).

- Girls at risk of so-called "honour" killings.

- Girls movements are restricted due to fear of kidnapping, sexual violence and harassment.

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Shelter and NFIs and Child Protection Concerns

"Fear of rodents and animals. There are no walls since we live in a tent, and this makes us feel afraid and unstable". FGD, 15-17 years, Aleppo.

"I am afraid that they might kick us out of the tent for some reason; we do not have anywhere else to go to and our parents do not have the money needed to rent a house because rent is expensive". FGD, Girls, 15-17 years, Aleppo.

"I know many children whose fathers were killed and whose mothers got married and left them to their grandparents. Those children are always homeless because the tents of their grandparents can't house them all". FGD, Boys, 15-17 years, Aleppo.

Main concerns

- No/limited adequate living conditions, e.g. overcrowded informal settlements, collective centres and makeshift housing heightening the risk of exploitation and abuse.

- Living spaces can be physically dangerous for children, e.g. presence of exposed electrical wires or damaged roof or walls that can collapse.

- Limited separate spaces for girls and boys heightening the risk of exploitation and abuse.

- Girls and boys can be left to manage on their own due to overcrowded housing.

- Limited spaces for play and recreation.

- Can be left out of NFI distributions if girls and boys lack documentation (for children separated from their usual caregivers this can result in not getting the same items as the other children in the family; children with disabilities may also be excluded).

Health and Child Protection Concerns

"The health of some patients due to their inability to travel and receive treatment has worsened". FGD, Girls, 15-17 years, Idleb.

"Pharmacies are not staffed by pharmacists with experience. They provide medicine without prescriptions. One child had a heart attack because he was given the wrong medication". FGD, Girls 15-17 years, Al-Hasakeh.

Main concerns

- Reproductive health services unavailable or not adequate.
- Child marriage results in early pregnancies and health complications for girls and their babies.
- Limited access to health services due to severe restrictions on their freedom of movement.
- Few specialised services for survivors of violence, both in terms of medical and psychosocial services.
- Children with disabilities more likely to be isolated and not receive adequate access to health care.

Food Security and Livelihoods and Child Protection Concerns

"People who do not have identification papers such as a family book are not given aid". FGD, Girls 15-17 years, Idleb.

"The phenomenon of food poisoning, because the farmers irrigate crops with sewage water". FGD, Girls 12-17 years, Aleppo.

Main concerns

- Girls and boys engaged in child labour, including the worst forms (e.g. child recruitment and use of children by armed groups) to support family income OR child is the main breadwinner in the family leading to girls and boys dropping out of school.
- Sexual favours in return for food and NFIs, survival sex.
- Restricted movements result in limited educational or vocational opportunities, thus limiting livelihoods options in the future.

WASH and Child Protection Concerns

"Water is not enough and it is provided in tanks and there are crowdedness and risks during filling and bringing water". FGD, Boys, 12-17 years, Idleb.

Main concerns

- Girls at greater risk of reduced access due to restricted movements.
- Lack of proper lighting to/from and in bathrooms in the camps or collective centres increases risks of sexual violence.
- Poor hygiene standards in camps or collective centres, along with difficult access to sanitary materials, increases the challenge for girls to manage their menstrual periods safely.

Annexes

Annex 1 Methodology

Annex 2 Assessment tools

Annex 3 Endnotes

ANNEX 1 METHODOLOGY

Multiple data collection exercises/assessments were conducted through the Jordan, Syria and Turkey hubs between July-August 2017. Each exercise was guided by a common set of indicators.

The assessments included:

- Multisector Needs Assessment led by OCHA covering 2,506 communities

- Syria Hub Protection Needs Assessment covering 1,635 communities

- Multisector Needs Assessment covered both Syria Hub and OCHA covering 44 communities

- Focus Group Discussions through the Jordan and Turkey Hubs covering 41 communities.

The findings presented in this report are based upon data gathered through these exercises, and the focus group discussions and secondary data generated in 2017 were used to provide qualitative information on context and specific illustrative examples. Data from these exercises were consolidated based on the common indicators and geographic level. Frequency of occurrence refers to protection risks described as happening sometimes or as being common or very common and is aggregated at the community level and presented at either governorate or national level. Word Clouds throughout the report were drawn from Focus Group Discussions with adolescents, with greater prominence given to words that appeared more frequently in the discussions.

CHILD PROTECTION THEMES AND INDICATORS

Child Protection indicators were investigated based on a set of core themes that were selected with the following considerations: major data gaps, feasibility to collect information and lessons learned from data collection exercises.

Child Labour

- % of assessed communities with reports by respondents of Child Labour by frequency of occurrence; disaggregated by age and sex

Child Recruitment and Use

- % of assessed communities with reports by respondents of child recruitment by frequency of occurrence; disaggregated by age and sex

Unaccompanied and Separated Children

- % of assessed communities with reports by respondents of unaccompanied and separated children by frequency of occurrence; disaggregated by age and sex

- % of assessed communities with reports by respondents of reasons for unaccompanied and separated children by frequency of occurrence; disaggregated by age and sex

Child Marriage

- % of assessed communities with reports by respondents of child marriage; disaggregated by age and sex

In addition, themes and indicators from General Protection, GBV and Mine Action AORs were age and sex disaggregated. This allowed for analysis of data on the broader set of protection issues (Explosive Hazards, Abduction, Family Violence, Sexual Violence and Civil Documentation /Birth Registration) affecting chidren in Syria, that are presented in this report.

The aim of the data collection exercises/assessments was to gain sufficient information about child protection trends and patterns in Syria to inform the 2018 humanitarian response planning processes, as well as humanitarian partner programming, resource mobilization and advocacy. As such, the data collection did not seek to gather information on specific violations or identify perpetrators. There are other mechanisms set up for this purpose. Rather, the objective of the data collection exercises/assessments was to obtain perceptions and observations of the child protection situation from key informants and focus group participants in order to inform a humanitarian programmatic response. The indicators were intended to capture the frequency of occurrence of an issue in a geographic area rather than the extent or impact or gravity on the population.

QUESTIONNAIRES

Structured questionnaires were formulated for each of the data collection exercises based on the agreed themes and indicators. The questionnaires were developed in English, translated into Arabic, field tested and modified accordingly.

GEOGRAPHIC LEVEL OF DATA

Data was collected at the community level. For 32 locations, data was collected at the neighbourhood level. It was therefore necessary to aggregate the date to the community level to allow for overall analysis.

DATA PROCESSING AND ANALYSIS

A customized excel based tool was used for the data processing, tabulation and analysis of the multisector data. MAXQDA was used to support processing and analysis of the FGDs.

GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

The geographical coverage of each data collection exercise/assessment was different, with some overlap between exercises.
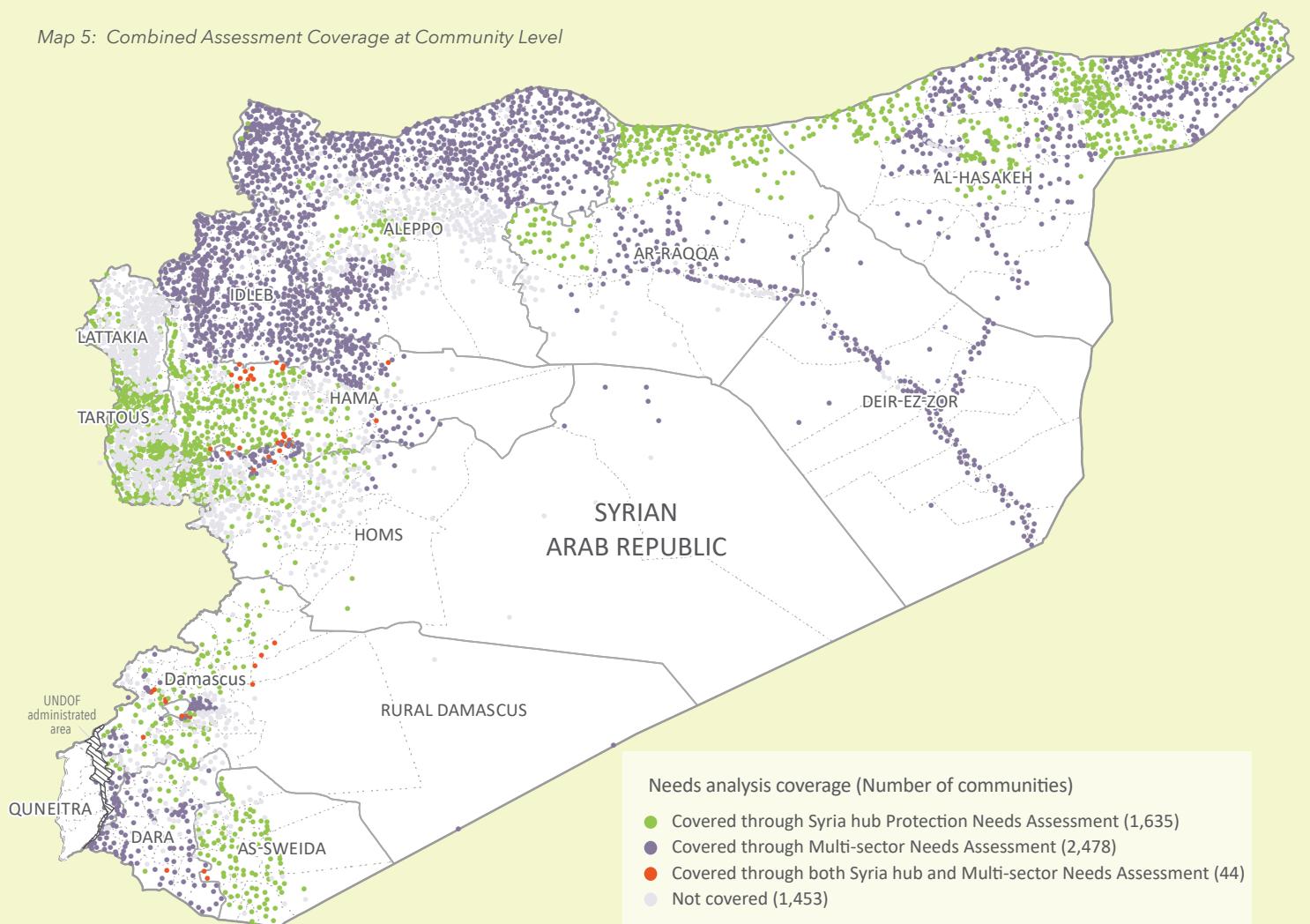
In total 4,185 communities (out of 5,629 communities/ 74%) in 254 sub-districts (out of 272 sub-districts/ 93%) were covered by one or more exercise.

The following sub districts were not covered: Maskana (Aleppo); Haran Al'awameed and Haran Al'awameed (Rural Damascus); Masaada and Al-Butayhah (Quneitra); Mahin and Tadmor (Homs); Rabee'a, Kiseb, Ein Elshaqiyeh, Ein Shaqaq, Ein Et-teeneh, Mzair'a, Harf Elmseitra, Fakhura, Jobet Berghal (Latakia) and Arwad (Tartous).

Number of communities included in the analysis by Governorate

Governorate	MSNA	Syria hub	Both	Total	Focus Group Discussions
Damascus		1	1	2	
Aleppo	960	62		1,022	7
Rural Damascus	50	98	12	160	7
Homs	49	144	6	199	
Hama	146	265	22	433	
Latakia		78		78	
Idlib	528			528	10
Al-Hasakeh	370	429		799	1
Deir-ez-zor	143			143	
Tartous		241		241	
Ar-Raqqa	121	192		313	1
Dar'a	100	14	1	115	8
As-Sweida	1	105	2	108	
Quneitra	38	6		44	7
Total	2,507	1,635	44	4,185	41

Map 5: Combined Assessment Coverage at Community Level

Needs analysis coverage (Number of communities)
- Covered through Syria hub Protection Needs Assessment (1,635)
- Covered through Multi-sector Needs Assessment (2,478)
- Covered through both Syria hub and Multi-sector Needs Assessment (44)
- Not covered (1,453)

ANNEX 2: ASSESSMENT TOOLS

Multisector Assessment Tool

7. PROTECTION			
KEY INFORMANT METADATA	**KI1**	**KI2**	**KI3**
K.7.1 Gender of the key informant: 1. Male 2. Female			
K.7.2 Age of key informant			
K.7.3 Modality of the data collection: 1. Face to face 2. Remote			
K.7.4 Type of key informants *(multiple answers possible)* 1. NGO/Humanitarian Aid Worker 2. Community Based Organization staff / manager 3. Community Leader/ tribe leader/Mukhatar 4. Health Worker/ nurse / doctor /public health workers 5. IDPs representative 6. Returnees representative 7. Social Worker 8. Teachers/headmasters			
K.7.5 Date of the interview (dd/mm/yyyy)			

7.1   Identify situations (all questions numbered 7.1.x.) that have occurred within your community in the last three months. Use these guidelines for all questions numbered 7.1.x
- **Explain the situation.**
  If identified, ask "Has this situation occurred to all sex/age groups with the same severity?"
  If yes, choose all and how often/severe.
  If not, identify the groups and how often/severely it occurs.
- **Boys and Girls are aged below 12 years**
- **Adolescent Boys and Girls are aged 12-17 years**
- **Persons with disabilities do not apply with age/gender breakdown; tick this option only if the related situation is faced by persons with disabilities.**
- **Sex/ age breakdown is NOT the same for all the questions.**

7.1.1 LACK/LOSS OF CIVIL DOCUMENTATION		□ Yes	□ No	□ Do not know	□ No answer
□ Men	□ Never happens	□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue	□ Do not know	□ No answer
□ Women	□ Never happens	□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue	□ Do not know	□ No answer
□ Adolescent Boys (12-17)	□ Never happens	□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue	□ Do not know	□ No answer
□ Adolescent Girls (12-17)	□ Never happens	□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue	□ Do not know	□ No answer
□ Boys (<12)	□ Never happens	□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue	□ Do not know	□ No answer
□ Girls (<12)	□ Never happens	□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue	□ Do not know	□ No answer
□ All		□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue		
□ Persons with disabilities	□ Never happens	□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue	□ Do not know	□ No answer

7.1.1.1 Was it possible to obtain or replace official (i.e. Government of Syria issued) civil and legal documents (identity or property documents) in your community in the last three months?

7. 1.1.1.a. Possible for women? (choose one)

□ Do not know	□ No answer	□ Yes	□ No	□ Sometimes

7.1.1.1.b. Possible for men? (choose one)

□ Do not know	□ No answer	□ Yes	□ No	□ Sometimes

7.1.1.1.c. Possible for children (less than 18 years old)? (choose one)

□ Do not know	□ No answer	□ Yes	□ No	□ Sometimes

7.1.1.2 Which official (GoS-issued) documents are NOT possible to obtain in your community? *(choose all that apply)*

□ Do not know		□ No answer	
□ Family Booklet	□ Syrian ID	□ Birth Certificate	□ Marriage Certificate
□ Death Certificate	□ Passport	□ Approval for lease agreement	□ Deed/Tabou
□ Civil record (extract)	□ Residence support document	□ Travel authorisation document	□ Disability ID
□ Divorce record	□ Other (specify)		

7.1.1.3 If someone does not have official/Gov't-issued documents in your community, what are the main reasons? *(choose all that apply)*

□ Do not know		□ No answer	
□ Never had it	□ Could not afford it	□ GoS Services not available	□ Lost
□ Confiscated	□ Didn't attempt to obtain it	□ Another family member has possession of it	□ Left behind when fleeing
□ Expired document	□ Concerns of approaching authority	□ Other (specify) Counselling/legal services not available	□ Other (specify)

7.1.1.4 What is the impact (if any) of women not having official/Gov't-issued documents? *(choose all that apply)*

□ Do not know	□ No answer	□ No impact	□ Unable to access humanitarian assistance
□ Restricted Freedom of movement		□ Cannot register land/access transactions	□ Cannot claim property
□ Cannot register birth/marriage/death		□ Unable to access basic services	

☐ Arrest	☐ Other (specify)

7.1.1.5 What is the impact (if any) of <u>men</u> not having <u>official/Gov't-issued</u> documents? *(choose all that apply)*

☐ Do not know	☐ No answer	☐ No impact	☐ Unable to access humanitarian assistance
☐ Restricted Freedom of movement		☐ Cannot register land/access transactions	☐ Cannot claim property
☐ Cannot register birth/marriage/death		☐ Unable to access basic services	
☐ Arrest		☐ Other (specify)	

7.1.1.6 What is the impact (if any) of <u>children (< 18)</u> not having <u>official/Gov't-issued</u> documents? *(choose all that apply)*

☐ Do not know	☐ No answer	☐ No impact	☐ Unable to access humanitarian assistance
☐ Restricted Freedom of movement		☐ Cannot register land/access transactions	☐ Cannot claim property
☐ Cannot register birth/marriage/death		☐ Unable to access basic services	
☐ Arrest		☐ Other (specify)	

7.1.2 HOUSING/LAND AND PROPERTY ISSUES – *Refer guidelines in Q1.*			☐ Yes	☐ No	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer
☐ Men	☐ Never happens	☐ Sometimes	☐ Common issue	☐ Very common issue	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer
☐ Women	☐ Never happens	☐ Sometimes	☐ Common issue	☐ Very common issue	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer
☐ Adolescent Boys (12-17)	☐ Never happens	☐ Sometimes	☐ Common issue	☐ Very common issue	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer
☐ Adolescent Girls (12-17)	☐ Never happens	☐ Sometimes	☐ Common issue	☐ Very common issue	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer
☐ All		☐ Sometimes	☐ Common issue	☐ Very common issue		
☐ Persons with disabilities	☐ Never happens	☐ Sometimes	☐ Common issue	☐ Very common issue	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer

7.1.2.1 What are the concerns in relation to property/land in your communities in the last three months?

Do not know	☐ No answer
Damage of land or property	☐ Never happens ☐ Sometimes ☐ Common issue ☐ Very common issue ☐ Do not know ☐ No answer
Property is unlawfully occupied by others	☐ Never happens ☐ Sometimes ☐ Common issue ☐ Very common issue ☐ Do not know ☐ No answer
No housing available in the area	☐ Never happens ☐ Sometimes ☐ Common issue ☐ Very common issue ☐ Do not know ☐ No answer
Lack of documents (if possible, specify which documents)	☐ Never happens ☐ Sometimes ☐ Common issue ☐ Very common issue ☐ Do not know ☐ No answer
Rules and processes on housing and land not clear or changing	☐ Never happens ☐ Sometimes ☐ Common issue ☐ Very common issue ☐ Do not know ☐ No answer
Looting of private property	☐ Never happens ☐ Sometimes ☐ Common issue ☐ Very common issue ☐ Do not know ☐ No answer
Rental disputes (landlord/tenant problems)	☐ Never happens ☐ Sometimes ☐ Common issue ☐ Very common issue ☐ Do not know ☐ No answer
Cannot access/lost access housing because can't afford it	☐ Never happens ☐ Sometimes ☐ Common issue ☐ Very common issue ☐ Do not know ☐ No answer
Disputed ownership	☐ Never happens ☐ Sometimes ☐ Common issue ☐ Very common issue ☐ Do not know ☐ No answer
Other (specify)	

7.1.3 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE– *Refer guidelines in Q1.*			☐ Yes	☐ No	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer
☐ Men	☐ Never happens	☐ Sometimes	☐ Common issue	☐ Very common issue	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer
☐ Women	☐ Never happens	☐ Sometimes	☐ Common issue	☐ Very common issue	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer
☐ Adolescent Boys (12-17)	☐ Never happens	☐ Sometimes	☐ Common issue	☐ Very common issue	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer
☐ Adolescent Girls (12-17)	☐ Never happens	☐ Sometimes	☐ Common issue	☐ Very common issue	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer
☐ Boys (<12)	☐ Never happens	☐ Sometimes	☐ Common issue	☐ Very common issue	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer
☐ Girls (<12)	☐ Never happens	☐ Sometimes	☐ Common issue	☐ Very common issue	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer
☐ All		☐ Sometimes	☐ Common issue	☐ Very common issue		
☐ Persons with disabilities	☐ Never happens	☐ Sometimes	☐ Common issue	☐ Very common issue	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer
7.1.4 SEXUAL VIOLENCE– *Refer guidelines in Q1.*			☐ Yes	☐ No	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer
☐ Men	☐ Never happens	☐ Sometimes	☐ Common issue	☐ Very common issue	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer
☐ Women	☐ Never happens	☐ Sometimes	☐ Common issue	☐ Very common issue	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer
☐ Adolescent Boys (12-17)	☐ Never happens	☐ Sometimes	☐ Common issue	☐ Very common issue	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer
☐ Adolescent Girls (12-17)	☐ Never happens	☐ Sometimes	☐ Common issue	☐ Very common issue	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer
☐ Boys (<12)	☐ Never happens	☐ Sometimes	☐ Common issue	☐ Very common issue	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer
☐ Girls (<12)	☐ Never happens	☐ Sometimes	☐ Common issue	☐ Very common issue	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer
☐ All		☐ Sometimes	☐ Common issue	☐ Very common issue		
☐ Persons with disabilities	☐ Never happens	☐ Sometimes	☐ Common issue	☐ Very common issue	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer
7.1.5 HARASSMENT– *Refer guidelines in Q1.*			☐ Yes	☐ No	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer
☐ Men	☐ Never happens	☐ Sometimes	☐ Common issue	☐ Very common issue	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer
☐ Women	☐ Never happens	☐ Sometimes	☐ Common issue	☐ Very common issue	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer
☐ Adolescent Boys (12-17)	☐ Never happens	☐ Sometimes	☐ Common issue	☐ Very common issue	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer
☐ Adolescent Girls (12-17)	☐ Never happens	☐ Sometimes	☐ Common issue	☐ Very common issue	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer
☐ Boys (<12)	☐ Never happens	☐ Sometimes	☐ Common issue	☐ Very common issue	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer
☐ Girls (<12)	☐ Never happens	☐ Sometimes	☐ Common issue	☐ Very common issue	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer
☐ All		☐ Sometimes	☐ Common issue	☐ Very common issue		
☐ Persons with disabilities	☐ Never happens	☐ Sometimes	☐ Common issue	☐ Very common issue	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer
7.1.6 EXPLOSIVE HAZARDS – *Refer guidelines in Q1.*			☐ Yes	☐ No	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer
☐ Men	☐ Never happens	☐ Sometimes	☐ Common issue	☐ Very common issue	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer
☐ Women	☐ Never happens	☐ Sometimes	☐ Common issue	☐ Very common issue	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer
☐ Adolescent Boys (12-17)	☐ Never happens	☐ Sometimes	☐ Common issue	☐ Very common issue	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer
☐ Adolescent Girls (12-17)	☐ Never happens	☐ Sometimes	☐ Common issue	☐ Very common issue	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer
☐ Boys (<12)	☐ Never happens	☐ Sometimes	☐ Common issue	☐ Very common issue	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer
☐ Girls (<12)	☐ Never happens	☐ Sometimes	☐ Common issue	☐ Very common issue	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer

| ☐ All | | ☐ Sometimes | ☐ Common issue | ☐ Very common issue | | |
| ☐ Persons with disabilities | ☐ Never happens | ☐ Sometimes | ☐ Common issue | ☐ Very common issue | ☐ Do not know | ☐ No answer |

7.1.6.1 Have you observed/are you aware of any civilians in your community who have been injured or killed by explosive hazards in the last three months (choose one)?

| ☐ Do not know | ☐ No answer | ☐ Never happens | ☐ Sometimes |
| ☐ Common issue | ☐ Very common issue | | |

7.1.6.2 If YES to 7.1.6.1 - were these persons mostly (choose one):

| ☐ Do not know | ☐ Men | ☐ Women | Boys (<18) |
| ☐ Girls (<18) | ☐ All | ☐ No answer | |

7.1.6.3 If YES to 7.1.6.1 - do you know what these persons were doing at the time of the accident (choose all that apply)?

☐ Attempt by a community member to take out explosive items	☐ Collecting scrap metal	☐ Farming	☐ Rubble removal
☐ Reconstruction	☐ Herding	☐ Moving/travelling from one place to another	☐ Playing with an item (children)
☐ En route to school/at school	☐ Other (specify)	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer

7.1.6.4 What is the type of land contaminated by explosive hazards? *(choose all that apply)*

☐ Do not know	☐ No answer	☐ Access roads
☐ Agricultural land	☐ Schools	☐ Private property
☐ Hospitals	☐ Public building	☐ Other (specify)

7.1.7 EARLY MARRIAGE – *Refer guidelines in Q1.*			☐ Yes	☐ No	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer
☐ Adolescent Boys (12-17)	☐ Never happens	☐ Sometimes	☐ Common issue	☐ Very common issue	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer
☐ Adolescent Girls (12-17)	☐ Never happens	☐ Sometimes	☐ Common issue	☐ Very common issue	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer
☐ Boys (<12)	☐ Never happens	☐ Sometimes	☐ Common issue	☐ Very common issue	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer
☐ Girls (<12)	☐ Never happens	☐ Sometimes	☐ Common issue	☐ Very common issue	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer
☐ All		☐ Sometimes	☐ Common issue	☐ Very common issue		
☐ Persons with disabilities	☐ Never happens	☐ Sometimes	☐ Common issue	☐ Very common issue	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer

7.1.7.1 IF EARLY MARRIAGE WAS IDENTIFIED FOR GIRLS OR ADOLESCENT GIRLS IN 7.1.7 - select below the possible reasons for Early marriage.

☐ Do not know	☐ No answer			
☐ Economic reasons/need	☐ Never happens ☐ Do not know	☐ Sometimes ☐ Common issue ☐ No answer	☐ Very common issue	
☐ Prevent recruitment	☐ Never happens ☐ Do not know	☐ Sometimes ☐ Common issue ☐ No answer	☐ Very common issue	
☐ Improve protection	☐ Never happens ☐ Do not know	☐ Sometimes ☐ Common issue ☐ No answer	☐ Very common issue	
☐ Societal pressure	☐ Never happens ☐ Do not know	☐ Sometimes ☐ Common issue ☐ No answer	☐ Very common issue	
☐ Other (specify)				

7.1.7.2 IF EARLY MARRIAGE WAS IDENTIFIED FOR BOYS OR ADOLESCENT BOYS IN 7.1.7 - select below the possible reasons for Early marriage.

☐ Do not know	☐ No answer		
☐ Economic reasons/need	☐ Never happens ☐ Do not know	☐ Sometimes ☐ Common issue ☐ No answer	☐ Very common issue
☐ Prevent enrolment into armed groups	☐ Never happens ☐ Do not know	☐ Sometimes ☐ Common issue ☐ No answer	☐ Very common issue
☐ Encourage recruitment	☐ Never happens ☐ Do not know	☐ Sometimes ☐ Common issue ☐ No answer	☐ Very common issue
☐ Improve protection	☐ Never happens ☐ Do not know	☐ Sometimes ☐ Common issue ☐ No answer	☐ Very common issue
☐ Societal pressure	☐ Never happens ☐ Do not know	☐ Sometimes ☐ Common issue ☐ No answer	☐ Very common issue
☐ Other (specify)			

7.1.8 CHILD RECRUITMENT – *Refer guidelines in Q1.*			☐ Yes	☐ No	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer
☐ Adolescent Boys (12-17)	☐ Never happens	☐ Sometimes	☐ Common issue	☐ Very common issue	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer
☐ Adolescent Girls (12-17)	☐ Never happens	☐ Sometimes	☐ Common issue	☐ Very common issue	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer
☐ Boys (<12)	☐ Never happens	☐ Sometimes	☐ Common issue	☐ Very common issue	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer
☐ Girls (<12)	☐ Never happens	☐ Sometimes	☐ Common issue	☐ Very common issue	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer
☐ All		☐ Sometimes	☐ Common issue	☐ Very common issue		
☐ Persons with disabilities	☐ Never happens	☐ Sometimes	☐ Common issue	☐ Very common issue	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer

7.1.9 CHILD LABOUR PREVENTING SCHOOL ATTENDANCE – *Refer guidelines in Q1.*			☐ Yes	☐ No	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer
☐ Adolescent Boys (15-17)	☐ Never happens	☐ Sometimes	☐ Common issue	☐ Very common issue	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer
☐ Adolescent Girls (15-17)	☐ Never happens	☐ Sometimes	☐ Common issue	☐ Very common issue	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer
☐ Adolescent Boys (12-14)	☐ Never happens	☐ Sometimes	☐ Common issue	☐ Very common issue	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer
☐ Adolescent Girls (12-14)	☐ Never happens	☐ Sometimes	☐ Common issue	☐ Very common issue	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer
☐ Boys (<12)	☐ Never happens	☐ Sometimes	☐ Common issue	☐ Very common issue	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer
☐ Girls (<12)	☐ Never happens	☐ Sometimes	☐ Common issue	☐ Very common issue	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer
☐ All		☐ Sometimes	☐ Common issue	☐ Very common issue		
☐ Persons with disabilities	☐ Never happens	☐ Sometimes	☐ Common issue	☐ Very common issue	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer

7.1.10 FAMILY SEPARATION – *Refer guidelines in Q1.*			☐ Yes	☐ No	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer
☐ Men	☐ Never happens	☐ Sometimes	☐ Common issue	☐ Very common issue	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer
☐ Women	☐ Never happens	☐ Sometimes	☐ Common issue	☐ Very common issue	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer
☐ Adolescent Boys (12-17)	☐ Never happens	☐ Sometimes	☐ Common issue	☐ Very common issue	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer
☐ Adolescent Girls (12-17)	☐ Never happens	☐ Sometimes	☐ Common issue	☐ Very common issue	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer
☐ Boys (<12)	☐ Never happens	☐ Sometimes	☐ Common issue	☐ Very common issue	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer

□ Girls (<12)	□ Never happens		□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue	□ Do not know	□ No answer
□ All			□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue	
□ Persons with disabilities	□ Never happens		□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue	□ Do not know	□ No answer

7.1.10.1 __IF FAMILY SEPARATION WAS IDENTIFIED FOR GIRLS OR ADOLESCENT GIRLS IN 7.1.10__ - what events have led to girls not living with their usual caregivers *(choose all that apply)*

□ Do not know	□ No answer
□ Death of a caregiver	□ Disappearance of child
□ Separated from caregiver while moving to a safer location	□ Detention of child
□ Medical evacuation of caregiver	□ Abduction of child
□ Caregivers willing to send children to live with extended family or to a safer location	□ Early marriage
□ Disappearance of caregiver	□ Domestic violence
□ Divorce of caregivers	□ Recruitment
□ Economic reasons/need	Other (specify)

7.1.10.2 __IF FAMILY SEPARATION WAS IDENTIFIED FOR BOYS OR ADOLESCENT BOYS IN 7.1.10__ what events have led to boys (under 18 years) not living with usual caregivers? *(choose all that apply)*

□ Do not know	□ No answer
□ Death of a caregiver	□ Disappearance of child
□ Separated from caregiver while moving to a safer location	□ Detention of child
□ Medical evacuation of caregiver	□ Abduction of child
□ Caregivers willing to send children to live with extended family or to a safer location	□ Early marriage
□ Disappearance of caregiver	□ Domestic violence
□ Divorce of caregivers	□ Recruitment
□ Economic reasons/need	□ Other (Specify)

7.1.11 SEXUAL HARASSMENT– *Refer guidelines inQ1.*			□ Yes	□ No	□ Do not know	□ No answer
□ Men	□ Never happens	□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue	□ Do not know	□ No answer
□ Women	□ Never happens	□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue	□ Do not know	□ No answer
□ Adolescent Boys (12-17)	□ Never happens	□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue	□ Do not know	□ No answer
□ Adolescent Girls (12-17)	□ Never happens	□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue	□ Do not know	□ No answer
□ Boys (<12)	□ Never happens	□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue	□ Do not know	□ No answer
□ Girls (<12)	□ Never happens	□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue	□ Do not know	□ No answer
□ All		□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue		
□ Persons with disabilities	□ Never happens	□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue	□ Do not know	□ No answer
7.1.12 ECONOMIC EXPLOITATION – *Refer guidelines in Q1.*			□ Yes	□ No	□ Do not know	□ No answer
□ Men	□ Never happens	□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue	□ Do not know	□ No answer
□ Women	□ Never happens	□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue	□ Do not know	□ No answer
□ Adolescent Boys (12-17)	□ Never happens	□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue	□ Do not know	□ No answer
□ Adolescent Girls (12-17)	□ Never happens	□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue	□ Do not know	□ No answer
□ Boys (<12)	□ Never happens	□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue	□ Do not know	□ No answer
□ Girls (<12)	□ Never happens	□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue	□ Do not know	□ No answer
□ All		□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue		
□ Persons with disabilities	□ Never happens	□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue	□ Do not know	□ No answer
7.1.13 KIDNAPPING AND ABDUCTION – *Refer guidelines in Q1.*			□ Yes	□ No	□ Do not know	□ No answer
□ Men	□ Never happens	□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue	□ Do not know	□ No answer
□ Women	□ Never happens	□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue	□ Do not know	□ No answer
□ Adolescent Boys (12-17)	□ Never happens	□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue	□ Do not know	□ No answer
□ Adolescent Girls (12-17)	□ Never happens	□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue	□ Do not know	□ No answer
□ Boys (<12)	□ Never happens	□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue	□ Do not know	□ No answer
□ Girls (<12)	□ Never happens	□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue	□ Do not know	□ No answer
□ All		□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue		
□ Persons with disabilities	□ Never happens	□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue	□ Do not know	□ No answer
7.1.14 Other (specify)						

7.2.1 Have you observed/are you aware of MOVEMENT RESTRICTIONS?

□ Do not know	□ No answer	□ Yes	□ No

7.2.2 If YES to 7.2.1 – What are the causes of movement restrictions and how often do they occur?

□ Do not know	□ No answer			
Activities of armed groups	□ Never happens	□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue
	□ Do not know	□ No answer		
Checkpoints	□ Never happens	□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue
	□ Do not know	□ No answer		
Rules imposed by concerned authorities	□ Never happens	□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue
	□ Do not know	□ No answer		
General violence	□ Never happens	□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue
	□ Do not know	□ No answer		
Presence of explosive hazards	□ Never happens	□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue
	□ Do not know	□ No answer		
Screening processes	□ Never happens	□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue
	□ Do not know	□ No answer		
Lack of identity documents	□ Never happens	□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue
	□ Do not know	□ No answer		
Curfews	□ Never happens	□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue
	□ Do not know	□ No answer		

□ Other (please specify)			

7.2.3 If YES to 7.2.1 – Which groups are particularly at risk of movement restrictions and how often?

□ Do not know	□ No answer			
Women moving with a companion	□ Never happens □ Do not know	□ Sometimes □ No answer	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue
Women moving alone	□ Never happens □ Do not know	□ Sometimes □ No answer	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue
Girls moving alone	□ Never happens □ Do not know	□ Sometimes □ No answer	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue
Girls moving with a companion	□ Never happens □ Do not know	□ Sometimes □ No answer	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue
People without civil documentation	□ Never happens □ Do not know	□ Sometimes □ No answer	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue
Persons with disabilities	□ Never happens □ Do not know	□ Sometimes □ No answer	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue
Men	□ Never happens □ Do not know	□ Sometimes □ No answer	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue
Boys	□ Never happens □ Do not know	□ Sometimes □ No answer	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue
IDPs	□ Never happens □ Do not know	□ Sometimes □ No answer	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue
□ Other (specify)				

7.3 Have you observed/are you aware of the coping mechanisms listed below, being used in the last three months? If yes, which sex/age group relied on it and how often?

□ Do not know		□ No answer			
7.3.1 Early marriage	□ Yes	□ No	□ Do not know		□ No answer
□ Boys (<18)	□ Never happens	□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue	□ Do not know	□ No answer
□ Girls (<18)	□ Never happens	□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue	□ Do not know	□ No answer
□ All		□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue		
7.3.2 Children dropping out of school to work		□ Yes	□ No		□ Do not know	□ No answer
□ Boys (<18)	□ Never happens	□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue	□ Do not know	□ No answer
□ Girls (<18)	□ Never happens	□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue	□ Do not know	□ No answer
□ All		□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue		
7.3.3 Relying on humanitarian assistance		□ Yes	□ No	□ Do not know		□ No answer
□ Men	□ Never happens	□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue	□ Do not know	□ No answer
□ Women	□ Never happens	□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue	□ Do not know	□ No answer
□ Boys (<18)	□ Never happens	□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue	□ Do not know	□ No answer
□ Girls (<18)	□ Never happens	□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue	□ Do not know	□ No answer
□ All		□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue		
7.3.4 Engaging in illegal activities (i.e theft, smuggling)		□ Yes	□ No	□ Do not know		□ No answer
□ Men	□ Never happens	□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue	□ Do not know	□ No answer
□ Women	□ Never happens	□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue	□ Do not know	□ No answer
□ Boys (<18)	□ Never happens	□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue	□ Do not know	□ No answer
□ Girls (<18)	□ Never happens	□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue	□ Do not know	□ No answer
□ All		□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue		
7.3.5 Restricting movements of women and girls		□ Yes	□ No	□ Do not know		□ No answer
□ Women	□ Never happens	□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue	□ Do not know	□ No answer
□ Girls	□ Never happens	□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue	□ Do not know	□ No answer
□ All		□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue		
7.3.6 Begging	□ Yes		□ No	□ Do not know		□ No answer
□ Men	□ Never happens	□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue	□ Do not know	□ No answer
□ Women	□ Never happens	□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue	□ Do not know	□ No answer
□ Boys (<18)	□ Never happens	□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue	□ Do not know	□ No answer
□ Girls (<18)	□ Never happens	□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue	□ Do not know	□ No answer
□ All		□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue		
7.3.7 Accessing community services (community centres, women centres)	□ Yes	□ No	□ Do not know		□ No answer
□ Men	□ Never happens	□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue	□ Do not know	□ No answer
□ Women	□ Never happens	□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue	□ Do not know	□ No answer
□ Boys (<18)	□ Never happens	□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue	□ Do not know	□ No answer
□ Girls (<18)	□ Never happens	□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue	□ Do not know	□ No answer
□ All		□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue		
7.3.8 Local/community support	□ Yes		□ No	□ Do not know		□ No answer
□ Men	□ Never happens	□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue	□ Do not know	□ No answer
□ Women	□ Never happens	□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue	□ Do not know	□ No answer
□ Boys (<18)	□ Never happens	□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue	□ Do not know	□ No answer
□ Girls (<18)	□ Never happens	□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue	□ Do not know	□ No answer
□ All		□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue		
Other (Specify)						

7.4 Have you observed/are you aware of the following types of services <u>existing</u> OR <u>needed</u> in your community:
- **If yes, describe as either 1) present and sufficient <u>OR</u> 2) present but insufficient <u>OR</u> 3) not present and needed <u>OR</u> 4) Not present and not needed for each sex/age group.**

□ Do not know		□ No answer				
□ No services						
7.4.1 Services for persons with disabilities	□ Yes	□ No	□ Do not know		□ No answer
□ Men	□ Present and sufficient	□ Present but insufficient	□ Not present and needed	□ Not present and not needed	□ Do not know	□ No answer
□ Women	□ Present and sufficient	□ Present but insufficient	□ Not present and needed	□ Not present and not needed	□ Do not know	□ No answer
□ Boys (<18)	□ Present and sufficient	□ Present but insufficient	□ Not present and needed	□ Not present and not needed	□ Do not know	□ No answer

	Present and sufficient	Present but insufficient	Not present and needed	Not present and not needed	Do not know	No answer
☐ Girls (<18)	☐ Present and sufficient	☐ Present but insufficient	☐ Not present and needed	☐ Not present and not needed	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer
☐ All	☐ Present and sufficient	☐ Present but insufficient	☐ Not present and needed	☐ Not present and not needed		
7.4.2 Care mechanisms/services for elderly persons		☐ Yes	☐ No	☐ Do not know		☐ No answer
☐ Men	☐ Present and sufficient	☐ Present but insufficient	☐ Not present and needed	☐ Not present and not needed	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer
☐ Women	☐ Present and sufficient	☐ Present but insufficient	☐ Not present and needed	☐ Not present and not needed	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer
☐ All	☐ Present and sufficient	☐ Present but insufficient	☐ Not present and needed	☐ Not present and not needed		
7.4.3 Protection services for children	☐ Yes	☐ No		☐ Do not know		☐ No answer
☐ Boys (<18)	☐ Present and sufficient	☐ Present but insufficient	☐ Not present and needed	☐ Not present and not needed	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer
☐ Girls (<18)	☐ Present and sufficient	☐ Present but insufficient	☐ Not present and needed	☐ Not present and not needed	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer
☐ All	☐ Present and sufficient	☐ Present but insufficient	☐ Not present and needed	☐ Not present and not needed		
7.4.4 Community centres		☐ Yes	☐ No	☐ Do not know		☐ No answer
☐ Men	☐ Present and sufficient	☐ Present but insufficient	☐ Not present and needed	☐ Not present and not needed	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer
☐ Women	☐ Present and sufficient	☐ Present but insufficient	☐ Not present and needed	☐ Not present and not needed	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer
☐ Boys (<18)	☐ Present and sufficient	☐ Present but insufficient	☐ Not present and needed	☐ Not present and not needed	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer
☐ Girls (<18)	☐ Present and sufficient	☐ Present but insufficient	☐ Not present and needed	☐ Not present and not needed	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer
☐ All	☐ Present and sufficient	☐ Present but insufficient	☐ Not present and needed	☐ Not present and not needed		
7.4.5 Women and girls centres		☐ Yes	☐ No	☐ Do not know		☐ No answer
☐ Women	☐ Present and sufficient	☐ Present but insufficient	☐ Not present and needed	☐ Not present and not needed	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer
☐ Girls	☐ Present and sufficient	☐ Present but insufficient	☐ Not present and needed	☐ Not present and not needed	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer
☐ All	☐ Present and sufficient	☐ Present but insufficient	☐ Not present and needed	☐ Not present and not needed		
7.4.6 Recreational activities		☐ Yes	☐ No	☐ Do not know		☐ No answer
☐ Men	☐ Present and sufficient	☐ Present but insufficient	☐ Not present and needed	☐ Not present and not needed	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer
☐ Women	☐ Present and sufficient	☐ Present but insufficient	☐ Not present and needed	☐ Not present and not needed	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer
☐ Boys (<18)	☐ Present and sufficient	☐ Present but insufficient	☐ Not present and needed	☐ Not present and not needed	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer
☐ Girls (<18)	☐ Present and sufficient	☐ Present but insufficient	☐ Not present and needed	☐ Not present and not needed	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer
☐ All	☐ Present and sufficient	☐ Present but insufficient	☐ Not present and needed	☐ Not present and not needed		
7.4.7 Legal services for civil documentation	☐ Yes	☐ No		☐ Do not know		☐ No answer
☐ Men	☐ Present and sufficient	☐ Present but insufficient	☐ Not present and needed	☐ Not present and not needed	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer
☐ Women	☐ Present and sufficient	☐ Present but insufficient	☐ Not present and needed	☐ Not present and not needed	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer
☐ Boys (<18)	☐ Present and sufficient	☐ Present but insufficient	☐ Not present and needed	☐ Not present and not needed	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer
☐ Girls (<18)	☐ Present and sufficient	☐ Present but insufficient	☐ Not present and needed	☐ Not present and not needed	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer
☐ All	☐ Present and sufficient	☐ Present but insufficient	☐ Not present and needed	☐ Not present and not needed		
7.4.8 Legal services for Housing, Land and Property issues	☐ Yes	☐ No		☐ Do not know		☐ No answer
☐ Men	☐ Present and sufficient	☐ Present but insufficient	☐ Not present and needed	☐ Not present and not needed	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer
☐ Women	☐ Present and sufficient	☐ Present but insufficient	☐ Not present and needed	☐ Not present and not needed	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer
☐ Boys (<18)	☐ Present and sufficient	☐ Present but insufficient	☐ Not present and needed	☐ Not present and not needed	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer
☐ Girls (<18)	☐ Present and sufficient	☐ Present but insufficient	☐ Not present and needed	☐ Not present and not needed	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer
☐ All	☐ Present and sufficient	☐ Present but insufficient	☐ Not present and needed	☐ Not present and not needed		
7.4.9 Explosive hazard risk education		☐ Yes	☐ No	☐ Do not know		☐ No answer
☐ Men	☐ Present and sufficient	☐ Present but insufficient	☐ Not present and needed	☐ Not present and not needed	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer
☐ Women	☐ Present and sufficient	☐ Present but insufficient	☐ Not present and needed	☐ Not present and not needed	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer
☐ Boys (<18)	☐ Present and sufficient	☐ Present but insufficient	☐ Not present and needed	☐ Not present and not needed	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer
☐ Girls (<18)	☐ Present and sufficient	☐ Present but insufficient	☐ Not present and needed	☐ Not present and not needed	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer
☐ All	☐ Present and sufficient	☐ Present but insufficient	☐ Not present and needed	☐ Not present and not needed		
7.4.10 Psychosocial support for survivors of sexual violence/domestic violence	☐ Yes	☐ No		☐ Do not know		☐ No answer
☐ Men	☐ Present and sufficient	☐ Present but insufficient	☐ Not present and needed	☐ Not present and not needed	☐ Do not know	☐ No answer

□ Women	□ Present and sufficient	□ Present but insufficient	□ Not present and needed	□ Not present and not needed	□ Do not know	□ No answer
□ Boys (<18)	□ Present and sufficient	□ Present but insufficient	□ Not present and needed	□ Not present and not needed	□ Do not know	□ No answer
□ Girls (<18)	□ Present and sufficient	□ Present but insufficient	□ Not present and needed	□ Not present and not needed	□ Do not know	□ No answer
□ All	□ Present and sufficient	□ Present but insufficient	□ Not present and needed	□ Not present and not needed		

7.4.11 Psychosocial support services		□ Yes	□ No	□ Do not know	□ No answer	
□ Men	□ Present and sufficient	□ Present but insufficient	□ Not present and needed	□ Not present and not needed	□ Do not know	□ No answer
□ Women	□ Present and sufficient	□ Present but insufficient	□ Not present and needed	□ Not present and not needed	□ Do not know	□ No answer
□ Boys (<18)	□ Present and sufficient	□ Present but insufficient	□ Not present and needed	□ Not present and not needed	□ Do not know	□ No answer
□ Girls (<18)	□ Present and sufficient	□ Present but insufficient	□ Not present and needed	□ Not present and not needed	□ Do not know	□ No answer
□ All	□ Present and sufficient	□ Present but insufficient	□ Not present and needed	□ Not present and not needed		

7.4.12 Medical treatment for survivors of sexual violence/domestic violence		□ Yes	□ No	□ Do not know	□ No answer	
□ Men	□ Present and sufficient	□ Present but insufficient	□ Not present and needed	□ Not present and not needed	□ Do not know	□ No answer
□ Women	□ Present and sufficient	□ Present but insufficient	□ Not present and needed	□ Not present and not needed	□ Do not know	□ No answer
□ Boys (<18)	□ Present and sufficient	□ Present but insufficient	□ Not present and needed	□ Not present and not needed	□ Do not know	□ No answer
□ Girls (<18)	□ Present and sufficient	□ Present but insufficient	□ Not present and needed	□ Not present and not needed	□ Do not know	□ No answer
□ All	□ Present and sufficient	□ Present but insufficient	□ Not present and needed	□ Not present and not needed		

7.5 Have you observed/are you aware of any concerns/ problems about how humanitarian assistance is delivered in the last three months in your community/among community members?

□ Do not know	□ No answer
□ No issues	□ Not applicable

7.5.1 Request for civil documentation to access assistance		□ Yes		□ No	□ Do not know	□ No answer
□ Men	□ Never happens	□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue	□ Do not know	□ No answer
□ Women	□ Never happens	□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue	□ Do not know	□ No answer
□ Boys	□ Never happens	□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue	□ Do not know	□ No answer
□ Girls	□ Never happens	□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue	□ Do not know	□ No answer
□		□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue		

7.5.2 Sexual harassment		□ Yes	□ No	□ Do not know	□ No answer	
□ Men	□ Never happens	□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue	□ Do not know	□ No answer
□ Women	□ Never happens	□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue	□ Do not know	□ No answer
□ Boys	□ Never happens	□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue	□ Do not know	□ No answer
□ Girls	□ Never happens	□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue	□ Do not know	□ No answer
□ All		□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue		

7.5.3 Humanitarian assistance is not free/ Money is asked in exchange for assistance		□ Yes	□ No	□ Do not know	□ No answer	
□ Men	□ Never happens	□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue	□ Do not know	□ No answer
□ Women	□ Never happens	□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue	□ Do not know	□ No answer
□ Boys	□ Never happens	□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue	□ Do not know	□ No answer
□ Girls	□ Never happens	□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue	□ Do not know	□ No answer
□ All		□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue		

7.5.4 Request of sexual favour/ exploitation in exchange for humanitarian assistance		□ Yes	□ No	□ Do not know	□ No answer	
□ Men	□ Never happens	□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue	□ Do not know	□ No answer
□ Women	□ Never happens	□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue	□ Do not know	□ No answer
□ Boys	□ Never happens	□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue	□ Do not know	□ No answer
□ Girls	□ Never happens	□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue	□ Do not know	□ No answer
□ All		□ Sometimes	□ Common issue	□ Very common issue		

7.5.5 Discrimination/ exclusion (based on, but not limited to age, gender, religion, community, status, etc.) (See 7.5.5.1 for breakdown)	□ Never happens □ Sometimes □ Common issue □ Very common issue □ Do not know □ No answer
7.5.6 Assistance given is not what the community needs.	□ Never happens □ Sometimes □ Common issue □ Very common issue □ Do not know □ No answer
7.5.7 Other (specify)	

7.5.5.1 If YES to Discrimination/exclusion in 7.5.5 - Are you aware of groups that are at risk of exclusion from receiving humanitarian aid and services? *(choose all that apply)*

□ Do not know	□ No answer	
□ Unaccompanied boys	□ Unaccompanied girls	
□ Women head of household	□ Girls head of household	□ Boys head of household
□ Men living alone	□ Women living alone	□ Divorced women
□ Persons with disabilities	□ Widows	□ Old persons
If yes: □ Women □ Men □ Girls □ Boys		If yes: □ Women □ Men
Other (specify)		

Focus Group Discussion Tool

Protection: Focus Group Discussion Tool for Communities

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this protocol is to guide focus group discussions (FGD) with adolescents and adults in Syria representing both displaced and host communities on protection issues (including gender-based violence (GBV), mine action, child protection, and general protection issues), around safety, security and access to services. Definitions for these terms can be found in the attached glossary.

→ FGDs conducted with adolescents (12-17 years) require a specific set of skills and questions. **Only organizations and facilitators with experience working with this age group should conduct FGDs with adolescents.** Throughout this tool specific guidance for conducting FGDs with adolescent (12-17 years) is denoted with the symbol → .

FGD PREPARATION

Participants:

- Should constitute a reflection of the different groups in the respective community, e.g. different types of people/ professions/ background within the community/ people living with disabilities/ elderly people/ etc. At the same time, the group should be as homogenous as possible with regards to social status of participants, given that this has proved more successful in past FGDs.
    → Consider issues of inclusion such as adolescents with disabilities and out-to-school adolescents
- The focus groups should ideally be between 6 to 10 people maximum and last between 45 and 90 minutes.
- The focus groups must be separated between male and female and age (separated FGDs for girls, boys, women and men). If these requirements are not met, the FGD will have to be interpreted separately/differently and weight of findings adjusted accordingly.

Criteria for Selecting the Facilitator:

- While noting the capacity constraints, the facilitator must be experienced in community contacts, awareness and mobilization and should be trained on protections, which includes child protection and/or GBV issues, and understand the guiding principles of respect, confidentiality, non-discrimination and safety. Considering the type of issues addressed, she/ he should be a person from an agency/ actor with a consolidated presence in the community, with established links, that may inspire confidence.
- The FGD should in principle be conducted in safe and confidential environments to provide the necessary privacy and facilitate the sharing of information on all the topics, including the most sensitive. Community Centers, Child Friendly Spaces, Women and Girls Safe Spaces can provide such an environment.
- The facilitator should be trained (or have an understanding) on how to respond to any disclosures during or after the discussion group. The facilitator should know where to refer, if possible.
- The facilitator should be of the same sex of the FGD participants in order to make them feel as comfortable as possible.
- The facilitator needs to be aware that the FGD is: not a group counseling session, not an awareness session, not a PSS support session, and should communicate this to participants.

Notes on Facilitation:

- Facilitators should strictly follow the FGD guidelines, be familiar with the tool before conducting the interviews and receive appropriate training. They must not provide their opinion, influence the conversation or argue a point with participants, even if they feel that the participant is wrong.
- While guiding the discussion, facilitators should first of all be good listeners. They should ensure that all participants are heard, without pressurizing those who prefer not to talk. Facilitators should also ensure that the opinions and views of all participants are respected.
- The facilitator should try to always get a sense of who the participants are talking about (if it is women, men, girls or boys).
- The facilitator should also be careful to pay attention to any non-verbal communication, including tone of voice, facial expression (use encouraging nods and smiles) and eye contact.
- It is preferable to arrange participants in a circle for a friendly and interactive setting. Discussion will take place in a safe, comfortable and confidential location.
- The facilitator should try to ensure a relaxing and comfortable environment; controlling his/her voice, body language and choosing the culturally appropriate language.
- All facilitators should be familiar with their organization's procedures if a participant (adolescent or adult) is identified with specific protection needs. Facilitators should know what services are available and how to make a referral, if it is not immediately possible to link a participant the needed services they may be referred to relevant agency who can facilitate this access.
- It is important that the facilitator plans ahead what questions need to bed asked and ensures that all questions are safe, necessary, and appropriate to each gender and age group.

Notes on Note-Taking:

- The facilitator should be accompanied by a person – of the same sex of the group - who takes notes during the discussion and also supports the facilitator in compiling the FGD report.
- It will be of importance to write up detailed notes of the discussions, not summaries or interpretations.
- When possible and not causing harm – recording the discussion should be considered, with the consent of participants, as this usually leads to more accurate note-taking.
- Notes should not contain any names of participants. Confidentiality has to be ensured.

➔ **Key Tips for Communicating with Adolescents**
- Stop an activity or discussion if an adolescent feels upset.
- Be sensitive to identify when an adolescent might need additional support and attention, and refer this to your adolescent safety focal point, or within your team.
- Be sensitive to the mood and energy of the group. Quick breaks or energizers can be added in between themes, if needed.

➔ **Caregiver/Parental Consent**
- It is important to ask caregivers/parents for agreement for their adolescents to participate in the FGDs. This must take place before the FGDs are conducted.
- Parents/caregivers should clearly understand the purpose of the FGDs, voluntary nature of participation and issues around confidentiality.
- Consent may be verbal and signed depending on your context.

FGD IMPLEMENTATION

Introduction for Adult FGDs (above 18 years):
- **Welcome participants:** *Good morning/afternoon. Thank you for taking the time to join us for this discussion today.*

- **Introduce yourself and your role:** *My name is _____, and I'm here on behalf of _____ (organization), working on _____ (field).*
We would like to ask you some questions about protection issues that may affect your community so that we can better understand your needs and concerns. The information resulting from this exercise will help inform the protection programs and interventions that are being implemented in your communities.

Explain purpose: *We are conducting a series of discussions to learn from each other about safety and security concerns and/or different types of violence and other protection issues possibly affecting women, girls, men and boys experience in this community. The aim of this discussion is also to assess the accessibility of services and potential difficulties faced by the community in accessing them. Proposal of solutions by participants is encouraged, including what the community could do itself and where support will be needed. This discussion is not a group counseling session, not an awareness session and not a PSS support session, but only serves the purpose of assessing the situation and needs in this community.*

- **Explain confidentiality:** *We are not asking for your specific stories; please do not use any names. We are asking about things that you have heard of or know to be happening. The questions we are going to be asking you today are about the way that you live every day. Participation in the discussion is completely voluntary and you do not have to answer any questions that you do not want to answer. You may leave the discussion at any time or ask for a short break*

We have nothing to offer other than listening; there will be no other direct benefits related to this time we spend together today.

We will not be writing your names down or use them in any way after this discussion. We will treat everything that you say today with respect, and we will only share the answers you give as general answers combined with those from all the people who speak to us.

We ask that you keep everything confidential, too. Please do not tell others what was said today and by whom.

This is my colleague _____. She/he is taking notes to make sure that we do not miss what you have to say. Is this acceptable to you? Yes or No (If a participants replies with "no", he/she should leave the discussion at this point. The facilitator is responsible for following up on this.)

While we hope that the whole group can stay for the entire discussion, participants can also choose not to respond or leave at any time if they are not comfortable with the questions asked.

Do you have any questions before we begin?

➔ **Introduction for Adolescent FGDs (under 18 years)**

- **Welcome participants:** *Good morning/afternoon. Thank you for taking the time to join us for this discussion today.*

- **Introduce yourself and your role:** *My name is _____, and I'm here on behalf of _____ (organization), working on _____ (field).*

Explain purpose:

- ↑ *We are here today to discuss the needs and perspectives of adolescent girls and boys on safety issues in your community so we can better understand your needs and concerns. The information resulting from this exercise will help inform the protection programs and interventions that are being implemented in your communities. We are also conducting similar discussions with women and men in the community. The questions we are going to be asking you today are about the way that you live every day. We have nothing to offer other than listening; there will be no other direct benefits related to this time we spend together today.*

Explain Ground Rules

- ↑ *Your participation is voluntary*
- ↑ *No one is obliged to respond to any questions if she or he does not wish*
- ↑ *You can leave the discussion at any time or ask for a short break*
- ↑ *If sharing examples or personal experiences, please do not use any names (for example, say "someone I know" not "my sister" or "my neighbor's daughter")*
- ↑ *There is no right or wrong answer*
- ↑ *Everyone's opinion is important*
- ↑ *Be respectful when others speak*

Explain Confidentiality and Ask Permission to Record Information

- ↑ *We will treat everything that you say today with respect, and we will only share the answers you give as general answers combined with those from all the people who speak to us.*
- ↑ *We will not be writing your names down or use them in any way after this discussion.*
- ↑ *We ask that you keep everything confidential, too. Please do not tell others what was said today.*
- ↑ *This is my colleague. She/he is taking notes to make sure that we do not miss what you have to say. Is this ok with you OK with you? Yes or No (If a participants replies with "no", he/she should leave the discussion at this point. The facilitator is responsible for following up on this.)*
- ↑ *Check if participants understands the purpose, ground rules and confidentiality. Ask if there are any other questions.*

Safety & Security

Remind participants that for the purposes of this FG children are considered under 18 years

	Desired Information:	Guiding Questions:
1.	The aim of this section is to obtain a better understanding of existing safety concerns of communities in Syria and how these impact different kinds of groups in the community.	**What are the main safety concerns for your community?** Ask specifically about safety concerns for **women, men, girls and boys.** (Probing questions) a. Ask if there are **certain groups** within the community who may have additional safety concerns (e.g. elderly people, disabled people, people that face exclusion and marginalization for certain reasons such as divorcees and widows, IDPs vs. HC), and if yes, where? b. Try to detect if these concerns increased/decreased/**been the same for the last 3 month** and what may be the reason for this change? c. What is the **impact of hostilities on your daily life** (including, but not limited to shelling, armed fighting)? d. What **measures are taken by communities to mitigate** the impact of hostilities on their daily life?

➔ **Adolescents (12-17 years)** Remind participants that for the purposes of this FG children are considered under 18 years

	➔ **What safety problems do women, men, girls and boys face in your community?** *(Prompts: specific events, problems, other risks such as recruitment, working, child marriage, explosive hazards, hostilities).* (Probing questions) ➔ Do you think there are **differences in the safety concerns of girls/boys; age** groups; men/women; IDPs; host communities; children with disabilities; people with disabilities; older persons, certain societal groups such as divorcees and widows, etc? ➔ Are there **specific places that are unsafe** for girls/boys/women/men? ➔ **Have these threats changed the daily routine** of girls and boys? How? *(prompts: going to school, the market, at home)* ➔ What do girls **do to protect themselves** from these safety threats? What do boys do to protect themselves? What does the community do to protect them? Ask about the different threats mentioned by the group.

Explosive Hazards

Remind participants that for the purposes of this FG children are considered under 18 years

	Desired Information:	Guiding Questions:
2.	Identify the scale and scope of explosive hazards in the community and how different groups are impacted.	**Are there explosive hazards within your community? If so, what types and how does the presence of the explosives impact your community?** (Probing questions) a. Ask if they know what **type of explosive hazards** are in the community (for example: landmines, unexploded bombs, cluster munitions, improvised devices) b. **If YES, have they been marked?** c. What type of land or infrastructure **is impacted by explosives?** (e.g. residential buildings, schools, hospitals, roads, public buildings) d. Ask how the presence impacts their daily lives (at home, in the workplace, when they displaced or move otherwise, access to services and other impacts). e. Specifically ask **how explosive hazards impacts different groups** (including men, women, boys and girls). f. Ask **what they do to avoid/reduce exposure** to explosives? g. Ask if any of the community have been killed or injured by explosive hazards. h. Ask if they have **received and support or information** about explosive hazards and if so, from what source. i. Have **clearance activities** been conducted and if so, by whom? j. Does the community feel safer as a result of this support/activities? k. Any suggestion to **improve?**

➔ **Adolescents (12-17 years)** Remind participants that for the purposes of this FG children are considered under 18 years

	➔ If adolescents mentioned explosive hazards in the previous questions, ask them if they know what type of explosive hazards? (for example: landmines, unexploded bombs, cluster munitions, improvised devices) (Probing questions) ➔ **Where are the explosive hazards?** (e.g. Residential, schools, hospitals, roads, public buildings) **Have they been marked?** ➔ **Have these explosive hazards changed the daily routine of girls and boys?** How? *(prompts: going to school, the market, at home)*

Types of Violence

Remind participants that for the purposes of this FG children are considered under 18 years

3.	**Desired Information:** This section aims at obtaining a better understanding of the different types of violence that exist at community-level, how different groups of people are affected as well as contributing factors to violence.	↗ Has anyone in the community been **killed or injured?** ↗ Have you ever **received information** about explosive hazards? Where/how? **Guiding Questions:** **Does violence occur in this community? If so, what types of violence? How does this violence affect your community?** a. Ask specifically about different violence that women, men, girls and boys may experience <u>For sexual violence specifically:</u> a. Which groups do you think are the most at risk? b. Why do you think these groups are more at risk? Ask the following follow-up questions per type of identified violence: a. Ask where the violence occurs (prompt home, public spaces), and about areas in the community where people do not feel safe.\ b. Is there any specific factor that can increase the risk of violence? (i.e. overcrowded shelters, lack of lightening, distribution points). Do you observe this is your community? (Probing questions) a. Ask if there are certain groups within the community who are affected more by certain types of violence (e.g. elderly people, disabled people, people that face exclusion and marginalization for certain reasons such as divorcees and widows, IDPs vs. HC). b. Are there types of violence affecting <u>the community as a whole</u> (e.g. inter-communal disputes)? If so, what are they and what are the main reasons. c. Are there community-based settlement mechanisms to resolve those?
↗	**Adolescents (12-17 years)**	
	Remind participants that for the purposes of this FG children are considered under 18 years	

		↗ **Does violence occur in this community? What type of violence do women, men, girls and boys face in your community?**
		↗ **For sexual violence specifically:**
		   o Which groups do you think are the most at risk?
		   o Why do you think these groups are more at risk?
		(Probing questions)
		↗ Do you think there are **differences in the types of violence** faced by girls/boys; age groups; men/women; IDPs; host communities; children with disabilities; people with disabilities; older persons, certain societal groups such as divorcees and widows, etc? What?
		↗ Are there **specific places** that violence happens for girls/boys/women/men in this community? (prompt home, public spaces, school);
		↗ Are there things that increase the risk of violence for girls and boys in this community? (prompts: overcrowded shelters, lack of lightening, distribution points)
		↗ Has **violence changed the daily routine** of girls and boys? How?

Community Coping Strategies related to Violence

Remind participants that for the purposes of this FG children are considered under 18 years

4.	**Desired Information:** The aim of this question is to gain a better understanding of the coping and prevention strategies when faced with different kinds of violence on community-level.	**Guiding Questions:** <u>Referring to types of violence mentioned under question 3</u> a. What do men, women, girls, boys do when different types of violence happen? b. How do they protect themselves? c. What about in cases of sexual violence? d. Please also discuss this for **particularly vulnerable groups** that were mentioned above in question 3 (e.g. people with disabilities, certain social groups such as divorcees and widows, etc.) (Probing question) a. Has the way to cope with these situations changed over time as a result of the crisis?
↗	**Adolescents (12-17 years)**	
	Remind participants that for the purposes of this FG children are considered under 18 years	

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	↱ **When girls and boys (under 18) in your community face problems, what do they do? Where do they go? (ask specifically about the types of violence the participants have mentioned)** ↱ **What about in cases of sexual violence?** (Probing questions) ↱ What do girls **do to protect themselves** from violence? What do boys do to protect themselves? What does the community do to protect them? Ask about the different types of violence mentioned by the group. ↱ What about women? ↱ What about men?

Available Structures and Services for Survivors of Violence

Remind participants that for the purposes of this FG children are considered under 18 years

5.	**Desired Information:** The aim of this section is to gain a better understanding of existing infrastructure and capacity to support survivors of violence, and if existing structures are being used appropriately.	**Guiding Questions:** **What specialized services or structures exist to support survivors of violence (ask specifically for men, women, boys, girls)?** Ex. Health facilities, primary health care facilities, psychosocial support, women and girls centers etc. (Probing questions) a. Are they used? Yes, No, why? (probe barriers) b. Are there local judicial/redress mechanisms? c. Are they used? Yes, No, why? (probe barriers)
↱	**Adolescents (12-17 years)**	

Remind participants that for the purposes of this FG children are considered under 18 years

		↱ **What would a girl (under 18) do after she has experienced violence?** ↱ **What would a boy (under 18) do after he has experienced violence?** (Probing questions) ↱ How might a girl seek help? (e.g. medical, legal, psychosocial and/or to prevent further violence). Are any of these services available in your community for girls? Are they used? Why/why not? (probe barriers) ↱ How might a boy seek help? (e.g. medical, legal, psychosocial and/or to prevent further violence). Are any of these services available in your community for boys? Are they used? Why/why not? (probe barriers) ↱ What about women? ↱ What about men?

Access to Humanitarian Assistance (Access to Protection Services and Distributions)

Remind participants that for the purposes of this FG children are considered under 18 years

6.	**Desired Information:** The aim of this section is to gather information on: - How distributions are channeled and to whom - effects of distributions on different groups, especially women and girls, but also the elderly persons and persons with disabilities;	**Guiding Questions:** 1. **Access to protection services** community (ex. Community Centers, Child Friendly Spaces, Women and Girls Safe Spaces, Psychosocial support, civil documentation, legal assistance, etc.). **What services are present in the community?** (Probing questions) a. Are services generally easy to access? If not, explain. b. Do some groups in the community struggle in accessing these services? If so, which ones (persons with disabilities, older persons, certain groups in the society such as divorcees and widows, etc.) c. What services are not present and would be needed in the community? d. How do you assess the quality of the services available? e. Are there any safety concerns relating to access to services (by type of service)? If yes, explain. f. Are they any concerns related to discriminatory access to services? If yes, explain (e.g. for certain people or groups etc.)?

- how distributions affect safety, particularly of female beneficiaries;
- Assess access to protection services and potential barriers.

g. Is civil documentation required to access services? If YES, what happens to community members that do not gave civil documentation?

2. **Distributions**
Does your community receive any distributions? (WASH, health, food, NFIs). **Are there any safety concerns relating to distributions? If yes, explain.**
Who is the main recipient of distributions (e.g. community leaders or families directly)?
(For women and girls only) If the main recipient is male, do you benefit from the distribution? If not, why?
What barriers do they face?
(Probing questions)
a. Do **children** face specific barriers to access distributions? If so, why?
b. Do **persons with disabilities** face specific barriers to access distributions? If so, why?
c. Do **older persons** face specific barriers to access distributions? If so, why?
d. **Did you experience equal treatment during distributions? If not, why?**
e. Was the assistance given for **free?** If not, what was asked for in exchange (e.g. money, sexual favors, etc.), and by whom?
f. Are they any concerns related to **discriminatory** access to distributions? If yes, explain (e.g. for certain people or groups such as divorcees and widows etc.)?
g. Is civil documentation required to access distributions? If YES, what happens to community members that do not have civil documentation?

Adolescents (12-17 years)

Remind participants that for the purposes of this FG children are considered under 18 years

Access to protection services community (ex. Community Centers, Child Friendly Spaces, Women and Girls Safe Spaces, Psychosocial support, civil documentation, legal assistance, etc.).

➔ **What services are present in your community? What do they offer girls and boys (under 18)?**
(Probing questions)
➔ Are there any places girls and boys (under 18) can go to get support and help? What services do they provide?
➔ Can boys and girls (under 18) both access these places?
➔ Are there children that cannot access these places? Ask about differences for girls/boys; age groups; disability; married girls and boys <18; working children; other groups... Why?
➔ What services are not present but are needed in your community?
➔ What about services for women?
➔ What about services for men?

Distributions
Does your **community receive any distributions** (e.g. WASH, health, food, NFIs)?
Who is the main recipient of distributions in your household? In your community?
Do girls and boys face specific barriers to access distributions? If so, why? Are there different barriers for girls and boys? If so, what are they?

(Probing questions)
➔ Do other people face specific barriers to access distributions? If so, who? (e.g. People with disability, elderly, women) Why?
➔ Do all people receive the same treatment during distributions? If not, who does not? Who treats them differently?
➔ Are there **safety** concerns for boys and girls at distributions? What? Do other people face safety concerns? What?
➔ What about distribution services for women?
➔ What about distribution services for men?

Freedom of Movement

Remind participants that for the purposes of this FG children are considered under 18 years

7. **Desired Information:**
This section aims at obtaining an impression of how much people are restricted in terms of movement in the community and provide explanations for those restrictions and the

Guiding Questions:
Are people able to move freely within the community? What about across communities and to neighboring villages or towns? What about specifically about freedom of movement for women, men, girls and boys
a. **Ask specifically about freedom of movement for women, men, girls and boys**
(Probing questions)
b. What are the **main reasons** for lack/ limitation of freedom of movement for women, men, girls and boys?
c. **What groups are particularly** at risk of movement restrictions and why?
d. What are the **main consequences** in their daily lives for the lack of freedom of movement for women, men, girls and boys?

		consequences in the daily lives in case freedom of movement is restricted.
↑		Adolescents (12-14 years; 15-17 years)
		Remind participants that for the purposes of this FG children are considered under 18 years
		We are now going to talk about movement within/across communities
		↑ Are people able to move freely within the community? To other communities or neighboring villages or towns? If no, **why?** ↑ Are there differences between **men, women, boys and girls?** What groups are **particularly at risk** of movement restrictions? Why?

Civil Documentation

Remind participants that for the purposes of this FG children are considered under 18 years

8.	**Desired information:** Assess potential challenges to obtain or renew civil documentation in the community and impact for different groups.	**Do people in general possess civil status documentation in the community? Are there any specific challenges (loss, destruction, not possession at any time, confiscation, and lack of Civil Office registrars)?** (Probing questions) a. If so, which groups are mostly affected (children, women, men) b. Are you aware of where people can obtain civil documents? c. What documents are not possible to obtain or replace in your community? (including type of documents). d. What is the impact of not having official documents for men, boys, women and girls?
↑	**Adolescents (12-7 years)**	**This theme is not prioritized in FGDs with adolescents**

Housing, Land and Property

Remind participants that for the purposes of this FG children are considered under 18 years

9.	**Desired information:** Assess potential challenges regarding housing, land and property issues.	**What are the most common issues/problems/challenges related to land and property in your community?** a. If so, which groups are mostly affected (women, men, others) (Probing questions) a. If there are Housing, Land and Property disputes, how do people normally solve those? b. Do people in general possess house/ land and property documentation in the community? c. Are there any specific challenges (e.g. loss, destruction, always lacking, confiscation, lack of public institutions where to obtain them)? d. Are you aware of where and how you can obtain house/ land/ property documents? Are there any challenges in accessing these services?
↑	**Adolescents (12-17 years)**	**This theme is not prioritized in FGDs with adolescents**

Child Labor (including Child Recruitment)

Remind participants that for the purposes of this FG children are considered under 18 years

10.	**Desired Information:** The aim of this section is to gather information on:	**Guiding Questions:** **We are now going to talk about children working in your community.** **What are the most common types of work children are engaged in your community?** **Are there differences between girls and boys? Different age groups?** (Probing questions) a. What do you think are the most dangerous types of work children are going on your community? Which is the most dangerous for girls? Most dangerous for boys? b. Is children's participation in the hostilities an issue in your community? If so, who is mostly affected? Girls? Boys? Age groups? c. If yes, what type of activities are children usually involved in? (e.g. manning checkpoints, fighting, carrying weapons, cooking, spying etc)

Existing patterns of the worst forms of child labor for girls and boys.

Capacities and mechanisms in the community to respond to child labor.

d. What motivates children to join the hostilities?
e. What are the consequences of children bring engaged in (dangerous) work (in the conflict or otherwise), e.g. access to school, exposure to hazards
f. What can be done to prevent and support these children?

➔ **Adolescents (12-17 years)**

Remind participants that for the purposes of this FG children are considered under 18 years

We are now going to talk about children working in your community

➔ **Do girls (under 18 years) work in this community? What type of work do they do? Are there differences in the work performed by girls of different age groups?**

(Probing questions)

a. Do boys (under 18 years) work in this community? What type of work do they do? Are there differences in the work performed by boys of different age groups?
b. What do you think is the most dangerous types of work children are doing in your community? Are there differences between what boys do and girls do?
c. Are children participating in the hostilities? What type of activities are they usually involved in? Are there differences for girls and boys? Different age groups?
d. Why do children to participate in the hostilities? Are there differences between girls and boys?
e. What's the consequence of children working?
f. Are there any places girls and boys (under 18) who working can go to get support and help? What services do they provide?

Unaccompanied and Separated Children

Remind participants that for the purposes of this FG children are considered under 18 years

11.	Desired Information:	**Guiding Questions:**
	The aim of this section is to gather information on:	**We are now going to talk about children who are not living with their parents or usual caregivers. Explain to participants that in this section we thinking about children that are not living with either their mother or father.**
	Patterns of separation from their parents or usual caregivers.	**Are you aware of any children who are not living with their usual caregivers in your community? Are there differences between girls and boys? Different age groups?**
		(Probing questions)
	Types of care arrangements for separated and unaccompanied children.	a. What are the most common reasons these children are not living with their usual caregivers? Are the reasons different for girls? Boys?
		b. How are these children cared for in your community? Where do they live? What type of services are available for them?
	Mechanisms in the community to respond to family separation, including reuniting children with their caregivers	c. What are the risks for children that are not living with their usual caregivers?
		d. What can be done to prevent and respond to children being separated from their usual caregivers?

➔ **Adolescents (12-17 years)**

Remind participants that for the purposes of this FG children are considered under 18 years

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	In this question we are going to ask about children who are not living with their parents or usual caregivers. Explain to participants that in this section we are thinking about children that are not living with either their mother or father.
	➔ **Do you know any children (under 18) who are not living with their parents or usual caregivers?**
	(Probing questions)
	➔ Who are they living with? (*if they mention their mother or father, explain to participants that in this section we are thinking about children that are not living with either their mother or father*)
	➔ Do you know why children are separated from their parents or usual caregivers?
	➔ Are there any places girls and boys (under 18) who are not living with their parents or usual caregivers can go to get support and help? What services do they provide?
Change (Adolescents Only)	
12.	
➔	**Adolescents ONLY (12-17 years)**
	These are our final questions for today:
	➔ If you could change one thing for boys and girls (under 18) in this community, what would it be? How could it be changed?

Closing the Group

- Thank the participants for their time and their contributions.
- Remind the participants that the purpose of the activity is to understand concerns and needs of girls and boys in this community
- Again, explain to the participants that you may be conducting this activity with other groups in the community..
- Remind participants to their agreement to confidentiality. Remind participants not to share information with others in the community.
- Ask participants if they have questions.
- If anyone wishes to speak in private, respond that you (facilitator and note-taker) will be available after the meeting.

ANNEX 3: ENDNOTES

1. United Nations Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Children and Armed Conflict, Field Manual: Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism on Grave Violations against Children in Situations of Armed Conflict, 2014, see: https://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/MRM_Field_5_June_2014.pdf

2. UNHCR, Guidelines on Determining the Best Interests of the Child, 2008

3. Global Child Protection Working Group, Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action, 2012

4. ILO Convention 182, see http://www.ilo.org/ipec/facts/lang--en/index.htm

5. UNICEF, Child Marriage, 2016, see https://www.unicef.org/protection/57929_58008.html

6. United Nations, Paris Principles: Principles and Guidelines on Children Associated with Armed Forces or Armed Groups, February 2007, see: https://www.unicef.org/emerg/files/ParisPrinciples310107English.pdf

7. United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Article 1

8. Interagency Working Group on Unaccompanied and Separated Children, Alternative Care in Emergencies Toolkit, 2013

9. OCHA, Humanitarian Needs Overview, 2018

10. Interagency Working Group on Unaccompanied and Separated Children, Field Handbook on Unaccompanied and Separated Children, 2017

11. Personal Status Law describe different types of guardianship, legal guardianship and custody and repeatedly state that the child who lose a parent is an orphan.

12. Definition derived from various academic Child Protection sources as there is no common definition for psychosocial distress within CP humanitarian literature.

13. Interagency Working Group on Unaccompanied and Separated Children, Alternative Care in Emergencies Toolkit, 2013

14. Global Child Protection Working Group, Child Protection Rapid Assessment Toolkit, 2013

15. Global Child Protection Working Group, Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action, 2012

16. Ibid.

17. United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 19

18. United Nations Secretary-General, Children and Armed Conflict: Report of the Secretary General, September 2017 (A/72/361–S/2017/821)

19. Calculations based on Population Estimates for the 2018 Humanitarian Needs Overview (% of population is under 18 years)

20. Calculation based on children 0-7 years

21. Gobal, K., Kostial, K. IMF Working Paper: Syria's Conflict Economy, 2016 See: www.imf.org/en/Publications/WP/Issues/2016/12/31/Syrias-Conflict-Economy-44033

22. Calculations based on Population Estimates for the 2018 Humanitarian Needs Overview (% of population is under 18 years)

23. WHO in UNICEF, A Familiar Face: Violence in the Lives of Children and Adolescents, 2017

24. Data is not available for 0-9 year olds

25. Syria Protection Sector, Protection Needs Overview, October 2017. Sub-districts that have experienced conflict incidents in the past two years.

26. UNICEF, Assistance to Victims of Landmines and Explosive Remnants of War: Guidance on Child-focused Victim Assistance, 2016

27. OCHA, Humanitarian Response Plan Monitoring Report for Syria, Jan – Jun 201, 2017. Readers are advised that MRM data is not indicative of the overall scale or scope of violations, but rather of the violations it was possible to capture and verify. While the MRM4Syria data provides an overview of trends of grave violations impacting children in Syria, the actual numbers are likely to be higher and will be revised as information becomes available and incidents are verified.

28. Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Children and Armed Conflict, Small Arms, childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/effects-of-conflict/small-arms-landmines-and-unexploded-ordinance/

29. Global Child Protection Working Group, Minimum Standards for Humanitarian Action (Standard 7), 2012

30. A national study (see footnote 31) in 2012 found 17.8% of children aged 10-17 years were working, of which 27.5% were girls. Child labour began at an early age (between 9 and 10 years) and was more apparent amongst boys and more prevalent with age. Girls' employment was concentrated in the younger age categories and decreased as they grew older.

31. ILO Regional Office for Arab States and UNICEF, National Study on Worst Forms of Child Labour in Syria, 2012

32. Key Informants/respondents were asked to consider the occurrence of child labour among different groups of children: boys and girls aged below 12; 12-14; and 15-17 years.

33. HNO data collection exercises were designed to capture information on whether children's working patterns are interfering with their schooling, as per definition of Child Labour. The age categories were designed to reflect the labour law in Syria which prohibits employment for children under 15 years.

34. UNICEF Syria, Child Labour Assessment in Rural Damascus and Homs, 2017, forthcoming

35. ILO Convention 182 in Global Child Protection Working Group, Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Settings (Standard12), 2012

36. Analysis based on FGD data

37. Gobal, K., Kostial, K. IMF Working Paper: Syria's Conflict Economy, 2016 See: www.imf.org/en/Publications/WP/Issues/2016/12/31/Syrias-Conflict-Economy-44033

38. Calculation based on estimation that % of total population is below 18 years

39. HNO data collection 2018, Focus Group Discussions

40. Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO), 2017

41. Report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic, September 2017

42. Based on 2016 data. United Nations Secretary-General, Children and Armed Conflict: Report of the Secretary General, September 2017 (A/72/361–S/2017/821)

43. Ibid.

44. Ibid.

45. United Nations Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights, Report of Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic, September 2017

46. United Nations Secretary-General, Children and Armed Conflict: Report of the Secretary General, September 2017 (A/72/361–S/2017/821)

47. OCHA Humanitarian Response Plan Monitoring Report, January-June 2017

48. United Nations Secretary-General, Children and Armed Conflict: Report of the Secretary General, September 2017 (A/72/361–S/2017/821)

49. Ibid.

50. MRM4Syria

51. 'Why Young Syrians Choose to Fight' International Alert, 2016

52. Ibid.

53. Quilliam International, Children of the Islamic State, 2016, see: https://www.quilliaminternational.com

54. UNICEF, Child Recruitment by Armed Forces and Armed Groups, 2011, see: https://www.unicef.org/protection/57929_58007.html

55. Readers are advised that MRM data is not indicative of the overall scale or scope of violations, but rather of the violations it was possible to capture and verify. While the MRM4Syria data provides an overview of trends of grave violations impacting children in Syria, the numbers are likely to be higher and will be revised as information becomes available and incidents are verified.

56. United Nations Secretary-General, Children and Armed Conflict: Report of the Secretary General, September 2017 (A/72/361–S/2017/821)

57. OCHA, Humanitarian Response Plan Monitoring Reporting January-June, 2017

58. The reader is advised that the terms kidnapping and abduction were both used for the 2018 HNO data collection exercises. For purposes of consistency the term abduction used in this report is in line with the definition outlined under terminology.

59. United Nations Secretary-General, Children and Armed Conflict: Report of the Secretary General, September 2017 (A/72/361–S/2017/821)

60. United Nations Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights, Report of Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic, September 2017

61. Inquiries were made to better understand this issue through the sector, but sector members had no additional information. In refugee countries several major media outlets have reported the growth in organ trading among adult refugees, see: http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-39272511 and https://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-trafficking/organ-trafficking-booming-in-lebanon-as-desperate-syrians-sell-kidneys-eyes-bbc-idUSKBN17S1V8

62. United Nations Security Council, Report of the Secretary-General on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence, April 2017 (S/2017/249)

63. Whole of Syria GBV AOR, Voices: Assessment Findings of the Humanitarian Needs Overview, 2017

64. 47 per cent of Lattakia's population are IDPs, the second highest in the country after Quneitra at 48 per cent.

65. Girls below 12 (8 per cent) and boys below (5 per cent).

66. IRC and UNHCR, Household Protection Monitoring Report Southern Syria, June 2017

67. Whole of Syria Nutrition Sector, SMART Survey Findings, 2017. Sample: 663 children aged 0 -59 months from 449 Households

68. Key Informants were able to give more than one response to this questions. Figures represent the percentage of communities in which respondents indicated the issue was occurring.

69. United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, 58th Session, Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 44 of the Convention, Concluding Observations: Syrian Arab Republic, 2011

70. Article 139 of the Personal Status Law states: 'in the following order: mother, maternal grandmother, paternal grandmother, full sister, maternal half-sister, paternal half-sister, daughter of a full sister, daughter of a maternal half-sister, daughter of a paternal half- sister, maternal aunt, paternal aunt.

71. Norwegian Refugee Council, Displacement, HLP and access to civil documentation in the north-west of the Syrian Arab Republic, July 2017.

72. The Syrian Personal Status Law allows 'kafala' for abandoned children and other children in need of permanent alternative care, whereby families provide care and protection for children as though they are their own, but unlike in adoption these children are not entitled to take on the family's name or to claim inheritance. UNICEF, Assessment of the Alternative Care System in the Syrian Arab Republic, 2011

73. HNO data collection exercises aimed to collect data on Domestic Violence, however this was interpreted by many participants of the assessment to mean family violence.

74. UNICEF, A Familiar Face: Violence in the Lives of Children and Adolescents, 2017

75. IASC, Guidelines for Integrating Gender Based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Action, 2015

76. Save the Children, Invisible Wound: The Impact of Six Years on Conflict on Children's Mental Health, 2017

77. Human Rights Watch defines honour killings as acts of vengeance, usually death, committed by male family members against female family members, who are held to have brought dishonour upon the family. The distinctive nature of honour killings is the collective nature of the crime as often members of an extended family plan the act together; the high value placed on a girl's honour linked to the importance of the reputation of the family in the community and often impunity for perpetrators as their behaviour is seen as justified as not to face social exclusion.

78. Report of the Secretary-General on Conflict-related Sexual Violence (S/2017/249), April 2017

79. Caring for Child Survivors of Sexual Abuse, IRC-UNICEF, 2012

80. Data is not available for inside Syria. A rise in child marriages has been seen among the most vulnerable Syrian refugee populations in the neighbouring countries Lebanon and Jordan, Poverty, displacement and instability are driving factors for underage marriages, affecting adolescent girls the most.

81. The minimum age for marriage outlined in the Personal Status Law for boys are 18 years, while for girls 17 years. The Law authorises earlier marriages by allowing judges to lower the age of marriage for boys to 15 years and girls to 13 years if they are considered willing parties to the marriage, "physically mature", and if the father or grandfather consents.

82. Youngest age mentioned in the FGDs

83. Obtaining marriage certificates and birth certificates can be challenging. Children born within unregistered marriages are also not likely to be registered. Unregistered children can be denied the right to an official identity, a recognized name and a nationality.

84. Save the Children, Invisible Wound: The Impact of Six Years on Conflict on Children's Mental Health, 2017

85. UNICEF Jordan study on Early Marriage, 2014

86. UNICEF, Situation Analysis of Children in Syria, 2008

87. Norwegian Refugee Council, Displacement, HLP and access to civil documentation in the north west of the Syrian Arab Republic and Displacement, HLP and access to civil documentation in the south of the Syrian Arab Republic, 2017

88. Key informant interview with UNICEF

89. UN High Commissioner for Refugees, In Search of Solutions: Addressing Statelessness in the Middle East and North Africa, September 2016, available at: http://www.refworld.org/docid/57dbdaba4.html

90. Theirworld, 'Safe Spaces: The Urgent Need for Early Childhood Development in Emergencies and Disasters', 2016

91. Harvard University Centre of the Developing Child, Key Concepts: Toxic Stress, 2017, https://developingchild.harvard.edu/science/key-concepts/toxic-stress/

92. UNICEF, Early Moments Matter, 2017

93. This section considers both children with conflict-related disabilities and those with non-conflict related disabilities to reflect the design of the 2018 HNO data collection exercises.

94. UNICEF, Children living with disabilities in humanitarian crises, 2017, https://www.unicef.org/disabilities/index_65318.html

95. Ibid.

96. Human Rights Watch, Leave No One Behind, Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Emergencies, 2016

97. Women's Refugee Commission, Refugees with Disabilities Fact Sheet, 2014, see: https://www.womensrefuge ecommission.org/disabilities/disabilities-fact-sheet

98. OCHA, Humanitarian Needs Overview 2018

99. Handicap International, Syria, a mutilated future, 2016

100. Ibid.

101. Calculation based on estimation of total population is below 18 years

102. Percentages represent respondent's perception that these issues are affecting children rather than the actual percentage of children affected.

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