

Remote Capacity Strengthening in Syria for Better Child Protection (RISE)



Goal:

To support the growth of a sustainable and active civil society in Syria capable of supporting humanitarian needs in the short term, and eventually to recovery and reconstruction efforts.

Specific project objectives:

1. Strengthen programmatic, management and operational skills of Syrian organizations, through a holistic capacity strengthening approach tailored to address the specific needs of partners
2. Support local organizations with access to funding as part of the capacity strengthening approach and for Syrian organizations to be able to respond to protection needs of crisis-affected children
3. Enhance Child Protection technical capacities of Syrian organizations through the development and roll out of child protection capacity strengthening resources contextualized for Syria

The challenge:

Working with local partners inside Syria not only ensures vulnerable people, and in particular children, have their basic needs met, the local knowledge and community acceptance that Syrian organizations bring to the partnership strengthens implementation of better quality, nuanced and needs-based responses. However, given that many of these organizations did not exist prior to the conflict, they lack humanitarian response experience, face organizational capacity constraints, and lack access to funding to effectively respond. This project was designed to mitigate challenges local partners face accessing support to improve their humanitarian response capacities. These challenges include increased travel restrictions for Syrian partner staff to travel to neighbouring countries for face to face training, limited internet access inside Syria hindering access to resources, and limited opportunities for partner field staff – staff responsible for implementation – to access capacity strengthening support.

Ensuring partners have the ability to implement effective quality programming that meets international standards is a priority for Save the Children, not only to maximize impact and reach, but to support the growth of a sustainable and active civil society in Syria.

Our approach:

- **Partner centric:** Our methodology promotes a partner centric approach whereby we facilitate organizational capacity assessments and jointly with our partners, design capacity strengthening plans tailored to address the specific aspirations of each partner organization.

- **Funding:** Our approach includes access to funding to partner organizations as part of the capacity strengthening journey. Funding supports partners to access capacity strengthening support beyond that offered by Save the Children, and access to grants gives partners the opportunity to gain practical experience through implementation.
- **Innovation:** We use a range of capacity strengthening interventions, fit for context across Syria. This includes piloting and building on remote capacity strengthening approaches to mitigate challenges around increasingly limited F2F training opportunities with staff from Syrian organizations.
- **Contextualized:** This project has a concerted focus on building child protection technical capacities of Syrian organizations working in this realm. In addition to building technical capacities, we will actively engage partners in adapting inter-agency tools like the Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action (CPMS), and the Child Protection in Emergencies (CPIE) Competency Framework, fit to the Syrian context.
- **Sustainability:** Our approach includes organizational capacity development support to those partners who are interested in more longer-term institutional strengthening of their organization. This goes beyond providing technical support to partners to implement projects, by focusing on what is needed to develop sustainable and active local actors in Syria.

Capacity strengthening modalities:

- Face to face trainings
- E-learning platforms
- Live and recorded webinars
- Help desk (remote technical assistance to frontline staff)
- Training videos
- Individual organizational capacity strengthening workshops
- Staff secondment
- Learning grants
- Person to person training and knowledge transfer
 - Peer to peer trainings by Syrian partner staff, inside Syria
 - Trainings by a third party service provider inside Syria
 - Peer to peer support through a Syrian NGO network

Duration: December 15, 2015 – December 14, 2018

Reach: Number of partners participating in capacity strengthening: 17
Number of children benefiting from child protection activities: 41,000

Our definitions

Child protection in emergencies

The prevention of and response to abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence against children in emergencies. An emergency is defined as threatening condition that requires urgent action. Emergencies often have devastating effects on children's lives. They result in girls and boys being killed or injured, becoming orphaned, separated from their families, being recruited into armed forces or groups, being sexually abused, becoming children with disabilities, being trafficked or, worse, experiencing several of these at the same time (CPMS).

Partnership

Save the Children defines Partnership as a long-term relationship between two or more organisations/institutions with a mutually agreed set of principles and accountabilities, working towards defined objectives that facilitate lasting change for children. As a member of the international NGO community, we support the development of a strong independent civil society working to promote the best interests of children.

Capacity Strengthening

The process through which organizations, people and societies obtain, strengthen and maintain the capabilities to set and achieve their own development objectives over time.



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