

SYRIA: TIMELINE OF 10 YEARS OF CONFLICT

2011



Children face uncertainty and danger in their lives.

Protests become the catalyst for a decade of conflict in Syria. As violence erupts, families begin to gradually flee the country in a bid to find safety. Children's lives are turned upside down, whether they remain in Syria or cross its borders.

Save the Children is in neighbouring countries providing life-saving services to vulnerable children and their families. In one border country, Save the Children helps 700 Syrian refugee children with counselling while also supporting them to continue their education, a crucial part of protecting their well-being.

2013



Food shortages lead to malnourished children and desperate parents.

400 children are gassed, as chemical weapons are introduced and will continue to be used on civilians. As war intensifies, food becomes scarce. Parents are running out of options to feed and protect their children.

Shadia told us:

"We finally left when it was no longer just shells and shooting, but when the food ran out and there was hunger everywhere. Hunger and shells, no one can survive."

Her 11-month-old daughter Maya was severely malnourished when they fled Syria to Lebanon.

Save the Children continues to respond to the vast numbers of children, like Maya, affected by the conflict. Our nutrition programmes identify and treat malnourished children with therapeutic food before it is too late to save them. In 2013 we reach 1.2 million children in Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt.

2011

2012

2013

2012



Children are victims violent attacks.

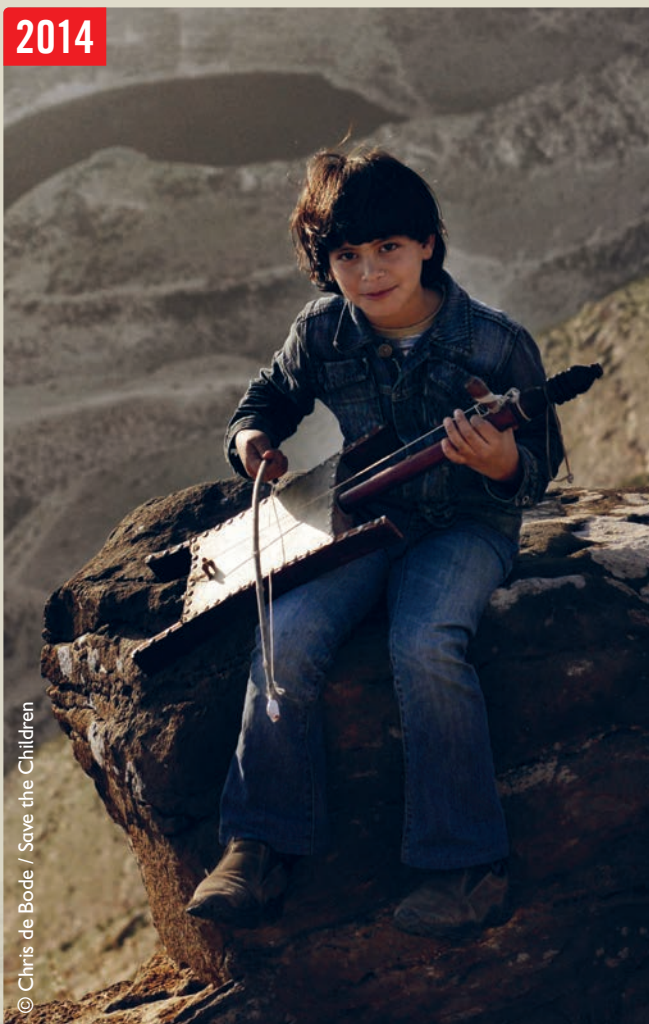
Fighting develops into a conflict that engulfs the entire country, with devastating results for children. In one massacre, 40 children are killed.

14-year-old Hassan recounts,

"They walk the children in front of them to create a shield so they themselves will not be shot. They create a human shield of children."

Our teams focus on reaching as many children in the region as possible. We start working inside Syria so as to reach more children. By the end of 2012 we had provided 83,000 children with vital services to keep them alive and healthy — food, a safe place to live, education and life-saving health services.

2014



© Chris de Bode / Save the Children

Brutal violence in Syria continues, forcing families to leave.

The conflict becomes more complex, with ISIS forming in Syria. Airstrikes against ISIS destroy communities, leaving 150,000 women and children with nowhere safe to go. The numbers of displaced, both within Syria and outside its border, continue to rise every day.

For 9-year-old Ali, war has changed how he feels about the future.

"I relive our escape every day. Sometimes I sit on a rock here and I look at the valley. I am so close to home, but so far away at the same time. It is unreachable, just like a new chance at happiness."

Save the Children increases the scale of its operations inside Syria by 80% to benefit 520,000 children and their family members caught up in the conflict.

2017



© Save the Children

Prolonged war has a devastating effect on children's mental health.

The Syrian refugee crisis is now the largest since the Second World War. Within Syria there is no let up. Idlib again witnesses an escalation in conflict. The impact on children and their mental health is severe. Two-thirds of children in Syria are said to have lost a loved one, had their house damaged, or suffered conflict-related injuries. Children who have endured these experiences and have been exposed to significant violence are susceptible to profound mental distress.

Schoolteacher Hisham, explains the impact of the conflict on his children including son Ibrahim, 7:

"When the war first started, the children thought it was some kind of game. But then they started losing people they knew. This has had a huge impact on them. They reached a point at which whatever they hear terrifies them or makes them want to run away."

Save the Children conducts a comprehensive study with more than 450 children and adults in Syria to better understand how the conflict has affected children's mental health and wellbeing. 84% of adults and almost all children said that ongoing bombing and shelling is the number one cause of psychological stress in children's daily lives. 50% of children who are still able to attend school say that they never or rarely feel safe there.

2014

2015

2016

2017

2015



© Ahmad Baroudi / Save the Children

Children risk their lives to go to school.

Syrian families go to extreme lengths to find a place of safety, somewhere they can protect their children from the horrific impact of war. The world is shocked to hear the story of toddler Alan Kurdi, whose body washed up on a beach in Turkey after attempting to cross the Mediterranean Sea with his father.

Schools are not a safe space for children in Syria. Two missiles strike 7-year-old Khalid's school in the Idlib countryside. One lands on the teacher's room, killing 3 students and injuring 6. The other missile falls just outside the school's gate, injuring 50 children, 15 severely. 5 children die and Khalid loses his hand.

Save the Children teams work tirelessly for more than 1 million refugee children and their families along their route to safety – in arrival, transit and destination countries - to reach desperate families as early as possible with crucial supplies and services. We reach another 340,000 children inside of Syria.

2016



© Nour Wahid / Save the Children

Conflict leaves children orphaned and alone.

90 children are killed in Aleppo, where bombs and chemical weapons are reportedly being used. Tragically, 4.6 million people are living in besieged areas in dire conditions, where it is difficult and highly risky for humanitarian agencies to reach them. Many children have lost one or both parents, and some are left to fend for themselves.

14-year-old Asmaa sees this for herself,

"There were so many children who lost their parents and they were left behind...they have nothing and they don't have anyone to help them."

Determined that a generation of children does not miss out on their education, Save the Children pushes for more education focus with global humanitarian partners. In Syria, we reach more than 865,000 children, more than 70,000 of them to provide quality learning for them and support to their families.

© Shafak / Save the Children

2018



© Chris de Bode / Save the Children

Continuing education whatever the circumstances.

Eastern Ghouta faces the brunt of the conflict, with airstrikes becoming a daily occurrence. There are now 2.5 million child refugees who have left Syria and sought safety in neighbouring countries such as Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey.

7-year-old Noor fled Syria and ended up in Zaatari camp in Jordan with her mother. She remembers her father,

"I remember that he gave me a purple sweater with purple hearts on it. I still wear it. Somebody came to my mum and told me my father had passed away. She didn't believe it at the beginning, so she went to check. Now he is in heaven."

Noor's mother then abandoned her, leaving her to be raised by her grandmother.

In 2018, Save the Children reaches more than 50,000 children in education facilities, including formal schools, informal learning centres and tents, to support children of all ages and at all levels to continue their learning.

2020



© Save the Children

A pandemic wreaks further havoc on children's lives.

COVID-19 is preventing children getting an education. It is estimated 50% of children at school in North Syria have now dropped out of school

Salam, 10 and Rami, 13 describe their feelings about Covid-19 as a lesser problem compared to

"what we have seen so far: hunger, cold, migration, sieges, [...] and other things we have suffered in Ghouta. This 'corona' [Coronavirus] is nothing compared to it."

However, they still worry fear its spread *"because here we have no medicine"*.

Determined that children do not miss out on their education, Save the Children rolls out new methods of remote learning, including online lessons, to keep as many children as possible in education during the pandemic.

2018

2019

2020

2021

2019



© Khalil Ashawi / Save the Children

Children continue to feel the brutal effects of war.

Half of Syria's children have grown up knowing nothing but war, and 5 million children are in dire need of humanitarian assistance. 2019 sees more brutality as fighting in Idlib kills more children in just one month than in the whole of 2018.

Jawad, aged 8, remembers playing with his toys,

"My friend would come and bring the planes, he would bring his toys and we would play. But now there isn't anyone to play with. They're dead. They died after we were displaced. They were killed by strikes from the planes."

Save the Children continues to be on the ground, responding to children's needs –providing them with basic essentials, like food baskets and hygiene supplies, reaching around 400,000 children.


2021



© Save the Children

Save the Children continues to work tirelessly for the children of Syria. Save the Children will be there for Syria's children with your support.

All names have been changed to protect identities.

 Save the Children