



“Emergency support for children in Syria”

October-December 2012

Damascus:

Among 560 families reached by JRS in the neighborhoods of Dwelaa and Jaramana, there are 572 children, including 274 (121F, 153 M) in primary school and 168 (85F, 83M) in secondary, the others are under 5 yrs.

Schools in Damascus are overloaded because of the high number of IDPs. An issue is also the transportation costs; the families are afraid of abduction and fighting which may occur on the streets, then busses are organized to pick up the children close to their home and drop them after the school. However, the cost may be too high for some families, and some children do not go to school for that reason. Our records show that 25 children within the families reached by JRS are not going to school for different reasons.

The JRS project in Damascus consists in

1. Support to children who are going to school

To help children for their homework and offer them a children-friendly space in the afternoon.

- The center can accommodate about 50 children. The demand is very high among those (8-14 yrs), who are able to come to the JRS center in Dwelaa. We plan to offer to each one to come once a week in the afternoon, for 3 hours activities (1 hour school-support, 1 hour sport or outdoor activities, and 1 hour handicraft, psychosocial or recreational activities). For a total of 300 children.
- For children not able to come to the center, we organize local activities near their home (max. 10 children per group, 12 groups) and provide for one teacher to help them twice a week for 2 hours. Once a month, those children will come to the center for recreational activities and psychosocial support. For a total of 120 children.
- For children in class 9 and 12, preparing the Syrian exams of Brevet and Baccalaureat (22 F, 18 M), we organized special support twice a week, with 5 teachers in the main subjects. For a total of 40 children.

2. Support to children not attending school

- Within the families reached by JRS in the neighborhood of Dwelaa and Jaramana there are about 25 children not registered in schools. Each morning, 3 hours classes and 1 hour sport/handicraft/recreational/cultural activities will be offered in the Center in Dwelaa.

3. Support for transportation

- Among the 560 families reached by JRS in the neighborhood of Dwelaa and Jaramana, about 200 need a support to cover the transportation costs for the school busses. Coordination is made with other organizations which support school transportation in Jaramana to avoid duplication

Total of children supported in Damascus: 585

Monthly costs (including food distribution to the children): 36,000 usd

Aleppo:

JRS has been in charge of 6 shelter-schools since beginning of August. So far, activities have been organized on a daily base to care for the children, providing them with games, group activities, sport, handicraft, drawing... As the situation is not improving, a program was set up to organize educational and psychosocial activities in a more structured way. It includes:

1. Educational support

The school year was not launched in Aleppo due to the war context. JRS cannot organize full school programs in the temporary shelters, but will offer a learning support, by qualified Syrian teachers

- Primary education: After level tests, the children (350) will be divided into 3 level groups, and will be offered classes in Arabic, maths and English for a total of 6 h / week.
- Syrian exams: the youth (135) who should be in class 9 or 12 will receive classes in the main subjects (math, physics, chemistry, philosophy, Arabic, English, French) – 2 h / subject / week.
- Illiteracy: considering the large number of youth and adults not able to write or read, literacy sessions will be organized for 180 individuals. Six volunteers will be specifically trained before launching the program.

2. Psychological and psychosocial support

- Listening and counseling: children will be offered opportunity to share their worries and those most in needs will be referred to professional help.
- Life skills: sessions will be set up by trained volunteers to develop awareness for societal behavior, health and hygiene care, family / home skills, environment... for different age and gender groups
- Handicraft, games, film, drawing, gardening, cooking... sessions are set up for children and youth.

3. Sport and cultural activities

- Training and tournaments will be organized for football and basket-ball teams, as well as for chess.
- Sessions for arts (drawing, painting, music...) will also be offered

Total of children supported in Aleppo: 650

Monthly costs (including food distribution to the children): 50,000 usd

Homs:

The program of support for children in the Centers of Al Mukhales and Al Waer will continue, and support will be extended to a maronite center in Al-Armen neighborhood, as well as to IDP children in Wadi al-Nasarah to enable them to attend school in Marmarita.

1. Educational support in centers Al-Mukhales and Al-Waer

During the summer, Al Mukhales and Al Waer centers offered activities during 4 hours/day to 400 children each. During the school year, both centers will offer activities only in the afternoon (5 afternoons/week) during 2 hours to 400 children in each center, for a total of 800 children. Personnel will be reduced from 104 persons to 76 persons.

The program include educational support, recreational and psychosocial activities as well as life skills and activities focussing on peace and reconciliation.

Additional costs will come from the heating of the classrooms during the winter (heating oil cost)

2. Educational support in center Al-Armen

The Maronite Center in Al-Armen neighborhood in Homs provides school support in the afternoon to 100 children from the neighborhood (for Math, Physics, Arabic and French classes). Since the schools are overloaded due to the presence of IDP, most children have difficulties to learn. Support is requested to pay the teachers (8 teachers providing 260 hours teaching), to contribute to school transportation costs and to support the family through paying for the school books. 15 displaced families need also support for rent.

3. Education in a new school in Marmarita for displaced children

Considering the shortage of school places in Wadi al-Nasarah regarding the number of IDPs, the Paulist fathers opened a new school in Marmarita. The school provides classes for 450 children (6-18 yrs) including 75% IDPs. JRS would like to support them offering school fees to 30 of them for the school year, support for transportation, as well as the wages for 3 assistants, including a psychologist, who will provide extra-school activities.

4. Educational support in center for handicaped children Al-Mukhales

Since May 15, Al Mukhales center has been developing activities for children having learning disabilities (10 children aged 6 to 14 years (intellectual development) and 4 persons above 15 years (vocational training)) who were previously hosted in a Center in the neighborhood of Bustan Al Diwan.

- The educational activities include
 - Organization and coordination of the educational support
 - Preparation of curriculum
 - Selection of resources and preparation
 - Weekly evaluation to monitor the progress of the child
 - Updating and monitoring each child's file (by the class coordinator)
 - Contact with parents through the children's notebooks (by the class coordinator)
 - Team meeting and work on a weekly basis
 - Accompaniment of the children and families psychologically affected by the war by a psychologist
- Support and followup of children
 - Preparation of tests specific to each child with disabilities and preparation of individualized programs.
 - Choice of activities individualized for each person with disabilities (personal project)

- Support of the child by specialists with the help of the class coordinator.
 - i. Psychomotor: all children with disabilities will be followed up.
 - ii. Psychologist: all children with disabilities will be followed, as well as their parents once a week. Other children experiencing psychological problems will also be followed in each case.
 - iii. A speech language pathologist (SPL): 6 children with special needs will be followed.

The children benefitted from transport from their home to the Center, and are given the lunch meal (5 days a week) on site as well a food support to bring home.

Total of children supported in Homs and surroundings: 1,365.

Monthly costs (including food distribution to the children): 70,000 usd

Lattakia:

JRS has been contacted for support to a local initiative, “the Candle Project”, developed at the kindergarten Babyland, rue Jumuriyeh, near the Technical Institute, and which aims to support displaced children in the city of Latakia, aged between 3 - 5 years, coming from all areas of Syria, mostly Homs and Aleppo, and from the Lattakia mountains. A local network of volunteers set up a project to support the educational and psychological and social aspects, and including free health care, in accordance with the following:

- Transportation to and from kindergarten through school bus.
- Provide for the school uniform.
- Provide a school bag with the necessary stationery (notebooks - pens - crayons ...)
- Provide educational curricula to suit the child's age, abilities and needs.
- Recreational and sportive activities commensurate with the ages of the children.
- Provide full meal a day for the child.
- Providing health care for the child and the follow-up to any disease suffered, and provide appropriate treatment.

The project aims to provide education relevant to the age of the child, as well as to focus on the various activities that raise the morale and psychological state, through a group of volunteers of trained in dealing with children.

Programme is on-going every day, except Friday and Saturday, from 8 am to 2 am

The place consists in a building of four rooms (3 classrooms, 3 bathrooms and a kitchen), area of 240 m², and a playground equipped with games for children.

Support is requested to be able to pursue the activities

Total of children supported in Lattakia: 60

Monthly costs (including food distribution to the children): 6,000 usd

In all locations, JRS approach is holistic, supporting the education and the psychological well-being of the child as well.



This support has necessarily to be supplemented to a support to their caregivers (food distribution, rent support...) to avoid the children to drop out of school to work and get the money needed to survive.