



NO LOST GENERATIONS

Refugee children and their human right to education,
from the Holocaust to the Syrian Civil War

Jessica Warner, MA
University of Washington, Tacoma

EDUCATION THROUGH HUMANITARIAN INTERVENTION

“Traditionally, humanitarian aid focuses on three pillars:
food, shelter and health.

More recently, education is informally recognized as the fourth pillar of humanitarian assistance.” (USAID 2014)

“In 2013, education received only **2.4** percent of humanitarian aid funding.” (Save the Children, 2014)

“Nothing is more important in a new nation than providing children with an education. If you want peace and justice, if you want jobs and prosperity, and if you want people to be fair and tolerant towards one another, there is just one place to start — and that place is school.”

(UNESCO 2011)

DISPLACED PERSONS CAMPS

Bergen-Belsen was the largest DP camp in Germany, and was originally run by the British Army before being handed over to the UNRRA in 1946.



United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

Camp residents founded a school in 1945, and by 1948 there were 340 students.



ZA'ATARI REFUGEE CAMP



Images courtesy of UNICEF

44,460 children
under the age of 18
live in Za'atari
as of 1 May 2017.

Za'atari camp was opened
in July 2012, and currently
houses 79,822 people.
This population makes the
camp the 5th largest
settlement in the country of
Jordan.



RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Primary Source Analysis



U.S.
Government
documents

United
Nations field
reports

UN Standard
Practices/
Guidelines

Secondary Source Analysis



Scholarly
books and
articles

Personal Observation



Internship
with
International
Rescue
Committee-
Summer 2015

Volunteer
with
International
Rescue
Committee-
2015-2016

EVALUATING CRITERIA

Accessibility:

Programs must be within walking distance from living quarters; open to all children, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, language spoken, or academic level

DP Camps:

Successful

No barriers to education based on location, age, gender, language

Za'atari:

Unsuccessful

Low attendance rates, credited to long travel distances, threats of violence

EVALUATING CRITERIA

Teacher training:

Educators must receive consistent and comprehensive training; support systems must be in place; teachers must be aware of assistance available to them

DP Camps:

Unsuccessful

No consistent training program for educators, education not seen as priority to camp administration

Za'atari:

Successful

United Nations and Jordanian government responsible for teacher preparation/volunteer training

EVALUATING CRITERIA

Community Benefit:

Students receive social, emotional, and vocational learning opportunities in addition to academics

DP Camps:

Successful

Learning opportunities helped to reintegrate child survivors into society, vocational skills training as well

Za'atari:

Successful

Children learn coping strategies, receive emotional support, skills needed to return home after conflict ends

No Lost Generation is an organization made up of state governments, NGOs, and charities dedicated to making education a priority for Syrian refugee children.

“The world has a responsibility to ensure these children’s education and wellbeing, even as it strives to find a lasting solution to the conflict.

One day, when the crisis ends and these children grow up, they will be the ones to rebuild... The world cannot afford to lose this generation.”

-nolostgeneration.org



Two boys make their way home after school in the Za'atari camp for Syrian refugees in Jordan.



International Rescue Committee. "Resettling Refugees in the U.S." <http://www.rescue.org/resettling-refugees-us>

League of Nations. "Convention of 28 October, 1933 relating to the International Status of Refugees". Treaty Series Vol. CLIX No. 3663. <http://www.refworld.org/docid/3dd8cf374.html>

Mackinnon, Hayley. "Education in Emergencies: The Case of the Dadaab Refugee Camps." Centre for International Governance Innovation Policy Brief 47 (2014): 1-12.

No Lost Generation. "Partners". <http://nolostgeneration.org/partners>

Save the Children. "Our Response in Syria". <http://www.savethechildren.org/site/c.8rKLIXMGlpI4E/b.7998857/k.D075/Syria.htm>

Shue, Henry. Basic Rights: Subsistence, Affluence, and U.S. Foreign Policy. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1980.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights." United Nations General Assembly Resolution 217. December 1948. <http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/>

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. "History of the UNHCR." <http://www.unhcr.org/pages/49c3646cbc.html>

United National High Commissioner for Refugees. "UNHCR Key Facts and Figures". <http://www.unhcr.org.uk/about-us/key-facts-and-figures.html>

United States Department of State. "U.S. Refugee Admissions Program." <http://m.state.gov/md210135.htm>



Save the Children

