The conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic has triggered a massive humanitarian crisis. Currently, an estimated 13.5 million people, including 6 million children, are in need of humanitarian assistance.¹ Since the crisis began, UNICEF has worked to reach affected populations by mounting complex, large-scale humanitarian operations across the sub-region. This note outlines the work undertaken by various UNICEF offices and the Inter-Agency Humanitarian Evaluation Group to evaluate these efforts. Most of the evaluations have been finalized and the reports are available on the UNICEF website, while one study is in progress. The various reports and their findings are introduced below. The hyperlinks provide quick access to the various publications.

Evaluation of UNICEF’s Humanitarian Response to the Syria Crisis

This evaluation of UNICEF’s response across the sub-region, completed in 2015, covers Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey. Despite the numerous challenges faced, UNICEF has performed with increasing effectiveness as the Syria crisis has unfolded. Although the response was slow to start, the evaluation found the organization invested significantly, built its capacity and improved performance from 2012 to 2014, achieving significant scale-up of programming and expanded reach from late 2014 onwards. The evaluation documents UNICEF’s achievement and the organization’s capacity to respond effectively to large-scale, complex and protracted emergencies.

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¹Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. May 2016.
The second evaluation assesses the support provided by UNICEF and its implementing partners for psychosocial action for refugee and affected host community children and their families in Jordan. It found that while operating in challenging circumstances, UNICEF-supported programmes have achieved remarkable changes in children’s wellbeing. The key objectives of providing child-friendly spaces were achieved, in particular regarding increasing perceptions of safety and the promotion of psychological wellbeing. Further areas for attention and investment are mobilization of community resources and the strengthening links with governmental institutions such as schools and other social services.

[Click here and scroll to the bottom of the page to download the report.]

**Syria Crisis: UNICEF Evaluation Synthesis Report**

This report (currently in progress) synthesizes evidence from the UNICEF evaluations listed above, i.e.: the Evaluation of UNICEF’s Humanitarian Response to the Syria Crisis, the Independent Evaluation of UNICEF’s Response to the Syrian Refugee Crisis in Turkey, and the two evaluations commissioned by the UNICEF Jordan Country Office. Drawing on the evaluation reports, the synthesis aims to provide a summary of findings and lessons learned. The report will also identify gaps in the coverage of topics related to UNICEF interventions, and suggest an agenda for further learning and investigation.

**Inter-agency Syria Evaluation Portal**

The Syria Evaluation Portal for Coordinated Accountability and Lessons Learning (CALL) was established to support collective learning around the Syria crisis in order to inform and improve the international emergency response. The CALL Portal provides a single platform that brings together a broad range of relevant evaluative information, data, discussion and analysis of interest to different stakeholders - including those with responsibilities in humanitarian policy and operations as well as those involved in learning and evaluation activities. The Portal aims to promote and share learning in order to enhance common understanding of the evolving situation across different agencies and sectors involved in the Syria crisis.

The Portal is maintained by the Secretariat of the Action Learning Network for Accountability and Performance in Humanitarian Action (ALNAP) in cooperation with the Inter-Agency Steering Committee for Humanitarian Evaluations (IAHE). IAHE’s members include FAO, ICVA, IFRC, Oxfam, UNHCR, UNICEF, OCHA, WFP, WHO and World Vision. The Management Group of the CALL initiative is composed of UNICEF, OCHA, UNHCR and WFP.

[The Portal can be accessed through the following URL: http://www.syrialearning.org/]
[The current learning and evaluative work posted on the Portal can be accessed here.]

**Syria Crisis: Evaluation Synthesis and Gap Analysis**

This study was part of the Syria Coordinated Accountability and Lessons Learning (CALL) initiative. The synthesis report notes that protection of civilians has been the primary humanitarian concern - yet it is in this area that the international community has had the least impact. Few reports in the synthesis provide in-depth coverage on the humanitarian response inside Syria itself, in particular with regard to programme implementation and the extent to which priority needs have been met. Additionally, the humanitarian principles of impartiality and ‘do no harm’ have not received adequate attention.

This report was presented at the Overseas Development Institute in London in April 2016 and subsequently to the UN Evaluation Group “Evaluation Practice Exchange” in Geneva.

[Click here to view the presentation.]
[Click here to view the subsequent question and answers. It was also presented at the United Nations Evaluation Group “Evaluation Practice Exchange” session in Geneva in the April 2016.]

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