

“The Impact of Crises and Disasters on Children”

Abstract

It is critical to support education, especially during times of conflict and for the most vulnerable children. Education systems in conflict-affected countries can play important roles in supporting stability and economic resilience when children and young people are educated or trained to support positive social change, we truly believe and focus on educating children and young people as agents of positive social change.

In responding to challenges facing children’s education in post conflict situations (which is ROTA’s focus) four pillars are accounted for and considered as the building blocks for a holistic approach to address these challenges: 1. Increased access to quality education, 2. Increased capabilities among young people aged 14 to 30, 3. Community engagement and development, and 4. Strengthening the impact of partners’ work locally and globally to ensure sustainability and ownership.

Education challenges are everywhere. Specifically in the Syrian case, as uncertainty prevails in the wake of the protracted conflict in Syria, the devastating impact on all aspects of children’s lives continues to increase. With children being the most vulnerable victims of the conflict, we have made it our priority to respond to this crisis with the deepest sense of urgency by providing Syrian refugee children and youth with equitable and quality education. ROTA has partnered with QUEST in an aim to provide formal and non-formal education to 400,000 Syrian refugee children and youth in Syria, Turkey, Iraq, Lebanon and Jordan. Through our programmes we aim to create a safe learning space and provide educational and learning aids that provide these children and youth a semblance of normality in the unstable and frightening reality they are forced to endure.

We consider holistic approaches and complementarity as main pillars for achieving results. In terms of ensuring quality education, partnerships are built for capacity building programmes to offer administrators, teachers, parents and communities the required support to safeguard they are equipped to provide the required inputs to guarantee education systems that are put in place function effectively and also assume the role of education facilitators in an informal setting. By providing both formal and informal education to these refugee communities, we aim to ensure that children and youth affected by the Syrian crisis are able to unlock their full potential by acquiring the necessary skills to rise above their circumstances and increase their chances of securing employment and a better future. Co-ordinating and closing the gap with our local partners has been vital to ensuring we are able to effectively offer humanitarian support to our partners and successfully execute our programmes.

30 October 2016

Our programmes are evidence based and our local partners provide us with a thorough, first-hand account of the current situation and inform us of where aid and support is most needed – allowing us to tailor our programmes accordingly.

Being able to provide equitable and quality education to some of the most vulnerable communities still remains a great challenge and we are working to establish the best means of accessing these communities and providing them with the educational support that meets their specific needs.

To build resilience among individuals, communities and institutions, innovation in the field of technology for education as well as sport for development are two areas that ROTA utilises to reach more communities and create the necessary integration and harmonious environments. They are both vital aspects of learning and self-esteem as they offer children a sense of purpose and empowerment and thus we have also established a number of initiatives geared towards providing youth with access to sporting facilities and computer software to reaching out to more children. Through strategic collaborations and comprehensive programmes that adopt a holistic approach to providing equitable and quality education, we hope that we are able to make a significant contribution to alleviating the plight of Syrian refugee children and youth. ROTA has and will always be an advocate of positioning the out-of-school children issue as high priority within national strategies and national budgeting in all contexts. Without bold and sustained action on this issue, Sustainable Development Goal SDG 4 will not be realised.