

WINTERISATION - SYRIAN REFUGEE CHILDREN

THE LIONS CLUB WORKING TOGETHER WITH UNICEF TO RAISE VITAL FUNDS FOR BLANKETS AND CHILD FRIENDLY SPACES NOVEMBER 2017



BACKGROUND

Children are fleeing war and disaster in greater numbers than at any time since World War 2. Thousands of Syrian children are missing the safety and warmth of home, family and school life. They are making dangerous journeys in search of safety. Children are travelling alone – risking their lives to be reunited with family. Many have fled with nothing but the clothes on their back. These children face a bitter winter in refugee camps or on perilous journeys in search of safety. Without warm winter supplies, they will struggle to survive.

Many of Syria's children, both in Syria and children on the move, have to live in overcrowded and inadequate conditions. After travelling for days on end, refugee children often arrive at reception centres dehydrated or running a fever because they have been sleeping out in the open without proper clothes, shelter and blankets. Children and adults come barefoot, their shoes having been destroyed after so much walking.

As winter is coming with freezing temperatures making children even more vulnerable, Unicef is launching a "Winter Response" targeting millions of children with shelter, clothes and blankets, making this a lifesaving intervention as temperatures drop.

WHY UNICEF

Unicef is on the ground right now, providing blankets, clean water and medicine. We aim to provide some 2.5 million children inside Syria and Iraq as well as those who have taken refuge in Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt and Europe, with clothes and supplies for the coming winter. Our priority is to reach the most vulnerable children, including the youngest, poorest and those living in besieged or hard to reach areas. Since the Syrian conflict started, Unicef has already provided millions of Syrian children with lifesaving supplies.

We work 24/7 with children and families affected by the crisis in Syria and understand both the full impact of the crisis on them as well as the nature of need they experience as the temperature drops. We provide targeted, appropriate aid both directly and through partner organizations to reach Syria's most vulnerable children.

BLANKETS AND CHILD FRIENDLY SPACES ARE VITAL

Children on the move are exposed to bitterly cold air day and night. As winter looms, the health of young children is especially at risk from the threat of diseases like pneumonia. Temperatures are already dropping, and in a few weeks, the first winter snap and freezing rain could be sweeping the region around Syria. Blankets will help us prevent more deaths and suffering in the months ahead.

Child Friendly Spaces provide a place for children to begin the process of recovering from the loss of loved ones and the total upheaval in their lives, and help reduce the risks of trafficking, exploitation and other harm. These spaces can also be converted to temporary schools and medical centres to provide children with education and healthcare until they go back to school.

THE LIONS CLUB'S SUPPORT

Last year Lions Clubs across the country came together and helped Unicef to provide 1,300 Syrian refugee children with blankets to help them survive the freezing temperatures and 5 temporary child friendly spaces. This is an incredible achievement which saved many children's lives.

This winter we need your support once again to raise money to help the children of Syria caught up in the refugee crisis. We ask the Lions Clubs to join together to raise £25,000 for thousands of children to get the protection they need to survive this winter.

Thermal Blanket £5

To keep children snug and warm with a fleecy, thermal blanket.



Thank you for considering this proposal.