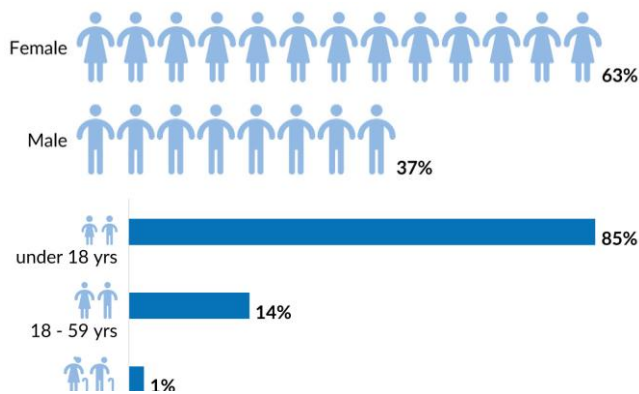


# Child Protection in Syria

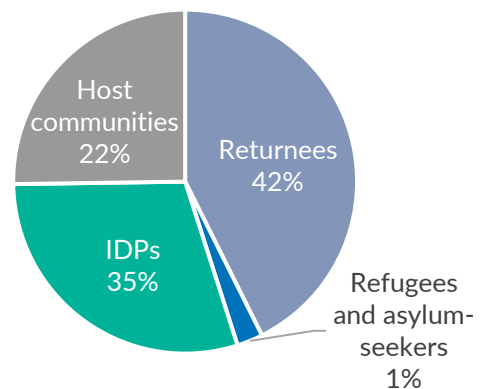
January – March 2023



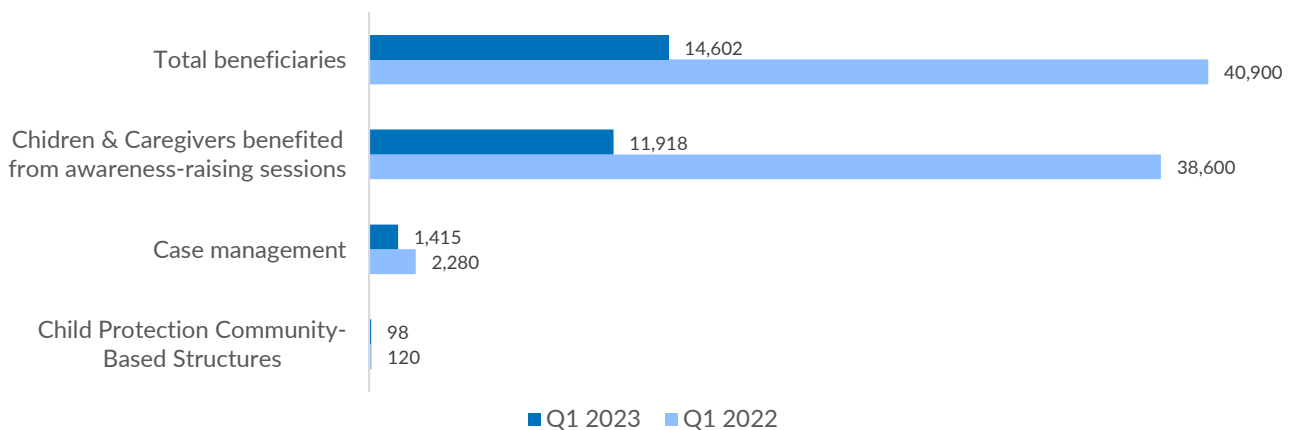
**14,602** people with and for whom UNHCR works included in child protection services.



## Population groups benefitting from services



**12 Governorates** | **85 Community Centres** | **15 Partners**



Q1 2023 numbers are less than Q1 2022 numbers due to delays in signing the frame agreements with partners and updating the reporting database for 2023 to respond to the new results' framework.



## Case management

UNHCR's child-centred approach to child-protection aims to engage with children in age-appropriate ways, protect them from harm and ensure that case managers make inclusive decisions together with the children and their caretakers in children's best interests. This is done through working closely with families and communities to address child protection concerns and to identify solutions.

In Q1 2023, all children who received case management services were internally displaced or returnees. The main protection risks faced by children were **child labour, child neglect, and violence against children**.

In Q1 2023, a total of **1,415 children** received **individual case management services**, which included sessions with the children and their caretakers to assess their needs and risks, referral to specialized service providers (such as education classes, medical services, psychosocial support, and livelihood opportunities for caregivers) where needed, and follow up plans of actions with caregivers and other stakeholders (such as interventions with teachers, work employers, medical and general in-kind assistance, and child friendly space activities). The case management services holistically addressed the child protection concerns and responded to the needs by coordinating required assistance in line with the best interests of the child.



## Awareness-raising

Awareness-raising is a fundamental component of UNHCR's child protection strategy, as it enhances community awareness of child neglect and protection risks faced by children as well as identification of abusive behaviour towards children. Awareness-raising aims to initiate behavioural change within communities against the normalization of child abuse, empowers the communities to respond to child protection concerns and informs the caregivers as well as communities in general about the available child protection services.

In Q1 2023, UNHCR and its partners conducted awareness-raising sessions reaching **9,996 children and 1,922 caregivers (11,918 in total)**. The sessions were conducted on various topics including the rights of children, violence against children, harmful effects of dropping out of school, child recruitment, child neglect and mine risk education.



## Community engagement

The establishment of child protection community-based structures is an important first step in enabling the community to protect and support its children. As part of enhancing community engagement and ownership of child protection, UNHCR established and supported **98 Children's Clubs and Child Welfare Committees** in Q1 2023.

**Children's Clubs** play an active role in child protection within schools and communities. The Children's Clubs advocate for the rights of children, identify and report on protection concerns faced by children in the communities, share information with other children on how to access child protection services, provide peer support to the children in their schools and communities and raise awareness among the children on issues related to their rights through debates and role playing.

**Child Welfare Committees** are composed of members of the communities (such as teachers, social workers and community leaders) and are responsible for identifying specific child protection issues and trends within the communities and advocating for and providing appropriate support to children facing child protection risks through the engagement of local communities. In addition, they raise awareness on children's rights and particularly child protection issues as well as on the services available for children.

