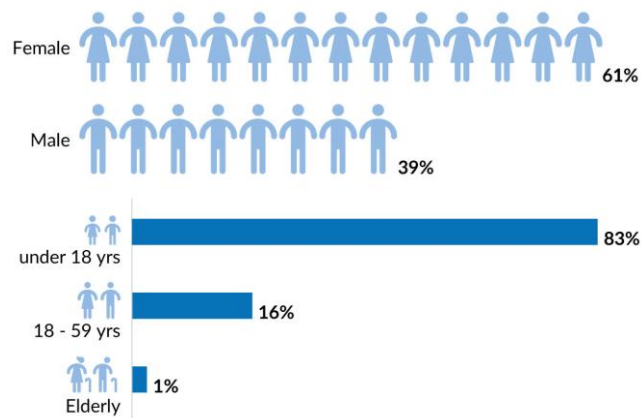


# Child Protection in Syria

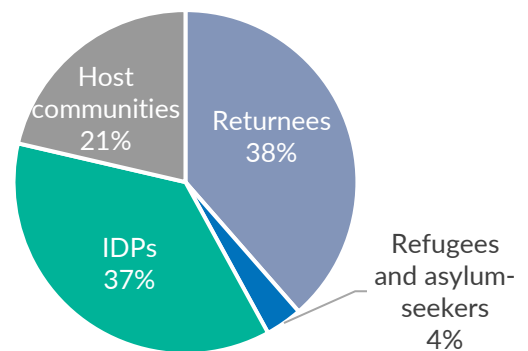
January – June 2023



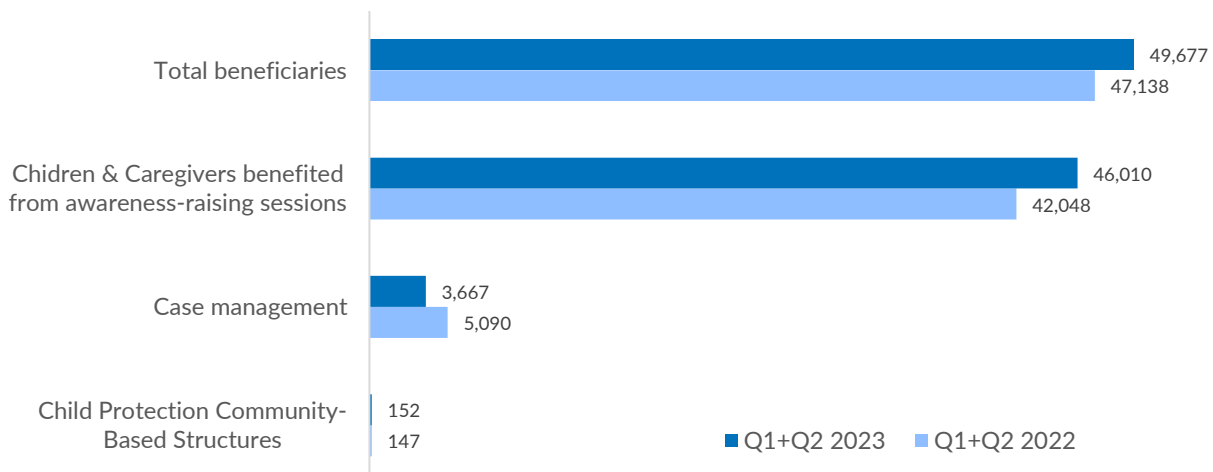
**49,677** persons included in child protection services



**Population groups** benefiting from child protection services



 **14 Governorates** |  **115 Community Centres** |  **20 Partners**



\*Due to the decrease in funding and consequent closure of 9 community centres in 2023, there was a decrease in the number of cases managed in comparison to Q1 and Q2 of 2022.



## 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 identify solutions.

As of end June 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**.

From the beginning of the year to June 2023, a total of **3,667 children (2,032 in Q2)** received **individual case management services**. Services included sessions with the children and their caretakers to assess their needs and risks, referrals 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. Plans of action include interventions with teachers, work employers, medical and general in-kind assistance, and child friendly space activities. The case management services holistically addressed 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 communities to respond to child protection concerns, and informs caregivers as well as communities in general about the available child protection services.

Till mid-2023, UNHCR and its partners conducted awareness-raising sessions reaching **37,481 children and 8,529 caregivers (46,010 in total, of which 31,092 in Q2)**. 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 **152 (of which 26 in Q2)** children's clubs and child welfare committees since the beginning of 2023 as of end of June.

**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 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.

