

The Sandhu Charitable Foundation
First Floor
Santon House
53-55 Uxbridge Road
LONDON
W5 5SA



Thursday, 12 March 2015

Dear Bim and Pardeep,

As the Regional Director for Unicef Middle East and North Africa, I wanted to personally write to you today to thank you for generously supporting our emergency work with Syrian children.

In the UK this Sunday, mothers will be celebrated by their children and families. But this day will be very different for Syria's mothers as the country enters the fifth year of a war which has placed 14 million children in Syria and across the region in unspeakable danger.

As you will know, this is the largest humanitarian crisis since World War Two with its impact spilling over into Iraq, Jordan, Turkey, Egypt and Lebanon. Inside Syria alone, 5.6 million children are now desperately in need of help. Of these children, 2 million are living in isolated areas which are cut off from humanitarian relief due to fighting. For Syria's youngest children, war and fear is all they have even known. Adolescents who should be dreaming about their futures are left wondering what choices they have to make.

Having personally experienced Unicef's work first-hand on the ground, and spoken with numerous families over the last few years, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for all your support. Because of supporters like you, Unicef has provided millions of children with life-saving services.

In 2014, more than 2.8 million children were given access to educational supplies so they can continue to learn and become adults equipped with the education they need to build a brighter future. Unicef also provided 18.6 million people with access to clean water to help prevent against waterborne diseases, and in response to the Polio outbreak, over 25 million children in the country and sub-region were vaccinated. A further 900,000 children received psychosocial support to help them cope with the horrors they had seen. And just this winter alone, around 1 million children were provided with essential provisions to protect them from sub-zero temperatures, fierce winter storms and floods.

Today, 7.6 million Syrian children are in need of urgent humanitarian assistance - 15 times higher than in 2012 and almost the entire population of London. We are at risk of losing an entire generation of children, but there is still hope. With Unicef on the ground to mitigate the impact of the conflict, we will continue to do all that we possibly can to reach more of Syria's children before they give up on themselves and their futures.

As we sadly approach the four year mark since the beginning of the conflict, Unicef's work to prevent the devastating consequences of this war from being felt for generations to come has never been so vital. The attached report outlines our key priorities over the next year which, with your continued support, we are confident we can achieve. If there is anything more you can do to help Unicef stop the suffering of Syrian children, I would personally be so deeply grateful.

Thank you again and best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Maria Calivis".

Maria Calivis
Regional Director, UNICEF MENA