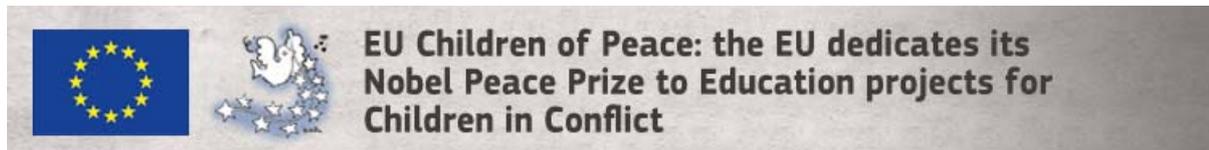




PRESS RELEASE

Lyon 29 November 2013

Thanks to funding from the Nobel Peace Prize allocated to the European Union in 2012 – European Initiative “Children of Peace”¹ – Triangle G H has launched an education and psychosocial support for Syrian refugee children living in the suburbs of Erbil, the capital of Iraqi Kurdistan. These funds, which have been granted by the Humanitarian Aid Department of the European Commission (ECHO), from January 2014 will allow the opening of an educational space freely available to Syrian refugee children.



From March to June 2013 Triangle G H performed evaluations on the situation of Syrian refugees in Iraqi Kurdistan. A partnership with the Rhone-Alps Region has enabled Triangle G H to establish itself in Erbil and to work on devising various projects (education, training, job seeking assistance...) for refugees living outside the camps (60% of 200,000 refugees registered by the end of 2013).

Most Syrian refugee children living in an urban environment have by now been out of school for more than a year, mainly due to a lack of space in schools and a different learning language.

From January 2014, Triangle G H will open a free space, dedicated to children, offering teaching and educational activities to consolidate learning, to prepare them to join the local educational system or to re-join their schools if conditions permit. Recreational activities (sport, art and games) and therapy for children affected by psychic troubles (depression, anxiety, phobia...) will also be offered to allow personal development and socialisation in a secure environment and to try to release and overcome difficulties or traumas linked to their exodus and to their new refugee situation which most of the time involves a re-composition of family, deteriorating living conditions and numerous privations.

The project will enrol mostly children of primary school age (6-12), but also younger or older children in psychological distress. A team of teachers and facilitators, supported by a psychologist and a nurse, will host the children six days per week. Out of school children from the Kurdish community will also be able to benefit from this facility.

The project will last for 18 months in conjunction with two school years.

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¹ *In 2012 the EU was rewarded for having advanced peace, reconciliation, democracy and human rights in Europe. It had decided to allocate the money from the Nobel Peace Prize to children who do not have the good fortune to grow up in a country without war. Many projects based on education support have been implemented with humanitarian partners of the EU. For 2013 the EU has once more doubled resources, allocating an additional sum of 4 million Euros for new and existing projects benefiting more than 80,000 children affected by war.*