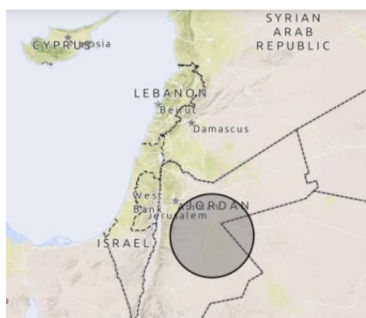


## **MECI – INSTILLING HOPE THROUGH EDUCATION**

The **Middle East Children's Institute (MECI)** addresses the most urgent needs of children living in conflict and poverty in the most troubled areas of the Middle East. Through its integrated, child-centered community development program, MECI has transformed the lives of children, families, as well as their communities.



### **SUPPORT FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE**

Since the civil war broke out in Syria 2011, millions of families have fled for their lives and have become refugees. Approximately 2.5 Million Syrian refugees are children. The attempt to accommodate these vulnerable children in the public schools of Jordan has negatively impacted the educational system as a whole, resulting in overcrowded schools and reduced daily instructional time.

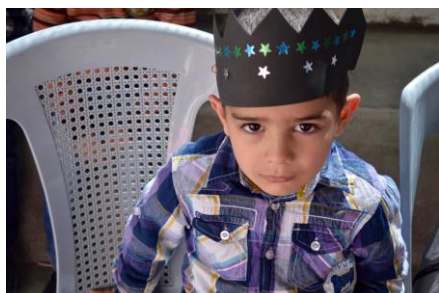
In response to this, MECI was chosen by UNICEF and UNESCO to meet the needs of thousands of Syrian refugee children as well as disadvantaged local youth aged 6 to 14 years, who are ill-equipped to handle the academic demands appropriate to their age. Today, MECI operates in 23 public schools in Jordan, reaching over 7,000 children through academic and psychosocial programs. At the end of 2016, MECI Jordan was employing 192 field-based workers, 85% of whom were women.

### **WHAT IS UNIQUE ABOUT THE MECI MODEL?**

MECI developed a multi-faceted integrated approach providing all students with learning and psychosocial support opportunities, life skills, and child protection services as well as access to the referral network. MECI also serves youth through life skills trainings and adults through community awareness sessions and social cohesion activities. Contrary to other partners of the UNICEF model, MECI operates within public schools with the Ministry of Education's permission.



### **HEALING AND LEARNING**



MECI believes that education is the most powerful healing tool for children who have experienced war and trauma. At the MECI schools, children of any background are given a chance to physically enter a safe environment where their wellbeing and skills are nurtured. Providing children with a space to learn, socialize, play and heal, creates building blocks that are critical for a positive future

for this trauma-affected generation.

Out of school for sometimes up to 4 years, Syrian refugee students are often marginalized within their host communities and suffer a great deal in regular classroom environments that are frequently unfit to deal with their various degrees of impairments. MECI incorporated its knowledge of trauma exposure and its effect on children's ability to succeed academically. All field staff members were trained to understand the particular context and situation Syrian students come from and evolve in, and given practical tools to identify and manage learning and behavioral disabilities resulting from trauma.

## MECI MEANS INTEGRATION

In order to address the needs of both developing Jordanian and trauma-exposed Syrian children, MECI's model in Jordan offers a multi-faceted approach beyond the sole education sector, providing education, psychosocial support as well as child protection and broader referral services. The MECI model rests on four pillars:



### Academics

#### *Informal & Remedial Education*

Education has become an urgent need to thousands of out-of-school children and other children facing academic struggles. MECI provides children of all background with classes in Arabic, math and English.



### Psychosocial Support

#### *Trauma Informed Interventions*

We use extracurricular activities to convey essential life lessons for our students. MECI children are given classes in Physical Education, and Arts, combined with a Life Skills curriculum to enhance their wellbeing.



### Youth Engagement

#### *Basic Life Skills Trainings & Initiatives*

In 2015 MECI Jordan established a new component to its program targeting young adolescents and youth through Life Skills Trainings followed by youth-led community engagement initiatives.



### Community Engagement

#### *Awareness Sessions & Social Cohesion*

True to our child-centered approach to community development, MECI involves parents and community members in their children's education through awareness raising and social events.

## **ABOUT MECI**

MECI was founded in 2005. Today, MECI operates in the West Bank and Jordan in partnership with the respective Ministries of Education. MECI Jordan has risen to be one of the leading International NGOs in remedial education for refugee children, with a high impact and progression rate. MECI is registered as public non-profit charities in Austria, Jordan, Switzerland, and the USA.

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