

# SYRIA CRISIS EDUCATION RESPONSE

SEPTEMBER 2018 UPDATE



**In 2017**, around **one in three school-age Syrian children<sup>1</sup> were out of school** inside Syria and the five host countries.

Barriers to access and effective learning are complex and include beyond the education sector, a wide range of protection and socio-economic issues that contribute to negative coping mechanisms, such as child marriage, recruitment by armed forces, and child labour. No Lost Generation (NLG) partners have been working together to address challenges that children affected by the Syria crisis and their families face to access quality education opportunities. Following the recommendations of the 'Supporting the future of Syria and the region' Conference in April 2018, the response has been focusing on addressing these challenges through:

- Expanding multiple pathways to learning, focusing on youth, and securing recognized and certified learning opportunities, including technical and vocational training.
- Prioritizing learning and the acquisition of skills, with adequate tools for monitoring learning outcomes to inform evidence-based decision making.
- Improving multi-sectoral responses that link education, protection and livelihood interventions.
- Ensuring flexible medium-term and adequately financed plans, and strengthen coordination and accountability among all stakeholders.

## SITUATION AND RESPONSE

### IN TURKEY, LEBANON, JORDAN, IRAQ AND EGYPT

**Two out of three school-age Syrian children** are attending either **formal or regulated non-formal education (NFE) programmes**. While the percentage of out-of-school children reduced from 41% in 2016 to 35% in 2017, almost 700,000 children, mainly the most vulnerable and those with disabilities, remain out of school in the host countries.

Overall, **nearly 2.3 million children, youth, teachers and education personnel benefitted from education interventions** during the last trimester of the 2017/2018 school year:

- 1,345 **classrooms** were constructed, established or rehabilitated, and **education supplies** were provided to over 21,000 children (3-17 years).
- Education partners have supported the **double-shifts** in 207 schools in host communities in Jordan and 349 in Lebanon.
- Over 155,000 children were reached by **NFE programmes**, including over 27,000 children in Lebanon, where an additional 20,000 children at risk of dropout were supported with **retention support programmes**. In Turkey, the **Accelerated Learning Programme (ALP)** began in May 2018 and has reached 1,637 children aged between 10 to 18 who have missed three or more years of schooling, and is expected to reach 20,000 children in the coming school year.
- **Learning Support Services** in Jordan's Makani Centres has benefitted 39,000 local and Syrian children. In Egypt, more than 15,000 refugee and host community children are being targeted through different life skills game-based and art-based structured workshops and camps.
- Over 730,000 children benefitted from **education-related social protection programmes**. In Turkey, more than 368,000 children have benefited from the **conditional cash transfer for education programme** as of July 2018. In Iraq, the **cash transfer for education** will support an additional 6,000 children for the 2018/19 school year. In Lebanon **Child Protection in Schools Policy** was launched in May 2018, as another step to ensure protection of children and youth at schools.
- To date, nearly 8,000 **scholarships** were awarded to Syrian youth for university degrees, TVET and preparatory language courses in preparation for entry to university.
- Almost 35,000 teachers and education personnel received **training on child-centred and protective pedagogies**, and **incentives** were provided to over 15,000 teachers in Turkey and Kurdistan Region of Iraq.
- In Iraq, **school-based management** has been rolled out in over 670 schools.

<sup>1</sup> 5 to 17 years old.

## INSIDE SYRIA

As of July 2018, **seven in ten school-age children, or more than 4.4 million, live in communities where education support is urgently needed** to maintain or revive the education system.

**More than 2 million children, youth, teachers and education personnel benefitted from education response**, during the last trimester of the 2017/2018 school year:

- Over 220,000 children enrolled in **NFE programmes**.
- Over 240,000 children received **education supplies and learning materials**, and more than 470,000 benefitted from **school feeding programmes**. In addition, 6,700 **classrooms** were constructed, established or rehabilitated.

- Concerted efforts of Education sector members inside Syria have enabled over 20,000 children in 9th and 12th grade to sit for the **national exams**.
- Nearly 15,000 teachers received training for **professional development** (active learning, psychosocial support, etc.) The **Teacher Professional Development Programme** in Syria includes the identification of learning gaps to define and prioritize teacher trainings. In addition, teachers in high risk locations, such as East Ghouta, have received **training on psychosocial support and mine risk education**.
- The Ministry of Education, supported by UNESCO and UNICEF, is developing the **School Integrated Management Information System (SIMIS)** to streamline a timely and regular education data collection for analyses and planning. And a measurement tool on literacy, numeracy and socio-emotional skills, is under development as part of the Education Cannot Wait programme.

## CHALLENGES

The challenges highlighted in the Brussels report remain.

- Access to pre-primary, post and tertiary education remains low compared to the needs, with opportunities limited to individuals and families that can afford it, have access to scholarships, and possess the necessary civil, academic and identity documents.
- Underfunding hampers efforts to reach out to all children, with **only 41% of the 3RP and 45% of the HRP requirements received**.<sup>2</sup>
- The overall funding crisis is aggravated by the shortfall of funds for UNRWA schools.

COUNTRY	REQUIRED FUNDING	FUNDING RECEIVED	% RECEIVED	FUNDING GAP
SYRIA	\$240,273,875	\$109,283,392	45%	\$130,990,483
<b>TOTAL (HOST COUNTRIES)</b>	<b>\$872,853,043</b>	<b>\$355,669,638</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>\$517,183,405</b>
TURKEY	\$305,219,275	\$91,738,400	30%	\$213,480,875
LEBANON*	\$354,000,535	\$187,240,708	53%	\$166,759,827
JORDAN	\$161,397,312	\$67,893,369	42%	\$93,503,943
IRAQ	\$29,880,849	\$7,987,493	27%	\$21,893,356
EGYPT	\$22,355,072	\$809,667	4%	\$21,545,405

\* Includes \$120 million carry-over from 2017.

## CONTINUING OUR COMMITMENT TO SYRIAN CHILDREN AND YOUTH

The current changing political context requires us to prepare for the unknown future and work through the different scenarios that may unfold to ensure that we are ready to support Syria's children and youth now and in the future. This requires us to continue working with and support all stakeholders involved in the provision of education, inside Syria as well as in the host countries, in follow-up to the recommendations made in our report to the Brussels Conference.

**WE MADE A PROMISE** to all Syrian children. We cannot let them down, not now, not ever.

<sup>2</sup> Syria Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) financial gap is retrieved from UNOCHA Financial Tracking Service (FTS) on September 13, 2018. Funding status of the host countries is based on Regional Resilience and Refugee Plan (3RP) dashboard, July 2018.

