

No Lost Generation E-Newsletter

October 2019 - Issue 11



Back to Learning



Palestine refugee students enjoy face painting on the first day of back to school at UNRWA schools in Sbeineh camp in Rif Damascus, © 2019 UNRWA photo by Nourhan ABDULHAFEEZ.

In October it is time for schools to reopen their doors for a new school year. Countries in the Middle East and North Africa have put extraordinary efforts to increase children's school enrolment and access to learning opportunities. Yet, work on education still faces multiple and severe challenges in bringing out-of-school children and adolescents back to learning, especially reaching out to the most vulnerable ones.

Poverty and inequalities, intensified by the ongoing crises, have deprived millions of children of their right to learn. By the end of 2017, the armed conflicts in Syria, Iraq and Yemen brought back the number of regional out-of-school children to its 2007 level of over **14.3 million**. Furthermore, **education does not always equal learning**. Even when children are in school, only half of them meet the lowest benchmark measuring foundational skills, mainly due to poor quality of education and traditional teacher-centered approaches focused on rote-learning and memorization. In addition, current education systems are often disconnected from the labour market – a major contributing factor to youth unemployment, which is higher in MENA than any other region in the world.

Children and young people hold the potential for a prosperous and stable future for the region. No Lost Generation partners are pushing for, host governments, donors and education actors to help unlock this potential by realizing every child's right to education. The programme examples and stories in this newsletter showcase some of the progress being made.

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FROM THE FIELD:

Back to School in Syria for Palestine Refugee Students



Ola Abdul Majid sits at a desk at home in Rukkin Eddin studying for her Tawjihi exams. © 2019 UNRWA Photo

This year about 50,000 Palestine refugee students in Syria are back at school, and Ola Abdul Majid is one of the many Palestine refugee children who are part of the UNRWA Education in Emergencies (EiE) response program. She was displaced with her family from Yarmouk camp at the beginning of the Syria crisis and, despite harsh challenges, thanks to UNRWA's EiE approach, she was able not only to continue her studies but also to achieve the sixth place among all students in Syria, in the end-of-school Tawjihi exams this summer.

[Read more about Ola's story](#)

Jordan Hajati-KG2 Program – Innovative approaches to facilitate access to early education for Syrian refugees



Rich/UNICEF 2018. Malak, 10 years, and Iman, 8 years, do their school work at home in an informal tented settlement in Jordan. The family is receiving Hajati cash assistance to help keep the children learning and in school.

A 2018 study conducted by UNICEF in Jordan showed enrollment in pre-school to be significantly lower among Syrian refugees when compared to Jordanian nationals (**52% versus 92%**). Thousands of Syrian children were – and still are - facing significant barriers to accessing quality education. Parents want the best for their children, but for the most vulnerable families it is not easy to access quality education and ensure a good start in life. UNICEF Jordan and partners have undertaken various initiatives to increase access to quality early childhood development and education services through **Hajati-KG2**, an innovative education program to facilitate **pre-school enrollment and attendance** which targets the most vulnerable families.

[Read more about the Hajati-KG2 programme](#)

Hard work makes dreams come true



© Saja Qteshat – Noor Al Hussein Foundation DAFI Team

Neda is one of the thousands of children who were forced to leave Syria and find refuge in Jordan. Neda after finished her secondary school in the host country faced severe challenges that did not allow her to get the average needed to register in dentistry. She was devastated, since dreamed of becoming a dentist since she was in elementary school. But she did not surrender. She searched for a scholarship and found out about the UNHCR's Higher Education Scholarship Programme, DAFI (Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative). "My life was affected positively after I received DAFI scholarship. I gained more maturity in how to deal with different people intellectually, and to accept the opinions of others. My major is about giving to people and to the society, and I am happy to be the reason behind the happiness of other people," says Neda. Now, she is planning to continue her studies until she gets a PhD in Nursing.

[Read more about Neda's story and DAFI here](#)

**Rimas Graduates from Kindergarten to the First
Grade in Za'atari Refugee Camp**



Herwig/UNICEF 2019. Rimas, 5 and a half years old, almost as old as Za'atari Refugee Camp, on her first day of Kindergarten. She is sitting beside her cousin Maram, who is also 5 and a half years.

"Today is the first day of school. Half the students are new, and I met them today", says Rimas (6). "We said our names, we said our age, we got to know each other."

Rimas is one of the thousands of children born in Za'atari Refugee Camp belonging to the first generation of children who will start school in the camp. Rimas is already looking forward to achieving her dreams. "I would like for her [the teacher] to teach us so that I can become a teacher later. I will have students too and like that."

[Read more about Rimas' story](#)

Health and Nutrition Summer Camps in Lebanon



WFP/Edward Johnson

“I loved everything about the camp especially the informative sessions because I learned something useful and beneficial every day. I also made a new friend on the first day who has the same name as mine: Safa! And now we enjoy the camp together”, says Safa Wali, a student at the 13 Douris Mixed Public School and one of the 3,000 participants aged between 11 to 14 who attended a WFP Health & Nutrition Summer Camp in Lebanon.

The Summer Camp was on occasion to teach children about nutrition, health and psychosocial ability while enhancing social cohesion in the region. It was students from different communities access the opportunity to connect in a shared space and spend time together.

[Read more about the Health & Nutrition Summer Camps](#)

I wish I can go back to school



ActionAid. Maha Ahmad, 14 years old, participating with psychosocial support activities in ActionAid's Zarqa community center.

Maha Ahmad was in the first grade when she and her family left their home town Syria and fled to Jordan; their journey to safety was terrifying. Maha is 14 years old and she does not go to school. The Jordanian Government schools did not admit her because she missed four years of schooling. Maha eventually found support when she started attending the psychosocial support activities in the ActionAid Community Centre in Zarqa Governorate in Northern Jordan.

[Read more about Maha's story](#)

A mother's journey to provide a better life for her daughter



Seleen interacting in the classroom@Mercy Corps

Seleen was three months old when with her family settled in Sahab, on the southeastern outskirts of Amman, Jordan. It was there that Seleen was diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy which affected her ability to walk independently and caused language delay. Because of the high cost of medication, Seleen's family struggled to find the support and care that the

little girl required. Thanks to the Mercy Corps' inclusive education program, Seleen was able to enroll in the Khawla Bint Al Azwar kindergarten in 2018 and began showing significant educational and physical improvements. "I love school," Saleen said, "I want to go to sleep early so I can wake up and go to school."

[Read more about Seleen's story](#)

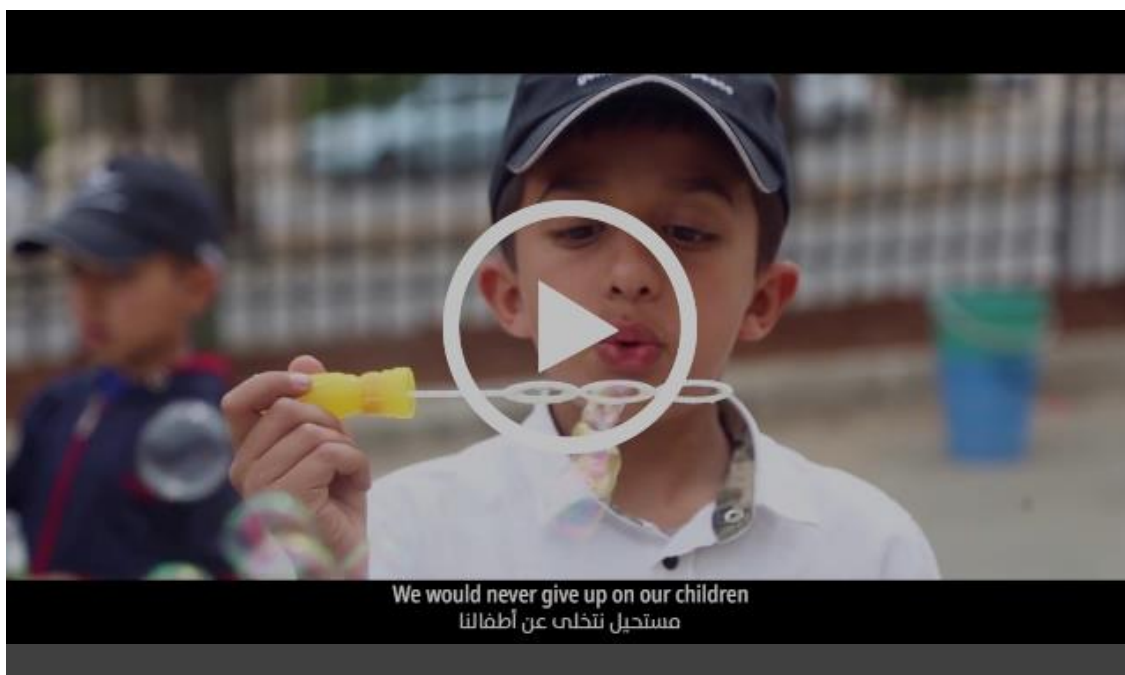
The Nashatati Program



© Generation for Peace. Girls doing sport in the Nashatati Program

The Nashatati Program ('My Activities' in English) aims to provide children from grades 1 to 10 with opportunities to interact and engage in after-school activities that foster life skills such as pursuing an active lifestyle, tolerance, acceptance and social cohesion, in a safe environment. There is no tablet or smartphone, instead students

expand their horizons and learn how to interact with each other outside the classroom, developing a strong sense of belonging, friendship and safety.



**Protecting vulnerable refugee children in Cairo, and
helping them beat the odds**



Farah Nassef helping protect vulnerable refugee children in Cairo, an illustration by Bureau Verstaak. ©UNV, 2019

As part of the #Volunteers4Refugees campaign launched by UNV in partnership with UNHCR on World Refugee Day 2019, Farah Nassef, 26, UN Volunteer and Child Protection Assistant with UNHCR, speaks about her work helping protect vulnerable refugee children in Cairo.

“One of my favourite memories is interviewing a 14-year-old boy, and discovering he had a brother living here he was unaware of. We reunited them, and both were overwhelmed and tearful; it was such a wonderful moment. They have been living together ever since.”

[Read more about Farah's mission](#)

No Lost Generation Q2 2019 funding snapshot

NLG - 2019 Funding Data ¹						
Appeal	Sector	Country	Funding Requirement 2019	Funding received	Coverage	Updated as of
Syria HRP	Education	Syria	\$251,100,000	\$41,800,000	16.6%	9/29/2019
	Child Protection ²	Syria	\$72,100,000	\$3,700,000	5.1%	9/29/2019
	Adolescents & Youth	Syria	\$485,100,000	\$100,700,000	20.8%	9/29/2019
3RP	Education		\$816,100,000	\$270,505,000	33.1%	6/30/2019
		Turkey	\$310,900,000	\$109,000,000	35.0%	6/30/2019
		Lebanon	\$393,900,000	\$123,000,000	31.0%	6/30/2019
		Jordan	\$72,700,000	\$34,000,000	47.0%	6/30/2019
		Iraq	\$18,200,000	\$4,000,000	24.0%	6/30/2019
		Egypt	\$20,400,000	\$505,000	2.0%	6/30/2019
			\$105,100,000	\$61,275,000	58.3%	8/15/2019
	Child Protection ³	Turkey	\$36,700,000	\$18,500,000	50.4%	8/15/2019
		Lebanon	\$33,700,000	\$31,200,000	92.6%	8/15/2019
		Jordan	\$22,500,000	\$11,200,000	49.8%	9/29/2019
		Iraq	\$5,900,000	\$375,000	6.4%	8/15/2019
		Egypt	\$6,300,000	\$0	0.0%	8/15/2019
	Adolescents & Youth ⁴		\$207,000,000	\$40,700,000	19.7%	8/15/2019
Iraq HRP	Education	Iraq	\$35,500,000	\$15,100,000	42.5%	9/29/2019
	Child Protection	Iraq	\$39,900,000	\$30,600,000	76.7%	9/29/2019
TOTAL			\$2,011,900,000	\$564,380,000	28.1%	

No Lost Generation Tech Summit 2019



The **NLG Tech Summit 2019** held June 2019 in Amman, Jordan was the latest in a series of events designed to bring together youth, private sector companies, development and humanitarian experts, academic institutions, and donors to leverage technology and cross-sector collaboration to connect learning to earning for young people in the MENA region, particularly those affected by the crises in Syria and Iraq. Putting Learn-to-Earn into practice, mentorship and training to youth were incorporated into the execution of the

event itself and the best promising solutions were selected and showcased at the Summit, featured on the [Summit website](#), and are included in the **Summit report**, available [here](#).



Watch what happened at the 2019 NLG Tech Summit.

The ESAY 2018 Report is out!



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Solutions that work:

**EVIDENCE SYMPOSIUM ON
ADOLESCENTS AND YOUTH IN MENA**

Second Edition September 25-26, 2018

SUMMARY REPORT

[Download the full report here](#)

Donors who have supported No Lost Generation since its inception include:



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