

Executive Summary

Scaling Up to Reach One Million Refugee Children: Accelerating Progress on Education for Syrian Refugees in Jordan, Turkey and Lebanon

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A World at School

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The Syria crisis has exacted a heavy toll on Syrians as well as neighbouring countries. Since the beginning of the crisis in 2011, three countries – Jordan, Turkey and Lebanon – have become host to the largest number of Syrian refugees. These countries have generously worked in partnership with the international community to provide basic social services to the Syrian refugee population, including education for displaced children and youth.

Despite these efforts, 2.7 million of the 6.4 million Syrian children of school age (5-17 years), are still out of school and nearly half of these children are displaced outside of Syria. Turkey, Jordan and Lebanon host 1.2 million school-aged children and youth, and hundreds of thousands more children (0-4 years) and young adults over the age of 18.

As the Syrian crisis continues in its fifth year, it is increasingly necessary to build a stronger more comprehensive multi-year partnership between the international community and these countries to ensure that all refugee children and youth have opportunity to realise their right to education.

Access to a safe place to learn and play will not only offer children hope and a sense of normalcy in an otherwise unstable situation, it will protect children from child labour, early marriage, exploitation and recruitment into extremism. Education will enable these children to learn the skills, coping behaviours and trades necessary to return and rebuild Syria and to be productive members of their communities wherever they live.

Theirworld's activities supporting 'A World at School' efforts to bring attention to out-of-school children around the world, have included a series of reports outlining opportunities to scale up the education response efforts and drive more and better financing and coordination to reach over 1 million refugee children and young people in Lebanon, Jordan, and Turkey.

With the support of international partners, our first report on Lebanon, has contributed to the progress outlined below, though there is still much more to be done. Reports on Jordan and Turkey are set for release as world leaders convene for United Nations General Assembly in September 2015 and as many children across the region and world prepare to go back to school.

On 29 September 2015, the Global Business Coalition for Education (GBC-Education), in collaboration with Theirworld, will hold its annual meeting focused on support and partnership from the public and private sector to support education in emergencies, building on GBC-Education's support for the call for a new global humanitarian fund and platform for education in emergencies. As part of this meeting, it is hoped the Theirworld reports will build the foundation for a stronger partnership for the children of Syria.

Reaching All Children with Education in Lebanon

In 2013, our report, published in collaboration with ODI, Education Without Borders, outlined a strategy for providing education for Syrian refugees in Lebanon. From 2013-14, the international community partnered with the Lebanese government to produce the “RACE” Strategy, which called for a comprehensive, multi-year approach to providing education for refugee children.

Reaching All Children with Education in Lebanon: Opportunities for Action, followed the 2013 report in April 2015. The report focused on identifying opportunities to deliver on the RACE Strategy developed by the Government of Lebanon, international organisations and the donor community. The report, presented at a meeting held during the IMF – World Bank Spring in Washington, D.C., identified five opportunities for progress:

1. Bolstering the Ministry of Education and Higher Education’s capacity to lead the education response by rallying behind the establishment of a dedicated Program Management Unit (PMU).
2. Rapidly scaling up access to formal education with additional financial support.
3. Establishing a new budget for RACE (Reaching All Children with Education in Lebanon Strategy) with the aim of creating a more responsive donor base.
4. Removing the administrative and policy barriers preventing refugee children from accessing formal education in Lebanon.
5. Strengthening pathways to and retention in formal education by scaling up accelerated learning programs (ALPs) and remedial learning programs (RLPs).

Progress

Following the publication of the report, the Lebanese government set a target of enrolling 200,000 Syrian refugees into school in the double-shift systems if the international community agreed to provide additional support for the new school year. Additional measures were to be undertaken to expand non-formal education, particularly accelerated learning programs, to provide pathways to formal education for the children and young people having missed out on years of schooling.

Donors have come forward to support to reach the ambitious goal of enrolling 200,000 Syrian children into formal schools this fall. For the new school year, Germany and the EU remain significant donors; the Netherlands and UNICEF have made contributions. A World Bank Multi-Donor Trust Fund is also now disbursing funds for the new school year. A new “September Surge” of funding by UK DFID, USAID and Norway, has helped achieve 140,000 + confirmed spaces for Syrian young people in schools. A gap of less than \$35million remains to reach the target.

Syrian Refugee Children	510,000 (ages 3-18)
2014/15 Enrolment	~106,000 in formal schools; additional in non-formal education
Short-term: What’s possible in 2015/16	200,000 children into formal schools by September 2015; less than \$35 million gap remaining. Scale up non-formal and accelerated learning programs.

Opportunities for Accelerating Progress on Education For Syrian Children and Youth in Jordan

Jordan is host to as many as 350,000 Syrian refugee children and youth, of which more than 215,000 are of school age. Of the school age population, nearly 130,000 were enrolled in public schools in 2014/15 and 90,000 remained out of school. Jordan is facing a daunting challenge in providing education to all refugee children and youth while continuing to strengthen its own education system.

There are five opportunities for the international community and Jordan to form a stronger partnership to ensure education opportunity for all children in Jordan.

1. Scale up access to primary and secondary education for out-of-school children and youth who are ready for formal school.
2. Provide alternative education for children and youth who are unable to enter state schools.
3. Invest in early childhood education for all children.
4. Increase post-secondary education for youth.
5. Develop a longer-term costed education sector plan with a focus on resilience and emphasis on stronger coordination among donors

Over the next school year, a strengthened partnership could mobilise \$65 million and support more than 215,000 school age children, including 90,000 out-of-school Syrian refugee children and sustaining the efforts reaching nearly 130,000 children.

Syrian Refugee Children	About 350,000, of which approximately 215,000 are of school age (5-17)
2014/15 Enrollment	~129,000 in formal schools
Short-term: What's possible in 2015/16	An investment of \$65 million for this school year would reach 90,000 out-of-school Syrian refugees and help sustain efforts currently supporting 130,000 children. This investment would also build up the resilience of the education system for the benefit of all children.
Long-term: Scaling up	It is possible to reach all ~215,000 Syrian refugees with education in the near term, provide a longer-term strategy to finance and improve quality for all children in Jordan, and expand coverage for all children in the early years.

Partnering for a Better Future: Ensuring Educational Opportunity for All Syrian Refugee Children and Youth in Turkey

Turkey's response to the Syrian crisis has been generous and laudable. Over the past four years, the government has demonstrated exemplary leadership and generosity in hosting Syrian refugees. Though Turkey has taken on these challenges willingly, concerns are increasing about Turkey's ability to provide for the long-term needs of refugee populations, including education, the best hope refugee populations have for being able to return and rebuild post-crises.

There are approximately 621,000 school-aged refugee children in Turkey and 394,000 are considered out of school. There are several key challenges in Turkey which could be addressed to provide education to Syrian refugee children, including the critical need for greater international engagement, financing and technical support. The report recommends:

1. Investing in the rapid scaling of access to primary education.
2. Developing a targeted strategy for Syrian refugee youth.
3. Increasing access to Early Childhood Education (ECE) for both refugees and Turkish children.
4. Increasing direct budgetary support through aligned donor mechanisms allowing the Government of Turkey to deliver on agreed targets.
5. Developing a longer-term education response and resilience plan.

The goal is to continue scaling access through four focused strategies: 1) increase the number of Syrian volunteer teachers and train Syrian and Turkish teachers to better support the needs of refugees; 2) eliminate the financial barriers to enrolling and retaining children in school; 3) double-shifting 240 public schools; and 4) increase the number of classes available in public schools in areas with the highest number of refugees.

While some of the interventions are still being costed, it is possible to rapid expand education through a series of interventions. Around \$24 million is needed to maintain the current programme, which prepares Syrian teachers to teach in temporary education centres. This would maintain the current 5,000-teacher cohort and expand it to another 2,500 Syrian teachers in the country. With 7,500 Syrian teachers, Turkey will be able to reach at least 300,000 Syrian refugee students, with a student to teacher ratio of 40 to 1. Additional interventions could allow Syrian children to enroll in formal education in Turkey, with provisions of classroom equipment, transportation, daily milk and a tablet computer, reaching the 200,000 students.

Syrian Refugee Children	621,000 of school age
2014/15 Enrollment	227,000 reached with education
Short-term: What's possible in 2015/16	A series of interventions could significantly scale up the provision of education to Syrian refugees. For example, a \$24 million could prepare a cohort of 7,500 Syrian teachers ready to reach 300,000 refugee students in temporary education centres. Other interventions include enrolling 200,000 into formal Turkish schools in double-shifts.
Long-term: Scaling up	Scaling up resources and partnership with the Turkish government could strengthen a comprehensive approach to reach all 621,000 Syrian refugee children in Turkey over the next several years.

Scaling up to Reach 1 Million Syrian Refugees with Education

In the immediate school year, it is possible for hundreds of thousands of refugee children to have the opportunity to be in school and learning if the international community adequately scales up technical and financial support for the governments of Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey.

By establishing multi-year plans, providing longer-term financing, scaling up what works and learning from experiences in the region, it is possible to reach 1 million refugee children with education over the next two years.

These reports highlight why and how this work must begin now.

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