

Education programme

2019

Context

Lebanon is host to almost **1 million** registered Syrian refugees, as well as some 18,000 refugees and asylum-seekers of other nationalities.

This is the largest per capita refugee population in the world, and is **straining Lebanon's education system** and other essential services.



Vulnerability assessments from 2018 show that **69%** of Syrian refugee families live below the poverty line. While there has been an increase in enrolment of non-Lebanese children in public basic education, **58%** of Syrian refugee children in Lebanon remain out of school, and around **319,000 Syrian refugee children (48%)** are out of any learning opportunity (i.e. either formal or non-formal education).

Education Needs

- As of February 2019, more than 661,000 school aged (5-18 years) Syrian persons of concern are present in Lebanon.
- Some have witnessed grave acts of violence and are in need of psychosocial support.
- Many refugee children have been out of school for one or more years, which makes it more difficult for students to go back to school.
- Several subjects in the Lebanese curriculum are taught in either French or English, as opposed to the all-Arabic Syrian curriculum, making it difficult for Syrian refugee students to catch up.
- Increased economic vulnerability leads to a high drop-out rate among children aged 14 and above who tend to prioritize work over education in order to generate income for their family.
- Similarly, many parents are unable to prioritize education and cover associated costs of sending their children to school.

UNHCR Response

- UNHCR is supporting **more than 410 education community liaisons in 327 second-shift schools** to help in mediation between children, parents and school management, and to identify cases of violence, bullying and learning difficulties in schools.
- In 2019 UNHCR is launching a **standardised basic literacy and numeracy** programme to support children's entry into formal public education.
- More than **130 UNHCR foreign language groups** are preparing more than **1,500 students** and refugee children with the French and English skills required by the Lebanese school system.
- UNHCR is rehabilitating, upgrading and renovating **16 schools** across the country, including with disability access.
- UNHCR supports up to **250 homework support groups** for **2,500 students** to do their homework in a safe, supportive space, and more than **140 parent community groups** to involve parents in children's education.
- UNHCR supports some **1,500 Lebanese and refugee students in vocational education** with transportation for the 2019-2020 academic year.
- UNHCR is also supporting **262 refugee students to attend university in Lebanon**.

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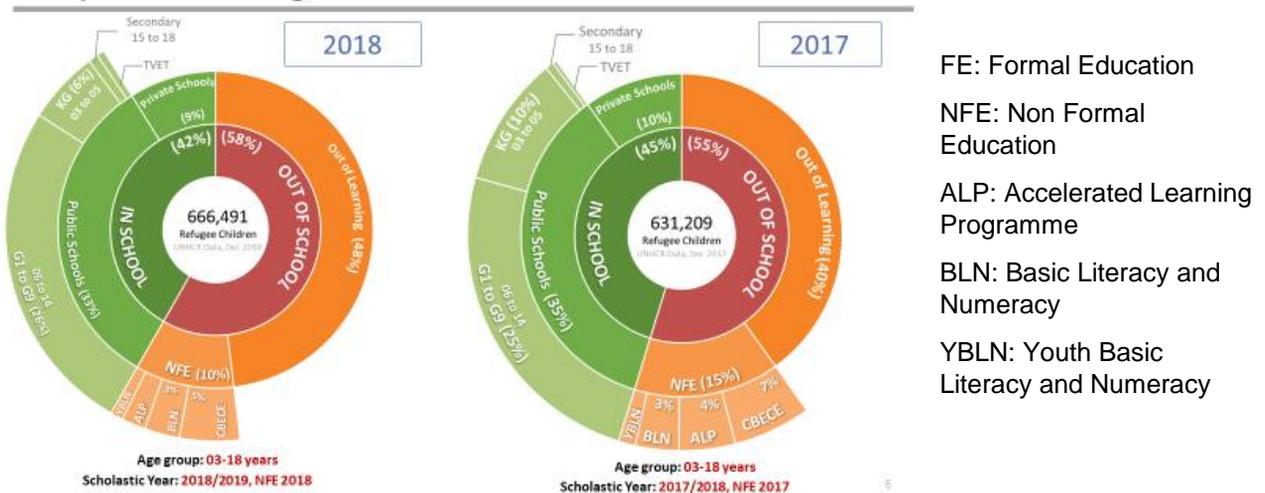
Advocacy & Results

In 2018, UNHCR prioritised advocacy for refugee children’s unhindered access to education and safe learning environments free from abuse, given the remaining high number of refugee children out of school and reports of violence and abuse in schools. Community-based initiatives aimed at identifying out of school refugee children and supporting the retention of refugee children in school were also prioritised.

UNHCR reached thousands of refugee children and their parents through initiatives designed to retain students, and worked in hundreds of schools across Lebanon to create a more protective learning environment for all children, free of any potential violence and discrimination.

In 2019 UNHCR will maintain its advocacy efforts and progressively transition from supporting activities that promote retention in formal education, to prioritising opportunities for out of school children.

Snapshot: Refugee Education in Lebanon



Source: Ministry of Education and Higher Education

Specialized education project for children with learning difficulties

UNHCR recently launched an educational project that provides specialized education intervention for students suffering from learning difficulties and autism in all the Lebanese governorates.

The project aims to provide specialized support to students suffering from learning difficulties and minor to medium mental challenges through a specialized academic programme. The curriculum is certified by the Education and Higher Education and Social Affairs ministries.

Students receive specialized education from remedial education teachers, speech and language therapists, psychological therapists and sensory motor therapists.