

# A Second Chance: Education for Syrian Refugees in Lebanon

## Help Syrian refugee children get back to school in Lebanon

### Summary

Lebanon, a country of only 4.2 million people, is host to 1.5 million refugees, including 250,000 children. The Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) in Lebanon has made the extraordinary commitment to enroll all refugee children in the public school system, but help is needed to close the learning level gaps children face after years of missed schooling. The Luminos Fund manages remedial and preparatory education, as well as post-transition academic support programs, to help vulnerable Syrian children succeed.

### Avoiding a lost generation of Syrian children

- The Syrian civil war has led to the greatest refugee and displacement crisis of our time (UNHCR). Among the 4.9 million refugees are 2.4 million children, as many as 700,000 of whom are out of school (UNICEF).
- These young children need to learn and gain the skills required for them to contribute positively to society.
- Challenges faced by Syrian students and families include lack of public transportation, academic unpreparedness, lack of awareness of education opportunities, language barriers, curriculum disputes, safety concerns, and poor family engagement.

### The partner

Luminos is dedicated to creating education to unlock the light in every child and ensure that the 250 million children at the margins of the global education system fulfill their true potential. Through programs in Africa and the Middle East, they have enabled over 100,000 children to get a second chance at an education. Luminos Fund is a 2017 WISE award winner.

### The philanthropic solution

- Basic Literacy and Numeracy module provides refresher educational content so that students enter the system well-prepared.
- Homework Support provides counselling and support to Syrian children already enrolled in Lebanese schools.
- In line with national priorities and help in making successful the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) 's goal of having every Syrian child enrolled in school.

### The evidence

Over 65,000 out-of-school children have been educated through Luminos Fund in Ethiopia and over 90% of them have transitioned to formal primary schools. An evaluation of the Ethiopia program conducted by the University of Sussex, indicate that children educated through Luminos Fund perform much better than their peers in formal primary school.

### The impact

The program will impact 1,800 currently out-of-school Syrian refugee children in Lebanon to enter the formal education system and significantly improve their ability to succeed once in school.

### Story of beneficiary



Hassan Issa, age 10, works on a drawing he made of his home in Syria. (Source: Lana Moussa, Ana Aqra)

Hassan Issa, age 10, came to Lebanon with his father from Al Raqqa, Syria three years ago. He can still recall an underground hole behind his school where they hid until there was some ceasefire and his family could flee to Lebanon. Upon arrival, he tried to register for formal schooling, but transportation costs were high, and he never received the results from his test. These days, Hassan's days are full, collecting potatoes from the fields in the morning for his parents and attending Luminos classes in the afternoon. *"I feel like I'm in Syria. I play with my friends. I am learning as if I were back in Syria with my teacher teaching me. I used to know nothing in French and Arabic but now I know everything! I know French and I can count: un, deux, trois..."* Hassan dreams of returning to Syria one day, where he wants to work as a carpenter and a teacher to build a school.

### One line pitch statement

Luminos fills in critical gaps to ensure Syrian refugee children in Lebanon who are denied an education can get back up to speed and continue their studies in local schools.

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