A protracted crisis
As the crisis in Syria enters its fifth year, more than 2.6 million children are out of school in Syria and in the neighbouring countries of Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt.

The protracted nature of the Syria crisis has weakened the capacity of the education systems to address the education rights and needs of Syrian children and adolescents. While host governments and international agencies have extended considerable efforts to provide education for Syrian children, the magnitude of the crisis has made any response inadequate. Children’s right to education is denied.

The magnitude
In Syria, the crisis has pushed the capacity of basic social services to the breaking point, with a devastating impact on 4.5 million children. A total of 2 million children are out of school and one in five schools has been destroyed, damaged, or used for other purposes, including occupation by armed groups. The economic and social collapse in Syria has reversed decades of educational achievement.

Outside Syria, generous host countries are overstretched and strained. In Turkey, there are close to 530,000 registered Syrian refugee children who face countless obstacles to education – from the language used in classrooms to curriculum choices, certification and recognition of learning achievements. In Lebanon, for every three Lebanese children there is one Syrian refugee child. The refugee surge in Lebanon has created an education crisis affecting all Syrian, Palestinian and vulnerable Lebanese children. Over 69 per cent of more than 380,000 Syrian children in Lebanon remain out of school. In Jordan, the majority of registered Syrian refugees are children under 18, and the burden on the public education system is taking its toll. To absorb the influx of 215,000 Syrian students, the school system has re-introduced the practice of ‘double shifts’ in overcrowded schools, a policy that is affecting the quality of education and derailing ongoing public education reform. In Iraq, an estimated 67,000 child refugees from Syria have not had regular access to schooling for months, or in some cases years, limiting their opportunities for learning. Host communities are struggling to meet their education needs, along with the needs of 0.5 million internally displaced Iraqi students, especially in Kurdistan. In Egypt, the quality of the school environment in public schools is a significant barrier to the enrolment and retention of 40,000 Syrian children, and additional barriers include the difficulties Syrian children face in adjusting to the Egyptian dialect and curriculum.

Unless UNICEF and partners reach these children with assistance to protect them from violence, abuse and exploitation, give them education to foster their resilience, support the healing of hidden wounds from the conflict, and strengthen social cohesion, the hopes of an entire generation could be lost forever – with profound long-term consequences for Syria, the region and beyond.

The No Lost Generation Initiative
In the face of the overwhelming evidence that a generation of Syrian children is at risk of losing hope for a better future, a group of partners, including UNICEF, host governments, donors, United Nations and international agencies and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) came together in 2013 to develop a strategy to prevent a lost generation. The No Lost Generation Initiative aims at providing Syrian children, both those affected by the conflict within the country and those who have fled to neighbouring countries, with access to an education, a protective environment, and other opportunities for their future. So that one day, the children of Syria, who are the future, can help rebuild their country.
1. Numbers and percentages of out-of-school children (pre- and post-crisis)\(^1\)

![Graph showing numbers and percentages of out-of-school children]

- **Inside Syria**: The number of out-of-school children tripled one year after the crisis began.
- **Outside Syria**: Although the percentage of out-of-school refugee children declined, the number of out-of-school refugee children keeps growing.
- **In Iraq**: The combined impact of the Syria and Iraq crises resulted in 0.5 million out-of-school children among the Iraqi internally displaced population.

2. Impact of the Syria and Iraq crises on out-of-school children in MENA\(^2\)

![Graph showing impact of crises on out-of-school children]

The Syria and Iraq crises resulted in 3 million additional out-of-school children, bringing the MENA number of out-of-school children back to the 2008 level of 15 million.

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\(^1\) Syrian figures are calculated using data from the Ministry of Education (MOE) Education Management Information System (EMIS), UNHCR, UNICEF, UNPD, Syria 2011 Statistical Year Book, Syria 2004 Census and population projection of the U.S. Census Bureau. Iraqi figures come from MOE central Iraq/Education Cluster Partners. Due to data availability, Syrian figures cover students aged 5-17, and the figures are calculated from gross enrolment instead of adjusted net enrolment, which leads to an underestimate of the out-of-school number. Syrian refugee figures are updated to December 2014; the Iraqi internally displaced population figures cover students aged 6-17 and are updated to February 2015.

\(^2\) See note 1. In addition, the MENA out-of-school numbers (grey area) cover children of pre-primary, primary and lower secondary age, which is age 5-14 for the majority of MENA countries.
3. Geographical distribution of out-of-school children (December 2014)³

![Map showing geographical distribution of out-of-school children](image)

317,931
31,274
25,922
0.5 million

Inside Syria
2 million children are out of school

Outside Syria
1 out of 2 Syrian children are out of school

In Iraq
3 out of 4 internally displaced children are out of school

4. Distribution of out-of-school Syrian refugee children in-camp/non-camp⁴

![Bar chart showing distribution of in-camp and non-camp Syrian refugee children](image)

The majority of Syrian refugee children are out of school outside camps

In **Turkey**, 5 out of 6 Syrian refugee children are outside camps, of which 3 out of 4 are out of school

In **Jordan**, 5 out of 6 Syrian refugee children are outside camps – the out-of-school rate for them is lower than for their inside-camp peers (14% outside camps vs. 27% inside camp)

In **Iraq**, 2 out of 3 Syrian refugee children are outside camps, of which 1 out of 2 are out of school

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³ See footnote 1.

⁴ Estimation based on UNHCR data and reports between September 2014 and February 2015. Egypt and Lebanon have no camp settings.
5. Inside Syria: Change of school enrolment by governorate (2011 vs. 2014)

- >15% decrease of school enrolments recorded in six governorates. In Aleppo, Dara and Quneitra the decrease is shocking (>30%) as a result of heavy clashes.
- >15% increase of school enrolments in Al-Hasakeh, Tartous and As-Sweida because of influx of internally displaced children. Data for Al-Hasakeh was collected before ISIS control.
- Expected extremely low enrolments in Deir-ez-Zor and Ar-Raqqa. Data from these two governorates are unavailable due to ISIS control.


- In camp: Small number (29,308) but high rate (79%) of out-of-school children.
- Non-camp: Big number (73,790) but relatively low rate (38%) of out-of-school children.

Syrian MOE EMIS.
Data come from MOE central Iraq/Education Cluster Partners, covering children aged 6-17. Kurdistan region covers not only the three northern governorates, but also part of the Kirkuk and Nineva governorates.
7. Outside Syria: Out-of-school Syrian refugee children

**Turkey**
- Accelerated growth of out-of-school children by end of 2014 due to Ayn al-Arab siege
- Out-of-school number climbed by 400% from August 2013 to December 2014

**Lebanon**
- For every 3 Lebanese children, there is 1 Syrian refugee child
- Out-of-school rate has been fluctuating around 60%

**Jordan**
- Large but stable refugee population since August 2013
- Out-of-school number declined with over 50% children enrolled in formal education

**Iraq**
- Relatively small refugee population
- Out-of-school number dropped at the end of 2014, but still high in percentage

**Egypt**
- Small refugee population with sharp out-of-school decline mid-2014
- Local survey reveals 1/3 of students do not attend regularly

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7 Syrian refugee statistics come from UNHCR and UNICEF monthly dashboards. Both formal and non-formal enrolments are considered as “in school”. Months with data are connected. For Lebanon, statistics for formal education covers children aged 6-15, while statistics for non-formal education covers children aged 3-18. Finalized fall 2014 figures from the Lebanese government remain unavailable. For other countries, the refugee statistics cover children aged 5-17. Survey for Egypt was conducted by the Fard Foundation in October 2014.
8. Challenges and responses

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Challenges</th>
<th>Responses</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Learning spaces</strong></td>
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<td>Inside Syria, over 20% of school are damaged, destroyed, adapted as shelters or occupied by armed forces. Risks of attack, looting, abduction and military use of schools are high. Outside Syria, refugee children are mostly in over-crowded and under-resourced schools. Learning spaces are limited, expensive and not adequately equipped.</td>
<td>UNICEF interventions are enhancing education infrastructure in Syria and in host countries through rehabilitation, school supplies, equipment and the building of temporary learning spaces. Innovative modalities to bring schools to marginalized children are being developed as the Self-Learning Programme in Syria.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Teachers</strong></td>
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<td>Inside Syria, the country has lost around 20% of teaching staff and school counsellors. Outside Syria, Syrian teachers are either not legally allowed to teach (Egypt, Jordan and Lebanon), or receive few incentives/salaries for teaching (Iraq and Turkey).</td>
<td>Teachers and education personnel are supported through multiple interventions strengthening child-centred educational approaches and active pedagogy In Turkey, a new protocol signed between UNICEF, the Ministry of Education and the Postal Bank ensures that teachers are financially supported for teaching</td>
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<td><strong>Language and certification</strong></td>
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<td>Language is a major learning barrier to formal education in Lebanon, Turkey, and Iraq, and to a lesser degree in Egypt. Almost 200,000 Syrian children are receiving education in non-formal settings, using different content and curricula without proper accreditation. Certification in formal education is a challenge for children without proper documentation.</td>
<td>E-learning blended approaches will provide Syrian children with the core subjects of the Syrian Curriculum in Arabic together with certification A strategic response framework to address access to education, quality of teaching and learning, and capacity enhancement of the education sector is now in place through the No Lost Generation (NLG) Initiative, the Syria Strategic Response Plan (SRP) and Syria Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP) processes.</td>
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<td><strong>Host communities</strong></td>
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<td>Vulnerable children in host communities are getting less educational resources because of the surge of the demand for education services. School environments are hostile, discriminatory and exclusionary, and mechanisms to support Syrian students are weak or lacking.</td>
<td>National resilience-building efforts focus on expanding infrastructure, providing learning material, and training new teachers in host communities. UNICEF-led initiatives – such as “Makani” in Jordan and Reaching all Children with Education (RACE) in Lebanon target refugee and the most marginalized host community children, contributing to increasing social cohesion.</td>
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8 Extracted from NLG, SRP and 3RP strategic planning documents and 2014 and 2015 UNICEF and partner reports.