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UNICEF EDUCATION

Education Case Study

TURKEY

Inclusion of Syrian refugee children into the national education system

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As of June 2021, Turkey hosts a total of 1.7 million Syrian refugee children, 422,867 (192,474 girls) of whom are out-of-school. Syrian refugee families face multiple barriers enrolling their children into schools including language, cost, limited peer support, bullying, personal discouragement due to extended periods of being out of school and gender bias against girls. School closures caused by the COVID-19 pandemic only added further disruption. Since 2017, the Turkish Government has committed to integrating all school-aged Syrian refugees into the national public school system and, consequently, has closed all Temporary Education Centres.

UNICEF has supported Turkey's Ministry of National Education's (MoNE) goal of inclusion in a variety of ways. The [National Conditional Cash Transfer for Education \(CCTE\) programme](#), implemented under UNICEF's leadership with operational support from the Turkish Red Crescent and funded by ECHO, was expanded in mid-2017 to cover all refugee learners. UNICEF works with Syrian Volunteer Education Personnel and non-governmental partners to increase enrolment and retention among refugee and other vulnerable learners in both formal and non-formal education. UNICEF has also led the Back to School (BTS) campaign through the Education Sector Working Group that consists of disseminating information packages on education opportunities and [related programmes](#) to increase enrolment of refugee children in the education system. Then there is the [Accelerated Learning Programme](#), a certified second chance learning opportunity to help Syrian and other forcibly displaced non-Turkish speaking out-of-school children and adolescents. This programme provides condensed multi-grade, age-appropriate, competency-based essential curricula along with psycho-social support, counselling for learners' educational and career needs, as well as extra-curricular activities. It prioritises literacy and numeracy skills as

the foundation for learning, with instructors receiving in-service training on topics such as Teaching Turkish as a Foreign Language and contributes to addressing young people's experiences in conflict-affected and fragile contexts. The [Turkish Language Courses](#) are offered to Syrian students to address language barriers.

RESULTS

- Enrolment of Syrian refugee children in formal education increased from 230,000 (69,000 girls) in [2014-2015](#) to 774,257 (379,432 girls) in 2020-2021.
- By February 2021, 682,882 learners (335,978 girls) received conditional cash transfers to access education opportunities, including 4,284 refugee children (2,013 girls) in accelerated learning.
- UNICEF-led outreach campaigns reached 118,817 refugee children (55,844 girls), aged 5 to 17 years.
- 28,114 students (13,495 girls) were enrolled in accelerated learning in 12 refugee dense provinces, with 20,534 (9,856 girls) completing the programme. As of April 2021, 4,207 learners (2,188 girls) continued with their Accelerated Learning Programme classes.
- UNICEF funded the training of over 600 teachers and key MoNE personnel on supporting learners in the Accelerated Learning Programme.

LESSONS LEARNED

- **Learning must be recognised.** The certification and accreditation process of non-formal education programmes by the Government is an important success factor in promoting a smooth integration of out-of-school refugee children into the host country's formal education system.
- **Inter-sectoral programming is key.** UNICEF strives to create programmes that address the full range of needs of vulnerable learners by identifying and addressing barriers with the aim of improving attendance, retention and students' success within the system. [These programmes](#) have begun to demonstrate enhanced inter-sectoral programming and diverse partnerships at the national and sub-national level.

NEXT STEPS

In 2021, in addition to the expansion of the Accelerated Learning Programme within the existing 12 provinces, MoNE and UNICEF will extend it to six additional provinces with high numbers of out-of-school children. UNICEF is working to digitalize the Accelerated Learning Programme curriculum not only to ensure distance learning during extended school closures, but also as complementary materials for children who are unable to attend face-to-face accelerated learning classes. materials for children who are unable to attend face-to-face accelerated learning classes.

Cost effectiveness: The cost per child for accelerated learning and Turkey language courses is US \$400 per child. Since 2018, 161,659 children have been reached via outreach, and 49,186 learners have directly benefited from non-formal education programmes.

For more information, please contact:

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