Eight years of acute crisis had a disastrous impact on Syria’s national education system, forcing millions of children and youth out of school and leaving many more at risk of dropping out. Multiple factors accounted for low enrollment including lack of available learning spaces, socio-economic pressure on families who have lost their livelihoods, conflict inflicted disabilities and psychological trauma.

Despite some progress made in overall school enrolment in recent years, still an estimated 2 million children remained out of school inside Syria. These children remained vulnerable and at increased risk of exploitation and abuse including child labor and early marriage in selected geographical areas.

UNICEF supported over 1.9 million children to access formal education in 2018, while, over 400,000 children were enrolled in non-formal education through the year, including those living in cross-border areas in the north-east and in newly accessible areas in the south-west and north-west of the country.

Together with implementing partners, UNICEF succeeded in reaching an overall 2.4 million children with various educational services; Also, UNICEF contributed to the functioning of 274 schools in newly accessible areas through light rehabilitation and temporary structures benefitting a total of 255,000 children.