Turkey is home to almost 4 million refugees and asylum seekers, including 1.7 million children – the largest refugee population in the world. Among them, nearly 3.6 million are Syrians – of whom 1.6 million are children. More than 600,000 of Syrian children are enrolled in schools. However, according to the Ministry of National Education (MoNE), Over 370,000 refugee children remain out of school. These children and adolescents are particularly vulnerable and at heightened risk of isolation, discrimination, child labour and child marriage. Many also require special support to adjust to learning environments after having been out of school for several years.

UNICEF is currently expanding its support to Non-Formal Education (NFE) activities to prevent a “Lost Generation” of Syrian children and in particular invest in the learning of out-of-school refugee children and adolescents.

The NFE Programme aims to provide out-of-school refugee children with access to learning opportunities designed for Syrian out-of-school refugee children or who are in school but need extra educational support. The programme aims to reach more than 65,000 refugee children and adolescents with non-formal education opportunities, including 35,000 children who will benefit from Basic Literacy and Numeracy (BLN) classes, Turkish Language Courses (TLC), and an Accelerated Learning Programme (ALP) meant to compensate for their lost years of schooling.

The NFE programme is implemented in partnership with the Ministry of National Education, the Ministry of Youth and Sports, the Turkish Red Crescent Society (TRCS) and UNICEF, and has been made possible with the generous contribution of the European Union (EU).
The Accelerated Learning Programme (ALP) is being implemented in 75 Public Education Centres (PECs) covering 12 provinces. The ALP component of the NFE programme is implemented in collaboration with the Ministry of National Education (MoNE). It aims to support 20,000 out of school refugee children to be able to access formal and non-formal education opportunities after the completion of the ALP two learning levels.

The ALP component consists of two levels; the Primary School Equivalency which is covered in 8 months and the Lower Secondary School Equivalency which is covered also over 8 months. In addition, all ALP students receive intensive Turkish Language Courses (TLC) regardless of their prior educational status.

After the ALP enrolled students complete each level of the ALP, students are evaluated and successful candidates receive equivalency certificates accredited from MoNE that allow them to continue with their education and integrate into the formal education system.
The Turkish Language Courses (TLC) programme is being implemented in 83 Youth Centres (YCs) covering 24 provinces. The TLC component of the NFE programme is implemented in close collaboration with the Ministry of Youth and Sports (MoYS). The Turkish Language Courses (TLC) programme aims to support 10,000 refugee children to enhance their ability to integrate in their local communities and in Turkish Public Schools.

The TLC component consists of two learning levels which are adapted based on Turkish Language educational sets accredited by the Ministry of National Education (MoNE).
Implemented by the Turkish Red Crescent in partnership with UNICEF, the Basic Literacy & Numeracy and Turkish Language courses (TLC) aim to reach 5,000 refugee children in 2 Child and Youth Centres in Hatay province.

BLN and TLC aim to help refugee children learn basic skills in both Arabic and Turkish. These two components also aim to help these children integrate into their host communities.

The BLN course is taught in Arabic and uses materials adapted to fit the learning needs of refugee children and in line with the educational requirements of the NFE programme.

The TLC component consists of two levels of Turkish language learning accredited by the Ministry of National Education (MoNE).