

Syria Conflict Overview

- Since 2011, **the crisis has affected over 11.8 million Syrians**. Of these, 6.2 million have been internally displaced and 5.6 million have sought refuge in a host country.
- Every year since 2013, around one-third of school-age children and youth in Syria have been out of school, causing an entire generation of children and youth to miss out on formal education.
- **Emergency context:** Years of conflict dramatically reduced access to basic social services

Education Overview

- **2.1M Out-of-school children (OOSC), plus 1.3M at risk of dropping out (May 2019)**
 - Nearly 1/3 of school-age children, ages 5-17, are out of school
- **Learning materials**
 - *Challenge:* children and schools have limited access to educational materials and supplies
 - *UNICEF:* provides school bags, stationery and textbooks, in addition to recreation kits to provide psychosocial support
- **Learning space**
 - *Challenge:* Hostilities have resulted in over one-third of schools damaged, destroyed, inaccessible or occupied for shelter and other purposes.
 - *UNICEF:* Rehabilitate schools or establish pre-fabricated classrooms, temporary learning centers
- **Learning instructors**
 - *Challenge:* formal education system has lost a total of 180,000 education personnel
 - *UNICEF:* Recruitment and training of teachers and facilitators to conduct self-learning program classes and Curriculum B activities
- **Learning policies**
 - Partner with Ministry of Education, so that out-of-school children can take national exams
 - Increased cooperation with Ministry of Education and the formal education sector as Government of Syria regains control of territory
- **Poverty and insecurity remain critical barriers to accessing education.**

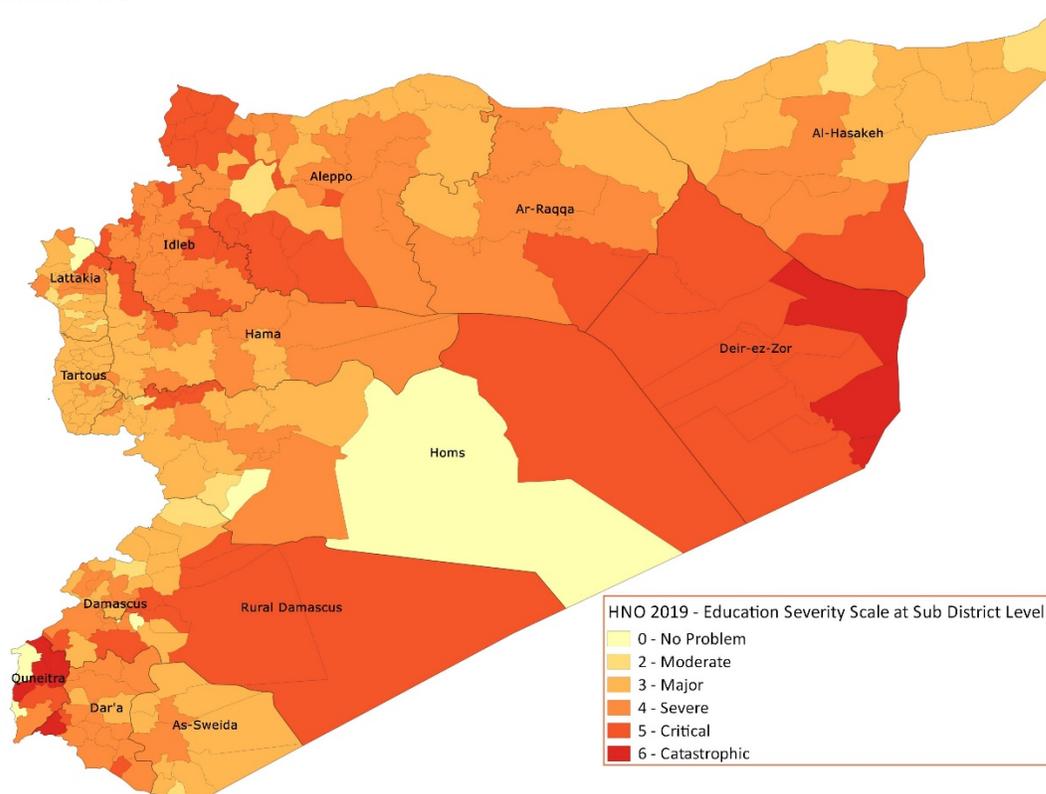
Self-Learning Program and Curriculum B (SLP/CB)

- Both Curriculum B and the Self-Learning Program deliver a comprehensive and flexible education course within an environment conducive to learning during a protracted conflict situation
- The **Self-Learning Program in Syria (SLP)** responds to the needs of children who have been out of school for more than a year or are without access to formal education due to the conflict, using learning materials jointly developed by the Ministry of Education in Syria, UNICEF, and UNRWA (UN Relief Works and Agency)
 - **Self-Learning Materials:** a condensed set of workbooks on core subjects; Arabic, English, mathematics and science
 - **Supervision:** can be supervised by any adult or youth over 18 years old, regardless of formal education training
 - **Classroom:** allows out-of-school children to continue learning at home or in community spaces.
- **Curriculum B:** As of Spring/Summer 2018, there has been a shift in approach: in locations where Govt of Syria has regained control of contested areas, OOSC may be reached with the Curriculum B certified accelerated learning program. This program is implemented by the Ministry of Education.
 - **Advantage:** will ensure higher enrollment of children into non-formal education for lower cost and increase pathways to formal education

- While the Self-Learning Program continues to provide learning opportunities for OOSC in remote areas and for OOSC who have been out of school for more than two years, **Curriculum B provides structured accelerated learning classes based on the Syrian national curriculum** and classes for younger OOSC, thereby easing the transition into formal education.
- **Program Activities** (for both SLP and Curriculum B)
 - Construction, rehabilitation and furnishing of learning spaces
 - Provision of psychosocial support and recreational activities to promote children’s well-being
 - Delivery and distribution of learning kits
 - Recruitment and training of education personnel
- **Program Implementation:** Whole of Syria (WoS) coordinated approach
 - UNICEF is co-lead of education response, with Save the Children
 - Program works through 3 hubs - Amman in Jordan, Gaziantep in Turkey, and Damascus in Syria – to reach children across the entire country, including cross-line areas controlled by non-state actors

UNICEF’s Advantage

- The delivery of humanitarian assistance remains difficult due to active conflict, and insecurity. However, UNICEF is providing a targeted response in the highest-risk areas.
- In NE Syria, many humanitarian organizations such as Mercy Corps and Doctors Without Borders were forced to suspend operations and evacuate staff, UNICEF however stayed on the ground.
- The three-year partnership (2017-2020) between Educate a Child¹ (EAC), UNICEF and UNICEF USA has provided the foundation for an unparalleled education initiative within Syria. No other education initiative is reaching similar numbers of children within the country.
- During the three-year partnership, EAC will match contributions up to USD 10.5 million.
- As of November 2019, UNICEF USA has raised over USD 5.8 million towards a USD 11.4 million commitment.



Severity scale at community level – Syria map, http://wos-education.org/uploads/Severity_Scale_Methodology_2017-12-06.pdf

¹ A global program of the Education Above All Foundation