BACK TO THE FUTURE

SCHOOL READINESS, INCLUSION AND RETENTION FOR CHILD VICTIMS OF THE SYRIAN CRISIS IN LEBANON AND JORDAN

This project is funded by the EU Regional Trust Fund in response to the Syrian Crisis - the 'EU Madad Fund' - and is implemented by AVSI, Terre des Hommes Italia, Terre des Hommes Netherlands and War Child Holland.
About the crisis

Hundreds of thousands of refugee children from Syria are waiting in Lebanon and Jordan for peace so that they can return to their homes. Most of them are in a hopeless situation. They live with their families in camps or makeshift structures and are particularly vulnerable to exploitation such as child trafficking and child labour.

More than 450,000 Syrian refugee children in Lebanon and more than 240,000 in Jordan are aged between 3 and 18 years; 60 per cent of them are out of school. An entire generation is growing up with little reason to nurture hope in a better future. This is why education is crucial for the development of all those affected by the conflict.

The project responds to a number of educational barriers faced by vulnerable children in Lebanon and Jordan:

- Lack of safe and dignified physical spaces for learning (schools not fit for purpose).
- Caregivers’ lack of means to provide transportation, school meals and materials.
- High drop-out rates of Syrian refugee children from public schools.
- Child labour and early marriage in vulnerable communities.
- Lack of awareness within refugee communities on how to enrol in public schools.
- Long term (3 years +) out of school children unable to directly enter schools.
- Children require Basic Literacy and Numeracy support to attend the public system.
- Psychosocial problems identified in vulnerable children, resulting in educational difficulties, including ADHD, behavioural and other concentration problems.
- Low language capacity (French/English) of Syrian refugee children, which created a barrier as the Lebanese public curricula is taught in these languages.
Our work and objectives

Over the course of nearly three years, our project will support 21,722 Syrian, Jordanian and Lebanese children, by providing remedial classes and homework support in community centres and public schools.

The "Back to the Future' project promotes enrolment and improves retention in the formal education system for refugee and vulnerable children from local communities in Lebanon and Jordan. We also rehabilitate school buildings to offer a safe and secure environment for learning.

Project Objectives

• The overall objective is to contribute to addressing the continued lack of access to education and protection for the majority of Syrian refugee children in Lebanon and Jordan.
• The specific objective is to promote enrolment and improve retention in the formal education system for vulnerable children and adolescents in Lebanon and Jordan.
• The project also aims to increase awareness about the right of children to access education and boost actions to promote the rights of vulnerable children to access education in Lebanon and Jordan. The 'Back to the Future' project will reach 50,000 parents, caregivers and community members and children with awareness-raising and advocacy activities on educational and psychosocial topics. In addition, the project will support vulnerable communities with school enrolment during Lebanon’s national summer ‘Back to School' campaign.
Our activities

There are multiple project activities:

• Early childhood development programmes for children aged between 3 and 5 years.
• Basic literacy and numeracy activities for children aged between 8 and 14 years. Many children have learning disabilities because they have missed one or more years of schooling.
• Foreign language courses, English or French (in Lebanon) to prepare children aged between 7 and 14 years for education. Education in Lebanon is in English and French, while teaching in Syria is in Arabic.
• Learning and homework support for children aged between 8 and 14 years. Afternoon classes for children who are enrolled in public schools but who are at risk of drop out or demonstrating poor grades in all subjects.
• Psychosocial support (PSS) activities for children aged between 8 and 14 years and their caregivers.
• Recreational activities (including: art, play, theatre) to enhance children’s wellbeing and provide safe spaces for learning and play.
• Repair and renovation of school facilities.
• School transport is offered to the children, allowing a higher number of children to attend the school courses; and a snack during activities.
Our educational activities at public schools in Lebanon

- Community Based - Early Childhood Education
- Basic Literacy & Numeracy
- Foreign Language Support
- Foreign Language Course
- Homework Support
- Remedial Classes

Our educational centers in Lebanon
Our educational activities at public schools in Jordan

- Rehabilitation of 14 public schools

Our educational centers in Jordan

- Zawia
- AQABA
- Samut secondary mixed
- Aqeeq primary school
- That sawaf secondary school
- Wadi Al qatar secondary comprehensive for girls

OUR EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Community Based - Early Childhood Education
- Basic Literacy & Numeracy
- Foreign Language Support
- Foreign Language Course
- Homework Support
- Remedial Classes

PUBLIC SCHOOLS REHABILITATION

Rehabilitation of 14 public schools

- SANITATION
- SITEWORK
- PAINTING
- ELECTRICITY
Results

Lebanon (last update: July 2018)

• 11,711 children were enrolled in our educational activities.
• 7,620 children were enrolled in non-formal education activities.
• 4,091 children benefited from a learning support program.
• 4,935 children have been referred to formal education.
• 43,065 individuals have been reached during home visits with information about non-formal and formal education opportunities in their communities.
• 533 staff members, teachers and volunteers, were trained on child protection, first aid and animation skills.

Jordan (last update: July 2018)

• 7 schools have been rehabilitated. And seven schools are still under rehabilitation.
• 1,179 children enrolled in our educational and non-formal education activities.
• 44 teachers and education practitioners have been trained.

Who we are

About the EU Madad Fund

The European Union Trust Fund 'Madad' provides concrete assistance for refugees and host communities for basic education and child protection, training and higher education, better access to healthcare, improved water and wastewater infrastructure, as well as support for projects promoting resilience, economic opportunities and social inclusion in Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey.

Since its creation in December 14, the EU Madad Fund has already proven its added value as it has offered a new tool to the EU’s response to the Syrian crisis, allowing for a more coordinated, coherent and flexible EU response. Today the EU Trust Fund has committed €1.5 billion to support primary education and protection, higher education, health care, economic opportunities and livelihoods, clean water and sanitation. In addition, €920 million has been contracted in 46 projects with the Trust Fund’s implementing partners on the ground.

With the support of the EU (through the EU Madad Fund), the organisations AVSI, Terre des Hommes Italy, Terre des Hommes Netherlands and War Child Holland launched the project ‘Back to the Future’. Over a three-year period (2016-2019), the project will enable more than 21,700 Syrian, Lebanese and Jordanian children to go to school.
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