

PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN SYRIA AND THE REGION THROUGH EDUCATION: LONDON ONE YEAR ON

Brussels Conference Education Report

April 2017

In February 2016, at the London 'Supporting Syria and the Region' Conference, the No Lost Generation (NLG) partners committed to ambitious goals for the education of Syrian children and youth inside and outside Syria, and for the support of education in the five host countries (Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, and Egypt). One year after London, at the Brussels 'Supporting the Future of Syria and the Region' Conference, the following results can be reported:

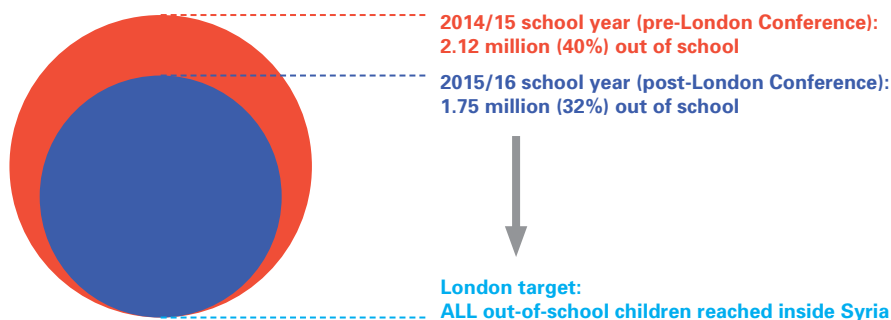


LONDON TARGET 1

Provide all Syrian out-of-school children (5-17 years) inside Syria with education opportunities

Between the 2014/15 and the 2015/16 school years:

- **Increase in enrolment** from 3.24 million (60 per cent) to 3.66 million (68 per cent)
- **Decrease in the number of out-of-school children** from 2.12 million (40 per cent) to 1.75 million (32 per cent)

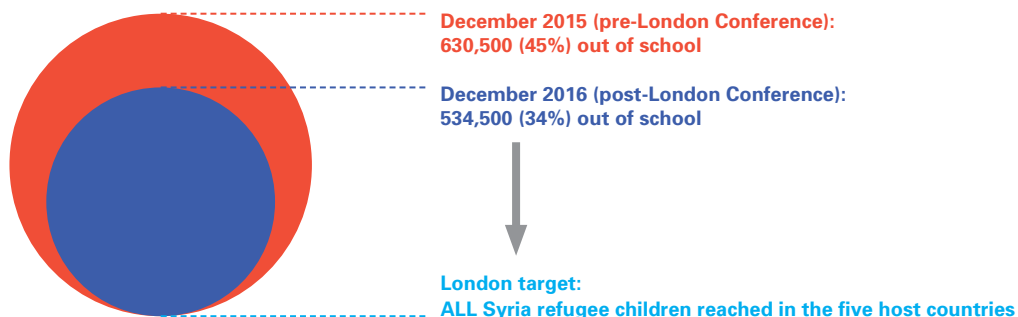


LONDON TARGET 2

Provide all Syrian refugee children (5-17 years) in the five host countries with education opportunities

Between December 2015 and December 2016:

- **Increase in enrolment** from 781,000 (55 per cent) to 1.05 million (66 per cent)
- **Decrease in the number of out-of-school children** from 630,500 (45 per cent) to 534,500 (34 per cent)



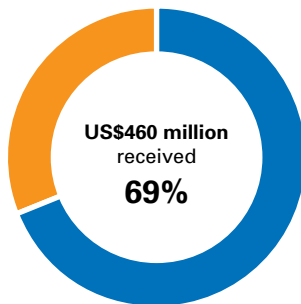
LONDON TARGET 3

Provide education opportunities to 300,000 host-community children affected by the crisis

There are data challenges in providing an accurate number on this goal, but **progress was reported**, including a total of 13,562 Jordanian children benefiting from non-formal education; an increase in public school enrolment of 9,398 Lebanese children in the 2016/17 school year; and 7,000 out-of-school Iraqi children reached by different interventions.

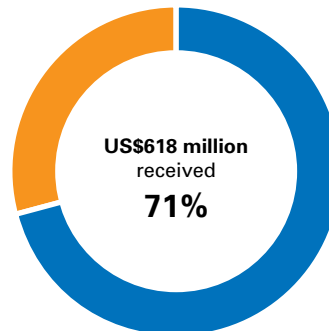
LONDON FUNDING ASK: US\$1.4 billion per year

- In 2016, the total **funding requirements** for education in Syria and the five host countries were calculated at US\$866 million through the country-based planning processes for the Syria HRP (Humanitarian Response Plan) and 3RP (Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan).
- In preparation for the London Conference in early 2016 – to match the **aspirational goal** of *all* children accessing quality education – the education ask was raised to US\$1.4 billion per year.
- By the end of 2016, an amount of US\$618 million was received. Though still falling short of the London ask, the **received funding in 2016 was higher** than in 2015, both in terms of the amount (from US\$460 million to US\$618 million) and the fulfillment of sector requirements (from 69 to 71 per cent).
- 54 per cent of the received funds for 2016 were **available during the first half of the year**. This represents an improvement if compared to the funding received for the 3RP appeal in 2015, when more than half of the appeal was received in the last two months of the year, severely hampering effective planning and progress. A noticeable impetus was created after London in terms of frontloading financial resources, and many donors have committed several years of funding to education.



Sector requirements in 2015:
US\$663 million

London ask:
US\$1.4 billion
per year



Sector requirements in 2016:
US\$866 million

WAY FORWARD: INVESTING FOR THE FUTURE

- The **strategic shifts** in education agreed upon in London around the three pillars of *system strengthening, access and quality* paved the way for meaningful investments for the future – in education and beyond. They need to be improved and sustained.
- **Strengthening public education systems** in the Syria crisis education response entails enhanced national education governance and accountability, planning and costing, teacher professional development, and data collection.
- Stronger **investment in communities** and civil society organizations is essential to sustain schooling, support learning and protect children.
- **Multi-sectoral approaches and partnerships**, including child protection, water, sanitation and hygiene, food and nutrition, and social protection, are instrumental to maintain gains in education, and need to be systematized.
- While **expanding access** to formal education remains a priority, non-formal education is essential to reach the 'hard-to-reach'; on the other hand, all non-formal education provision needs to be accredited and ensure pathways to formal learning.
- **Reaching the youth population with education** must be reinforced to provide and expand post-basic education opportunities, while addressing school-to-work transition.
- Stronger strides need to be made in **quality learning**. The necessary acquisition and measurement of foundational and technical skills should be accompanied with life skills and citizenship education to ensure cognitive learning, psychosocial wellbeing, constructive identity building and social cohesion. The focus on establishing protective, safe, gender-sensitive and inclusive learning environments should be strengthened.
- Investments in **new and mobile technologies** are necessary for reaching children and youth on the move; they need to be better structured and focused on content that is relevant and conflict-sensitive.
- **Sustained, predictable and timely funding** based on country-specific planning cycles remains key to preserve gains and to ensure effective and efficient planning. While maintaining the US\$1.4 billion ask, more concerted outreach needs to be made to non-traditional donors, the private sector, and innovative financing.
- **Multi-stakeholders partnerships** constitute important vehicles for mobilizing and sharing knowledge and expertise to support education for all children.