

# Self-Learning for Out-of-School Children in Syria

## UNICEF and UNRWA Joint Education Programme



Damascus rural - Ma'raba © UNICEF/Syria/2015/Razan Rashidi

### 1. Education under fire in Syria

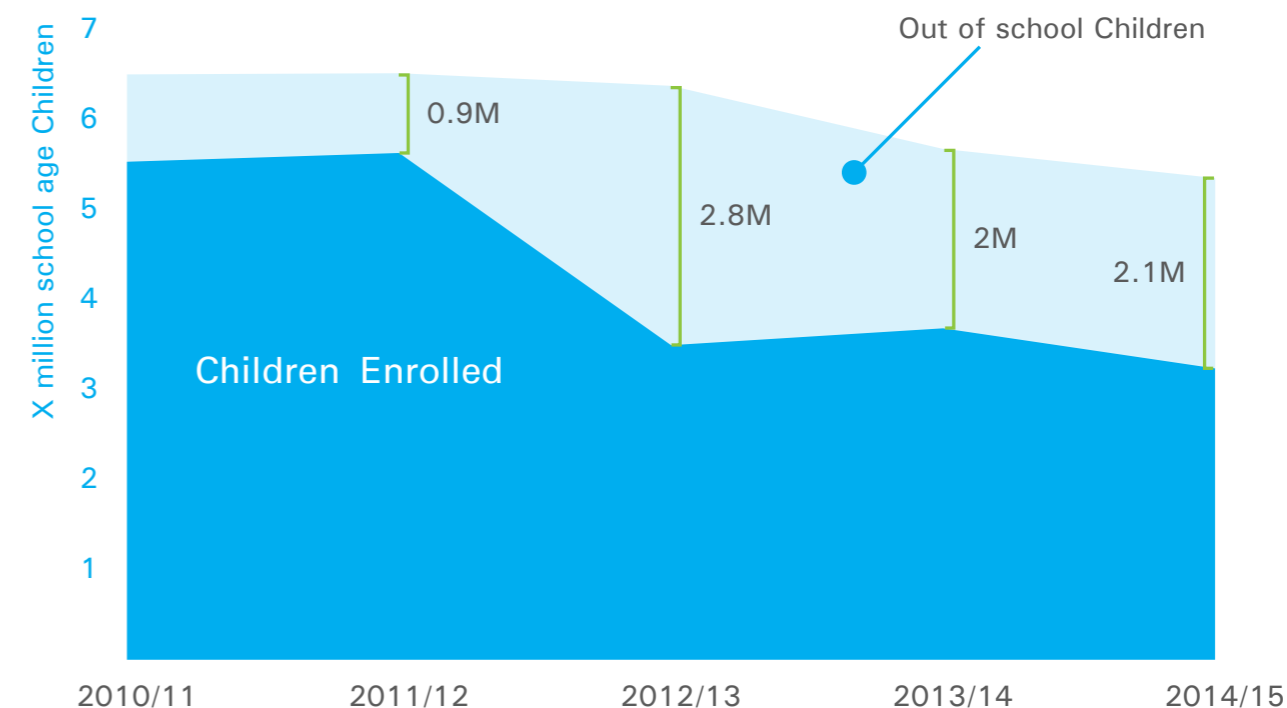
After five years of conflict, two decades of educational progress have been lost as the country's school enrolment rate has plummeted. One in four schools are currently not functioning as they have been either destroyed, damaged or they are sheltering displaced people. As a result, an estimated two million children are out of school in Syria. Some children have never been to school at all while others lost up to five years of their schooling. Those who are living in active conflict areas or trapped in besieged locations are living in fear over the security and safety of their children, preventing many parents from sending their children to school.

### 2. What is the Education Sector doing for out-of-school children?

For the first time, the Self-learning programme has been rolled to provide alternatives to those who cannot access formal education so that these children have the chance to learn and pursue accreditation.

### 3. What is self-learning and how will it be provided?

The Self-Learning is a comprehensive programme corresponding to the national curriculum designed for out-of-school children. Children can study at home, in places of worship or other community learning spaces with the support of an adult, caregivers, community volunteers and family members.



The key objective of the programme is to help Syrian and Palestinian children who are out-of-school or at risk of dropping out and help them prepare for their national exams and gain the required educational certifications.

for children in Syria, both Syrians and Palestinians, to bridge the learning gap enforced on them by the crisis.

### 4. Partnership to provide increased learning opportunities for children of Syria

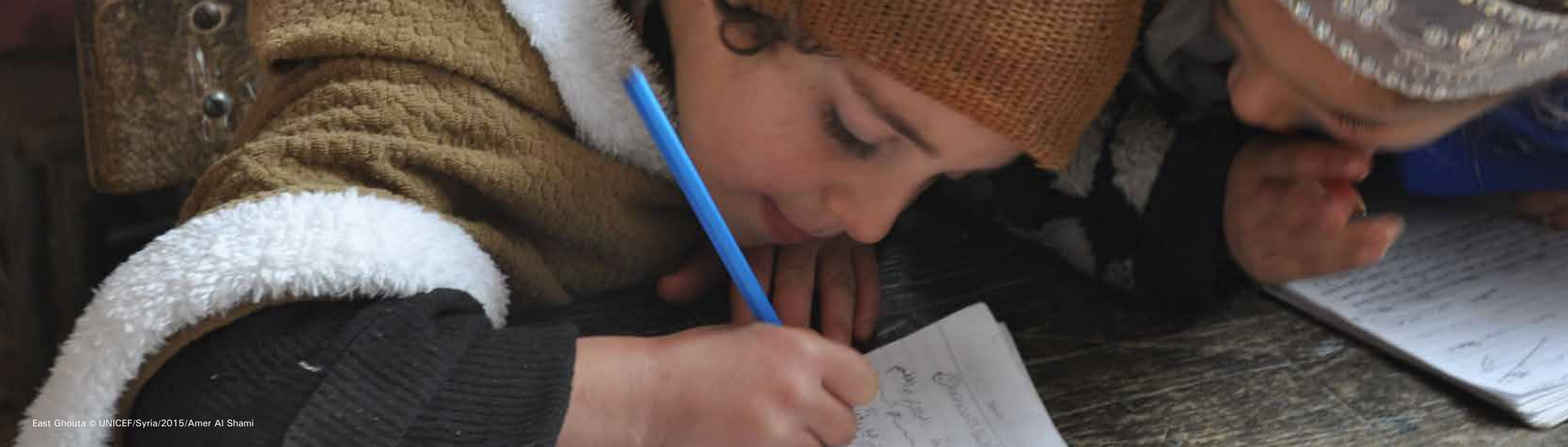
The Self-learning approach was conceptualized and developed by UNRWA in line with the Syrian national curriculum to support all Palestine refugee students living in Syria and affected by the disruption of regular studies. This includes those who are partially attending or not currently enrolled in schools. UNICEF helped in the finalization and production of materials. UNICEF also led the accreditation process of the self-learning curriculum with the Ministry of Education in Syria. This collaboration remains a critical alternative

### 5. Why is Self-learning so important?

According to the 2014/15 Education Sector analysis, more than two million children (5-17 years old) are out of school in Syria. An additional half a million are at risk of dropping out. Many of these children are internally displaced. They are either waiting to be integrated into formal education, or falling behind their peers as they continue to miss years of schooling and thereby at a major risk of dropping out of school.

Unless urgent action is taken, the number of children missing out on their education will continue to rise, putting Syria at risk of losing an entire generation.





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## 6. Which subjects and grades are covered?

The Self-learning materials cover all core subjects for grade 1 to 9. The education programme is delivered through a range of online and off-line innovative learning tools. UNICEF is distributing the self-learning books to children out of school across the country. An accompanying guide book will support teachers, local facilitators, and parents to work with the children on each subject and accompany them in their learning. In addition, UNICEF's local partners have identified alternative locations, in homes and community learning centres, where children can meet their peers and take part in classes with local facilitators and teachers.

UNRWA developed an online Interactive Learning Programme (ILP) that is composed of lessons and educational games focusing on literacy and numeracy for children in grades 1 to 4. TV lessons are broadcasted by UNRWA TV for children in grades 5 to 9.

Subject/grade	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9
Arabic (Semester 1&2)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
English	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Math	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Science	X	X	X	X	X				
Algebra								X	X
Geometry								X	X
Biology							X	X	X
Physics & Chemistry							X	X	X

## 7. Prospective in 2015 and beyond

UNICEF and its implementing partners have rolled out the initial phase of self-learning programme aiming to reach 15,000 out of school children in Homs, Hama, Aleppo and Rural Damascus. UNRWA has distributed the self-learning books to 2,000 ninth-grade students and another 11,300 the previous year. The second phase will have a wider coverage with half a million children expected to benefit by the end of 2016.



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