



EDUCATION

KEY FINDINGS

- Participation in organized learning, which is the percentage of children between 3 and 5 years of age who were attending an early education program at the time of the survey, remained the same as last year at 16%. As for children between 6 and 14 years of age, enrollment remained stable at 67%. The percentage of children between 15 and 17 years of age increased by 7 percentage point at 29% in 2020;
- Noteworthy, following school closure by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) due to COVID-19 pandemic, most students were not able to continue learning in person at school. The rates of students who were able to continue distance learning via online increased by age, 12% for ages between 3 and 5, 17% for 6 to 14 and 15 to 17, and 23% for those between 18 and 24 years old. Lack of or insufficient internet was cited by half as the barrier to accessing online learning;
- The gender parity indices indicated that the share of girls enrolled in schools, remained equal to that boys at primary level. The share of girls was reported to be slightly higher than that of boys at lower secondary (1.14) and lower at higher secondary.

Participation in organized learning: the share of children 3 to 5 years of age who are enrolled in an early childhood education program, such as nursery, KG1, and KG2.

Gender Parity Index: the number of girls enrolled in school over the number of boys enrolled in school. If the gender parity index is over 1, it means that school enrollment is higher for girls than boys.

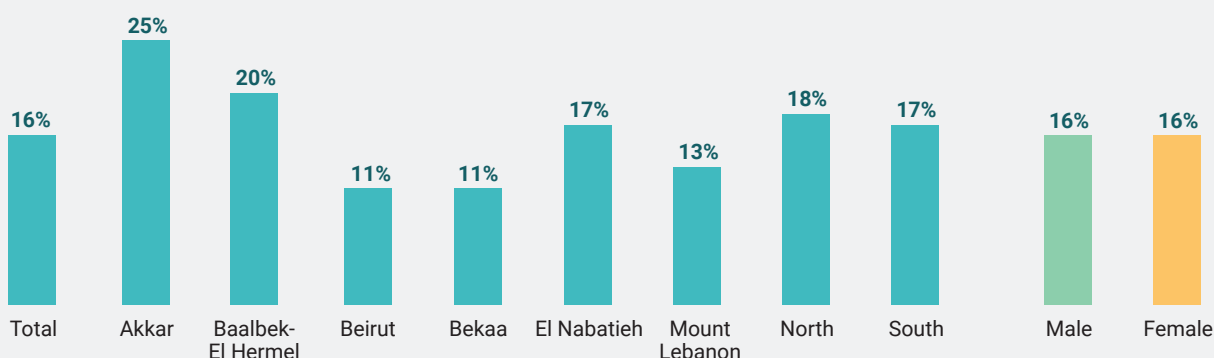
NEET: the share of youth (15 to 24 years of age) who are not employed, not in education or training.

PRE-PRIMARY SCHOOL

The percentage of **children between 3 and 5 years of age who were attending an early childhood education program** was at 16%. The highest rates of participation in organized learning for children between 3 and 5 years of age was

reported in the governorates of Akkar (25%) and Baalbek-El Hermel (20%) and the lowest in the governorates of Bekaa and Beirut at 11% each. The difference between girls and boys was negligible, at 16%.

Figure 1: Participation rate in organized learning



ENROLLMENT IN PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS

As for enrollment in schools, 67% of children of **primary school age (6 to 14 years old) were enrolled in the scholastic year 2019-2020**, similar results to last year. The highest ratio was reported in Beirut at 81% and the lowest in Bekaa at 54%. Despite the national primary enrollment being similar to last year, Baalbek-El Hermel governorate showed an increase from 57% in 2019 to 74% in 2020. Rates were similar for girls and boys.

The rate of children between 15 to 17 years old enrolled in schools at the time of the survey increased from 22% in 2019 to 29% in 2020. Noteworthy, there was a 20 percentage point decrease in secondary school enrollment in Bekaa. Also, there was a marginal difference between boys and girls, at 32% and 27% respectively.

Figure 2: Primary school Age Enrollment (6 to 14 years of age)

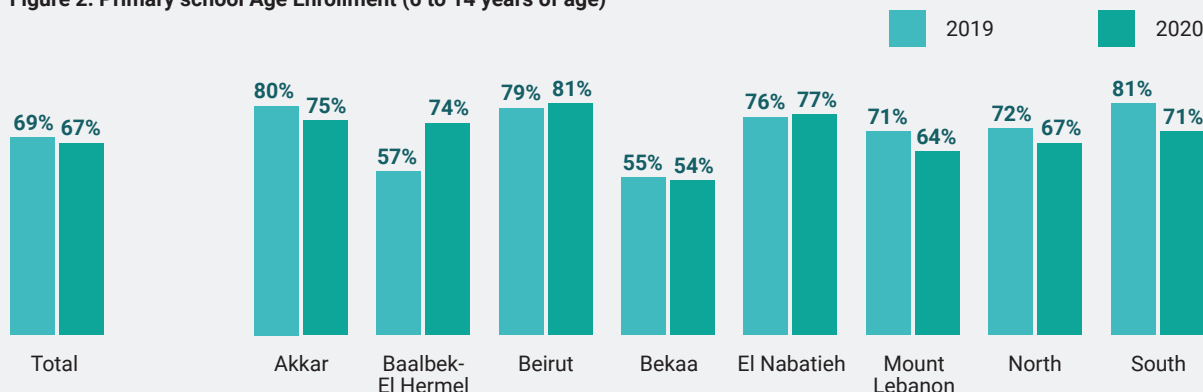
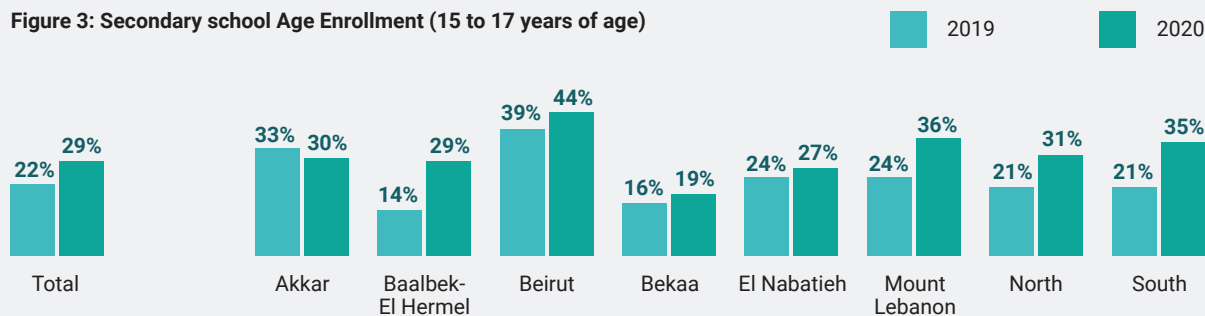


Figure 3: Secondary school Age Enrollment (15 to 17 years of age)

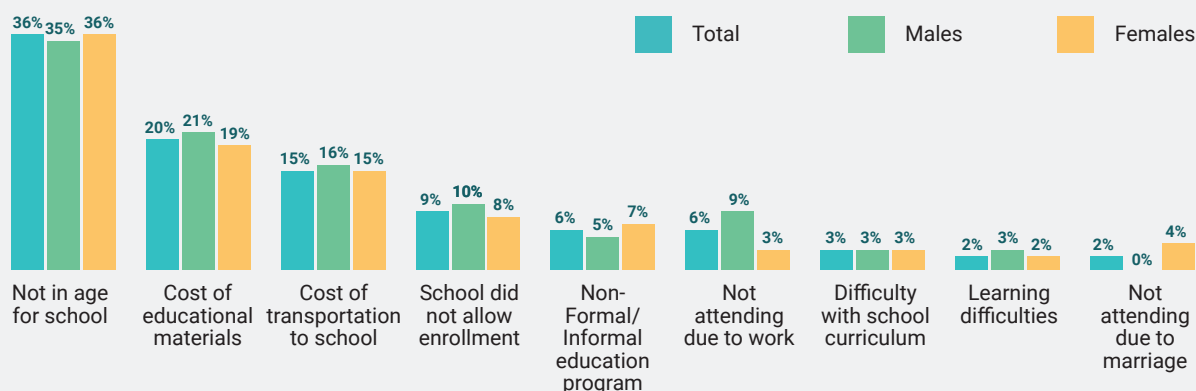


REASONS FOR NOT BEING ENROLLED IN SCHOOL

Similar to previous years, the three most common reasons for not being enrolled in school, were the **child not in age for school** (36%), inability to afford the **cost of educational materials** (20%), and the **cost of transportation to school** (15%). Additional reasons which were cited, albeit to a lower extent, were that **school did not allow** children to be enrolled (9%) or children did not attend due to work (6%)

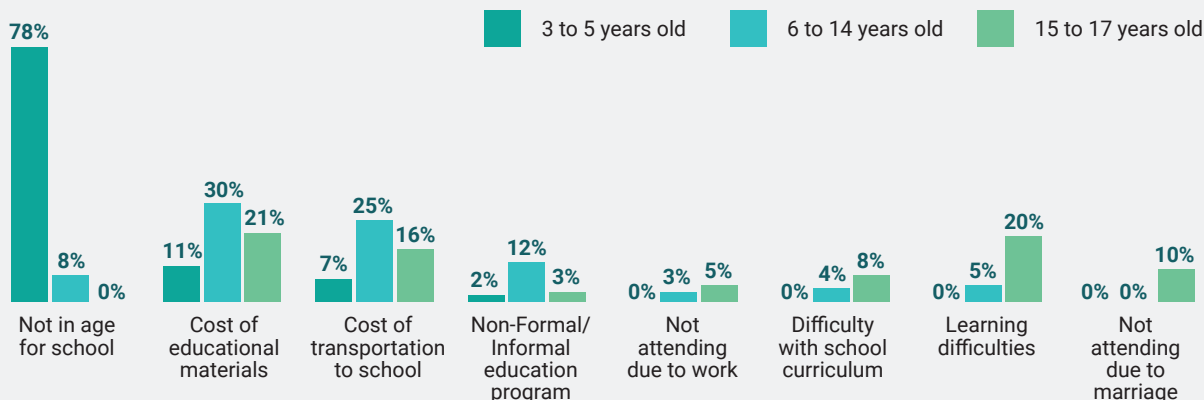
or due to marriage (2%). The trends remained consistent for boys and girls; however, there were differences in the estimates. Specifically, when the reason behind not enrolling was due to work, boys were three times at greater risk than girls (9% vs. 3%); when the reason behind not enrolling was due to marriage, only girls were at risk (4%).

Figure 4: Percentage out of the children between 3 and 17 years of age not enrolled in school



The results vary significantly between the different age groups, as shown in the figure below.

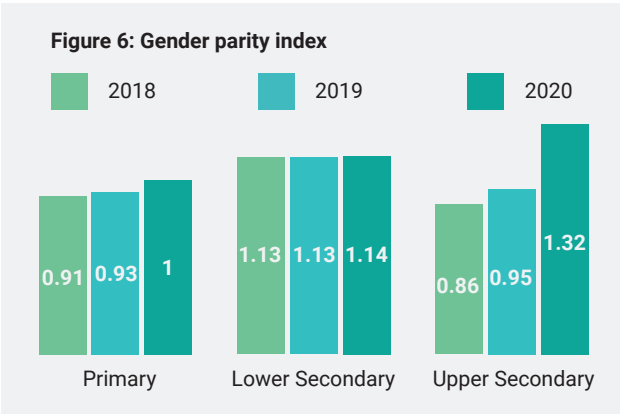
Figure 5: Main reasons for not being enrolled in school, across age groups



GENDER PARITY INDICES

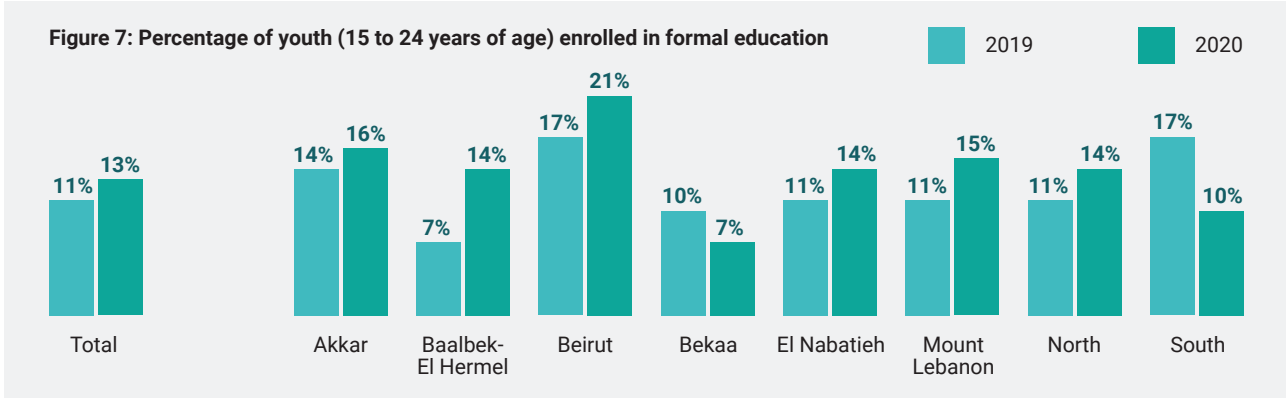
The **gender parity index** is the proportion of girls enrolled in school over the proportion of boys enrolled in school. If the gender parity index is over 1, it means that school enrollment is higher for girls than boys.

The number of girls in primary school was equal to that of boys, as in the previous year. The ratio slightly favored girls in the lower secondary level and the opposite at upper secondary where the number of girls was slightly lower than that of boys.



SCHOOLING OF YOUTH AGED 15-24

Syrian refugee youths between the ages of 15 and 24 years who were enrolled in school was at 13%. The highest was reported in the governorate of Beirut (21%) and the lowest in the governorate of Bekaa (7%). There was no difference across gender with approximately equal rates between girls and boys. The rates considerably differ between age groups, with younger ages (15-18) having 26% enrollment rates, while those 19-24 only reaching 3%. Enrollment rates were similar for girls and boys, among the two youth age groups.



The main reasons for school dropout among youth were detailed in figure 5, and showed variations across age-range and between girls and boys. The main reasons remained similar to last year, although there have been some changes in the estimates of each reasons. Additionally, the prominent reasons has changed since last year. For example, not attending school due to work was the highest reason in 2019. In 2020, the main reported reasons were not attending due to marriage, not attending due to work, or the cost of educational materials.

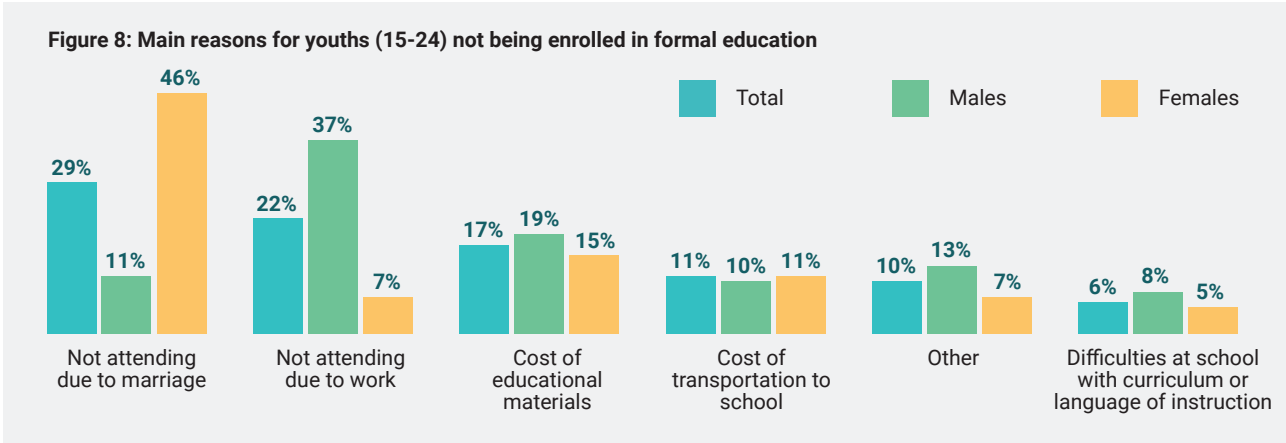


Figure 9: Main reasons for youths (15-18) not being enrolled in formal education

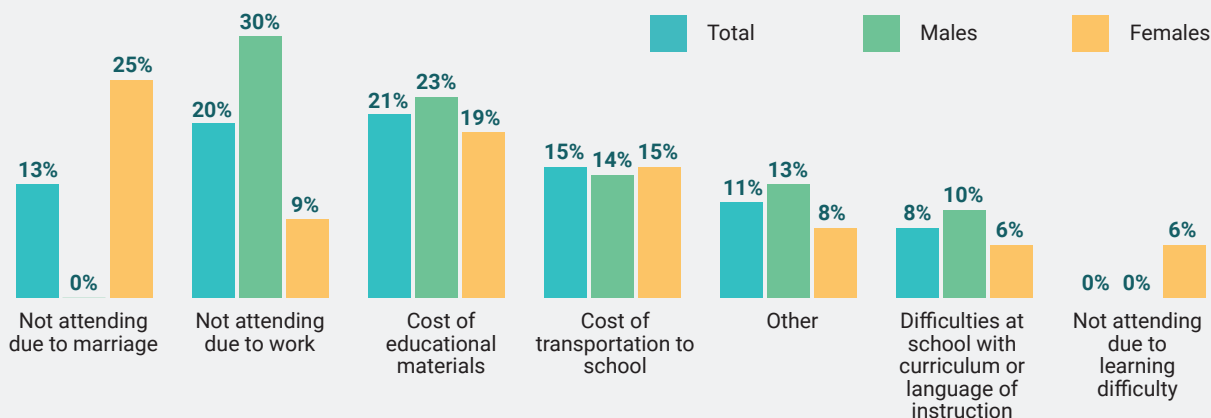
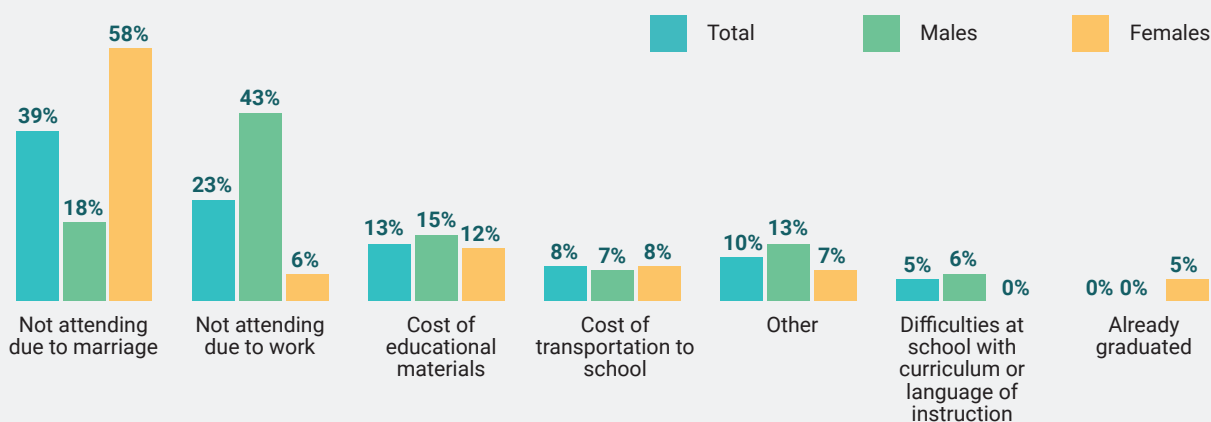


Figure 10: Main reasons for youths (19-24) not being enrolled in formal education



NOT IN EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT, OR TRAINING (NEET)

NEET rates indicate an important focus on the need of Syrian refugee youths (15-24 years) in need of education and improved access to decent work conditions and income generating opportunities.

Similar to last year, the NEET rate among Syrian refugees remained at 67%. The NEET rate was higher among girls than boys, 78% vs. 54% respectively. The rates increased with age ; for youths between 19 and 24 years of age , the NEET was at 75% and for youths 15 to 18 years of age , at 57%. Rates of NEET among Syrian refugee youth varied widely across governorates, with the highest in Bekaa (78%) and the lowest in Beirut and the South (57%).

Figure 11: NEET for Syrian youths

