



Inter-Agency
Coordination
Lebanon



UNHCR
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EDUCATION

Every child has the right to education as stipulated in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. With over 10 years having passed since the outbreak of the Syrian war, two years of COVID-19-related school closures, and prolonged socioeconomic crisis in Lebanon, Syrian refugee children, adolescents, and youth are at continuous risk of becoming a lost generation. However, the Government of Lebanon and the international community have joined their efforts to ensure every child in Lebanon has access to quality and inclusive education.

This chapter describes the school attendance rates of Syrian refugee girls and boys aged from 3 to 24 years old. Furthermore, the chapter provides the reasons why children and youth were not attending schools or were absent during the school year, and the share of youth not in education, employment or training (NEET). The results are based on 2,887 pre-primary schoolchildren (3–5 years), 6,517 primary school children (6–14 years of age) and 1,570 secondary schoolchildren (15–17 years).

KEY FINDINGS

- More than half (53 per cent) of school-aged children (6–17 years) attended the 2021–2022 school year. Of those, 91 per cent attended only physically, 7 per cent attended school via a hybrid approach (both physically and online), and the remaining 2 per cent attended only online. Across the years, the gender parity for primary school attendance was at equilibrium for children (1.01) and favoured girls at lower secondary (1.56) and upper secondary (2.02) levels.
- The most reported reasons for not attending school for children aged 3–17 were the cost of transportation to schools (cited by 34 per cent, with an increase of 5 percentage points from 2021) and the cost of educational materials (cited by 29 per cent, with an increase of 14 percentage points from 2021).
- Youth aged 15–24 who were not attending any formal education, not attending any vocational training programme and not working (i.e. NEET) was at 59 per cent, with a decrease of 8 percentage points compared to 2021 and 2020. This decrease is mainly among the adolescent age group (aged 15–18).

Participation in organized learning: The share of children aged 3 to 5 who are attending an early childhood education programme, such as nursery and kindergarten.

Gender parity index: The number of girls attending school over the number of boys attending school. If the gender parity index is over 1, it means that school attendance is higher for girls than boys.

NEET: The share of youth (15–24 years) who are not in employment, education or training.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

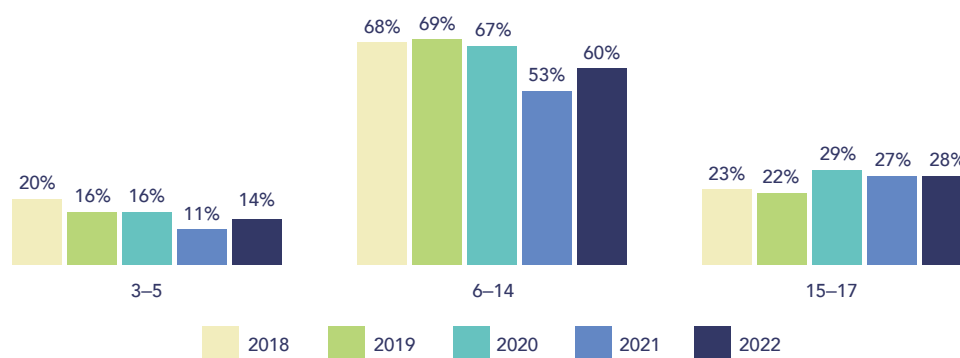
Participation of children aged 3–5 in organized learning or an early childhood education programme, namely kindergarten or nursery, was at 14 per cent in 2022. The rates varied across shelter types, the highest among children in households living in residential units at 16 per cent and lowest among children in households living in non-permanent shelters at 9 per cent. The rate of participation did not differ between boys and girls.

ACCESS TO SCHOOL

Among all children aged 6–14, 60 per cent attended school at any time during the scholastic year 2021–2022. The distribution of geographical estimates remained as in the previous year: the highest attendance rate was reported in Beirut governorate (70 per cent) and El Nabatieh (68 per cent), while the lowest was in Bekaa (50 per cent). Results disaggregated by gender show a higher attendance rate among girls with a 62 per cent attendance rate, 5 percentage points higher than boys.

The attendance rate was higher among children aged 6–11 than children aged 12–14, 62 per cent and 55 per cent respectively. The difference between girls and boys was prominent among the older group of 12–14 years, with a difference of 13 percentage points in favour of girls with a 61 per cent attendance rate, compared to boys with a 48 per cent attendance rate. Shelter type also played a role, with rates significantly decreasing from residential units with the highest rates, to non-residential units, and non-permanent units being the worst off.

Figure 1: School enrolment (2018–2020) and attendance (2021–2022) of Syrian refugee children, by age group



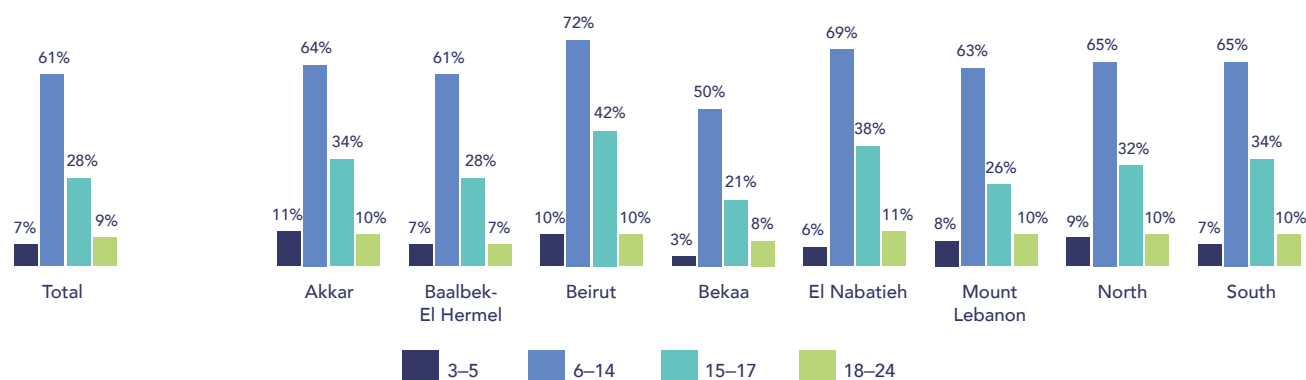
NET ATTENDANCE RATES

The adjusted net attendance rate (A-NAR) is the percentage of children of a given age who are attending an education level compatible with their age or a higher education level (adjusted). In 2022, the A-NAR for primary school with children aged 6–11 was at 51 per cent, dropping to 17 per cent at lower secondary school for adolescents aged 12–14, and further decreasing to 6 per cent at upper secondary school.

Gender parity index

Similarly to 2021, the gender parity for primary school attendance has been in equilibrium between girls and boy, with a rate of 1.01. However, as children grow and progress to the next grade, the parity witnesses an increase, with a gender parity index (GPI) of 1.56 at lower secondary and 2.02 at upper secondary level.

Figure 2: Attendance during school year 2021–2022, by governorate



Reasons for not attending school

The costs of education remain the prominent reason for children aged between 3 and 17 not attending school. Specifically, 32 per cent cited the cost of transportation to school, and 27 per cent cited the cost of education materials. Third in place is not attending due to work at 22 per cent, with an increase of 3 percentage points

since last year, and a significant difference between boys at 35 per cent and girls at 6 per cent. Other reasons mentioned included schools not allowing children to be enrolled (7 per cent), difficulties at school with the curriculum or language of instruction (7 per cent), and marriage (6 per cent).

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Planning to enrol in the coming school year

For children aged 3 to 5, 70 per cent of their caregivers plan to enrol them in school in the coming school year 2022/2023, with North Lebanon recording the highest rate (79 per cent). The rate of girls' caregivers planning to enrol their children is lower (59 per cent) than that of boys' caregivers (72 per cent). As for the 6 to 14 age group, 77 per cent plan to be enrolled in the coming school year, with South Lebanon recording the highest rate (85 per cent). The rate of girls for this age group is slightly higher than the rate of boys (80 per cent) and (74 per cent) respectively. A significant

drop can be noticed with regards to the age group of 15 to 17, where 32 per cent plan to enrol in the coming school year, with Beirut reporting the highest rate (51 per cent). The rate of girls is also higher than that of boys in this age group (38 per cent) and (28 per cent) respectively. Similarly, with regards to the 18 to 24 age group, only 12 per cent plan to enrol in the coming school year, with Mount Lebanon reporting the highest rate (15 per cent). The rate of girls is slightly higher than that of boys (12 per cent) and (11 per cent) respectively.

Providing bags, stationery and allowances

The majority of caregivers of school children (92 per cent), reported providing children aged 6–17 with stationery and bags. Almost half (48 per cent) of the households with schoolchildren aged 6–17 reported providing their child with allowance for the school year 2021/2022, with South Lebanon reporting the highest rate (70 per cent) and Beirut the lowest (35 per cent). The rates of girls and boys are similar, 49 per cent and 48 per cent respectively.

As for the different age groups, bag and stationery ownership were at optimal levels; however, 46 per cent of households with children aged 3–5 provided allowances to their children for this school year. Similarly, 48 per cent of households with children aged 6–14, 51 per cent of households with children aged 15–17, and 71 per cent of households with youths aged 18–24 reported providing allowances to their children.

YOUTH SCHOOLING AND EDUCATION

Only 16 per cent of adolescents and youth aged 15–24 were attending school in 2022, an minor increase of 3 percentage points since 2021, with Beirut recording the highest attendance rate (21 per cent) and Bekaa and Baalbek-El Hermel the lowest (14 per cent). Girls had higher attendance rates than boys, 18 per cent and 14 per cent respectively. The rate of attendance differed drastically between adolescents and youth aged 15–18 (27 per cent), versus 19–24 (7 per cent). Notably, 35 per cent of youth had

never attended school. With regards to the modality of learning, among those of the 15–18 age group who attended school, 87 per cent attended in-person only, 10 per cent attended via a hybrid approach (both physically and online), and only 3 per cent attended only online. As for the 19–24 age group, 78 per cent attended in-person only, 12 per cent attended via a hybrid approach, and 12 per cent attended online only.

NOT IN EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT OR TRAINING (NEET)

The share of young people who fall under the NEET definition tend to be at higher risk of social exclusion, with little to no income and lacking skills to improve their economic situation. Thus, reducing the NEET number is a result of effective school-to-work transition, improved access to decent work conditions, and income-generating opportunities.

Among all youth aged 15–24, 59 per cent were NEET, with female youth at 69 per cent and male youth at 43 per cent. The NEET proportion decreased by 8 percentage points compared to the two previous years, when it stood at 67 per cent. Noteworthy, the NEET proportion dropped the most among adolescents (15–18 years), with 16 percentage points compared to 41 per cent in 2022, compared to a decrease of 5 per cent among young adults (19–24 years).

Table 1: Syrian refugee youths not in education, employment or training

Total	15–24	59%
Age	15–18	41%
	19–24	70%
Gender	Male	43%
	Female	69%
Governorate	Akkar	64%
	Baalbek-El Hermel	52%
	Beirut	59%
	Bekaa	49%
	El Nabatieh	62%
	Mount Lebanon	64%
	North Lebanon	62%
	South Lebanon	62%
Gender of head of household	Male	61%
	Female	50%
Head of household's educational level	Illiterate	64%
	Literate, never attended school	48%
	Primary	64%
	Secondary/technical and vocational training	54%
	Higher education	66%
Has a disability	No	58%
	Yes	71%