



**Education and Learning**  
Opportunities for Syrian  
Returning Children  
**INFORMATION PACKAGE**

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Opportunities for Syrian

Returning Children

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Product of UNICEF Middle East and North Africa Regional Office

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## What is the Information Package

This comprehensive Information Package is designed as a guide for frontline workers supporting Syrian refugee communities and Syrian families. It provides essential information on available education and learning opportunities for children and adolescents in Syria and those returning to Syria, along with detailed enrolment procedures for accessing various educational services.

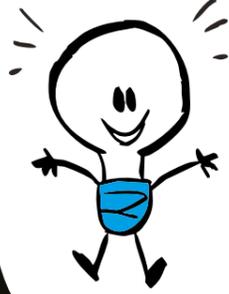
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### IMPORTANT NOTICE:

The information provided in this guide is subject to revision based on updated guidelines from the Ministry of Education. To ensure that you have the most up-to-date information, please scan the QR code below to access the latest version of this document.





# Key Advocacy Messages

**1.**  **Education is a fundamental right:** Access to education and learning opportunities for everyone (regardless of gender, economic status, physical ability, etc.) is protected by international conventions and national laws.

**2.**  **Education must continue under all circumstances:** Learning must continue uninterrupted under all circumstances.

**3.**  **Inclusive education benefits all children:** Every child, regardless of their physical, intellectual, or linguistic abilities, deserves the opportunity to receive quality education, which contributes to building a more equitable society

**4.**  **School and learning routines promote psychological wellbeing:** The daily structure of attending school or a learning space provides emotional stability and psychosocial benefits that are essential for children's mental health, especially after experiencing displacement or trauma.

**5.**  **Returning to education is crucial:** Depriving children of education exposes them to difficulties in cognitive development and social integration, and reduces their chances of securing work that ensures future economic security. Therefore, education in all its forms, especially vocational education, remains a cornerstone for better learning and employment opportunities.

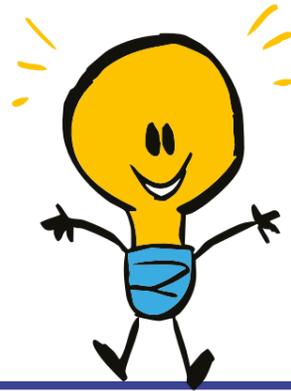
**6.**  **Early childhood education is an investment in the future:** It strengthens cognitive, social, and emotional development, builds life skills, and ensures equal opportunities for children from all backgrounds. This prepares them for lifelong learning and promotes social cohesion.

**7.**  **Integrating children with disabilities into education is a fundamental right:** It guarantees them equal opportunities for growth and participation, and contributes to promoting equity and social cohesion. This requires preparing schools, training teachers, and providing inclusive learning environments that enable children to develop their potential and contribute effectively to their communities.

# Formal Education System

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# 1 Formal Education System



Syria implements a structured 12-year education system consisting of both basic and secondary stages in addition to early childhood education (Pre-primary education).

**Early Childhood Education (Pre-Primary Education)** is a non-compulsory stage but highly beneficial, and includes three groups from three to five years old, as follows: **First group:** age three; **Second group:** age four and **Third group:** age five.

**Basic education** consists of two sequential cycles spanning nine years. The first cycle, primary education (grades 1-6), spans six years, followed by the second cycle, preparatory education (grades 7-9), which lasts for three years. Upon completing basic education in grade 9, all students are required to take the national examination (G9) (the Basic Education Certificate). The results of this exam determine students' eligibility for secondary education pathways. Based on scores, students are then placed in either general secondary education or vocational education tracks.

**Secondary education** in Syria spans three years (grades 10, 11 and 12) and is offered in either general secondary schools, which provide scientific and literary streams, or in vocational secondary schools. The systematic progression through these educational stages ensures students acquire the essential knowledge and skills in line with Syria's national curriculum standards, preparing them for further academic pursuits at institutes or universities, including graduate studies (Diploma, Master's, Doctorate) or for entering the workforce.

- **General Secondary Education:** Most students in general secondary schools choose between the scientific or literary track based on their preferences, interests, and academic abilities. Upon completing secondary education, students sit for the national comprehensive examination, which serves as a gateway to higher education. The results directly influence university admission options and future career paths.
- **Vocational Secondary Education:** Vocational education in its three branches - Industrial, Commercial, and Women's Arts - aims to provide skilled workers who meet labour market demands. Students receive practical training in real work environments through specialized training centres and production workshops associated with vocational schools.

## Formal Education system



### Basic Education (Compulsory)

- Primary education (Grades 1-6)
- Preparatory education (Grades 7-9)

End of Grade 9:

- National Exam **G9**  
*Basic Education Certificate*



### Secondary Education (Grades 10-12)

- **General Secondary Education**  
Tracks: **Scientific** | **Literary**  
National comprehensive Exam  
Universities Admission Career
- **Vocational Secondary Education**  
Branches: **Industrial** | **commercial** & **women's arts**  
Goal: Skilled Workforce



### Higer Education

- Universities & Institutes Degrees: (Diploma, Master's, Doctorate)
- Entering the workforce.



## Process of enrolment:

According to official directives from the Syrian Ministry of Education (MoE), the enrolment procedure for Syrian refugee students wishing to return varies based on their current country of residence and the educational documentation they possess.

<b>1</b> Before Leaving Your Host Country	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Obtain your education transcript that shows the successful completion of the last educational level that you attended, including a stamped and certified certificate that outlines your academic achievements from the educational provider (school or organization).</li> </ul>
	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Certify the transcript through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in your country of residence.</li> </ul>
	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Obtain certification from the Syrian Embassy or diplomatic mission in your country of residence.</li> </ul>
<b>2</b> Upon Arrival in Syria	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Certify all documents through the Syrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates in Damascus.</li> </ul>
	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submit the Family Booklet or an extract family certificate from the Civil Registry.</li> </ul>
	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Obtain a medical report from the school health department.</li> </ul>

**3**

### Final Step



- Submit all required documents to the Directorate of Education in the governorate where your family will be residing.

Registration method with official educational documents: Required documents should be submitted directly to the school and include:

- School registration application.
- A commitment from the guardian to continue sending the child to school until the completion of basic education.
- A copy of the civil registry entry (birth certificate).
- A copy of the page showing the father, mother, and child in the Family Booklet.
- A copy of the guardian's personal ID card +3 personal photos of the student.
- A health card from the school health clinic.

### What happens next?



- Evaluation of Academic Records:** Students holding properly endorsed and certified academic transcripts will have their records reviewed and evaluated by the School Administrative Committee.



- Grade Placement:** Following assessment, students will be placed in the appropriate grade level at the school nearest to their place of residence.



- Requirement for Free Candidates for the Grade 9 Examination:** Students applying independently (not through school) to sit for the national Grade 9 Basic Education Certificate Examination must present a certificate proving successful completion of Grade 6.



- Assessment for Students with Grade 9 Transcripts:** Students with endorsed and certified Grade 9 transcripts must pass a standardized (two-subjects) assessment.



- Placement in Grade 10 and Above:** Placement into Grade 10 or higher will be determined based on the evaluation of the transcript and the results of the assessment. Requirement for Free Candidates for Grade 12 Examination: Students applying independently (not through a school) to sit for the national Grade 12 Secondary Education Certificate Examination must pass the qualifying examination.

### Conditions and Procedures for Equivalency of School Certificates for Syrian Students Residing Abroad Who Wish to Continue Their Studies in the Syrian Arab Republic

*(According to the guidelines issued by the Syrian Ministry of Education)*

#### Conditions for Equivalency of Basic Education Certificates (Grades 1 to 8):

- If you hold a Basic Education Certificate for any grade (Grade 1 to Grade 8) from a host country, you must submit an official transcript for the last grade you attended, indicating successful completion, along with the grades for the subjects studied. The transcript must be duly certified by the issuing institution, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the host country, and the Syrian Embassy or diplomatic mission in that country. A certified copy must also be authenticated by the Syrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates.
- The above documents must be accompanied by a copy of the family booklet and a medical report issued by the School Health Directorate in the Syrian Arab Republic, to be submitted to the Directorate of Education in the governorate where you wish to reside. If the Family Booklet is unavailable, an individual civil status record will be accepted.
- If you are unable to provide the required authenticated documents, you will need to undergo a placement test to determine your appropriate grade level based on your age.
- There are no registration fees in public schools, except for the cost of the school ID card and related stamps (financial and teachers' syndicate stamps).

#### Conditions for Equivalency of the Basic Education Completion Certificate (Grade 9):

- If you hold a Basic Education Completion Certificate (Grade 9) or an equivalent certificate (if provided by a host country), or a certificate showing successful completion of Grade 9, you must submit it along with a transcript indicating the subjects studied and the corresponding grades. The certificate must be authenticated by the Syrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates in Damascus. The Directorate of Education will then forward the full set of original documents to the School Documentation Committee at the Directorate of Examinations at the Ministry of Education for equivalency processing.
- The above documents must be accompanied by a copy of the Family Booklet and a medical report issued by the School Health Directorate in Syria, to be submitted to the Directorate of Education in the governorate where you wish to reside. If the Family Booklet is unavailable, an individual civil status record will be accepted.
- You will be required to sit for an equivalency test aligned with the Basic Education Certificate issued in the Syrian Arab Republic, based on the decision of the Equivalency Committee at the Ministry of Education.
- There are no fees for the equivalency process of the Basic Education Certificate.

#### Conditions for Equivalency of Secondary Education Certificates (Grades 10 and 11):

- You must submit an official school document indicating the result (pass or fail) of the last grade attended in secondary education, along with your Basic Education Certificate or your Grade 9 pass certificate.
- The above documents must be accompanied by a certified copy of an individual civil status record or personal ID, and a medical report from the School Health Directorate in Syria, to be submitted to the Directorate of Education in the governorate where you wish to reside.
- There are no registration fees in public schools, except for the cost of the school ID card and related stamps (financial and teachers' syndicate stamps).

#### Conditions for Equivalency of the Secondary Education Completion Certificate (Grade 12/Baccalaureate):

- If you hold a Secondary Education Completion Certificate (Grade 12) and wish to register at a Syrian university, you must submit the secondary certificate, including a detailed transcript (stating "pass" where applicable), and a record of your secondary school progression, showing the subjects studied and grades for each year of secondary school. You must also provide your Basic Education Certificate (Grade 9).
- All documents must be properly certified by the issuing institution, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the host country, and the Syrian Embassy or diplomatic mission in that country.
- You must submit the documents to the relevant authorities, who will forward them to the Certificate Equivalency Department at the Ministry of Education in Damascus for the equivalency process.
- Equivalency testing will take place for Syrian students will be processed before verification of the information stated in the certificate.
- The equivalency fee for the Secondary Education Certificate for Syrian students is **25,000 Syrian Pounds (SYP)**, after verifying the certificate's authenticity, in addition to a **50,000 SYP** fee for any complementary subject exams needed for certificates issued based on foreign educational curricula.
- The equivalency fee for the Secondary Education Certificate for non-Syrian students is **150 USD**, and equivalency will proceed after verifying the information contained in the certificate.
- Any document issued outside the Syrian Arab Republic must be certified by the issuing institution, the Syrian Embassy in the host country, and the Syrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates, or by any institution accredited by the Ministry.



## Special Circumstances

	<p><b>If You Have No Documents:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☑ You may need to take a placement test to assess your academic knowledge and determine the appropriate grade level based on your age and educational background.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>If You Submit Incomplete Documents:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☑ You may be conditionally accepted by the Directorate of Education for a period of two months, based on your most recent school document or a copy of it from the previous academic year. This acceptance allows you temporary enrolment while you work on completing and authenticating your documents.</li> <li>☑ This conditional acceptance may be extended once by the Directorate of Education within the same academic year.</li> <li>☑ If you are unable to provide the duly authenticated documents within this period, your case will be referred to the School Documents Committee at the Directorate of Examinations in the Ministry of Education for a decision regarding your continued enrolment.</li> </ul>

### Registration Procedure When No Official Documents Are Available:

#### 1. For Basic Education (Grades 1 to 9):

- A knowledge assessment (placement test) will be conducted for the student at the school where enrolment is desired.
- The results of the placement test must be certified by the Directorate of Education (Department of Basic Education) to determine appropriate grade placement.
- The placement test results must be submitted along with an official letter from the Directorate of Education, a copy of the Family Booklet, and a medical report from the School Health Directorate.

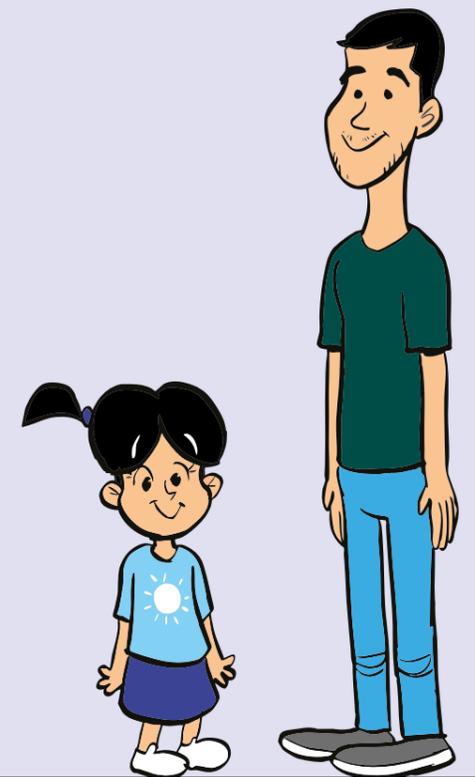
- In case the Family Booklet is not available, an individual civil status record will be accepted.

#### 2. For Secondary Education:

- A copy of the Basic Education Certificate must be obtained from the Directorate of Education (Examinations Department) and attached along with any documents proving your enrolment or studies in the secondary education stage.

#### If Your Previous Education Was Not in Arabic:

- Contact the Certificate Equivalency Department at the Ministry of Education during January, July, or October.
- Register for the certificate Equivalency Examination, which is administered in February, August, or November.
- You will be required to sit for complementary subject examinations in Arabic Language and Social Studies (History and Geography).

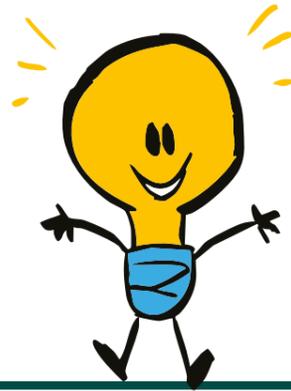


# Opportunities for Out of School or at Risk of Drop-out Learners

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# Opportunities for Out of School or at Risk of Drop-out Learners



To ensure the continuity of learning and reintegration of students into the formal education system, a range of educational opportunities are available to meet the needs of children and adolescents who are out of school or at risk of dropping out. These opportunities are also available for children and adolescents who require support as they transition from education systems in host countries into the formal education system in Syria.

### Available Educational Opportunities:

- 

**Formal Regular Education:**

  - For children who have a learning loss of less than two academic years and whose age corresponds to the official age range for each grade level according to the school year regulations.
- 

**Accelerated Formal Education (Curriculum B Program):** For children who have a learning loss of more than two academic years and are between the ages of 8 and 15 years old.
- 

**Non-Formal Education (Empowered Learning Materials- ELM):** In cases where formal education opportunities are not available, this program supports children of all ages between 6 and 18 years old.
- 

**Remedial Education:** A supportive program to bridge educational gaps within the formal education system. Several remedial programs are offered by community-based organizations, including programs to strengthen basic literacy and numeracy skills.
- 

**Literacy Programs:** Literacy programs for young people over 15 years old and adults, implemented in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture.



## FORMAL SCHOOL

If the learning loss is less than two academic years and the child's age aligns with the age range specified for each grade level for the relevant school year, then a child can be placed in formal school.

Refer to the above information



## ACCELERATED FORMAL EDUCATION (CURRICULUM B PROGRAM):

An accredited accelerated learning programme developed by the Ministry of Education and implemented by the Directorates of Education according to the Ministry's plan. The programme is designed for children and adolescents aged between 8 to 15 who have been out of formal education for more than two academic years, whether they dropped out or never enrolled in school. It aims to bridge their learning gaps, help them to catchup with their peers and equip out-of-school children with the basic knowledge and skills needed to participate in national exams and transition into the formal education system.

The programme compresses two academic years into one, allowing students to fast-track their learning. Curriculum B is structured into four levels, each level covering two grades over one academic year:

- Level 1:** Grades 1 and 2
- Level 2:** Grades 3 and 4
- Level 3:** Grades 5 and 6
- Level 4:** Grades 7 and 8

*Upon successful completion of this level, students may sit for the Basic Education Certificate Examination as independent candidates, provided they meet the required age criteria as outlined in the examination regulations.*

### Accelerated Formal Learning Programme (Curriculum B)

Bridging gaps, catching up, and transitioning students into formal education.

<p><b>Developed &amp; Implemented</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Ministry of Education</li> <li> Directorates of Education (according to Ministry's plan)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Programme Objectives</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Bridge learning gaps</li> <li>✓ Catch up with peers</li> <li>✓ Equip with basic knowledge &amp; skills</li> <li>✓ Prepare for national exams</li> <li>✓ Transition into formal education system</li> </ul>
<p><b>Target Group</b></p> <p> <b>8-15</b></p> <p>Out of school ≥ 2 (Dropped out or never enrolled)</p> <p><b>Compressed format: 2 years → 1 year</b></p>	<p><b>Curriculum B Structure</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Level 1</b> ▶ Grades 1 &amp; 2</li> <li><b>Level 2</b> ▶ Grades 3 &amp; 4</li> <li><b>Level 3</b> ▶ Grades 5 &amp; 6</li> <li><b>Level 4</b> ▶ Grades 7 &amp; 8</li> </ul> <p> Basic Education Certificate Exam</p>

**Curriculum Content:** The programme covers all core academic subjects, in addition to Art Education, Music, Physical Education, Psychosocial Support, Life Skills activities, and relevant recreational and educational activities across all four levels.

**Process of Enrolment**

		
<p>☑ Once you arrive in Syria, approach the Directorate of Education of the governorate where your family is residing, bring your Family Booklet or an extract of the civil registry.</p>	<p>☑ Your child's file will be assessed based on their competency and age.</p>	<p>☑ Your child will then be placed in the appropriate level.</p>

Enrollment in the official accelerated curriculum (Curriculum B) follows the same procedures as those for enrollment in the regular formal education system, with specific considerations for Curriculum B students:

- The ages of Curriculum B students are determined according to the annual enrolment and admission guidelines issued by the Ministry of Education.
- Illiterate children who are eight years of age are directly accepted into Level 1 of Curriculum B.
- Children who have dropped out of school or have been out of education for two or more academic years are re-enrolled as Curriculum B students after undergoing a knowledge assessment using the official placement test form recognized by the Ministry of Education. This assessment is conducted by a school committee consisting of at least one teacher and the school principal, to determine which of the four levels the child should be placed in.
- A Curriculum B student can return to the regular formal (non-accelerated) education system once their academic level becomes compatible with their chronological age, considering any years of repetition if applicable.
- At the end of the school year, a student's success or failure is determined based on their



**EMPOWERED LEARNING MATERIALS (ELM)**

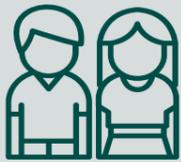
Empowered Learning Material (ELM) is a non-formal educational programme based on interactive activities, designed for out-of-school children and adolescents aged between 8 and 18 years old. It aims to bridge their learning gaps, support their preparation for school examinations, and ensure their later successful integration into formal education services.

The programme offers active and interactive academic content fully aligned with the Syrian national curriculum. It covers core subjects such as Arabic, English, French, Math and General Science (Natural Sciences, Physics, and Chemistry).

The ELM programme is implemented in non-formal education learning centres, where the education level of children and adolescents is determined based on the results of a placement assessment form. Learners are then placed in one of nine grade levels according to their assessment results. They attend sessions for an average of 24 weeks per grade level.

**Content:**

- 57 textbooks are available across all grade levels and subjects, as detailed in the table below.

 <p><b>Grade 1-6</b></p> <p>☑ <b>Subjects:</b> Arabic (part 1 &amp; 2); Math (Part 1 &amp; 2); Science and English</p> <p>☑ <b># of books:</b> 6 books per grade</p>	 <p><b>Grade 7-9</b></p> <p>☑ <b>Subjects:</b> Arabic; English; French; Math – Geometry; Math- Algebra; Natural Science; Physics and Chemistry</p> <p>☑ <b># of books:</b> 7 books per grade</p>
<p><b>Total number of books: 57</b></p>	

- 9 Guides on How Do I Learn? A Guide for Each Grade
- The “How Do I Learn?” guide is based on self-learning strategies aimed at empowering learners to manage their studies independently, enhancing their critical thinking, analysis, and planning skills to organize and absorb information more effectively. To make learning more interesting and adapted to the needs of each learner, the guide offers interactive strategies based on experience, practical application, self-assessment, and reflection on learning, allowing learners to track their progress and continuously develop their skills.
- The guide also outlines, according to the presentation, the basic skills needed for learners to succeed in self-learning, such as time management, focus, and effective summarization. In addition, the guide provides modern tools and techniques to improve skills in reading, memorization, smart studying, writing, listening, note-taking, and exam management, which helps raise the level of academic achievement. Among the methods used are organizing information through mind maps and diagrams, which greatly contribute to enhancing understanding and memory, making the learning process more efficient and smooth.



## REMEDIAL LEARNING

The MOE, NGOs, community-based organizations and United Nations agencies provide remedial education and accelerated learning courses in safe and conducive learning environments, both inside and outside of schools. These programmes are for children and adolescents who either wish to transition to formal education, or those already enrolled in formal schools from grades 1 to 12 and who need additional academic support. The programmes also provide assistance to students who wish to take the official exams for basic and secondary education.

The remedial and accelerated learning courses align with the national curriculum. These courses are focused on essential subjects such as languages (Arabic, English and French), math, science, physics, chemistry and the core subjects of secondary education (literary track).

Additionally, foundational sessions are offered for children under 15 who are illiterate and lack basic arithmetic skills. These sessions aim to support literacy and numeracy and are provided by local community organizations with the support of UN agencies and donors.

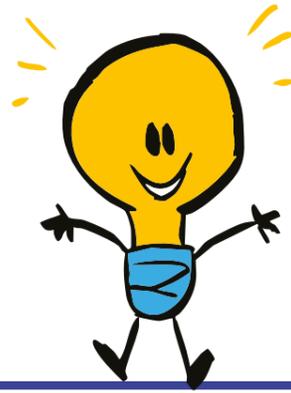


# Opportunities for Children with Disabilities

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3

# Opportunities for Children with Disabilities



The Syrian Ministry of Education has in place a robust system to ensure that children with disabilities have equal opportunity to learning. This includes children with visual and hearing disability, intellectual (mild to moderate), autism, physical disability, cerebral palsy and speech or attention disorders.



## Preparing Required Documentation

	1. Recent medical report specifying the type of disability (issued by an official medical authority).
	2. Disability card (issued by the Directorate of Social Affairs and Labour in the governorate).
	3. Civil registry extract (document proving the child's identity).
	4. Personal photographs.
	5. Family booklet or any document proving family relationship.
<b>Note:</b>	If documents are issued outside Syria, they must be translated and certified by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs before being submitted to Syrian authorities.



## PROCESS FOR ENROLMENT OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

Based on defined standards, school health services screen children to determine whether they can enrol in regular schools, need referral to the Admission Committee, or require an audiological assessment before referral to the Admission Committee.

Admission procedures for children entering Grade 1 start with a school health assessment, using the standardized School Health Card. The assessment includes a comprehensive check-up:

growth and development, sensory functions, neurological status, vision, and motor abilities. It also identifies possible indicators of hearing, speech, or intellectual disabilities. If disability indicators are identified, the School Health Disability Indicators Card (hearing, language, intellectual) is applied.

Based on results, children are referred to:

- A. Regular schools
- B. Admission Committee
- C. Audiological assessment, then Admission Committee

### A. Referral to regular schools

- Children with normal growth, development, and sensory functions.
- Children with only physical disabilities (enrolled in the nearest school to home, with parental responsibility).
- Children with limb amputations, provided that a support assistant is available.
- Children with mild speech issues such as stuttering, hoarseness, resonance disorders (nasality), or simple articulation problems that do not significantly affect speech clarity.
- Children with epilepsy not associated with other disabilities.

### B. Referral to Admission Committee (inclusive schools):

- Children with visual disabilities (blindness or equivalent conditions).
- Children with multiple disabilities, such as cerebral palsy.
- Children with a prior diagnosis (intellectual disability, autism spectrum disorder, ADHD, or other syndromes).
- Children with hearing impairments (25–70 decibels) using hearing aids or cochlear implants.
- Children whose hearing level does not meet the criteria for inclusive school enrolment, with or without assistive devices, are referred to an alternative educational pathway.

**What is considered?**

- Children referred by school health services are assessed for eligibility to enrol in inclusive schools, an appropriate educational alternative, or a centre under the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour.
- The committee applies the standardized Inclusive Education Admission Criteria Card to evaluate children's abilities.
- To enrol in Grade 1 within an inclusive school, children must meet the threshold score on the Admission Criteria Card.
- If eligibility criteria are met but there are signs of other conditions (e.g., autism spectrum disorder, ADHD), the child is referred to the Diagnostic Committee unless a prior diagnosis from a Ministry-accredited body exists, after which the child is enrolled in the inclusive school.
- If eligibility criteria are not met, the child is referred either to a centre under the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour or to an appropriate specialized educational setting (if available).
- Children have the right to request re-assessment until the age of eight.

**C. Referral to Admission Committee (inclusive schools):**

- Any child showing indicators of hearing difficulties (based on the hearing, speech, and cognitive screening tool) is referred for audiological evaluation, after which the case is reviewed by the Admission Committee.



**Determining the Appropriate Educational Pathway**

Based on the results of the assessment, the child is directed to one of the following options:

<p><b>A.</b></p>	<p><b>Inclusive School under the Ministry of Education</b> For children able to learn within mainstream classrooms at the basic education level. The child is entitled to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support from a qualified teacher.</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Access to a resource room.</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Psychological and social support.</li> </ul>
<p><b>B.</b></p>	<p><b>Institute of Social Affairs (for non-integrable cases) under the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour</b></p> <p>For children with intellectual disabilities or severe disabilities.</p>

<p><b>C.</b></p>	<p><b>Services provided by licensed local associations (when neither inclusive schools nor institutes are suitable)</b></p> <p>Children may access services offered by NGOs licensed by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour. Information on available services can be obtained from the governorate's Directorate of Social Affairs and Labour. These services may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Training in daily life and self-care skills.</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational and rehabilitative support through an individualized monthly and annual educational plan, designed according to the child's strengths and areas needing improvement.</li> </ul>
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**Follow-Up and Support**

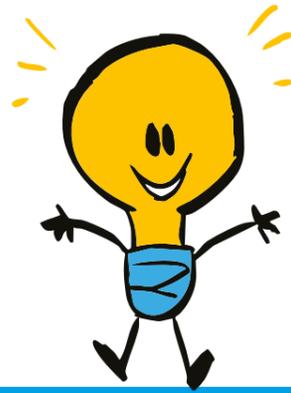
Schools and institutes provide ongoing psychological and social support through:

<p><b>Schools and institutes provide ongoing psychological and social support through:</b></p>	<p><b>Parents are encouraged to:</b></p>
<p><b>1. Psychologist</b></p>	<p><b>1. Maintain regular communication with the school.</b></p>
<p><b>2. Regular follow-up by the inclusion teacher.</b></p>	<p><b>2. Engage the child in classroom and extracurricular activities.</b></p>
<p><b>3. Individualized education plan tailored to the child's abilities.</b></p>	<p><b>3. Report any challenges the child faces, so that the support plan can be adjusted accordingly.</b></p>

# Education Opportunities for Returning Palestinian Refugees

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# 4 Education Opportunities for Returning Palestinian Refugees



## Updating Civil Records to Access Services

Upon return to Syria, Palestine refugees must visit the nearest UNRWA office with their UNRWA registration card to record their return and ensure access to education and social services.

Civil status updates (births, marriages, deaths) can be completed through:

<b>UNRWA offices directly, or</b>	The e-UNRWA registration application: <a href="https://www.unrwa.org/ar/eUNRWA">https://www.unrwa.org/ar/eUNRWA</a>
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For more information, refugees may contact UNRWA offices in different regions during working hours (**Sunday–Thursday, 8:00 am–3:00 pm**):

<b>Aleppo Area Office:</b>	0212645217, ext. 104
<b>Homs Office:</b>	0312125252, 0312134917
<b>Hama Office:</b>	0332413305
<b>Lattakia Office:</b>	0412751614
<b>Dera'a (South) Office</b>	0152215700, 0152215701, 0152215702, 0152215703

## Free Basic Education



Registered Palestinian refugees are entitled to free basic education from Grade 1 to Grade 9 (Syrian curriculum). Education from Grade 10 onwards is provided within the Syrian public education system, which Palestinian refugees may also access.

Students also benefit from:

	✓ Psychosocial support
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	✓ Remedial lessons and support programmes to help students transition from other curricula to the Syrian curriculum,
	✓ Referral of children with disabilities who cannot be accommodated in UNRWA schools to UNRWA's Learning Support Centre in Damascus.



## School Registration Procedures

1. Registered Palestinian refugee students may apply to Syrian public schools.
2. Returning students undergo a placement test administered by the Ministry of Education to determine the appropriate grade level.
3. External certificates (e.g., from Lebanon or Jordan) are accepted if properly certified and may be used to register in UNRWA or Syrian public schools.



## Technical and Vocational Education (UNRWA)

UNRWA offers a wide range of **technical and vocational education opportunities** in Damascus, Daraa, Homs, Hama, Lattakia, and Aleppo, aimed at equipping youth with practical skills for employment and self-reliance.

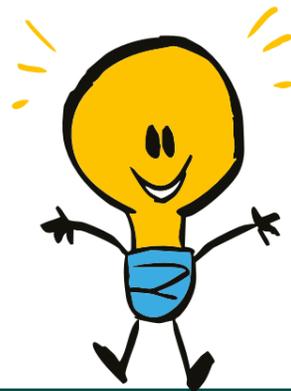
**Admission is based on academic qualifications and sometimes personal interviews.** Limited accommodation is available in Damascus under specific criteria.

	<b>Technical courses</b> (for Grade 12 graduates, 2 years): Graphic Design, Business Administration, Electronics, Mechatronics, Artificial Intelligence, Medical Laboratory Technology, and others.
	<b>Vocational courses</b> (for Grade 9 graduates, 1–2 years): Plumbing, Welding, Automotive Systems, Solar Panel Installation, Industrial Clothing Technology.
	<b>Short courses (3 months):</b> Mechanics, Plumbing, Electrical Works, Construction.
	<b>Specialized Vocational Courses for Women:</b> Sewing, tailoring, Hairdressing and beauty care.

# Employment Opportunities for Teachers and Education Personnel

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# 5 Employment Opportunities for Teachers and Education Personnel



Employment opportunities for teachers in Syria are available through three main pathways:

- 1. Temporary assignments outside the official staffing plan** through provincial Directorates of Education, which allow for the appointment of teachers as “substitute teachers” with a full teaching load, paid the minimum wage for their category. These are temporary contracts to cover shortages in public schools.
- 2. Local Educational E-competitions** announced directly by the Ministry of Education and its Directorates to appoint permanent teachers according to educational workforce plans and school needs.
- 3. Direct appointment of top graduates** in certain educational specializations without sitting for a competitive exam, under a new law passed in 2024.

**The Centralized Unified Competition System** was cancelled by decision of the Presidency Secretariat’s Office in order to ensure greater flexibility in recruiting needed educational staff and to overcome bureaucratic obstacles that negatively affected performance and responsiveness to actual needs in the education sector.

Under the new approach, job announcements and competitions will be published dynamically and transparently through a national electronic platform, allowing teachers and job seekers to:

 <p>Review available vacancies in public entities</p>	 <p>Access accurate job descriptions</p>	 <p>Submit applications electronically without direct in-person follow-up</p>
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## Employment Opportunities through Directorates of Education

Directorates of Education across Syrian governorates provide opportunities for teachers on temporary assignments (“substitute teachers”) in basic, secondary, and vocational schools. Announcements are usually posted on Directorate Facebook and Telegram pages, and in education complexes, often in the months preceding the new school year.

### Conditions and Requirements:

	<p>1. Possession of at least an institute diploma or equivalent; sometimes teacher-training institute graduates or even university students</p>
	<p>Submission of required documents, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certified copy of academic degree,</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Copy of national ID card,</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Personal photographs,</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Employment record (if available).</li> </ul>
	<p>3. Applications usually open at the beginning of August and close mid-month.</p>
	<p>4. Applicants without prior experience may undergo an oral interview at the local education complex.</p>



## Opportunities through Specialized Educational Competitions

These are recruitment competitions organized independently by each ministry or public entity via the national electronic platform. They aim to attract staff according to precise job descriptions aligned with work requirements.

### Process:

	1. The Ministry of Education announces vacancies through the electronic platform.
	2. Applicants submit their files electronically via personal accounts.
	3. A unified electronic test is conducted, including subject-specific, administrative, and technological questions.
	4. Processing is automated without direct human intervention, ensuring transparency and fairness.
	5. Successful candidates are invited only for interviews or medical exams at the final stage.



## How to Apply - Returning Teachers from Abroad

### Requirements:

1. Equivalency of academic qualifications, certified first by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, then by the Ministry of Higher Education.
2. Translation and certification of training or work experience certificates if issued in English or another language.
3. Participation in inclusive education courses inside Syria as a prerequisite for acceptance.

### Steps:

	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Complete equivalency of qualifications.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Monitor vacancy announcements.
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Submit application with certified documents		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Submit applications electronically without direct in-person follow-up



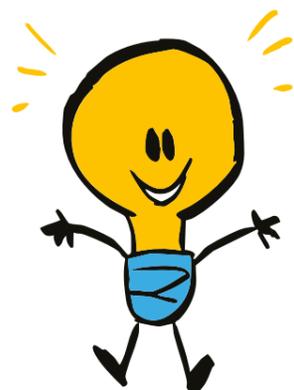
## General Unified Conditions

- Job postings are made through an electronic platform with detailed job descriptions to ensure recruitment matches actual needs.
- Recruitment involves written, practical, and oral exams, based on each vacancy's job description.
- Principle: merit and fairness, without personal or bureaucratic influence.

# Additional Information for returning families

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## Additional Information for returning families



### OPPORTUNITIES FOR CASH ASSISTANCE FOR RETURNING SYRIANS

Returning Syrians may benefit from **cash assistance** programmes managed by UNHCR and partner organizations, which focus on the most vulnerable groups, including female-headed households, children, and persons with disabilities.

*Note: These programmes are not always available and depend on donor funding. Families are advised to prepare in advance to benefit from any announced opportunities.*

#### Steps for Registration:

	<p><b>A. Before Return</b></p> <p>Contact UNHCR or partners in the host country to seek advice and register the intention to return.</p>
	<p><b>B. Upon arrival in Syria:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Proof of return,</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Identity documents,</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Children's school certificates (if available).</li> </ul>
	<p><b>C. Apply for available cash assistance programmes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Some programmes require proof of children's enrolment in school,</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Others are multi-purpose (food, rent, transportation),</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payments may be delivered via smart card or direct cash.</li> </ul>



#### D. Upon arrival in Syria:

- Cash-for-work programmes,
- Psychosocial support sessions,
- Vocational training,
- Support for children with disabilities.



- E. Update personal data and maintain regular contact** with implementing partners to ensure continued eligibility for seasonal support (e.g., winterization, back-to-school assistance).



### CHILD PROTECTION RISK AWARENESS MESSAGES

#### Psychosocial Support for Children

Caring for children's mental health is as vital as protecting their physical health. It forms the foundation for healthy development and resilience in the face of adversity.

Children affected by crises such as displacement, loss of family members, or exposure to traumatic events need consistent feelings of safety and support from caregivers. Effective psychosocial support can include simple but impactful practices such as:

- Listening attentively to children's questions and validating their feelings,
- Reassuring them that fear, anxiety, or sadness are normal,
- Maintaining regular routines (sleep, meals, study, play),
- Providing safe spaces for play and creative activities (drawing, reading, storytelling),
- Limiting exposure to distressing news or images,
- Modeling calm and positive behaviour as caregivers.

#### Practical steps:

- Answer children's questions honestly in age-appropriate ways.
- Dedicate daily time for play and shared activities.
- Maintain stable routines to strengthen their sense of security.
- Reduce children's exposure to troubling media.
- Demonstrate calm and constructive coping strategies as role models.

Providing psychosocial support is not only an emergency measure but a long-term investment in raising a generation that is more resilient, confident, and hopeful.



## Explosive Remnants of War

Protecting children and communities from explosive remnants of war (ERW) is a shared responsibility. These remnants pose a hidden, life-threatening danger as they may be found in roads, fields, or among rubble. Their varied shapes, sizes, and colours may mislead children into thinking they are toys or tools, but they can explode upon the slightest touch.

### Key safety measures:

 <p>☑ Teach children the rule: <i>Do not approach – Do not touch – Report immediately.</i></p>	 <p>☑ Encourage safe play in secure areas away from rubble or military equipment.</p>
 <p>☑ Report suspicious objects immediately to authorities.</p>	 <p>☑ Share awareness messages with family and neighbours to protect the wider community.</p>

Raising awareness helps protect individuals and entire communities, ensuring children can grow and play in safe environments free from war-related risks.





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