

PROJECT NO: 100869

TAX | NON-TAX

# Lebanon



## Literacy for Refugees



### Overview

This project aims to provide children in refugee communities in Lebanon — and in the underprivileged communities who host them — with a Bible-based literacy course designed to help them back into the formal education system.

### The Need

The number of Syrian and Iraqi refugees in Lebanon is now well above two million people. More than 50% of these refugees are aged 17 or younger. Integrating these children into Lebanon's school system is a challenge, as they face social, economic and bureaucratic obstacles, as well as language difficulties, particularly in Science and Math. Many don't go back to formal education, because of these difficulties.

Education exclusion has negative implications for social wellbeing and exposes already vulnerable children to greater risks. This lack of education can reverberate for generations; these children will have more difficulty in meeting the physical, economic, social and political demands for reconstructing their countries. According to a study by Human Rights Watch in 2016, more than half of the nearly 500,000 school-aged Syrian children registered in Lebanon are not enrolled in formal education, with some never having stepped inside a classroom.

50%

of Syrian and Iraqi refugees in Lebanon are <17years old.

500k

school-aged Syrian children are not enrolled in school.

45%

of project participants can read or write in Arabic.

2%

of project participants can read or write in a language other than Arabic.

33%

of the population are Christian.

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| <h1>Goals</h1>   |   |
| <p>Bible Society Lebanon is seeking to provide these children a safe and loving environment where they can take a literacy course based on Bible stories, to help them get back to the formal education system.</p> <p>The project involves a three-month program of 2-3 sessions per week, which includes reading Bible stories — and listening to them via a CD —</p> <p>in a safe and positive atmosphere. There will be 25 students per class, meeting for hour-long sessions. Programs are designed to specifically meet the needs of refugee children; all participants receive their own copies of Scripture along with an audio CD.</p> <p>In 2023, due to the high demand, Bible Society plans to introduce an</p> <p>English level 1 curriculum, for those who have successfully achieved the Arabic level 2. 1,000 children will learn the Arabic level 1 curriculum, 1,000 will learn the Arabic level 2, and 2,000 will learn the English curriculum.</p> |   |
| <h2>Impact</h2>  | <h2>Testimonies</h2>  |
| <p>Overall, the project has the potential to reach 6,000 people.</p> <p>Since its beginnings, over 2,200 people have benefitted from this project – with the impact being seen in the improvement in literacy of the children, and in their incentive to read more. It is also seen by the fact that the major Bible stories are common knowledge amongst the students.</p> <p>A number of participating churches have requested that the program be increased in their local community, demonstrating a strong appetite for these materials and training which enable disadvantaged children to learn more about God’s message.</p>   | <p>“The Biblical Arabic literacy class is one of the most important and enjoyable programs! Watching videos about how did God create the world, Noah, Abraham... motivate me to focus more on the lesson. After the class, a LOT of information are learned! I feel that I cannot keep them to myself so I share them with my family.”</p> <p><i>Siham*, 11 years old.</i></p> <p>“I have now the opportunity not only to learn how to read and write but to also know more about Jesus. I want to be a doctor when I grow up, I want to help others and heal them like he did”.</p> <p><i>Samir*, 8 years old, Beirut.</i></p> <p><i>*Name changed for security reasons.</i></p> |
| <h2>Prayer Needs</h2>  |   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pray that Bible Society will be able to show God’s love to children who have come from desperate situations.</li> <li>• Pray that more children will be encouraged and enabled to integrate into the formal education system.</li> <li>• Pray for those refugees and underprivileged children whose suffering and lack of resources have been dramatically increased by the economic and financial crisis in Lebanon since 2020.</li> </ul>   |   |

