

# Lebanon



## Literacy for Refugees

**Project: 100869**  
**Tax Deductible**



# 50%

of Syrian and Iraqi refugees in Lebanon are aged 17 years old or younger

# 500,000

school-aged Syrian children registered in Lebanon are not enrolled in formal education

# 45%

of project participants can read or write in Arabic

### Overview

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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 re-enter the formal education system.

### The Need

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The number of Syrian and Iraqi refugees in Lebanon is now well above two million people. More than 50 per cent 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. Some of these children have never stepped inside a classroom.

*Until I come, give attention to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation and teaching.*  
- 1 Timothy 4:13, NASB

## Goals

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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.

The project involves a three-month program of two classes per week, in Arabic (level 1 to 3) and English (level 1 and 2) curriculums. Each new student receives a free Arabic Scripture containing 365 stories and an English Scripture, along with an accompanying audio CD. Necessary learning materials like clay, pencil, notebooks are also provided.

In 2024, Arabic curriculum Levels 1 to 3 and English Level 1 were implemented. In the second half of 2024, English level 2 (divided into 2 parts) was introduced. In 2025 the goal is to have a total of 4,000 students graduating from the different Arabic (Level 1 to 3) or English (Level 1 and 2) curriculums.

## Impact

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The impact is 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.

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.

## Testimony

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*"I'm so glad my mom encouraged me to enrol in the Biblical Arabic literacy curriculum! At first, the sessions felt like a punishment, but as soon as we started reading stories and doing role plays, it captured my attention. Now, I can't wait to attend each class!" — Zara\*, 10yo*

*"I never imagined that I would be able to learn English! I feel so grateful and happy for this opportunity. Now I can dream of a better future." — Kaiden\*, 14yo*

*\*Names changed to protect privacy.*

## Prayer Points

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- Pray that Bible Society will be able to show God's love to children who have come from desperate situations.
- Pray that more children will be encouraged and enabled to integrate into the formal education system.
- 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.