

# Literacy for Refugees



Project: 100869  
Tax-Deductible

## Lebanon

### 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 in Arabic and English, designed to help them re-enter the formal education system. While helping them with their education, the Bible stories in their curriculum also help them learn about the love of Jesus.

### The Need

The number of Syrian and Iraqi refugees in Lebanon is now well above two million people. Around half 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.

According to UNHCR, there are 610,000 registered school-aged Syrian refugee children and youth between 3 to 24-years-old who are facing challenges in accessing formal and non-formal education. Being excluded from an education 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.

- **50%** of Syrian and Iraqi refugees in Lebanon are aged 17 years old or younger
- **610,000** registered school-aged Syrian refugee children and youth between 3 to 24-years-old (UNHCR, December 2025)
- **9 out of 10** refugee households in Lebanon live in extreme poverty, grappling with hyperinflation and dwindling socio-economic conditions (UNHCR)



### Goals

Bible Society Lebanon aims to give refugee and underprivileged children a safe, supportive environment where they can build essential literacy skills through Bible-based learning, helping them transition back into formal schooling.

The program offers a three-month course with two classes each week, delivered across Arabic Levels 1–3 and English Levels 1–2. The project distributes 2,000 Scriptures each year to enrolled children — either *365 Stories from the Bible* for Arabic learners or *The Lion Children's Bible* for English learners (with an audio CD), as well as basic learning materials.

In 2026, the goal is to enrol 4,000 children across both the Arabic and English courses and furthermore, to have 4,000 students graduate from the Arabic (Level 1 to 3) or English (Level 1 and 2) curriculums.

## Impact

In 2025, around 2,500 children were supported through this project, receiving Arabic and English literacy education. Each child was given their own Bible-based learning materials, including an Arabic Bible with 365 stories or The Lion Children's Bible in English.

Teachers report that children are not only growing in their reading and writing skills, but are also engaging deeply with the Bible stories, asking thoughtful questions and eagerly sharing what they have learned with their families.

This reflects the impact Bible Society is prayerfully working towards: children developing literacy, discovering a desire to read, and becoming familiar with the foundational stories of the Bible.

The project continues to gain momentum. Several participating churches have asked for the program to be expanded within their local communities, demonstrating a strong appetite for these materials and training that equip disadvantaged children to encounter God's message.

## Impact in Numbers

# 12,000

is the number of refugee children this project aims to impact over the years.

# 2,500

children have been reached and impacted by this project in 2025.

### Testimony

"When I first received the Biblical literacy books, I was amazed by how simple and engaging they were. Many of our students come from very difficult backgrounds, and these resources have given them a safe and hopeful space to learn. I've seen children who used to be restless and distracted now sit quietly, listen, and even ask deep questions about the stories. It has truly transformed our classroom atmosphere." — Teacher in a refugee learning centre

## How Your Support Helps

### \$80

will help provide Bibles for 10 children.

### \$350

will help support the cost of one facilitator delivering an entire literacy cycle.

### \$1,000

will help fund one complete literacy class cycle, including the facilitator, travel and class materials.

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