

# Rehabilitation of Public Schools Lebanon



Rehabilitated class room in Zgharta Area, North Lebanon. ©SDC

## Context

The outbreak of the conflict in Syria in 2011 resulted in the largest humanitarian crisis of recent times. Millions of people have been forcibly displaced to find safety, within or outside Syria.

Lebanon hosts around 600'000 Syrian refugee children. More than 200'000 of them are enrolled in public schools. Still over 50% of the school-age refugee children are still out of school, risking to become a 'lost generation'. Reason behind include the absorption capacities of the education system, depleted resources of the refugee families, lack of legal documents and other socio-economic factors.

## Project Description

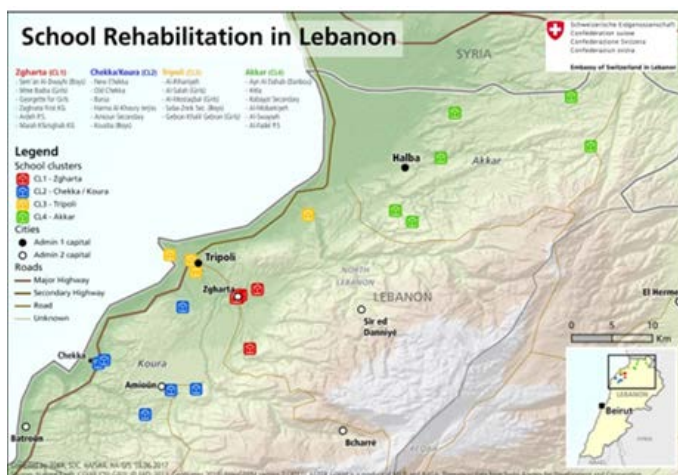
In supporting the Government-led efforts to accommodate Syrian refugee and vulnerable Lebanese children in the education system, Switzerland launched a project to enhance access to public schools. Through increased enrolment capacities, adequate infrastructure and the respect of the school as a public good, the project provides child-friendly and enabling learning environments.

In close cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE), a dedicated project team of national and international staff is responsible for the implementation. Through tendering the rehabilitation work to

|                                   |             |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Lebanese Population:</b>       | 4.1 million |
| <b>Refugee Population</b>         |             |
| - Syrian refugees (registered):   | 1 Mio       |
| - Registered & unregistered:      | 1.2 Mio     |
| - Palestine refugees:             | 174,000     |
| - Palestine refugees from Syria:  | 30,000      |
| Sources: LCRP, LPDC, UNHCR, UNRWA |             |

construction companies, the private sector is strongly involved in this project.

Each school is comprehensively assessed and rehabilitated according to its specific needs. This includes the construction of additional classrooms, playgrounds, covered passages, sanitation units and septic tanks; the repair of infrastructure, water proofing electrical systems and safety components; as well as the secure disposal of asbestos. Furniture is provided where needed. The project also includes activities related to the promotion of healthy habits and the respect and ownership of one's school.



Map of project intervention. ©SDC

## Project results

Since the start of the public school rehabilitation program in 2010, more than 15'000 Lebanese and Syrian refugee children between the age of 3 and 18 have benefitted from safe and healthy learning environments. A total of 51 child-friendly and well-maintained schools in Akkar, Tripoli and surrounding areas in the North Governorate, have been handed over to MEHE.

Work is ongoing in two remaining schools and expected to be finished by fall 2019.

| Project duration | Budget        | Partner |
|------------------|---------------|---------|
| 2010-2014        | CHF 1'224'000 | MEHE    |
| 2014-2015        | CHF 1'350'000 | MEHE    |
| 2015-2019        | CHF 3'690'000 | MEHE    |

## Further information

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