# EDUCATION

This chapter describes the school enrolment rates of Syrian refugee girls and boys, ranging from 3 to 24 years old. Furthermore, the chapter provides the reasons why children and youth were not enrolled in schools and the share of youth who were neither employed nor attending a training.

## KEY FINDINGS

- **Participation in organized learning**, which is the percentage of children between 3 and 5 years of age who were attending an early education programme (e.g. nursery or KG) at the time of the survey, **slightly decreased from 16% in 2018 to 13% in 2019.**
- As for children of primary-school age, **between 6 and 14 years old, 69% were enrolled in schools at the time of the survey, similar to last year.** The percentage of children **between 15 and 17 years of age remained at 22%.**
- For those children between 3 and 5 years old, **'not in age for school'** was the main reason for not being in schools, while children between 6 and 14 years old, **cost-related barriers ranked the highest**; transportation ( 13%),and school materials (10%) along with school not allowing enrolment (8%) and work (6%). Fifteen to seventeen years old face similar **cost-related barriers** as the previous age group, in addition to being more likely out of school **because of work (10%) or marriage (7%).**
- Similar to last year, the gender parity index indicate that **the proportion of girls enrolled in schools remained almost equal to that of boys.**

Participation in organized learning: the share of children 3 to 5 years of age who are enrolled in an early childhood education programme, such as nursery, KG1, and KG2.
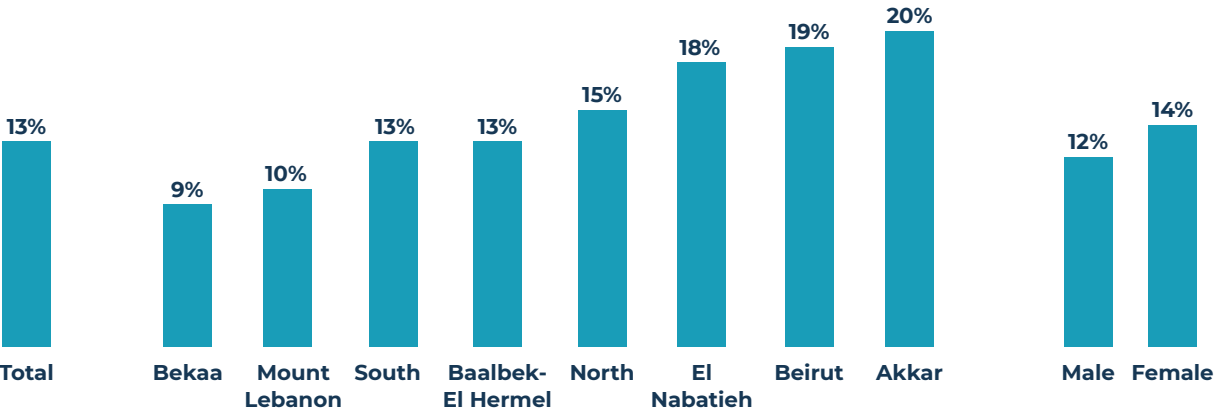
Gender Parity Index: the number of girls enrolled in school over the number of boys enrolled in school. If the gender parity index is over 1, it means that school enrollment is higher for girls than boys.

NEET: the share of youth (15 to 24 years of age) who are not employed, not in education or training.

## PRE-PRIMARY SCHOOL

The percentage of **children between 3 and 5 years of age who were attending an early childhood education programme** slightly decreased from 16% in 2018 to 13% in 2019. In particular, Akkar, Beirut and El Nabatieh had the highest rates with results showing that 1 in 4 children (25%) in these 3 governorates were attending such programmes. On the other hand, Bekaa had the lowest rate of attendance with only 9%. Moreover, the share of boys enrolled in an early childhood education programme (11.8%) was slightly lower than that of girls (13.6%).

*Figure 1: Participation in organized learning*



| | Total | Bekaa | Mount Lebanon | South | Baalbek-El Hermel | North | El Nabatieh | Beirut | Akkar | Male | Female |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| % | 13% | 9% | 10% | 13% | 13% | 15% | 18% | 19% | 20% | 12% | 14% |

Attendance in pre-school education (age 3-5) is important for the readiness of children to school. The share of children in the first grade of primary school who attended pre-school the previous year was at 66%, both for boys and girls. El Nabatieh and Mount Lebanon have the highest percentage, 80% and 77% respectively. The lowest percentage of school readiness was found in Akkar, Beirut and South Lebanon at 60%.

## ENROLMENT IN PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Sixty nine percent of children of **primary school age (6 to 14 years old) were enrolled in school.** The highest ratios were found in South, Akkar and Beirut at 81%, 80%, 79% respectively. On the other hand, the lowest ratios were found in Baalbek-El Hermel and Bekaa at 57% and 55% respectively. More than half of primary school students (54%) were 2 or more years older than the standard age for their grade, similar to 2018 (53%).

Similarly, the rate of children between 15 to 17 years old enrolled in schools at the time of the survey was 22%, approximately the same as last year at 23%. However, there were noticeable geographical differences when examining enrolment, specifically a decrease in 5 percentage points in Mount Lebanon and an increase in around 10 percent in the North and South.

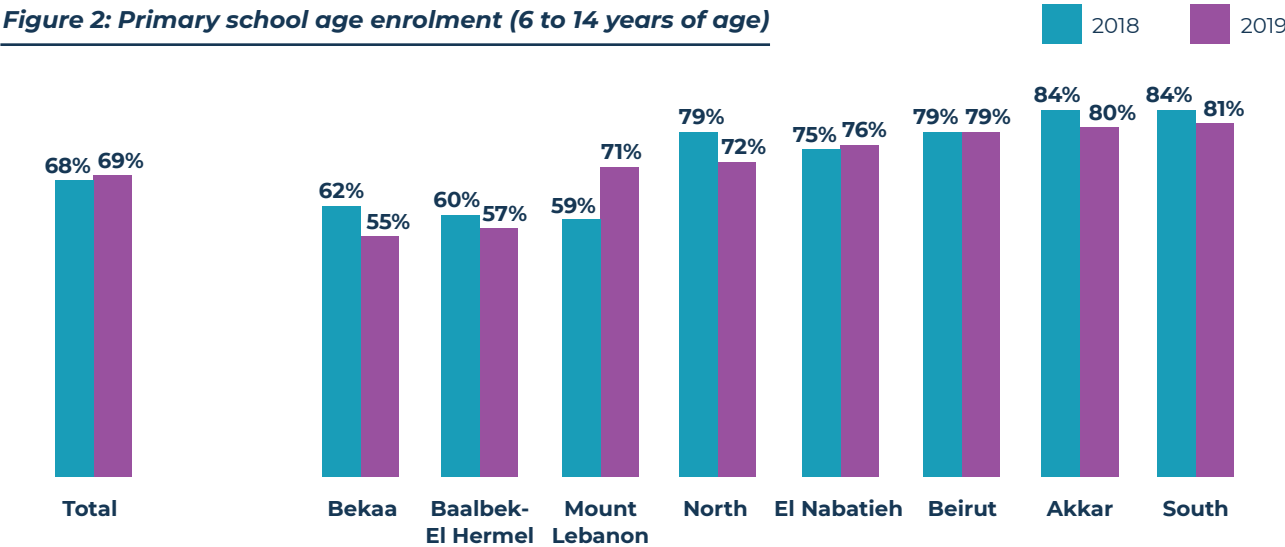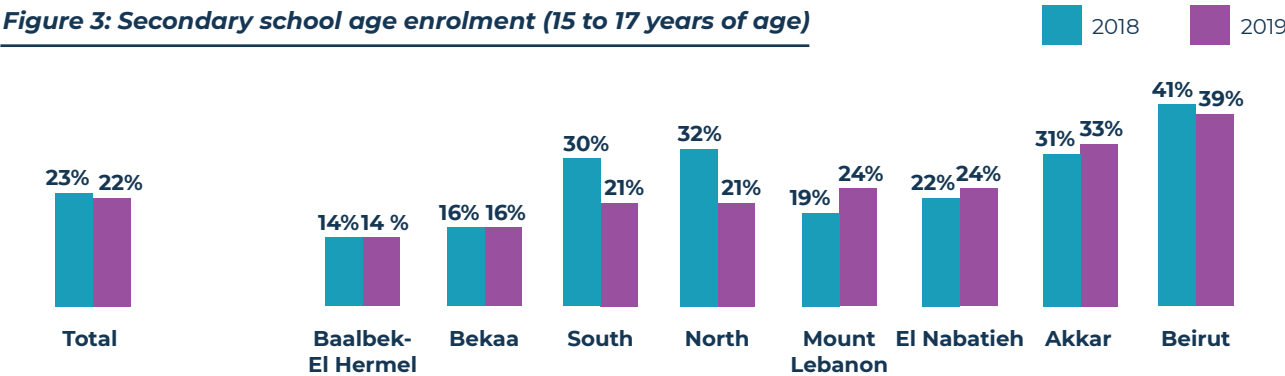*Figure 2: Primary school age enrolment (6 to 14 years of age)*



*Figure 3: Secondary school age enrolment (15 to 17 years of age)*



## REASONS FOR NOT BEING ENROLLED IN SCHOOL

The most common reasons for not being enrolled in school, included the child not being in age for school (13%), inability to afford the cost of transportation to school (10%), and the inability to afford the cost of educational

materials (8%). Additional reasons which were cited, albeit to a lower extent, were that school did not allow children to be enrolled or children did not attend due to work or marriage.

Some of the main reasons varied between boys and girls, as shown in figure 4.

**Figure 4: Main reasons children between 3 and 17 years of age are not enrolled in school**

Legend: Total | Female | Male

| Reason | Total | Female | Male |
|---|---|---|---|
| Not attending due to marriage | 4% | 4% | 4% |
| Not attending due to work | 5% | 4% | 6% |
| Non-formal/informal education program | 5% | 7% | 4% |
| School did not allow enrolment | 6% | 9% | 4% |
| Cost of educational materials | 8% | 9% | 7% |
| Cost of transportation to school | 10% | 11% | 9% |
| Not in age for school | 13% | 21% | 6% |
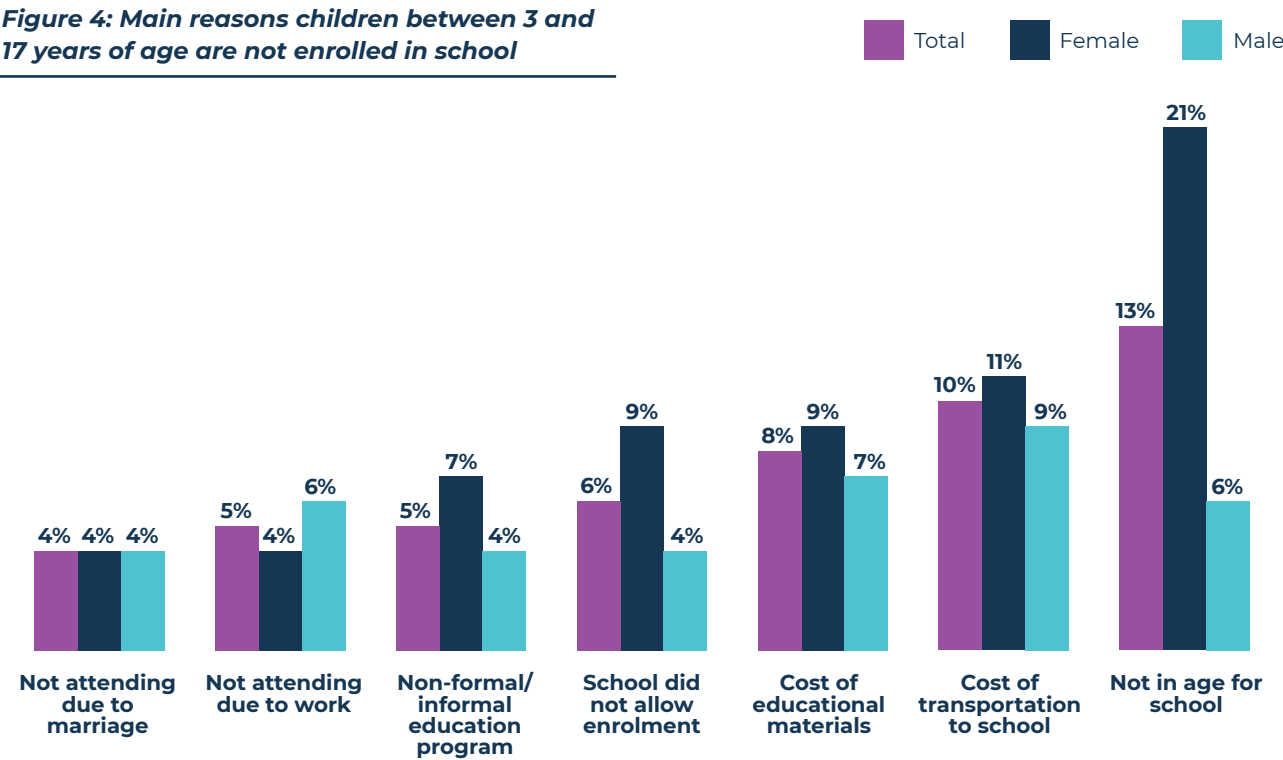
The results vary significantly between the different age groups, as shown in figure 5.

**Figure 5: Main reasons for not being enrolled in school, across age groups**

Legend: 3 to 5 years old | 6 to 14 years old | 15 to 17 years old

| Reason | 3 to 5 years old | 6 to 14 years old | 15 to 17 years old |
|---|---|---|---|
| Not attending due to marriage | | 1% | 7% |
| Not attending due to work | 2% | 6% | 10% |
| Non-formal/informal education program | 3% | 9% | 2% |
| School did not allow enrolment | 6% | 8% | 5% |
| Cost of educational materials | 4% | 10% | 11% |
| Cost of transportation to school | 5% | 13% | 12% |
| Not in age for school | 25% | 7% | 3% |
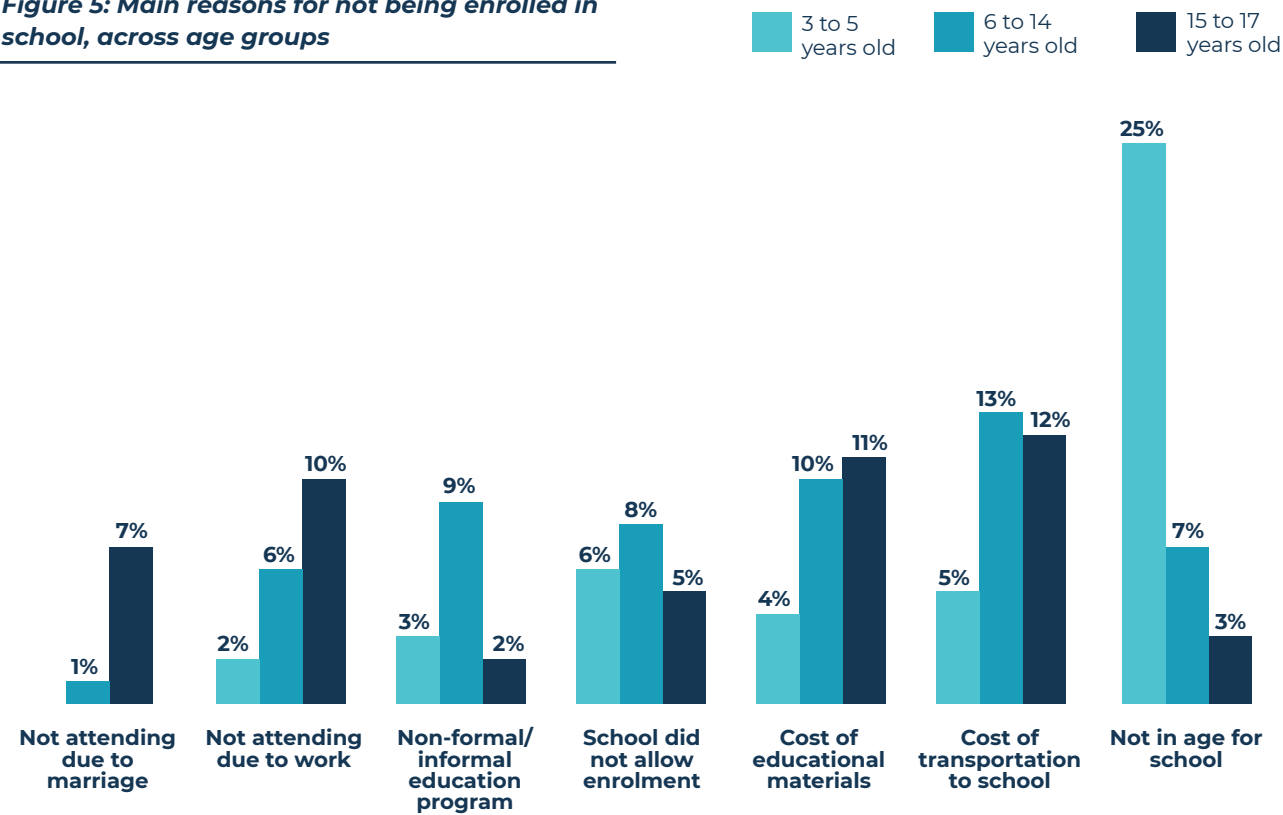
The gender parity index is the proportion of girls enrolled in school over the proportion of boys enrolled in school. If the gender parity index is over 1, it means that school enrolment is higher for girls than boys.

**Figure 6: Gender parity index**



The number of girls in primary school remained almost equal to that of boys compared to 2018. For upper secondary school the number of girls is almost equal to that of boys, an improvement from last year.
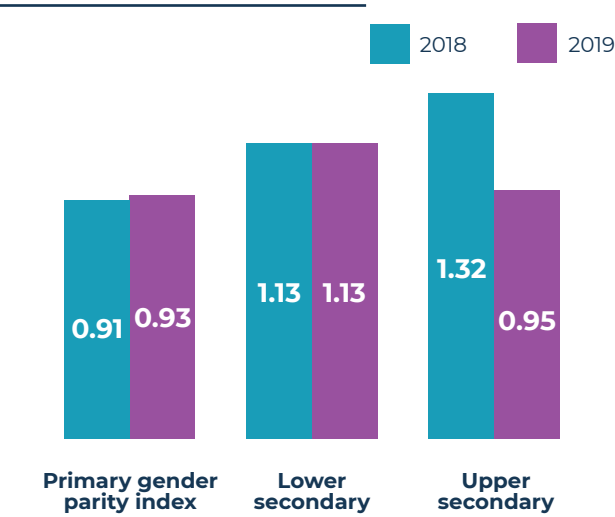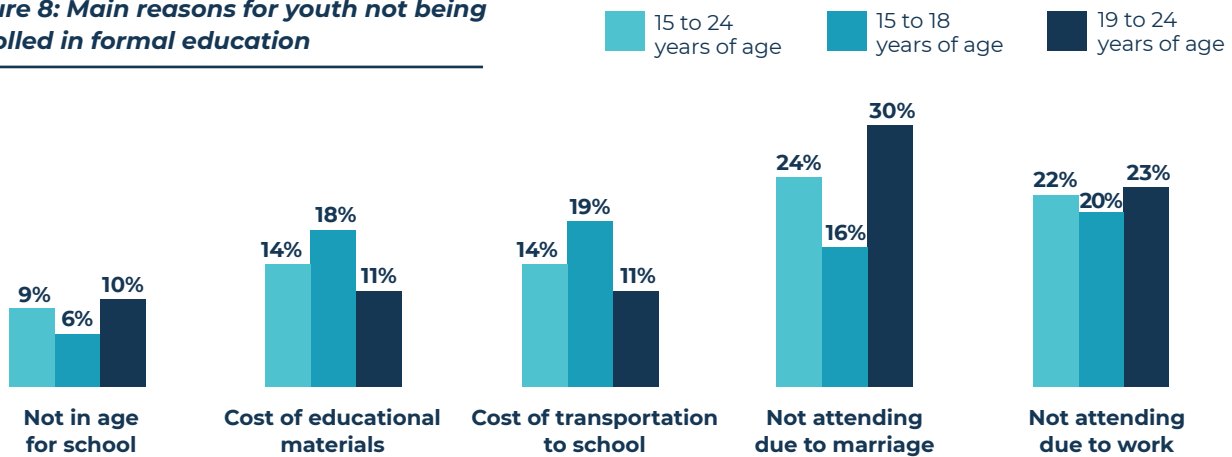
## SCHOOLING OF YOUTH AGED 15-24

Only 11% of Syrian refugee youth were enrolled in formal education in 2019, which did not differ from 2018. There were no clear differences reported across gender, revealing approximately equal rates between girls and boys. However, the rates did differ to a large extent when looking at different age ranges, with ages below 19-24 (15-18 year-olds, specifically) having 19% enrolment rates, while those 19-24 only reaching 4%. Similarly, there was high variation of enrolment across governorates, with Beirut showing the highest rates of youth enrolment in formal education (17%), and Baalbek-Hermel having the lowest enrolment (7%) (see figure 7). Enrolment rates were similar between girls and boys.
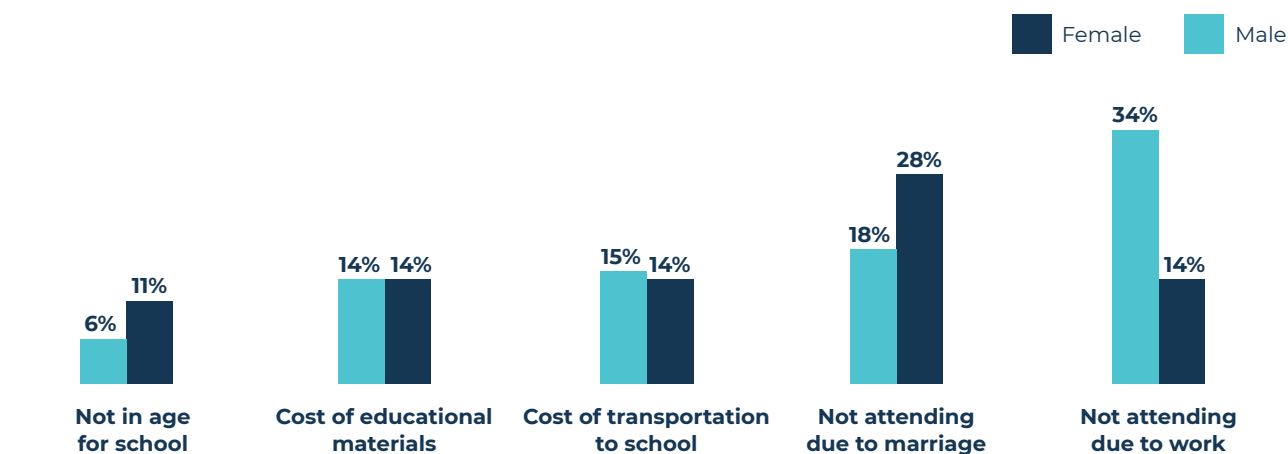
**Figure 7: Percentage of youth (15 to 24 years of age enrolled in formal education)**
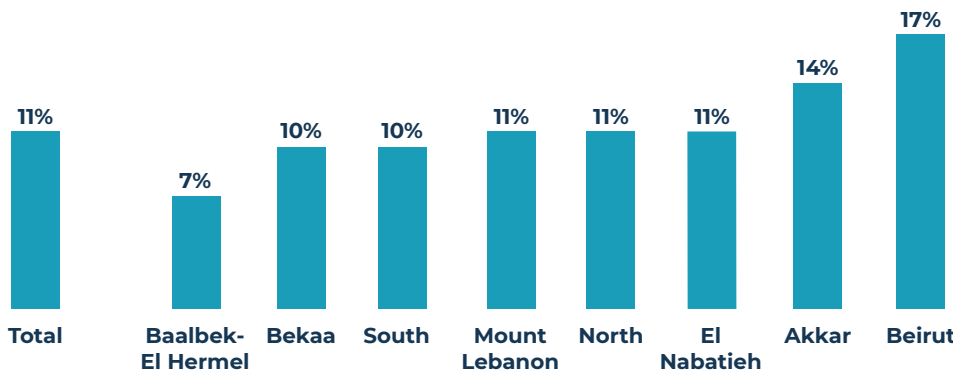


The main reasons for school dropout among youth are detailed in figure 8, and show variations across age range and between girls and boys; these main dropout reasons remain similar to last year.

**Figure 8: Main reasons for youth not being enrolled in formal education**

Legend: Female (dark), Male (light)

| | Not in age for school | Cost of educational materials | Cost of transportation to school | Not attending due to marriage | Not attending due to work |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Male | 6% | 14% | 15% | 18% | 34% |
| Female | 11% | 14% | 14% | 28% | 14% |

## NOT IN EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT, OR TRAINING (NEET)

NEET rates indicate very important indicators for youth who are neither enrolled in education nor participating in the labour market and who represent a pressing programmatic concern. NEET rates among Syrian refugees in Lebanon are very high at 66% with a slight increase from 2018 (61%). Girls are far more likely to fall into the category of those who are neither enrolled in education nor participating in the labour market (78%) than boys (52%). Moreover, older youth (19-24) have higher NEET rates than younger youth (15-18), 71% versus 59% respectively. Rates of NEET among Syrian refugee youth also vary widely across governorates.

## Voices from the field

*This box summarises discussions about the results of VASyR 2019 held in all field offices. It is based on the contextual knowledge of key actors in the field, as opposed to quantitative data.*

In the North and Akkar, participants suggested that due to the difficulties in the enrolment of new students into second shift classes and concerns over few spots being available, enrolment in early childhood education might be seen as a possible entry point to the formal education system.

In the South and the Bekaa, according to discussion participants, child labour might be related to school drop outs.

In Beirut and Mount Lebanon, participants proposed that the higher-than-average school enrolment rates were a product of better education infrastructure and facilities, as well as higher school capacity and greater awareness of the importance of education in these areas.

*Annex 10: School enrolment*

| | Over-age for grade (primary school) | School enrolment by age group and governorate | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | 3 to 5 | | 6 to 14 | | 15 to 17 | | | |
| | | | 2019 | 2018 | 2019 | 2018 | 2019 | 2018 | | |
| Total | 54% | | 16% | 20% | 69% | 68% | 22% | 23% | | |
| **Governorate** | | | | | | | | | | |
| Akkar | 53% | | 28% | 34% | 80% | 84% | 33% | 31% | | |
| Baalbek-El Hermel | 59% | | 16% | 13% | 57% | 60% | 14% | 14% | | |
| Beirut | 45% | | 23% | 23% | 79% | 79% | 39% | 41% | | |
| Bekaa | 58% | | 11% | 16% | 55% | 62% | 16% | 16% | | |
| El Nabatieh | 52% | | 21% | 26% | 76% | 75% | 24% | 22% | | |
| Mount Lebanon | 56% | | 13% | 13% | 71% | 59% | 24% | 19% | | |
| North | 49% | | 21% | 24% | 72% | 79% | 21% | 32% | | |
| South | 52% | | 16% | 35% | 81% | 84% | 21% | 30% | | |
| **Gender** | | | | | | | | | | |
| Female | 52% | | | | | | | | | |
| Male | 56% | | | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | Reasons for not attending school | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Already graduated | Cost of education | Cost of transportation | Cultural reason | Difficulty with school curriculum | Due to disability | Due to health problems | Fear of violence in schools | Fear of violence on the way back to school | Due to learning difficulties | Child need to stay at home |
| Total | 0.4% | 8.1% | 9.6% | 0.9% | 2.5% | 0.8% | 0.7% | 1.0% | 0.8% | 0.8% | 0.5% |
| **Governorate** | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Akkar | 0.6% | 8.1% | 6.7% | 2.0% | 4.1% | 1.7% | 0.3% | 0.3% | 1.7% | 1.2% | 1.2% |
| Baalbek-El Hermel | 0.3% | 6.3% | 12.7% | 0.3% | 2.6% | 0.8% | 0.8% | 1.3% | 1.0% | 2.1% | 0.6% |
| Beirut | 0.9% | 5.5% | 2.8% | 0.0% | 0.9% | 1.8% | 0.9% | 0.0% | 0.0% | 0.9% | 0.9% |
| Bekaa | 0.0% | 9.6% | 10.6% | 0.9% | 4.2% | 0.5% | 0.6% | 1.9% | 1.0% | 0.1% | 0.1% |
| El Nabatieh | 0.4% | 7.0% | 10.9% | 1.7% | 0.4% | 1.3% | 0.9% | 0.0% | 0.4% | 0.4% | 0.0% |
| Mount Lebanon | 1.0% | 6.4% | 6.2% | 0.5% | 1.6% | 0.8% | 0.9% | 1.0% | 1.0% | 0.5% | 0.2% |
| North | 0.0% | 10.3% | 12.5% | 1.2% | 1.8% | 0.6% | 0.6% | 0.3% | 0.0% | 2.1% | 1.2% |
| South | 0.6% | 9.1% | 11.6% | 1.7% | 1.7% | 0.6% | 0.8% | 0.8% | 0.3% | 0.3% | 0.8% |
| **Gender of the head of household** | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Female | 0.5% | 9.1% | 10.8% | 1.2% | 3.2% | 0.8% | 1.1% | 1.7% | 1.3% | 0.9% | 0.7% |
| Male | 0.3% | 7.2% | 8.5% | 0.6% | 2.0% | 0.7% | 0.3% | 0.4% | 0.3% | 0.8% | 0.3% |
| **Age group** | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3 to 5 years old | 0.3% | 4.1% | 5.1% | 0.4% | 0.9% | 0.5% | 0.4% | 0.6% | 0.4% | 0.1% | 0.6% |
| 6 to 14 years old | 0.5% | 10.4% | 12.9% | 0.7% | 2.9% | 1.0% | 0.8% | 1.5% | 1.1% | 1.1% | 0.4% |
| 15 to 17 years old | 0.6% | 10.9% | 11.5% | 2.0% | 4.8% | 0.9% | 0.8% | 0.8% | 0.9% | 1.5% | 0.5% |

*Percentages calculated out of the total number of children (3 to 17 years of age) not attending school*

| | | | | | Reasons for not attending school | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Newly arrived | No school in the area | No school shifts | No space in schools | Non-formal/ informal education program | Due to marriage | Due to work | Child not in age for school | Others | Preference for non-formal/ informal education | School did not allow enrollment | School has finished |
| Total | 0.3% | 1.7% | 0.5% | 1.4% | 5.4% | 4.1% | 5.0% | 13.1% | 2.5% | 0.2% | 6.4% | 0.2% |
| **Governorate** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Akkar | 0.0% | 0.0% | 1.2% | 0.9% | 2.0% | 4.4% | 6.7% | 14.5% | 2.6% | 1.2% | 4.4% | 0.0% |
| Baalbek-El Hermel | 0.3% | 6.3% | 0.0% | 0.6% | 9.3% | 5.5% | 2.3% | 11.0% | 1.9% | 0.0% | 4.2% | 0.0% |
| Beirut | 0.0% | 0.9% | 0.0% | 1.8% | 0.0% | 3.7% | 8.3% | 11.0% | 6.4% | 0.0% | 8.3% | 0.9% |
| Bekaa | 0.1% | 1.3% | 0.6% | 2.0% | 13.0% | 3.1% | 4.5% | 10.6% | 0.9% | 0.0% | 5.1% | 0.0% |
| El Nabatieh | 0.0% | 0.4% | 0.0% | 1.3% | 0.9% | 5.2% | 8.2% | 15.2% | 3.5% | 0.0% | 6.9% | 0.0% |
| Mount Lebanon | 0.7% | 1.2% | 0.5% | 1.9% | 1.5% | 3.4% | 5.2% | 16.2% | 4.0% | 0.3% | 10.7% | 0.9% |
| North | 0.1% | 1.0% | 0.5% | 0.6% | 1.8% | 4.6% | 5.7% | 12.2% | 1.6% | 0.0% | 4.3% | 0.0% |
| South | 0.0% | 0.3% | 0.0% | 1.1% | 0.8% | 5.5% | 4.7% | 13.5% | 4.1% | 0.0% | 4.4% | 0.0% |
| **Gender of the head of household** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Female | 0.4% | 1.8% | 0.3% | 1.6% | 7.0% | 4.1% | 4.2% | 20.7% | 2.6% | 0.2% | 9.1% | 0.4% |
| Male | 0.1% | 1.5% | 0.6% | 1.2% | 4.0% | 4.1% | 5.7% | 6.1% | 2.4% | 0.2% | 4.0% | 0.1% |
| **Age group** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3 to 5 years old | 0.2% | 1.1% | 0.3% | 1.1% | 3.2% | 5.0% | 1.7% | 24.7% | 1.3% | 0.1% | 5.6% | 0.1% |
| 6 to 14 years old | 0.5% | 2.1% | 0.8% | 1.8% | 9.1% | 1.4% | 5.6% | 7.1% | 2.8% | 0.2% | 8.2% | 0.6% |
| 15 to 17 years old | 0.0% | 1.7% | 0.2% | 1.2% | 2.4% | 7.4% | 9.9% | 3.4% | 4.1% | 0.1% | 4.5% | 0.0% |

*Percentages calculated out of the total number of children (3 to 17 years of age) not attending school*