

# Tertiary Education for Syrian Refugees: *Policies, Practices and Perspectives*

Hana Addam El-Ghali  
Issam Fares Institute  
*American University of Beirut*

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Issam Fares Institute for Public  
Policy and International Affairs

معهد عصام فارس للسياسات  
العامة والشؤون الدولية

# AUB Engagement in Mitigating the Syrian Refugees Crisis

- AUB4Refugees Initiative
- Leadership, Equity, and Diversity Initiative (LEAD) Initiative
- US – Middle East Partnership Initiative Tomorrow's Leaders program
- MasterCard Foundation Scholars Program



Source: UNHCR

**5 million**

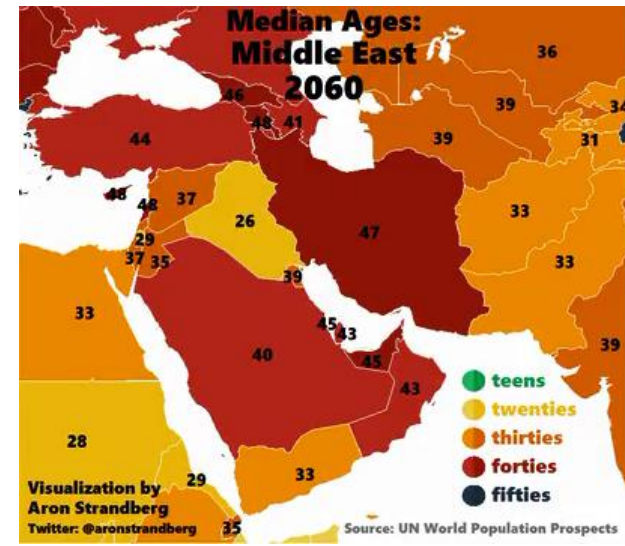
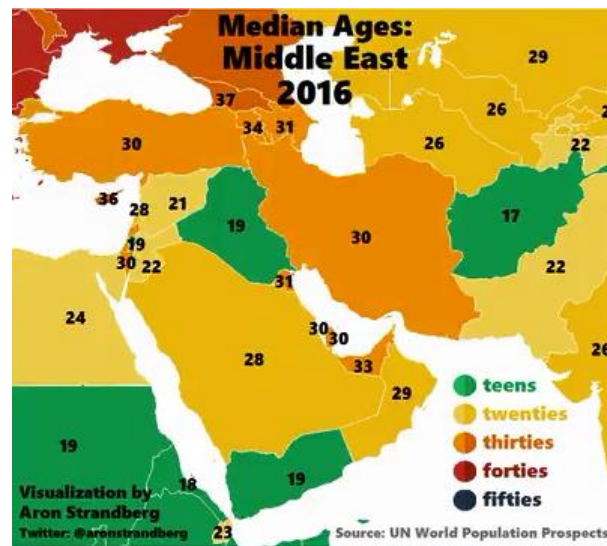
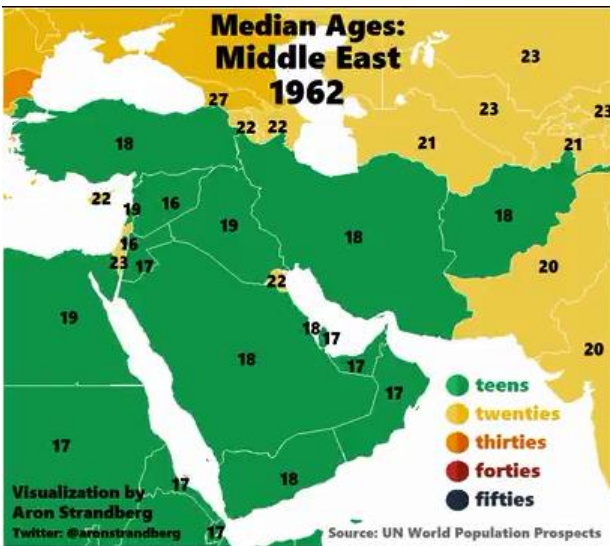
Syrian Refugees  
in the MENA region

**411,850**

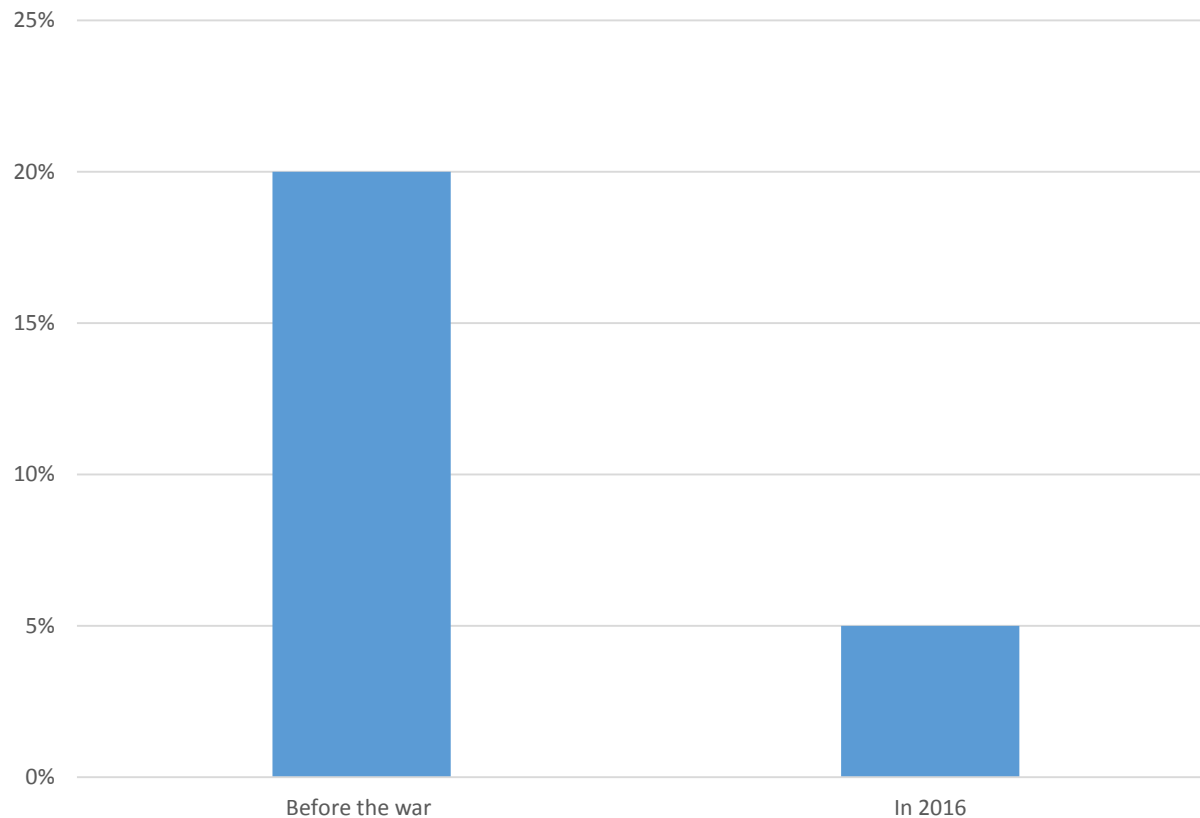
aged 18-24

in four host countries  
of the MENA region

# Persisting Youth Bulge

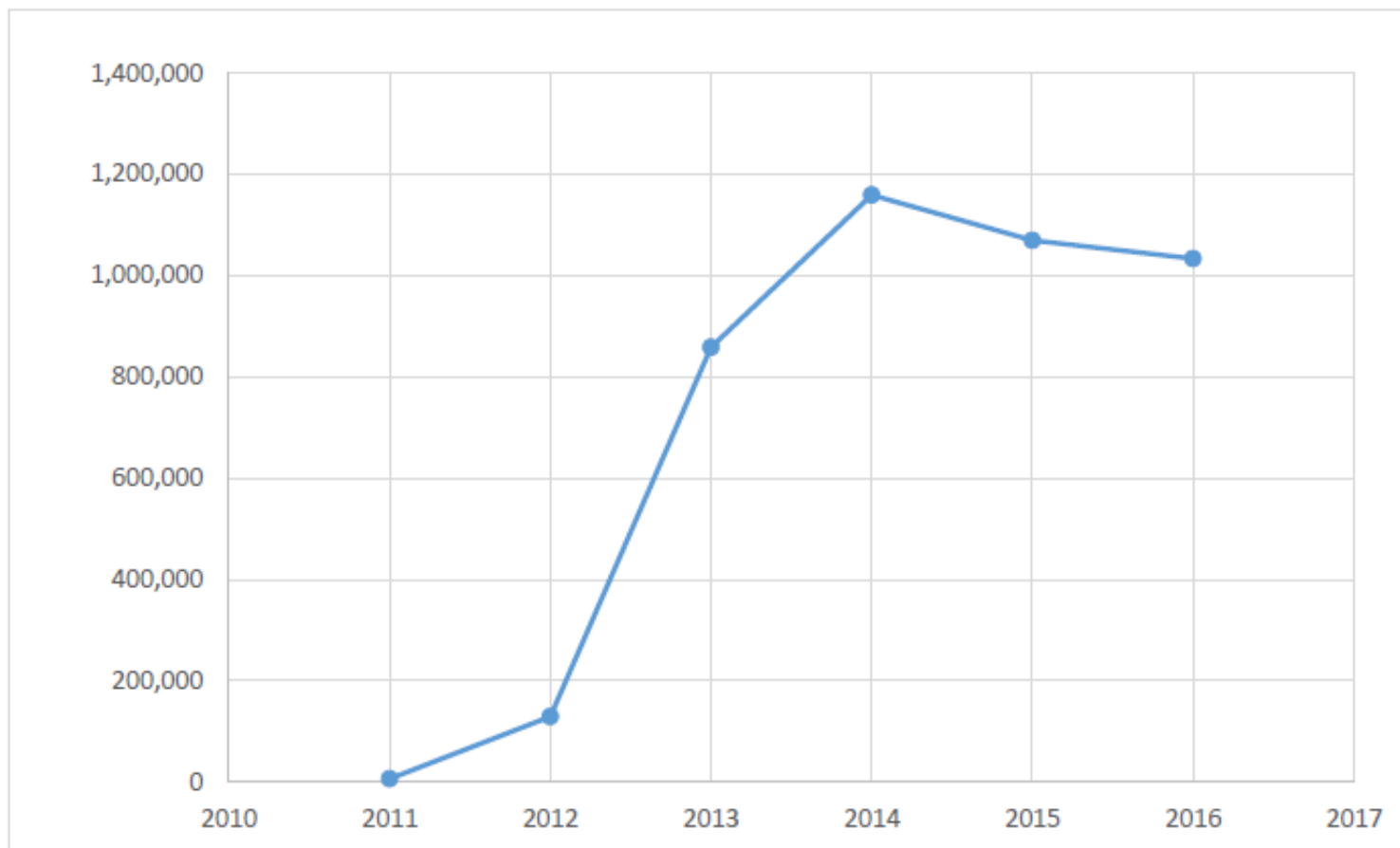


The total participation from Syrians aged 18-24 in tertiary education at 20% before the war and less than 5% in 2016



*Source: EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis, 2016*

# Influx of registered Syrian refugees in Lebanon, 2011-2016



Source: UNESCO Education response to the Syria Crisis, 2015-2016



# Syrian Refugees in Tertiary Education

Country	Number of Registered Syrians	Host Population	Ratio	Location	Syrian Refugees Tertiary Education
					Percentage of Enrollment
Lebanon	1,067,785	4,467,000	1:4	Scattered	6.00%
Jordan	657,704	6,459,000	1:9	Camps	2.57%
Turkey	2,957,454	74,940,000	1:25	Scattered	4.5%
KRG	235,526	8,350,000	1:5	Scattered and in camps	0.57%

## Sources:

UNHCR, retrieved on April, 2017

Ministry of Education and Higher Education in Lebanon, 2016

[https://istatistik.yok.gov.tr/yuksekoqretimIstatistikleri/2016/2016\\_T21.pdf](https://istatistik.yok.gov.tr/yuksekoqretimIstatistikleri/2016/2016_T21.pdf)

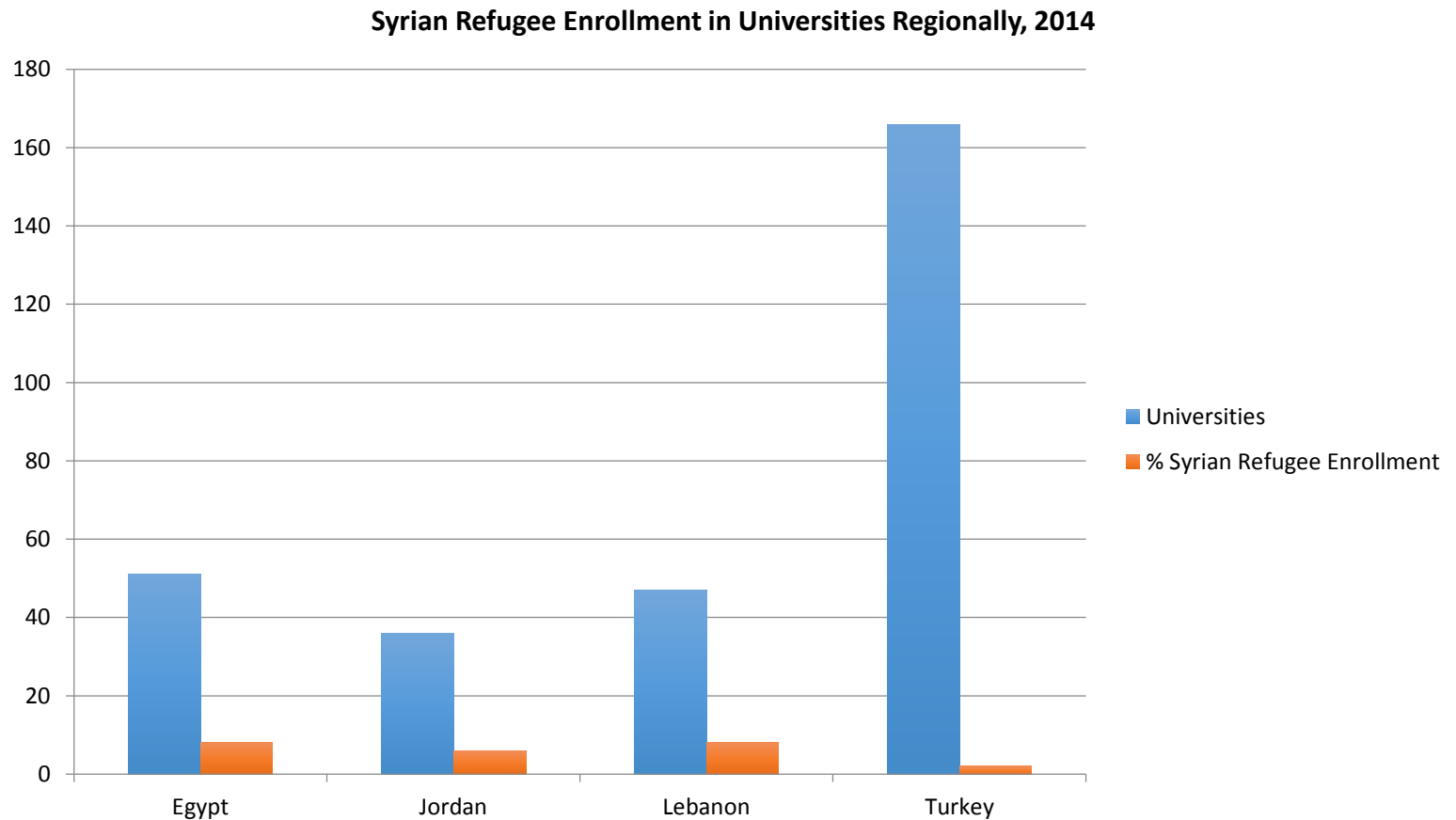
Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific research in Jordan , August 2016

Ministry of Higher education in KRG , 2016

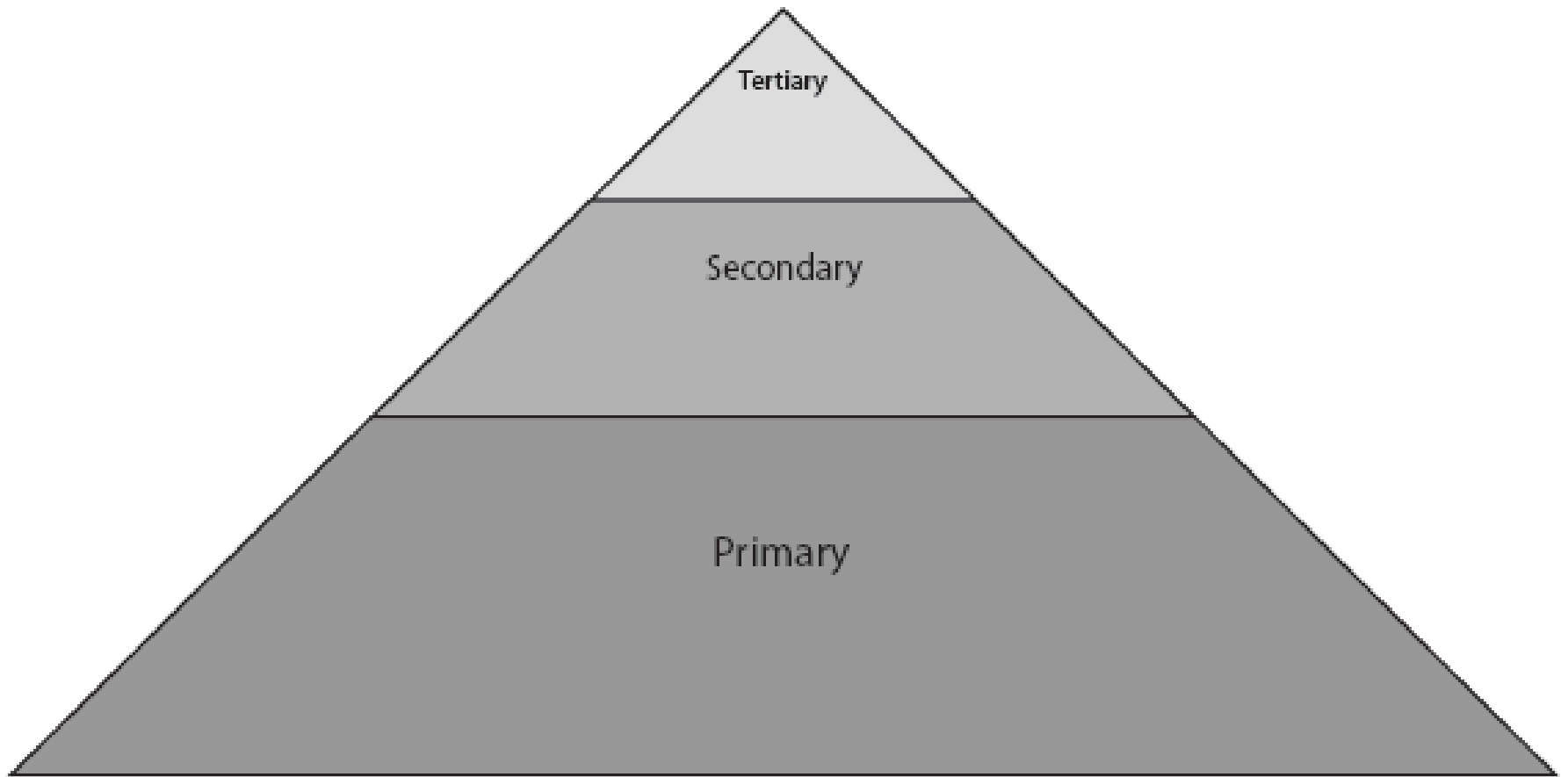


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# No. of Tertiary Education Providers vs. No. of Enrolled Students



# The narrowing pipeline to tertiary education for refugees



# Enrollment Overview

## 2014-2015 and 2015-16

All Universities		
Year	Lebanese Students	Syrian Students
2014-15	168,124	7,072
2015-16	192,789	5,860

Public University		
Year	Lebanese Students	Syrian Students
2014-15	65,230	2,013
2015-16	68,778	1,490

Private Universities		
Year	Lebanese Students	Syrian Students
2014-15	102,894	5,059
2015-16	124,011	4,370

# Residency Requirements for Tertiary Education Institutional Admission

Country	Residency Requirements for tertiary education institutional admission
Lebanon	Residency is required for tertiary education institutional admission

# Academic Requirements for Tertiary Education Institutional Admission

Country	Academic requirements for university admission
Lebanon	<p>No new national policies for refugee students were introduced.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• For undergraduate admission: The Lebanese secondary certificate (Baccalaureate) or an equivalency</li><li>• For transfer: The Lebanese secondary certificate or an equivalency and grades of completed courses</li><li>• For graduate admission: A copy of the Lebanese secondary certificate or an equivalency, a copy of the university degree, completed university grades for all years of study. All documents must be authenticated</li></ul>

# Labor Conditions

Country	Labor conditions
Lebanon	Syrians are restricted by the Ministry of Labor to work in only three sectors: agriculture, construction, and environment.

# Scholarships –

## *About 2000 Scholarships*

Scholarship	University
SPARK	Private Universities
JUSOOR	
LASeR	
QUEST	
MasterCard Foundation	
DAFI	Public University
HOPES/DAAD	



# English Language Programs

- Embedded within institutions
- Higher Education English Access Program (HEEAP): British Council
- British Council LASER Program: British Council

# Comparative View on Opportunities and Challenges



# Challenges/Recommendations

- Residency/Status
- Academic Documentation
- Finances
- Access to Information
  - Legal counseling: Required documentation for admission and residency
  - Academic and career guidance and counseling
- Psycho-social Counseling (among which is due to discrimination, socio-economic situation, etc.)

- Multi-level Collaboration

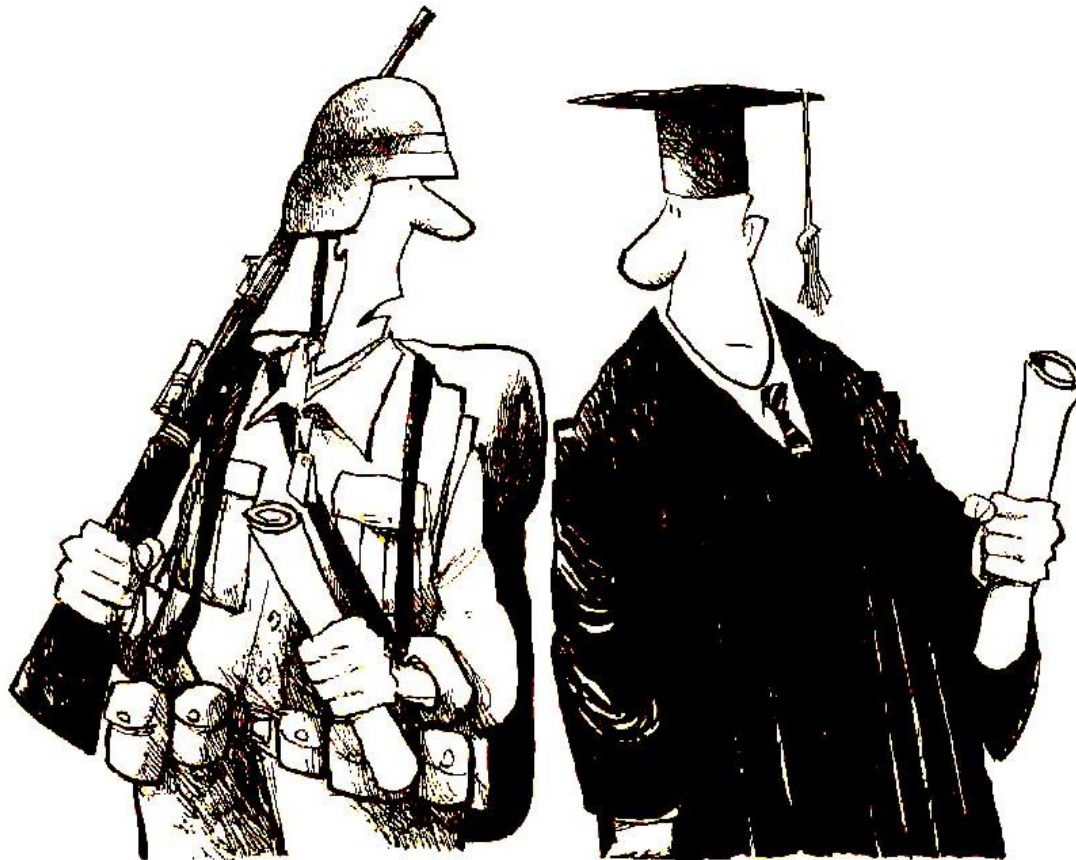
- Among government entities
- Among donors, scholarship programs, and international organizations
- Among tertiary education institutions



*One of the participants explicitly said, “It would be very dangerous if providers become competitors.”*

- Future prospects of graduates: employment? Post-conflict Syria? Other?

"I FIGURE IT'S EASIER TO FIND A WAR THAN A JOB THESE DAYS."



# Education – economic development – social development



Source: Montengro, C. E. & H. A. Patrinos. (2013) *Returns to Schooling Around the World*.  
The World Bank

# Returns highest at Tertiary Level

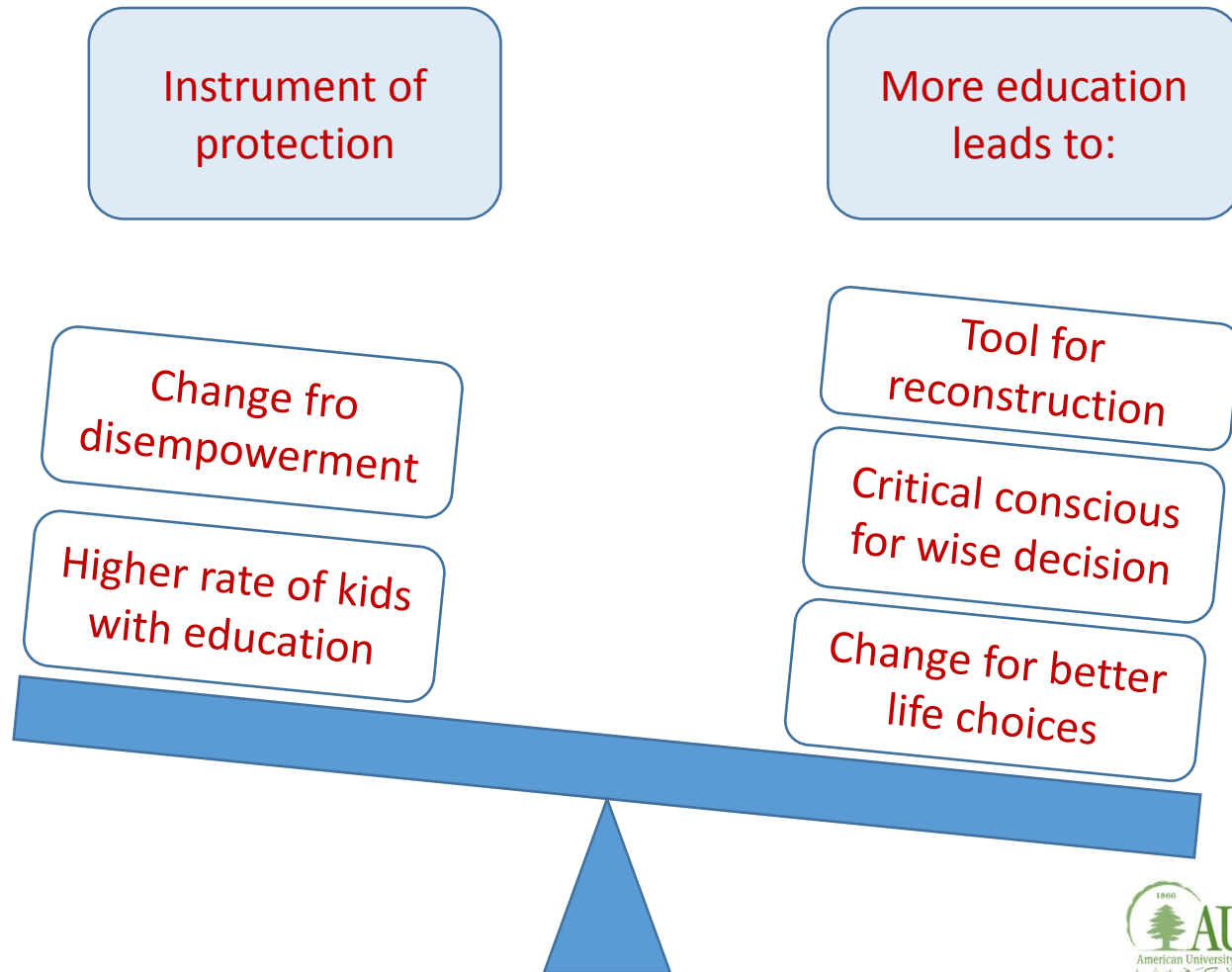


Table 3: Returns to schooling by educational level and region  
(latest available year between 2000-2011)

Region	Primary	Secondary	Tertiary	GDP/pc (PPP 2005)	N
World	10.3	6.9	16.8	6,719	74
Middle East and North Africa	9.4	3.5	8.9	3,645	7
South Asia	9.6	6.3	18.4	2,626	4
Eastern and Central Europe	8.3	4.0	10.1	6,630	7
High Income Economies	4.8	5.3	11.0	31,748	6
East Asia and Pacific	11.0	6.3	15.4	5,980	6
Latin America and Caribbean	9.3	6.6	17.6	7,269	20
Sub-Saharan Africa	13.4	10.8	21.9	2,531	24

Source: Montengro, C. E. & H. A. Patrinos. (2013) *Returns to Schooling Around the World*.  
The World Bank

# It's not only about money...More important are the social benefits





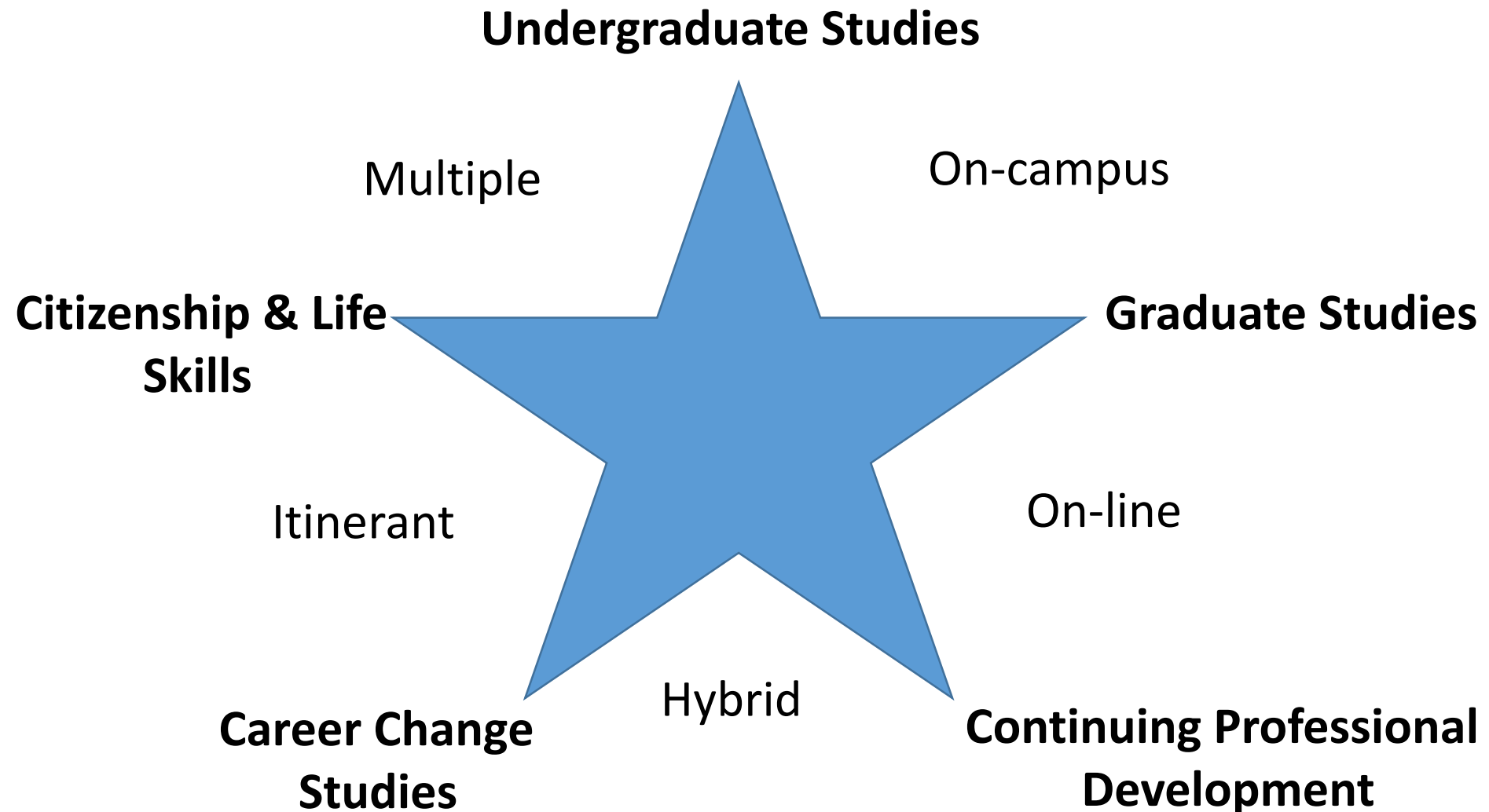




# Today's University



# University of the Future



Tertiary education for Syrian refugees is not a  
luxury.

# Thank you

# شكراً



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معهد عصام فارس للسياسات  
العامة والشؤون الدولية

Hana Addam El-Ghali

[ha58@aub.edu.lb](mailto:ha58@aub.edu.lb)