FUNDING OVERVIEW

Humanitarian assistance to education for the Syrian emergency

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Introduction

This paper presents an analysis of humanitarian funding to the Syria emergency, with a focus on the education sector. The overview of financing trends is intended to inform discussions and decisions at the 2016 Syria Donor Conference and other forums.

The Syrian crisis has dominated recent humanitarian financing debates, with record levels of funding requested and received since the conflict began in March 2011. In 2015, donors responded to a rise in humanitarian needs, driven by the crisis in Syria and neighbouring countries hosting Syrian refugees. However, funding is still insufficient to meet growing needs, particularly in a number of notably under-funded sectors, including education.

Contents

Introduction 2
Total humanitarian assistance to the Syria emergency 3
How much funding has gone to the emergency? 3
Are the requirements in the UN-coordinated appeals being met? 3
How have events affected the timing of funding to the Syria crisis? 4
Which government donors made the largest humanitarian contributions? 5
Who are the largest government donors in terms of humanitarian assistance as percentage of gross national income (GNI)? 6
How has the funding been channelled? 6
What pooled funds and other financing mechanisms are there in response to the emergency? 7

Humanitarian assistance to neighbouring countries hosting Syrian refugees 8
Which countries have received the most funding through the UN regional appeals? 8
Have requirements been met? 8

Humanitarian assistance allocated to education for the Syria emergency 9
How much funding has been allocated to education for Syrian refugees? 9
How does education compare with other sectors in the 3RP? 9
How much funding has been allocated to education inside Syria? 10
Have requirements for education in the Syria response plans been met? 11
What are the requirements for education in the 2016 3RP? 11
Which donors have provided the most funding to education? 12

Contributions from Gulf donors to the Syria emergency 13
How much have Gulf donors given in response to the Syria emergency? 13
How much of Gulf donors’ total humanitarian assistance is channelled through UN-coordinated appeals overall? 13
How much humanitarian assistance from Gulf donors to the Syria crisis is allocated to education? 14
How much official development assistance (ODA) has been given as humanitarian assistance to countries impacted by the Syria emergency? 14
How much official development assistance (ODA) has been given to education through development financing to countries impacted by the Syria emergency? 15
Has spending for education in development assistance increased as a result of the emergency? 16
Which donors have provided the most funding for education in their development assistance to the countries impacted by the emergency? 17

Data limitations 18
Recommendations 18
Total humanitarian assistance to the Syria emergency

How much funding has gone to the emergency?

In total, US$16.6 billion of humanitarian assistance was reported in response to the Syria emergency between 2011 and 2015. The majority of this funding (65%) was channelled through the two UN-coordinated response plans: the Syria Strategic Response Plan (SRP) for assistance within Syria, previously referred to as the Syria Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan (SHARP); and the Syria Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP) for support to Syrian refugees and host communities in neighbouring countries, previously referred to as the Syria Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP).

Appeals responding to needs within Syria received US$3.5 billion – 21% of the total. The regional response plans for Syrian refugees and host communities in neighbouring Lebanon, Iraq, Turkey, Egypt and Jordan received US$7.3 billion: 44% of all funding. All remaining funding was channelled outside the two UN-coordinated appeals.

Since the onset of the emergency, humanitarian funding increased year on year, peaking at US$5.5 billion in 2015 – an almost five-fold increase compared to 2012. Since 2013, funding increased by 30% for the Syria appeal, and 27% for the regional appeal. Funding outside the two appeals also rapidly increased, by almost 50% between 2012 and 2015.

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Are the requirements in the UN-coordinated appeals being met?

While funding increased year on year for both appeals, it did not match the rise in requirements. The appeal requirements for the Syria appeal increased by 105% between 2013 and 2015, while those set out in the regional appeal rose by 52%.

The average proportion of requirements met for all UN-coordinated appeals in 2015 was 44%, with significant differences between appeals. The appeal with the highest requirements met in 2015 was Iraq, with 75% of requirements met; this compares to the South Sudan regional appeal with 19% of requirements met, and Gambia with only 5%.

The proportion of requirements met for the Syria 3RP in 2015 was above the average for all appeals, at 59%. Only 43% of requirements were met for the Syria appeal, just below the all-appeal average.

Source: Development Initiatives based on UN OCHA FTS; data downloaded 22 January 2016.

Source: Development Initiatives based on UN OCHA FTS; data downloaded 11 January 2016.
How have events affected the timing of funding to the Syria crisis?

Notable increases to the Syria appeal took place in March (up by US$268.9 million), in June (increase of US$147.7 million) and in September (a rise of US$141.7 million). Funding for the regional appeal spiked in March (a rise of over US$437.5 million), in August (commitments increased by US$459.4 million) and in September (a rise of US$328.1 million). Higher contributions to both appeals in March may have been in relation to the third pledging conference that took place that month in Kuwait. Other factors that may have affected funding decisions include: the rising numbers of internally displaced people and Syrian refugees; a sudden increase in asylum applications from Syrians reaching Europe; media reports of the suffering of Syrians inside the country and in neighbouring states; and military action by Russia and other nations against militant factions in Syria.

Source: Development Initiatives based on UN OCHA FTS data and media reports; data downloaded 22 January 2016.
Note: Funding with allocation decisions dating pre-2015 is not captured.
Which donors made the largest humanitarian contributions?

The United States (US) was the largest government donor to the Syria crisis between 2011 and 2015, with contributions of US$4.6 billion, matching the next three largest donors’ funding combined. The US gave almost half its humanitarian assistance for the Syria emergency to the regional appeals, in line with the overall trend of funding from government donors.

Contributions to the emergency from donor governments in the Gulf states are significant. Among the ten largest donors, three are from the Gulf region. Kuwait is the fifth-largest donor over the period 2011 to 2015, with 54% of its funding going to the regional appeals; 85% of Saudi Arabia’s humanitarian assistance in the same period, and 76% of that of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), was provided outside the appeals process.
Who are the largest government donors in terms of humanitarian assistance as percentage of gross national income (GNI)?

If funding to the Syria crisis is not simply calculated using the volume of contributions, but takes into account humanitarian assistance as a percentage of GNI, the increasing importance of certain Gulf donors is notable. Using this methodology, six of the largest ten donors are Gulf states: Kuwait (first), United Arab Emirates (second), Qatar (third), Oman (fourth), Saudi Arabia (fifth) and Bahrain (tenth). The ranking of donors with the largest volumes of funding changes significantly: the United Kingdom (UK) slides from third to ninth largest, and the US falls out of the top ten list and becomes the thirteenth-largest donor to the crisis when considering humanitarian assistance as a percentage of GNI. Canada and Germany make the largest 15 ranking, while Japan is the 21st largest. The government donors with the lowest proportions of humanitarian assistance as a proportion of their GNI are Brazil, Greece, China, Colombia and Portugal.

How has the funding been channelled?

For both the Syria and regional appeals, as well as funding provided outside the appeals, donors display similar preferences for channels of delivery. The majority of humanitarian assistance (60.3%/US$10.0 billion) was channelled in the first instance via multilateral organisations, primarily UN agencies. Over the same period, NGOs directly received 19.4% (US$3.2 billion) of funding, while the Red Cross/Red Crescent movement (RCRC) received 6.2% (US$1.0 billion).
What pooled funds and other financing mechanisms are there in response to the emergency?

Emergency Response Funds (ERFs), coordinated by UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), have been established for Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey.

There were no specific allocations to the education sector from the ERFs for Syria and Jordan in 2015. The ERF for Turkey, however, includes an allocation of US$1.2 million for education; and the Lebanon ERF shows US$96,566 of funding directed to education projects. The sectors that received the highest allocations from the Turkey ERF in 2015 are health (US$11.5 million/38% of the total), and agriculture and water and sanitation (each with just over US$3.5 million/12% of total). Education is the second-lowest-funded sector within the Turkey ERF, with only 4% of all allocations last year.

The majority of regional funding from ERFs is directed to multi-sector: US$4.0 million to Lebanon and US$2.7 million to Jordan. It is possible that additional funding for education is included within multi-sector allocations, but a lack of detailed project descriptions does not allow for detailed analysis of funding by sector.

In 2015, Syria was the second-largest recipient of allocations from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), receiving US$29.9 million (6.4% of total funding). The sector that received the highest amount of CERF funding in Syria was health with US$7.5 million (25% of the total), followed closely by shelter and non-food items with US$7.0 million. There were no contributions for the education sector from the CERF in 2015. All allocations from the CERF to Syria were made through the Underfunded Emergency Window. All countries in the region hosting Syrian refugees received funding from the CERF in 2015. However, none of the five received contributions to the education sector.

A number of multi-partner funds have been set up in response to the growing crisis in Syria and the region. Among these, the EU Regional Trust Fund is the largest, established in December 2014, targeting 1.5 million Syrian refugees and members of host communities in neighbouring Lebanon, Turkey, Jordan and Iraq. The Fund comprises a package of programmes totalling over €350 million. Of this, 40% (€140 million) is to be directed to education projects to support the governments of Lebanon, Turkey and Jordan in providing accelerated learning programmes, non-formal education, early childhood education and child protection support to up to 587,000 school-age children and adolescents.

The Syria Recovery Trust Fund (SRTF) was established by the Group of Friends of the Syrian People and its Working Group on Economic Recovery and Development in 2013. Parties to the agreement include Germany, the UAE, the US, the German Development Bank KfW, Denmark, Finland, Japan, the UK, Kuwait, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Turkey, Jordan, and the National Coalition of Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces (SOC) as trustee. Its funds are directed to projects in Syria for sectors such as water, health, electricity, education and food security. Funding for the education sector refers to rehabilitation of school buildings, supply of school equipment and furniture, and tools for school repair. According to financing reporting on the SRTF website, contributions of €120.4 million have so far been received; of this, €54.9 million has so far been approved for projects and €66.1 million is in the pipeline. It is not currently possible to see a sector breakdown of SRTF funding.

The Lebanon Syrian Crisis Trust Fund is a Multi-Donor Trust Fund managed by the Government of Lebanon and The World Bank. It was established in 2014 and is expected to be active until 2019. The Fund contains an estimated US$30 million to support projects related to health, education, infrastructure and water and sanitation; for both immediate needs and as part of the longer-term response. Funding will be primarily channelled through the Lebanese government, UN agencies and NGOs. Approximately 33% of the Fund’s resources are intended for activities that support education policy and administrative management.

\[\text{http://www.srtfund.org/articles/17_education.}\]
Humanitarian assistance to neighbouring countries hosting Syrian refugees

Which countries have received the most funding through the UN regional appeals?

Of the five neighbouring countries receiving funding to support the needs of refugees through the UN-coordinated regional response plans, Lebanon (US$2.9 billion) and Jordan (US$2.3 billion) received 78% of total funding to the appeals between 2013 and 2015.

As with the emergency response overall, the largest international donor to the regional appeal is the US with US$2.1 billion. For most donors, Lebanon receives the most of the five appeal countries.

Have requirements been met?

Despite receiving the largest volume and proportion of overall regional funding, Lebanon also has the largest shortfall of funding in terms of volume within the three-year period, peaking in 2015 with a shortfall of US$868.4 million. In terms of the proportion of requirements met, Turkey has the largest gap – approximately 60% each year between 2012 and 2015. Egypt’s shortfall increased the most, from 45% in 2013 up to 69% in 2015. Over the three-year period, Jordan had the largest proportion of its requirements met, but this decreased from 79% in 2013 to 60% in 2015.
Humanitarian assistance allocated to education for the Syria emergency

How much funding has been allocated to education for Syrian refugees?

According to the progress report for the Syria 3RP, dated June 2015, funding fell far short of requirements for the education sector in the first part of the year. The funding shortfall in mid-2015 was more than 65% for each country, with Egypt and Turkey experiencing the largest funding gaps of 79% (US$15 million of unmet requirements) and 78% (US$46 million of unmet requirements) respectively. Lebanon had received the largest volumes of funding for education by mid-2015 according to the progress report, with contributions of US$69 million.

5 The Syria Crisis Education Strategic Paper for the London 2016 Conference states education requirements for the regional appeal are 46% funded. However, the Progress Report issued in June 2015 is referenced here as it provides data disaggregated by country.

How does education compare with other sectors in the 3RP?

Within the requirements set out for sectors in the 2015 3RP, education ranks fourth in terms of volume behind food security, basic needs and protection, accounting for 10.6% of requirements for all sectors.

In terms of requirements met, by June 2015, 28% of requirements for the education sector had been met, having the same proportion of requirements met as Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) (28%).

Source: 3RP Regional Progress Report, June 2015.
Between 2011 and 2015, US$207.8 million of humanitarian assistance was reported to the education sector both inside and outside the UN-coordinated appeals for Syria. This represents 3.6% of funding inside the Syria appeals, and 1.4% of all funding outside the appeals.

The largest volume of funding to a specific sector was allocated to food (US$2.4 billion), followed by shelter and non-food items (US$755.8 million) and health (US$720.5 million). In terms of the volume of funding, education ranks sixth against all other sectors.²

How much funding has been allocated to education inside Syria?²

FIGURE 12
Funding to Syria by sector, inside and outside UN-coordinated appeals, 2011–2015

Source: Development Initiatives based on UN OCHA FTS; data downloaded 22 January 2016.
Notes: Sectors based on Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) standard sectors. Regional response plans are not captured in the analysis. NFIs: non-food items. Protection: Protection/Human rights/Rule of law.

³ The analysis is organised using the IASC Standard sectors, as opposed to clusters, in order to highlight funding to education outside the appeals.
⁴ IASC Standard sectors include: Food, Shelter and NFIs, Health, Coordination and support, Water and sanitation, Education, Protection, Economic recovery and infrastructure, Agriculture, Safety and security, Mine action and Multisector.
Have requirements for education in the Syria response plans been met?

The requirements for the education sector in 2015 more than doubled from the previous year up to US$222 million. The proportion of total requirements for education has increased in the last three years, from 3.2% in 2013 to 7.7% in 2015, but still remains relatively low compared to other sectors. The sectors that dominate requirements in the Syria appeal are food (41% in 2013 and 40% in 2015), shelter and non-food items (24% in 2013 and 22% in 2015) and health (14% in 2013 and 13% in 2015).

Within the Syria appeals, the education sector is one of the least funded. While in 2013, requirements for education were only 82% met, the requirements increased significantly in subsequent years, leading to a drop in needs met to 37% in 2014 and only 20% in 2015, leaving US$178.3 million of unmet requirements.

What are the requirements for education in the 2016 3RP?

Education is the fourth-largest sector in terms of funding requirements within the 2016 Syria 3RP, requesting US$0.64 billion for both the refugee and resilience components. Food security, and then basic needs, request the largest amounts in 2016.
Which donors have provided the most funding to education?

**FIGURE 15**

Largest ten government and EU institution donor contributions to education for the Syria emergency, 2011–2015

The EU institutions, largely through the European Commission’s Department of Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO), have provided the largest volumes of funding to the education sector since 2011, with commitments/contributions of US$36.5 million: 2.0% of the EU institutions’ total funding to the Syria emergency. Kuwait is the second-largest contributor to the education sector, providing US$26.8 million of humanitarian assistance.

Source: Development Initiatives based on UN OCHA FTS; data downloaded 22 January 2016.

Notes: This includes funding inside and outside the Syria response plans but does not include funding to regional appeals. HA: Humanitarian assistance. EU refers to EU institutions, including but not limited to the European Commission’s Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO). If the analysis included the World Food Programme, this would be the seventh-largest donor. If the analysis included UNICEF, this would be the second-largest donor. ‘Qatar Charity’, ‘NGO Consortium’, ‘Education above All Foundation’ and ‘US Fund for UNICEF’ are not captured in the analysis.
Contributions from Gulf donors to the Syria emergency

How much have Gulf donors given in response to the Syria emergency?

Of the Gulf states, Kuwait is the largest donor to the Syria emergency. Its contributions over the period totalled US$947.3 million, while Saudi Arabia gave US$737.1 million and the UAE gave US$420.1 million. Kuwait reports most of its funding to the Syria and the regional appeals, but other donors’ contributions are mostly recorded outside the appeals. Combined, funding from Gulf-state donors outside the Syria appeals is approximately US$1.4 billion, while the amount given inside appeals is lower at US$1.0 billion.

How much of Gulf donors’ total humanitarian assistance is channelled through UN-coordinated appeals overall?

The proportion of overall funding that Gulf-state donors channel through UN-coordinated appeals differs by donor and by year. Between 2011 and 2015, Kuwait channelled 75% of its total reported humanitarian assistance to UN-coordinated appeals, with a sharp increase from 2013 onwards. The proportion of Saudi Arabia’s reported humanitarian assistance increased considerably over the last three years (from 6% in 2013 to 71% in 2014 and 65% in 2015). The proportion of UAE’s humanitarian assistance provided to UN-coordinated appeals fluctuated year on year, peaking at 26% in 2014 then dropping to only 2% in 2015.
How much humanitarian assistance from Gulf donors to the Syria crisis is allocated to education?

Reported funding to the Syria crisis from Gulf states to the education sector amounts to US$41.0 million between 2011 and 2015. This represents an average of 1.7% of their total humanitarian assistance to the emergency. However, Kuwait, with the largest contribution of all, allocated 2.8% of its funding to the sector, a total of US$26.8 million. Saudi Arabia, the fifth-largest humanitarian donor to education, provided US$13.1 million – 1.8% of its total contribution to the crisis.

![Graph showing humanitarian funding to education in Syria](image)

**Figure 18**
Gulf donors’ humanitarian funding to the education sector in the Syrian emergency, 2011–2015

Source: Development Initiatives based on UN OCHA FTS; data downloaded 22 January 2016.

How much official development assistance (ODA) has been given as humanitarian assistance to countries impacted by the Syria emergency?

The proportion of official humanitarian assistance of ODA has increased for all countries covered in appeals, with the exception of Syria. Syria’s decrease in 2014 is accounted for by lower levels of both official humanitarian assistance and ODA when compared to 2013, of which the decrease in humanitarian assistance exceeds that of ODA. Apart from Syria, all neighbouring countries hosting refugees have continued to see increases in official humanitarian assistance, with the most significant rises in the Iraq (an increase of US$369.8 million between 2013 and 2014) and Jordan (an increase of US$241.5 million between 2013 and 2014). In the case of Iraq, ODA has remained relatively stable, while official humanitarian assistance has increased more than four-fold to US$485.2 million within the period 2013 to 2014.

![Graph showing humanitarian assistance as a proportion of ODA](image)

**Figure 19**
Official humanitarian assistance as a proportion of official development assistance to Syria crisis countries, 2011–2014

Source: Development Initiatives based on OECD DAC; data downloaded 13 January 2016.

Note: Analysis uses official humanitarian assistance reported to the OECD DAC and differs from FTS data used elsewhere.
Syria and neighbouring countries impacted by the conflict have all received education financing through development assistance since the conflict began. Spending on education within Syria’s development assistance totals US$377 million between 2011 and 2014 – 8% of all ODA to Syria in this period (or 32% of the total for development assistance only).

Of the neighbouring countries, Jordan (US$896 million) and Lebanon (US$600 million) have received the highest volumes of education spending within their ODA. However, it is unclear how far this financing has been directed to projects addressing the needs of Syrian refugees.

Of the total education ODA reported to Syria, 60% has been directed to post-secondary education, 30% to basic education and just 2% to secondary education. For Jordan and Lebanon, basic education has received the highest proportion of education spending – 64% and 46% of total education spending respectively. Secondary education received the lowest proportion of funding for both countries: 10% for Lebanon and 4% for Jordan.

For development assistance figures, we extract humanitarian assistance from ODA. The humanitarian figures will differ as we use OECD DAC CRS data when looking at ODA sector spending.

In this analysis we include only education spending reported against the education purpose codes in OECD DAC’s creditor reporting system (CRS). Education spending may also fall within other sectors such as general budget support. See UNESCO methodology in the Global Monitoring reports (http://www.uis.unesco.org/Education/Documents/fs-31-out-of-school-children-en.pdf).

Basic education includes primary education, basic life skills for youths and adults and early childhood education.

All other funding was reported under ‘education unspecified’.

How much official development assistance (ODA) has been given to education through development financing to countries impacted by the Syria emergency?

Source: Development Initiatives based on OECD DAC; data downloaded 13 January 2016.

Note: Official humanitarian assistance: Humanitarian assistance as reported to the OECD DAC.
Has spending for education in development assistance increased as a result of the emergency?

**FIGURE 22**

Education spending to Lebanon and Jordan, 2005–2014

For the majority of countries affected by the Syria emergency there has been no noticeable increase in the volume of education spending within development assistance. Rather, in Syria and Iraq there has been a small decline in funding since 2012. Syria’s education funding declined from US$117 million in 2010 to US$71 million in 2014. However, education spending in development assistance has risen in both Lebanon and Jordan since the onset of the emergency in 2011. In 2010, Lebanon received US$120 million for education, increasing to US$178 million in 2014; Jordan’s education-related development assistance rose from US$195 million to US$264 million in the same period.
Of total education spending within development ODA to the affected countries, Germany has provided the highest volume of funding: US$784 million, accounting for 24% of the total between 2011 and 2014. Germany is among the five donors providing the most development spending on education in all of the affected countries within the same period, and for Syria it accounts for 44% of all funding. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)\(^\text{12}\) has been the second-largest overall education donor from within development ODA to the affected countries (providing US$605 million) and the largest to Jordan (38% of the country’s total) and Lebanon (27% of the country’s total). Other notable contributors to education\(^\text{13}\) in the region of development ODA between 2011 and 2014 are the United States (US$416 million), France (US$354 million) and the EU institutions (US$290 million).

Since the onset of the emergency, there are few significant increases by donors in their education spending from development budgets, with volumes staying fairly consistent in the four years from 2011 to 2014. One exception is the EU institutions where education contributions increased significantly between 2011 and 2012\(^\text{14}\) to both Lebanon (from US$0.2 million to US$9.9 million) and Jordan (from US$14.8 million to US$32.6 million).

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\(^{12}\) UNRWA receives funding from government donors but also reports its bilateral expenditure to the OECD DAC CRS.

\(^{13}\) Please note that some donors may support education through other mechanisms such as general budget support.

\(^{14}\) Fluctuated slightly from 2012 to 2014.
Data limitations

There are number of challenges in the available data to accurately track levels of humanitarian assistance allocated to meet the needs of Syrian refugees. All funding to the Syria 3RP is reported under the multi-sector UN OCHA Financial Tracking Service (FTS) and it is not possible to quantify volumes within the appeal directed to education. There is some data within 3RP reporting; however, there is no live database to track updated levels of funding.

There are also challenges in trying to quantify volumes of humanitarian assistance being channelled to specific populations, such as refugees. There is currently no specific code or categorisation within the FTS database that represents humanitarian funding allocated to refugees.

All data in the analyses is in current prices unless otherwise stated.

Recommendations

Gulf states should better report their contributions inside the appeals

The donors in the region have made considerable investments in reporting their commitments and disbursements to UN OCHA’s FTS. However, they need to continue to strengthen reporting to ensure it is recorded against the UN-coordinated appeals and to allow for traceability of funds against sectors and needs.

Regional appeal data should be recorded against sectors

Tracking funding against sectors helps future allocation decisions. The ability to track humanitarian assistance against sectoral needs should become part of how funding is reported and recorded.

Direct additional funds to the education sector, as it is one of the least funded and with the largest funding gaps

Neighbouring countries have come a long way in the past four years to build the capacity for providing education services to refugee children and adolescents. Donors now have far greater opportunities to support humanitarian financing for needs-based education and should continue to mobilise efforts in this direction. This should be complemented by increased funding for other sectors – increasing the overall envelope of funding for the Syria crisis rather than shifting money between sectors – and working with development counterparts to invest in reconstruction and capacity building programmes.

Ensure predictable and sustained support by providing forward-looking data

Donors have made pledges to continue their financing support through 2016. Honouring and increasing those pledges will enable governments in the region, along with humanitarian and development implementing agencies, to plan over an appropriate timescale for the required medium- to long-term activities in Syria and neighbouring countries hosting Syrian refugees. This would help to build confidence and commitment to providing education services to children and adolescents, and overcome government uncertainty around the post-humanitarian scenario and subsequent reconstruction efforts.
Humanitarian assistance to education for the Syrian emergency

This report was commissioned by the Malala Fund.