

# YOU CHANGE THE FUTURE WITH EDUCATION



**Campaign Summary:** "You Change The Future with Education"

**Duration :** November 15 – December 31, 2024

**Objective:** To give 50 children and young adults in Aleppo, Syria, the opportunity to complete their studies and find sustainable employment, for themselves, their families and community.

## **Key Points:**

### 1. Crisis in Aleppo:

Education is proven to be the only effective pathway out of poverty but decades of violence and conflict has led to 90% of families, particularly those headed by women with children, struggling to afford basic needs, including education. While in Syria schools and universities are free, associated costs (transport, materials, taxes) make education inaccessible.

### 2. Impact of War:

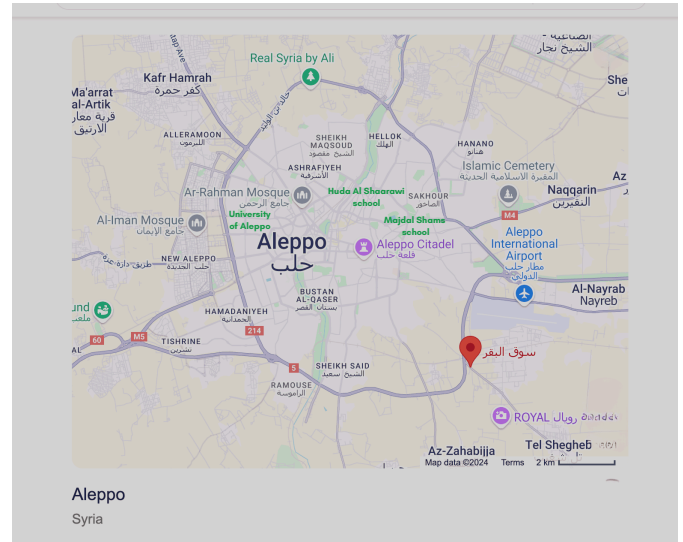
Many children and young adults have experienced war as their only reality. Numerous schools are damaged or destroyed, and there is a significant shortage of teachers. The ongoing crisis and recent developments in the Middle East show there is no easy end in sight. Public electricity distribution in Aleppo is limited to 2 hours per day, sometimes at night.

### 3. Our Mission:

Crete for Life is a child focused charity that works on practical projects to make an immediate and lasting impact on children's lives.

## Context in Aleppo, Syria:

- ☐ Illiteracy has risen from 20% (mostly adults) before the war to 50% now, mostly among children.
- ☐ Education is critical for both girls and boys, but cultural and economic barriers frequently hinder girls' access, often resulting in a lack of opportunities for them.
- ☐ With education, families can aspire to a better future in their own country rather than continue to emigrate abroad.



Map of Aleppo showing some of the schools supported by this project. To read more about Education in Syria in 2024: [Unicef Syria snapshot 2024](#)

## Local Partnerships:



**You Change the Future** is a project developed in collaboration with The Blues Maristes, a volunteer group active in Aleppo since 2012 who focuses on providing dignified help to the most vulnerable.

How it Works: Every week 10 to 30 families asking for assistance for their children are met in the Blue Marists office, headed by Fr George, Antonia and Kadya.

Every case is different and each family can consist of several children of different learning ages, from play school to university or vocational training. According to possibility, those most likely to succeed and finish their studies are supported.

Once the student is accepted in the program, they sign a contract, or the family if is a minor, where they are committed:

1. To pay the school/university or vocational course and provide regular receipts
2. To provide communication of their academic results with written evidence from the school
3. To give immediate communication if the student is not going to school
4. To confirm the obligation from the parents/guardians and living in relatives to protect the student from aggression allowing him/her a place and time to study.

Unfortunately verbal, psychological, physical and sexual aggression is a huge problem. Often boys as young as 8 yo. must find work to provide for their families and very young girls are married off so as not to be a financial burden. Every supported student is personally known to us and visited regularly at school and at home.

#### Immediate impact of education:

- ☐ Children and their families are extremely motivated to attend school.
- ☐ Schools are a place of peaceful socializing for those who have grown up only knowing hardship and war.
- ☐ After years of war and migration, there is a severe lack of teachers, doctors, engineers, architects translators and professionals to help the country's recovery.
- ☐ Learning skills like digital literacy and foreign languages are essentials for both boys and girls, this program allows them to receive quality education and improve their future chances.
- ☐ The danger of indoctrination to the less educated is still very real
- ☐ The opportunity to study can be a motivation for the family not to emigrate abroad.

## How you can help:

### Monthly Donations

Your monthly contributions enable consistent support. For €40 a month, you can sponsor a student by covering essential costs, allowing hiw/her to go and stay in school.



### One-off Donations

- €10: Buy books for learning, for one student
- €25: gives daily breakfast for one student for one month (Tea, bread, egg or cheese) so that the student is ready to learn
- €40: insures transport from home to school or university. Most students live very far away from their studies
- €80: With winter approaching , suitable clothing is essential: you will protect a student for the season buying them a jacket and a pair of sport shoes.
- €150: you are supporting a vulnerable student with private tuitions for 3 months, to catch up with the school program
- €600: with this donation you are supporting one student, preparing him/her to pass the Baccalaureat





*Neither the state nor local authorities have the ability to invest in the many schools and universities damaged by war and the earthquake, and the severe international sanctions prevents any economic recovery.*

#### Additional Needs For Schools:

€1,800 you will replace 6 solar panel batteries allowing the Mazen Dabbagh school to store more energy and electricity for its students (6 batteries x €300 each = €1,800)

€2,500 repairs damaged toilets in Majdal Shams school giving hygienic facilities to 400 students

€1,750 repairs wooden desks in Huda Sharaawi high school (35 desks x €30 each = €1,750)

4. Establishing a linguistics lab in Mazen Dabbagh school, including computers and didactic material for teaching English and German languages (€3,500)

"Every donation, no matter how small, can make a big difference. Let's change the future together."

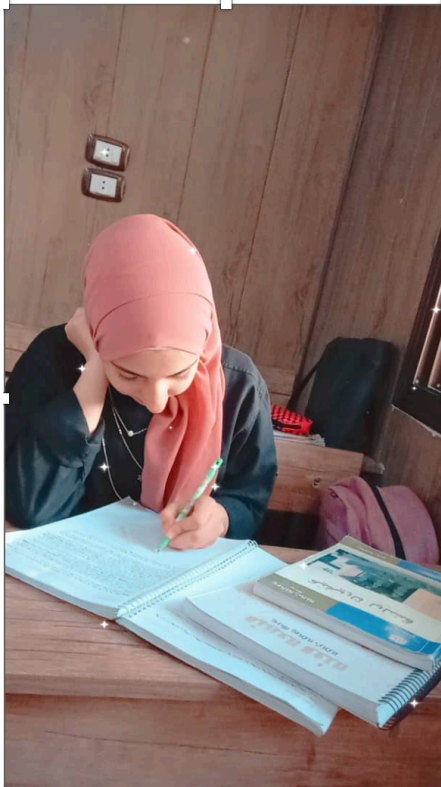
**DONATE NOW**

Please share with your friends and family so that together we can reach out to more children

#### **Stories:**

How education changes the future:

**Lina** was born in 2008. She and her family live in one of the least privileged circumstances, residing in an abandoned cultural center in Aleppo because their father used to work there. This building is not safe, as it was damaged during the war; however, they have to stay there because they do not have anywhere else to go. Her mother is a blood cancer patient. Despite all these challenges, Lina still holds onto her hope of pursuing her studies. Thanks to the scholar support program, she is even more determined to achieve her dream. The scholarship program provides financial aid for Lina to attend an institute that will help her prepare for her baccalaureate degree.



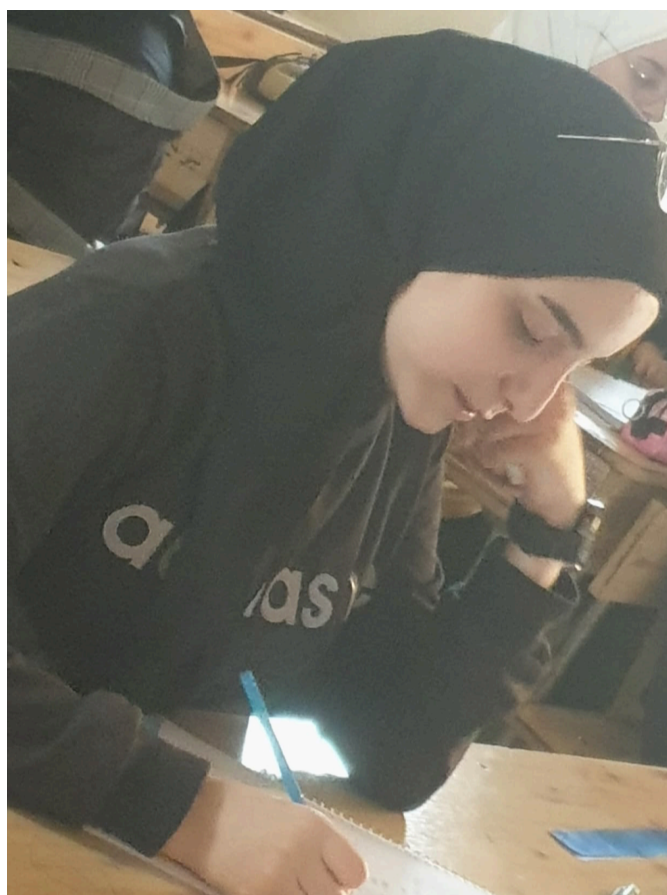
**Naya** is a student in a tutoring class for the Arabic language, alongside a group of other students. She was born in 2008 into one of the least privileged families. Both parents work for minimal wages,



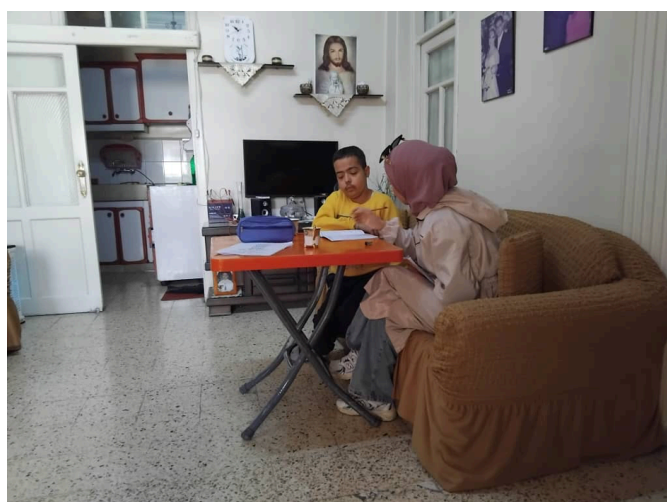
which are barely enough to secure basic needs. Naya is a hardworking student with good grades, but she needs help in some subjects because she studies in public schools where the academic level is relatively low. We enrolled Naya in our program to give her an extra push to keep going and excel in her studies.



**Salwa** was born in 2007. She lives with her aunt because her parents gave her up when she was only a baby, as they could not support her. Her aunt is not married, but she takes care of Salwa as much as she can. They live in a distant area of Aleppo where the living conditions are particularly difficult. So far, Salwa has been studying by herself without any help. However, this year she needs tutoring, specifically in mathematics. Scholar Support is very proud of students like Salwa who are determined to succeed.



**George** was born in 2006. He is a cancer patient with a great appetite for life, and he is determined to live as fully as he can. George must travel to Damascus for treatment from time to time. For this reason, he has missed school for long periods, and it is better for him to stay home, especially with his weak immune system. George's treatment is very costly. Scholar Support has adopted George and provided him with a tutor to help him at home in preparation for his



baccalaureate next year. He has shown commitment and strong will. He has recently finished his treatment, and we wish him good health and success.



**Elie** is a law student. He is very hardworking and has great ethics. Elie works a part-time job but still needs financial help, especially since the university is far from the heart of the city and very expensive. Scholar Support helps Elie with transportation, which enables him to continue his studies.



**Pamela** is 21 years old and studying architecture. She is very interested in the conservation of Aleppo's old buildings and hopes to work to preserve and protect those which have survived the war and the recent earthquake. Her best friend **Magda**, also 21 years old, is studying psychology. She is deaf from birth and wants to help children with disabilities.



**Samer** is 15 years old. His father is blind and therefore he has always been the breadwinner in his family. He has never been to school but now is very motivated to learn in the morning and work in the afternoon. He knows school offers him a chance to help himself and his family.



**Maryam** got married very young and had her baby before finishing her studies. She is now divorced and wants to finish school. Her diploma will give her the chance to get better jobs and be able to provide for her child. Without the basic diploma, "Brevet" her chances of working are very low.





**Nahala's words** – How education is changing her life



**Why We need More Education for Girls:**



**You Change the Future** focuses on insuring literacy and quality education for at-risk youth, particularly advocating for girls' education. Supporting girls not only promotes gender equality but also strengthens economies and communities.

- Barriers: Gender bias, early marriage, poverty, gender-based violence, poor education quality, conflicts, distance to schools, and climate change all contribute to keeping girls out of school.

This campaign is more than an initiative; it's a commitment to creating lasting change in the lives of children in Aleppo through education. Let's unite to make a difference—together.





**Cost comparison: average of one year's undergraduate education in Syria, Italy, France, UK and USA (living expenses are not included)**

