CAN’T WAIT TO LEARN

Research-based, innovative learning opportunities for children affected by conflict.
EFFECTS OF CONFLICT

• 22 million primary school-aged children (6-11) are out of school

• 15 million young adolescents (12-14) are out of school ¹

• The result: entire generations of children and youth are denied the right to an education

CHALLENGES TO QUALITY EDUCATION

• Lack of existing infrastructure
• Host countries are under stress and have limited capacity
• Different language of instruction
• Children have missed years of school and need to ‘catch-up’
A Solution
Can’t Wait to Learn
CAN’T WAIT TO LEARN

- Leverages technology appropriately to address the immediate need for quality education
- Is research-informed and evidence generating
- Uses a partnership approach
- Addresses contextual challenges
- Is currently scaling
Can’t Wait to Learn Goal: 170,000 Children by 2020
EDUCATIVE GAME

- Designed by technical experts
- In alignment and collaboration with Ministry of Education curriculum
- Self-paced learning
- Takes into account the learning motivation of users
- Back-end management portal to track children's progress individually
DELIVERY MODEL

• Adapted to the needs of the context
• Done in collaboration with local partners
PARTNERS

Ahfad University of Women

Republic of Sudan
Ministry of General Education

Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
Ministry of Education

UNICEF

TNO innovation for life

WAR Child

Butterfly Works

Lebanese Republic
Ministry of Education & Higher Education
Directorate General of Higher Education
CAN’T WAIT TO LEARN LEBANON
• Lebanon is host to the largest number of refugees from Syria: around 1.5 Syrian refugees. The population influx to Lebanon has increased the demand on an already struggling educational system.

• 50% of all students enrolled in public schools are non-Lebanese

• 202,259 non-Lebanese children were enrolled in formal basic public schools (school year 2016/17). The target is 423,832 according to the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (2017)

• 59% of school-aged refugees are out of formal education
Public Lebanese schools have opened a second shift in the afternoons, a scheme that was launched throughout the country in November 2013 by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education.

In the 2017-18 school year, 350 schools are currently running the double-shift system.

Challenges

- Access to school due to different reasons (economic reasons, lack of transportation, child labour, etc.)
- Coping with a different curriculum and other educational challenges.
In collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE)

Can’t Wait to Learn will be piloted as part of MEHE’s Basic Literacy and Numeracy (BLN) NFE framework for out of school children (10 – 14 year olds)

As requested by MEHE, Can’t Wait to Learn team in Lebanon is also working with educational consultants and curriculum experts to develop the ‘paper and pencil’ BLN curricula in Arabic, French and English.
LOCATIONS AND IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

Mohammara Municipality
It allows me to concentrate because the game is entertaining” – Amal 11 years old.

“I studied math before but this way is more fun” Shaymaa- 11 years old

“I love to play very much and I am very happy that we could learn while playing the game”- Rihab 14 years old.
GAME PLAY
لكن سرعان ما ماتَ سمير هوايته الجديدة وجلس حزينًا.

دار بينها وبين شادي يومًا خوارًا، قالت له:

"أنا ليس لدي أي صديقات تلعب وتنمر وسويًا؟"

ورد على شادي: "لا تتعجل يا سمير، سوف تدخلين المدرسة وسويًا ما تكون صديقات.

لا تحزني سوف تلعب أنا ومحمد معك.

ما هي اللعبة التي تريدتين أن تلعبها؟"
TIMELINE AND EXPECTED RESULTS

• **Pilot Phase (2017-2018)**
  Target number of children is 1500 for the maths game. In 2018 when the language game is rolled out, target will go up to 2000.

• **Scale-up Phase (2019-2020)**
  Programme review and (re-) design for scale
  Refresher/new training organized
  Support implementing partners in outreach
  Scale-up to more children and more regions: various implementing partners in new areas, reach 35,000 children by 2020.

• **Results**
  Expansion to new geographic areas and more children
  New partners come on board
Sonbola is a grassroots educational NGO that works on education provision for Syrian refugee/displaced children and youth with special focus on quality, innovation and sustainability.

www.sonbola-ngo.com
https://www.facebook.com/sonbola.edu/
https://twitter.com/NgoSonbola
https://www.instagram.com/sonbola.ngo/?hl=en
TARGET GROUPS

• **Children’s educational status:** Out-of-school children (have never been enrolled at schools or dropped out of school for 2 years or more)

• **Gender and nationality:** Boys and girls of Syrian refugees and vulnerable Lebanese children

• **Age of beneficiaries:** 10-14 years old

• **Number of Children involved now:** 110 students, divided into 4 groups
• CWTL is designed to allow children catch up on their education to ultimately join formal education programs in Lebanon.

• Delivering the CWTL program doesn’t require a formal education setting and a staff of teachers, instead it simply needs any premises and a facilitator. Two staff members from Sonbola are trained to facilitate the CWTL sessions.

• CWTL is conducted as part of Sonbola’s Basic Literacy and Numeracy Program (BLN). Sonbola, in collaboration with War Child, has been delivering the program at its center in Bekaa, Lebanon, since October 2017.

• Children learn and play for 45 minutes a day, five days a week, at Sonbola’s Bekaa center. Four sessions in total are run from 2:00 pm-4:00 pm, having 2 classes run in parallel, hosting 110 students.
• Children move up through different game levels by playing ‘mini-games’. Children are guided during the game through pre-recorded videos of real and animated teachers.

• Children are provided with immediate feedback on the correctness of answers and they are allowed to go back to previous activities whenever they want.
HOW CHILDREN LEARN THROUGH THE GAME...

• Having each child have a private account on his/her tablet, children always learn at their own pace.

• The educational games start at a basic level, and children move up the exercises based on their knowledge level. Higher-level exercises are automatically unlocked once a child answers a set of questions correctly.

• Going through all levels of the educational games, children continuously acquire new skills and competencies.
LESSONS LEARNT

Successes
• It's too early to evaluate the learning impact, but children are excited to learning since it's done through a fun educational game.
• The children enjoy the theme of game based on professions and the building of each profession as they move through the game.

Challenges
• Having special-needs children in the class which makes it challenging for the facilitators to manage the classroom. This reflects the contextual challenges in Lebanon today.
• Some children are in danger of dropping out due to forced child labor or family circumstances leading to children needing to earn for their families.
• Older boys can be challenging for female facilitators in the classroom. This is a challenge within all education programmes targeted at older age groups.
CAN’T WAIT TO LEARN
Innovation to reach Sudan’s most vulnerable children
• **4 million basic school aged (6-13) children out of school** in 2017 and every year this number increases with the population specially children in rural areas, nomadic, girl and **1.8 million** of them are out of school.

• Most of these children are older than the basic school first-grade of 6 years old.

• Government **spends less than 1.5% of GDP on education** (Lowest in the Horn of Africa).

• **It would cost nearly half-a-billion dollars to send these kids to school.**

• Additionally, 400,000 South Sudanese Refugees school aged children in Sudan
UNICEF works with Sudan Ministry of Education to develop ‘Alternative Learning Program’ (ALP).

ALP combines basic school curriculum into two cycles
- For children aged 7-9, ‘catch up program’ allows them to join grade 4 after 1 year.
- For children aged 10-13 ‘catch up program’ allows them to do a 3 year programme which allows them to take basic school exam and enter secondary school.
- Over last 4 years, ALP has allowed around 500,000 children to complete their basic schooling.
- Innovative solutions are needed to reach more children and the most vulnerable children.
Can’t Wait to Learn! aims to prove that a viable alternative to traditional education methods exists.

The project uses education technology as part of a model of education that offers certified curriculum level content through applied gaming and personalised pupil engagement.

e-Learning Sudan is designed to respond specifically to the challenges of reaching children who are usually excluded from the formal education system: nomadic children, former child soldiers, children in remote areas, displaced children, demobilised children, children with disabilities and street children, especially girls.
• 2014 Partnership between Ahfad University, War Child Holland and UNICEF.

• Introduced mathematics curriculum elearning in 19 remote and marginalised communities across three states reaching 589 children, aged 7-9.

• Initial results from the numeracy trial suggest that the model could prove to be empowering, flexible, innovative and cost-effective at scale.

• Arabic literacy trial is currently running, and will finalize by May 2018.
SCALING UP BY 2020: SYSTEMS APPROACH

- UNICEF and Ministry of Education will incorporate elearning programme to be accredited for children to achieve their basic school certificate to reach:
- 25,000 emergency affected including internally displaced persons, returnees, South Sudanese refugee- and host community children.
SCALING UP BY 2020: SYSTEMS APPROACH

- Expansion of access to education for 25,000 poor children scattered in rural villages who lack access to education.
- Proof of concept and expansion of access to education for 10,000 nomadic children.
- Proof of concept and expansion of access for 5,000 out-of-school girls in Hamish Koreib locality, Kassala.

**ZERO enrollment for children for 30 years.**
SUSTAINABILITY

• **Build an economy around the solar energy**
  - Train *youth to be custodians* of solar energy.
  - Income generating by,
    - charging mobile phones, Growing vegetables
    - use tablets for other purposes, eg teaching adults to read.
    - train young people to fix and maintain the tablets
    - work with private sector to provide microfinance, training

• **Technical partnership**
  - Affordable tablets and solar energy.
  - Training program/on the job training for youth and adolescent tablet custodians.
LESSONS LEARNT

- Staying true to culture and curriculum. Fundamental to success.
- Developing content in Arabic is challenging but worth it.
- Scalable technology
- Can’t Wait to Learn is more than a game; it is an education solution for the most vulnerable children
- Children’s needs must remain the driving force
CALL TO ACTION!

We need partners from all corners and expertise sets!

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