

Refugee education

Around half of the world's refugees are children under 18 years of age. They often miss school for long periods, in some cases years, which puts them at risk of missing out on education. This can affect them for the rest of their lives.

So how many refugee children go to higher education?

Look at the graph on this page. On average, about 4 out of 10 children (37%) will enrol in a university or other higher education institution after they finish school. For refugee children, this percentage is much lower. On average, only 3 out of 100 (3%) of refugee children will enjoy higher education.

Do a little exercise in your classroom to grasp what this means:

- **Ask your pupils what they want to do when they grow up.**
- Ask the pupils to write their desired future profession on a piece of paper (cf. lawyer, engineer, teacher, ...).
- Ask the pupils to write 'yes' on the paper if they think they need to go to a university or other higher education institution to do what they want to do.
- Count the number of pupils that chose professions that require higher education. If they were refugees, how many would be able to go to university or another higher education institution?

HIGHER EDUCATION ENROLMENT



SOURCE: UNESCO (2017), UNHCR (2018)

Source: UNHCR report 'Stepping Up: Refugee Education in Crisis', 2019

Find more facts and figures on refugee children on www.unhcr.org/teaching-about-refugees.html#facts