

FOR CHILDREN ON THE MOVE, SCHOOL MEANS MUCH MORE THAN LESSONS



Save the
Children



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Up to 50,000 refugee and migrant children are in the countries along the **Balkans Route**, one of the main entry routes to Europe. For them, **access to quality education** is often challenging, but immensely important and **must be ensured**. Through education, children on the move **reclaim** their childhood, build their skills and **resilience** and better **future** for themselves and their families.

When I don't feel like going to school, I think about my friend and our conversations, and I go to school after all.

Aliah (13), Afghanistan*

School is fun, but I like it also because I would like to be a doctor for children or a teacher. In either case, I would be kind and nice to children.

Medina (11), Iraq*

I want to complete my education and have a nice life with my family. I want to work in a humanitarian organization to help people and children.

Maha (12), Afghanistan*

Quitting school was not a choice. Now, I go every day to the school near the refugee camp, and I'm trying to do my best. My teachers and my peers make me feel comfortable and welcome.

Tayyab (17), Pakistan*



EDUCATION IS EVERY CHILD'S RIGHT.

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Iraq Greece Serbia

We left Iraq because there was a war there. When people kill each other, that's war. We went to Greece, across the sea in a boat. It was very dangerous and frightening. When we arrived in Greece, I started going to school. I didn't understand a word of Greek. But, **I like going to school**. I also had a best friend in school. She was always kind to me and we shared everything. In school, we often played and threw parties, with lots of dancing and singing. It is difficult to learn without knowing the language. But, **I do my best**. I like mathematics. I know numbers and how to calculate their sum.

School is fun but I like it also because I would like to be a doctor for children, or a teacher. In either case, I would be kind and nice to children. We couldn't have stayed in Greece because our asylum claim was rejected. We were very sad because we had to leave. That's why we came to Serbia. **I miss my school** and my friends from Greece, and I want to go to school again.

When you are sad, you can run. I am very fast and I love to run. You can also write a letter to your friends and tell them how you feel. I write letters to my friends in Greece.

Medina (11), Iraq*



Afghanistan Bosnia and Herzegovina

School is important because it's the place where **we learn and also make friends**. When I don't feel like going to school, I think about my friend and our conversations and I go to school after all. If I were a school principal, my ideal school would have three days of sports and two days of arts classes. When the virus prevented us from **being together in the school**, my biggest wish was to sit with my best friend. I love to read books. I learned a lot from the books, from my teacher and my mom.

Aliah (13), Afghanistan*



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Pakistan Greece

In Pakistan I went to school for 5 years. I started going when I was 10 years old and had to stop when I was 15. **Quitting school was not a choice.** I had to stop and suddenly leave the country as I faced serious problems. In my heart, I did not want to leave, I wanted to continue going to school. After travelling alone through many countries, I reached Greece. I had no friends, no family, no one here. I had no papers, no access to services or school. Now, I go every day to the school near the refugee camp and I'm trying to do my best.

My teachers and my peers really make me feel comfortable and welcome. At the same time, I'm trying my best to be a good student, to learn the Greek language so that I can speak with my classmates. I want to continue going to school because I want to **prepare myself for my future**, I want to be able to communicate with Greek people, to learn not only the language but the culture as well. Also, I want to be a barber. I know this profession is going to make my future bright!

Tayyab* (17), Pakistan



Afghanistan Bulgaria Serbia Bosnia and Herzegovina

I completed the first grade in Afghanistan. After that we left my home country and I continued to go to school, completing other grades, in Bulgaria, Serbia and Bosnia. Afghanistan was our country and I could understand everything. It is nice here, but I had to learn Serbian and Bosnian language. Now I am a translator for my friends and my teacher. We have been **on the move** for 5 or 6 years. When we started our journey from Afghanistan, I was small and me and my older sister were holding my mother's hand. Now we are bigger and, when we go, we are in front of my mother and father, and my little brother and sister are holding our mother's hand.

I want to **complete my education and have a nice life** with my family. I want to work in a humanitarian organization, to **help people** and children who do not have food and clothes. If I don't find such an organization, I will work somewhere else to earn money and make my own organization to help people.

Maha* (12), Afghanistan



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