

Lighting a Path Forward for Refugee Education Amidst Pandemic

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ELNOR offers a global network of experienced volunteers to address adult educational needs in refugee camps through 1:1 English language tutoring. People living in refugee camps are among the most disadvantaged in the world, and while food, shelter, and safety are the focus of governments and agencies, education remains overlooked as a human right. Moreover, classroom instability due to fires or storms, limited space, sexism, and Covid-19 complicate delivering education equitably and safely in person. Learning English is vital for refugees as it can aid communication within the asylum process, and increase economic opportunities and social cohesion upon resettlement. To tackle this issue, our network partners with on-sight and international contacts, and provides online 1:1 student-instructor matching. Our needs-based and dynamically-structured scheduling and curriculum address individuals' educational demands, taking into account that the asylum process is lengthy and difficult.

Spurred by the accelerated mass market transition to virtual programming caused by the pandemic, and the newfound success of mobile language-learning apps, ELNOR's mission emerges to re-evaluate education for refugee learners. ELNOR's ongoing operations, lesson delivery, and app development successfully circumvent physical, political, and internal obstacles to traditional humanitarian refugee aid programming. Now, having completed a successful pilot since February, our NGO is projecting a September Beta rollout of a CLIL-based language and skills training app. Our primary customers are our beneficiaries, which currently stands at 55 refugee students. We believe we have the capacity to reach at least 1,000 students across Europe within a year of our inception.