## Akelius' educational project helps children integrate into society

Since 2017, the Akelius Foundation has been running an education project together with UNICEF. The core of the project is a digital language application that makes it easier for children, young people and adults to learn a new language.

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For a child who comes as a refugee to a new country, the language is a prerequisite to be able to follow the new country's education system. Photo: © UNICEF

Refugee children are at great risk of losing their education. Today, as many as 27 million children in 24 war-torn countries are completely out of school and thus risk being forced into child labour, child marriage or being exposed to other types of abuse. In the long run, the risk for them to end up in unemployment, exclusion and poverty increases.

For a person who comes as a refugee or migrant to a new country, language is one of the most important tools for integration and participation in society. Therefore, the

<u>Akelius Foundation</u>, in collaboration with UNICEF, has developed a digital language application that makes it easier for vulnerable children, young people and adults to learn the language of the country they live in.

The language tool focuses on different languages and is adapted to the countries' culture, history and traditions. The language application is currently available in English, French, Greek, Italian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Swedish and German. UNICEF implements it together with the Akelius Foundation in Greece, Lebanon, Mauritania, Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Italy and Kazakhstan, among others. Through our renewed cooperation agreement 2022-2024, we will scale up to additional countries around the world.

The language tool can be used:

- In teacher-led teaching within the state or municipal school system.
- In informal education in, for example, refugee camps, evening education for children who work during the day and in special education for girls. Here, the language tool is intended to be a complement to the other teaching.
- For self-study by children and young people who do not have access to school or other language teaching.

Read more about how the partnership supports education and social integration for children fleeing the war in Ukraine.



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