



**MANAHEL**

SYRIA  
EDUCATION  
PROGRAMME

**MAY/JUNE  
2024**

**LEARNING  
BULLETIN**

**In this issue, we share our goal of reaching 60,000 students through the Summer School programme, and we announce a new TEGLA test back for Grades 2 and 3. The TEGLA test back is aimed at enhancing the assessment and learning process for the new academic year. We also celebrate the success of our recent end-of-school events and the positive impact of our parenting skills sessions designed to strengthen school-parent relationships.**

## **60,000 students expected for Summer School enrolment**

We are aiming to reach 60,000 students by delivering Summer School in 228 Manahel-supported schools in the coming months. This will provide enriching experiences and continued literacy and numeracy learning opportunities, as well as protection and safeguarding activities.

The Summer School programme has been designed with a remediation focus to address needs identified during the TEGLA implementation. Despite a substantial reduction in non-readers, almost 5% of students still couldn't read a single word by the end of the year, with boys showing a slightly higher percentage of non-readers.

Teachers will be trained on tailoring their teaching methods to ensure that students from different literacy and numeracy levels receive appropriate

learning. The Summer School is designed to accommodate students of the same age but with different learning levels in one classroom.

Furthermore, Manahel will deliver social emotional learning (SEL) sessions that will focus on the well-being of children to ensure better learning outcomes.

The planning process has involved different stakeholders such as Manahel field staff, partners and EDs taking part in feedback sessions on previous Summer Schools and planning workshops. Key to this process has been constant communication with the EDs to the set criteria for school selection and we continue to work closely with the EDs to finalise the school list.

**LESSON LEARNED:** Initiating the planning process well in advance has enabled proactive, structured programme development. This contributes to more effective and well-organised Summer School activities, avoiding last-minute issues and ensuring a smooth implementation. Effective communication and coordination with EDs to finalise the school list is vital to Manahel's commitment to clarity and transparency and fosters the strategic partnership with EDs.



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## New TEGLA test bank for teachers

Building on lessons learned from previous Teacher-Led Early Grade Learning Assessment (TEGLA) implementation, we are now developing a new test bank for Grades 2 and 3. This includes different assessment questions and modules for teachers to be administered in first and second semesters of the academic year 2024/25.

The second semester tests for Grade 3 in 2024/25 will also serve as benchmarking assessments for Grades 4, 5, and 6.

The Manahel technical team, in collaboration with supervision teams from the Aleppo and Idleb Education Directorates (EDs), began developing this new test bank in June. This joint effort guarantees that the assessments align with the national curriculum.

TEGLA plays a crucial role in helping teachers and headteachers understand student performance. By identifying learning gaps, targeted teaching action plans can address specific needs, enhancing the learning experience and outcomes.

**LEARNING POINT:** By leveraging the results and lessons learned from previous TEGLA implementation, Manahel is committed to continuous improvement and learning. Strategic creation of standardised assessments ensures that educational outcomes can be consistently monitored and enhanced across multiple grade levels.

## Thousands join end-of-school events

Following final exams, all 234 Manahel-supported schools hosted end-of-school events to celebrate the achievements of the academic year and foster a sense of community. Five thousand people, including Manahel students with their parents, teachers and headteachers attended the ceremonies.

The School Community Committees were actively involved in planning and preparation for events, participating in setup and facilitation at the school level. These events recognised outstanding students and included plays, recreational games and speeches by headteachers and parents to celebrate teachers' efforts.

The end-of-school events also set the stage for an exciting and educational summer ahead. During the celebrations, headteachers took the opportunity to address parents, encouraging them to register their children for the upcoming Manahel-supported Summer School.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to students, parents, schools and partners for their achievements and look forward to another year of learning, growth and success.

**LEARNING POINT:** The end-of-school events successfully fostered a sense of community by promoting strong relationships among students, teachers, parents, and other school stakeholders, enhancing engagement and support for educational initiatives in the process. Additionally, using the event to promote the Summer School increases parental involvement, which we hope will lead to higher registration and participation rates.



## Strengthening school-parent relationships

Manahel supervised three successful parenting skills sessions in May and June across all Manahel-supported schools, with approximately 30 parents attending each session. These sessions are part of a structured parenting skills programme provided by Manahel and used a curriculum developed by International Rescue Committee (IRC) tailored to the Northwest Syrian context.

Manahel delivered three out of the 12 sessions attended by a total of around 7,000 parents (58% females). The topics covered:

### 1 Supporting children with disabilities and additional needs

By sharing strategies for supporting additional needs, emphasising psychological and social well-being.

By teaching parents about creating inclusive environments by understanding needs and promoting positive interactions.

### 2 Understanding parental stress

By helping parents recognise and manage stress.

By sharing stress reduction techniques, self-care practices, and social support strategies.

### 3 Understanding children's development

By exploring child development, emotional needs, and effective communication.

By explaining age-appropriate conversations and responses.

Parents also regularly meet in schools to discuss issues related to their children and these gatherings play a valuable role in strengthening communication and cooperation, allowing parents to share

experiences, information and ideas for addressing common challenges. They also provide a space to discuss local issues affecting children, enabling parents to identify needs, problems and solutions.

Critically, these sessions strengthen the partnership between schools and parents. Schools share information about various activities and receive valuable feedback from parents to improve the educational process.

**LEARNING POINT:** The parenting sessions have demonstrated the importance of providing a platform for parents to exchange experiences and information. These sessions offer practical insights and solutions to common challenges, fostering a collaborative community of support. They also strengthen the partnership between the school and parents, giving them access to tools and resources that help support their children's development and well-being. The initiative highlights the value of structured community engagement in enhancing the educational experience and ensuring holistic support for students.

## Plans for next months

### Summer School activities:

- Students' registration and school staff recruitment
- Differentiated instructions training for teachers
- Continue TEGLA implementation
- Develop comprehensive guidelines for key school positions
- Conduct Strength and Difficulty Questionnaire
- Provide children with structured psychosocial support (PSS) activities.

### Learning Lab on learning assessments and school planning

Manahel, which in Arabic means 'fountains' – of hope, of knowledge, and of life –, is the northwest component of the FCDO-funded Syria Education Programme (SEP). Delivered by Chemonics UK, Manahel provides education to primary school-aged children and, since 2018, has benefited over 600,000 children through school, home, and after-school education and by responding to children's psychosocial and protection needs.