



FELS

Free Education Library for Syrians

This young woman, with the glint in her eyes, is a TIGER (These Inspiring Girls Enjoy Reading) at the Za'atari Refugee camp in Jordan. Her clear joy reveals the real meaning in what she is learning and doing, as well as how she is connecting with others.

FELS builds upon OLE's TIGER program

In November 2015, Open Learning Exchange (OLE) began working with UNHCR to bring TIGER, a community-centered program for adolescent girls, to the Za'atari camp in Jordan. The goals of the program is to decrease the dropout rate and encourage team-supported, active, solutions-based learning. The ongoing TIGER program demonstrates the positive outcomes of increasing academic performance and enabling learners to experience power, meaning and connection in their lives.



Context:

- Almost **13.5 million** Syrians now need assistance, and 6.3 million of them are displaced inside their own country of which half are children, struggling to survive and cope with the crisis.
- **4.8 million** have fled to neighboring countries, a third of them school-aged children and youth (age 5-17).
- An estimated **8.1 million** Syrian children and youth inside Syria and in neighboring countries are in need of education.
- The latest region-wide analysis indicates a learning gap of nearly up to 70% for the generation of Syrian refugee youth, aged 15 to 30 years, without adequate quality education and training opportunities.

Sources: 2015 London "Supporting Syria and the Region" Conference, and 2017 Brussels Conference

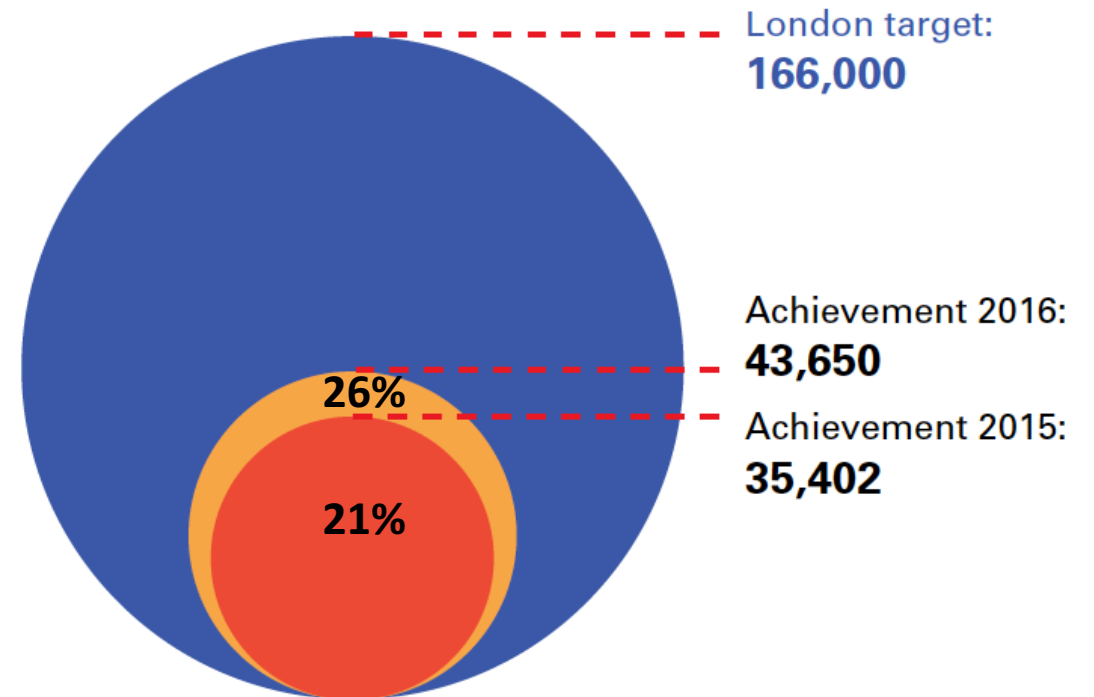
London & Brussels Conferences

Financial goal: \$1.4B /year for all children and youth in education

FOCUS: 3 pillars

1. Strengthening public education systems
2. Expanding access to formal education as a priority w/NFE essential to reach remote settings. Emphasis on lifelong learning (ECE to tertiary).
3. Stronger strides in quality learning (foundational + life skills, citizenship education)

Goals for Children and Youth Outside Syria to have access to education



NOTE: "London" refers to the 2015 London "Supporting Syria and the Region" Conference; "Brussels" refers to the 2017 conference to assess the commitments made in London.

The Concept



#withrefugees

UNHCR

The Free Education Library for Syrians tackles the challenge of the millions of young Syrians who are at risk and face being among a lost generation.

By providing access to quality learning, the result we hope for is an increasing number of Syrian refugees living in Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey and Bulgaria who will be able to continue to study and learn and by doing so experience a sense of agency, meaning and connection needed to thrive.

FELS is a repository of free instructional resources, courses and career pathways to help Syrian refugees develop competencies and skills that support them advancing their opportunities and their capacity to contribute to the communities in the countries which welcome them.

OLE's Big Idea

In brief, OLE's approach to **moving education to learning** is designed to overcome the historically 3 barriers that have limited effective learning:

- 1) quality learning resources relevant relevant to learner interests and needs;
- 2) effective teaching and leadership for learning to be meaningful;
- 3) global connections, limited by impersonal, one-size-fits all structures and organizational silos isolated from the rest of the world.

OLE's challenging mission is to move societies from an education system that emphasizes passive learning to a universal, far more **personal, active and adaptive learning** that becomes a life-long adventure.

Our theory of change is the now, as never before everyone can enjoy **learning that is personalized, team supported, community centered, and globally connected.**

Open Learning Exchange 2007-2017...

- For a decade, OLE has worked with over 50,000 students in schools in Nepal, Ghana, Kenya, Rwanda, with Syrian refugees, Somali refugees and Uganda village health workers.
- In August 2017, we signed an agreement with the Madagascar Ministry of Education to scale Planet Learning, OLE's learning management system, for 8 million school-aged children, starting with 200 schools. OLE is also active in Peru, Mexico, United States and is in the planning phases in DRC, Equatorial Guinea, Turkey, Bulgaria, Lebanon, Canada, Cameroon, Togo and Cambodia. Our partners are nation-based entrepreneurs who are committed to scaling highly effective learning for all of their people.
- In the next 10 years, with the goal to reach 10 million children and youth, the Atlassian Foundation is providing seed funding for a pilot that builds upon OLE's work at the Somali refugee camp in Dadaab to develop, with Mogadishu University, learning resources and career pathways integral to the introduction of OLE's learning management system in remote Somali villages.

MISSION. Open Learning Exchange is moving from education to learning to enable power, meaning and connection for children, youth, and their communities.

OLE's Technology to be adapted for FELS

Planet Learning is a generic learning system that is designed to be adapted to a diversity of challenges facing nations and their communities. It has been used to improve early education, secondary schools, village health, youth workforce development, and economic and community development.

At the core of what we call Planet Learning Exchange is a repository of free, open access and public domain resources to benefit all learners. The platform has two components: an online cloud-based repository for managing learning content and aggregating user metrics, and a community server that delivers learning resources, courses, and learner management tools to a local area network.

OLE has been developing open source software in-house for a decade. Our Tech Team is developing open source Android and web-based applications that can be delivered locally on any machine running Linux, Windows, or OSX.

OLE's Technology (continued)

OLE's Community Learning Toolkit, the hardware and software needed to set up OLE's Planet Learning Exchange, is used in schools and Community Learning Centers (CLC). Local leaders install and maintain the system, which uses servers with routers to generate Intranet clouds.

Learners, using any device with a browser, log into MyPlanet, their personal dashboards containing the books, videos, and courses they have downloaded from the larger CLC library. CLCs have a projector and cameras and can be accessed 24x7. Learners can take home MyPlanet or take it to team meetings, developing their knowledge and skills together.

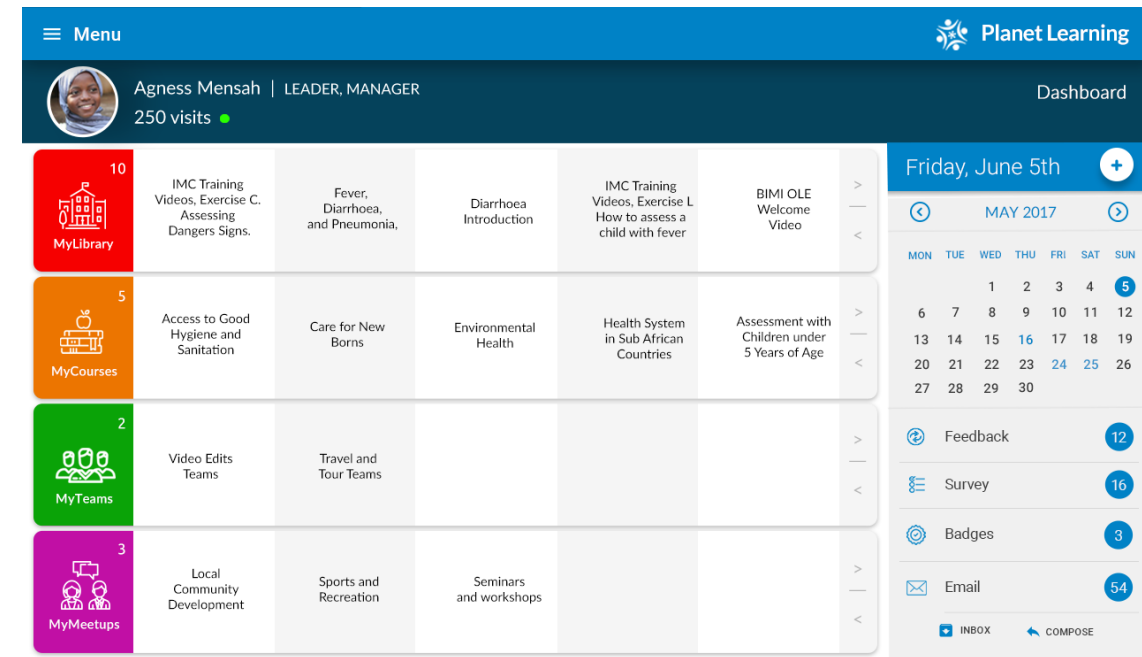
CLCs connect to the Internet periodically when activity data are uploaded and new resources are downloaded, enabling OLE and our partners to continually improve the system based on learner feedback. The hardware is inexpensive: \$35 Raspberry Pi servers, \$60 tablets and keyboards, all powered by low cost solar panels.

OLE's MyPlanet

FELS is adaptation of OLE's Planet Learning.

MyPlanet is an offline learning innovation, a personal dashboard that contain a rich multimedial library, templates for course development, tools for course creation, and assessment modules to certain learning, evaluate the system and monitor community demographics.

[Top, Right] The personal dash board for one of the TIGER girls
[Bottom, Right] Planet's new UX to launch early 2018.





Agness Mensah

Leader Manager



ENG



Badges



Survey



Emails (3)



Points



Feedback

10



myLibrary

3



myCourses

1



myTeams

5



myMeetups



LOGOUT

HOME

LIBRARY

COURSES

MEETUPS

MEMBERS

REPORTS

FEEDBACK



myCourses



All (7)

Ongoing (6)

Completed (1)



Pneumonia and Fast Breathing



Fever, Diarrhoea, and Pneumonia,



BIMI OLE Welcome Video



Access to Good Hygiene and Sanitation



Assessment with Children under 5 Years of Age



Health System in Sub African Countries



Care for New Borns

FEL's Big Idea

*Recognized as a solution to refugee education by MIT Solve**

- The big idea of the Free Education Library for Syrians (FELS) is that it is a model for handling disruptions—poverty, violence, climate chaos—in the next quarter century. It is a repository and learning management system to enable learning and building lives. It is a library of resources, courses, and career pathways that responds to the needs and interests of the learners that engage with it, enabling these learners to personally experience agency, meaning and connections in their lives.
- Today, in developing the program, we are focused on the millions of Syrian refugees throughout the world. We are piloting the program in Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey and Bulgaria in the first quarter of 2018, with plans to grow access to all Syrians where they live.

* <https://solve.mit.edu/challenges/refugee-education>

continued

- FELS is for ALL learners (ECE-tertiary) of any Syrian community; the library will include quality, meaningful, new and existing resources, courses and career pathways identified, collected and curated for any and all age groups.
- FELS is a free, open library for Syrians to continue their learning as well as to adjust to life in their host country.
- The host Country Advisory Council will contribute to developing their respective Collection of quality resources, determining relevant and meaningful content to include but not be limited to basic literacy, numeracy, SEL and leadership for early childhood, primary, secondary and tertiary learning.
- FELS is a repository and learning system that can work within national educational systems, as well as independent, non-formal, complementary learning environments.
- To promote coach/teacher agency, FELS will include training for all who engage with the learning management system.

The SOLVE @ MIT Refugee Challenge:

How can we improve learning outcomes for refugees and displaced people under 24?

The Free Education Library for Syrians SOLUTION

FELS will help solve this problem by providing an open, online multimedia repository, of literacy, numeracy, citizenship and leadership resources for Syrian refugees and the organizations serving them. The content on FELS is in Arabic and in the languages of their host country, and is organized by each host country panel, using an adaptation of OLE's personal learning management system. FELS, on Planet Learning, is portable, works off the Internet, and can be powered locally at extremely low cost.

Initial host countries include: Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Bulgaria, with plans to expand to Syrians around the world.

FELS will benefit:

- Syrian refugees, especially children and youth, who will be able to develop the knowledge and skills they need.
- Organizations serving Syrian refugees will have access to more effective learning resources based on user feedback.
- Organizations participating as members will be able to identify the strengths and weaknesses in their programs and to continuously implement improvements.
- Policy makers and program developers will be able to identify resource gaps using the repository for research.
- The total cost of education programs for Syrian refugees, as it will be measurably reduced.

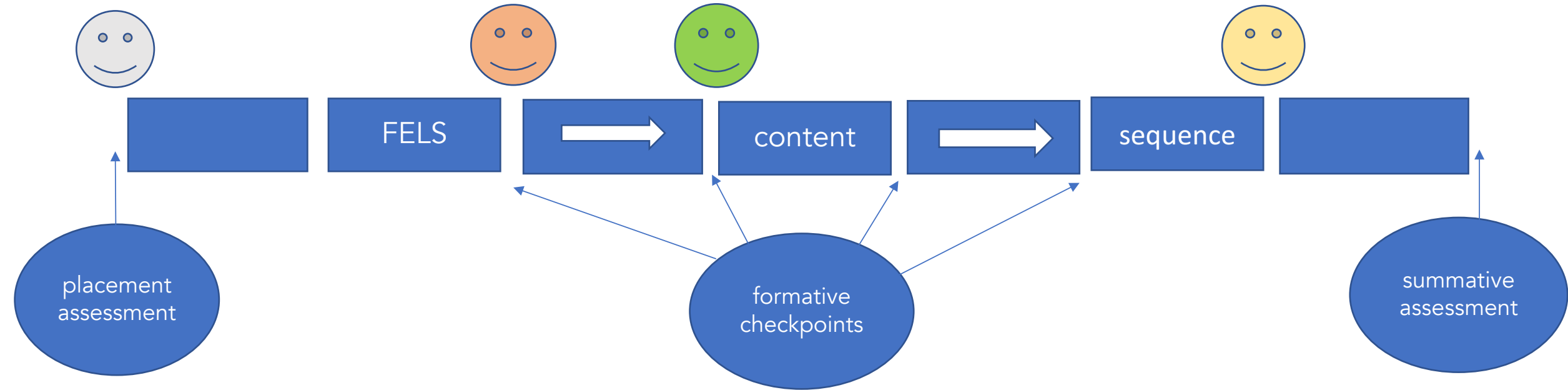
Monitoring, Evaluating and Improving

- OLE uses the power of data and continuous feedback mechanisms to create learning experiences that are both culturally meaningful and effective at achieving academic goals.
- Learner performance indicators such as academic growth, personal interest, and social engagement are shared with course leaders, content developers, user experience specialists and FELS partners.
- Learner groups can be monitored on multiple levels, fostering accountable and reliable systems.
- Each learner's needs are unique. FELS Arabic content design meets the needs of learners in challenging environments, where teacher-based, regional and national assessment may not be available.



The collaborative learning experiences in the TIGER Girls Program were evaluated using multiple indicators by a Harvard graduate research team.

FELS Individualized Learner Experience



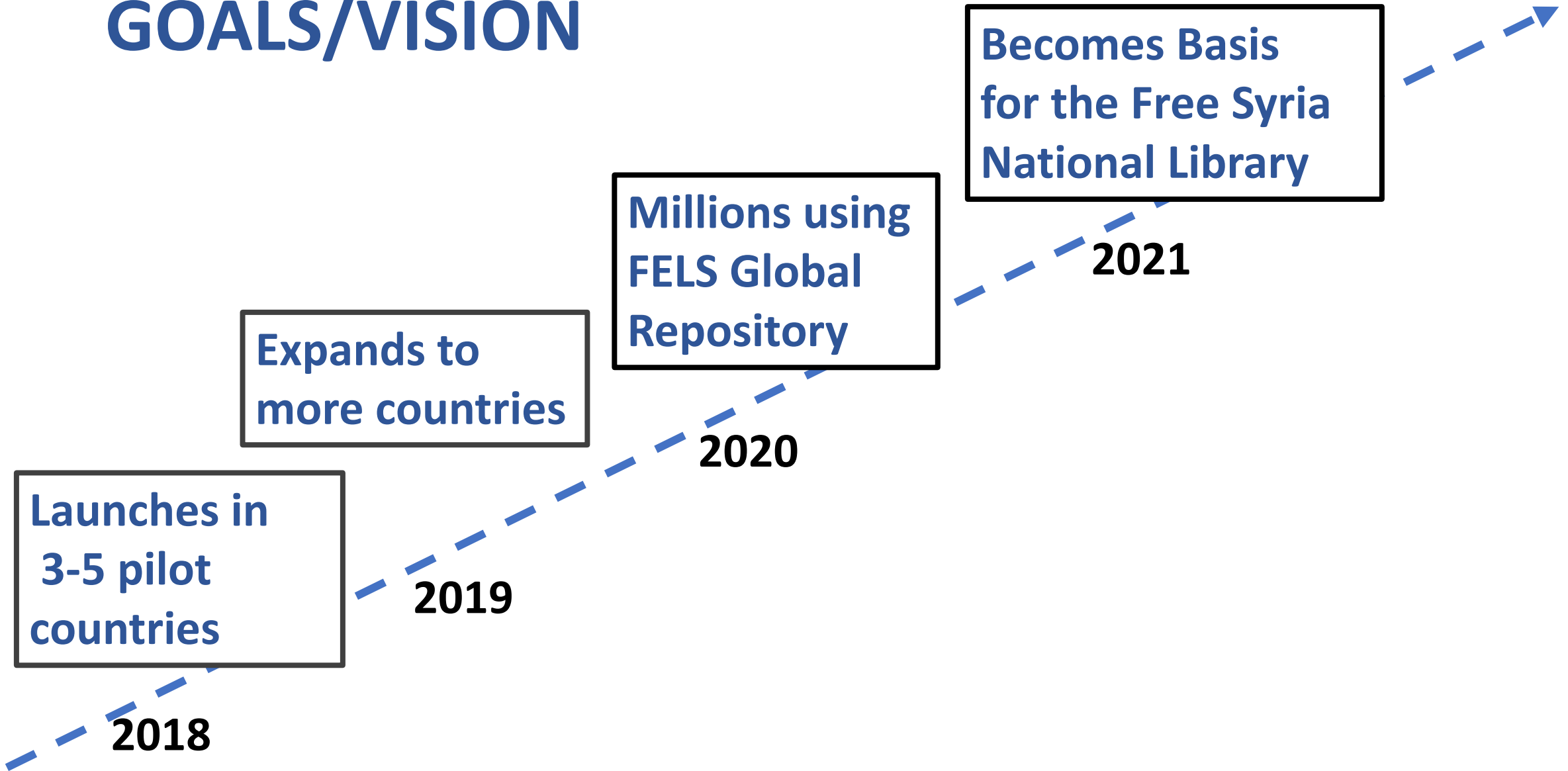
- No two learners are the same: Their knowledge, skills and interest are used to create personalized learning experiences.
- Integrated continuous evaluations are used to monitor learner progress and provide feedback.
- The Planet Learning System uses imbedded course feedback mechanisms to continuously drive improvement of pedagogy, content and user experience.



The FELS Potential

- To strengthen public education systems in Syria and host countries
- To expand access to both formal and non-formal education, since Planet Learning can be used offline, with periodic online connection.
- To enable quality, meaningful learning for all Syrians, when use with the Planet Learning Exchange.
- To be used to track the progress of learners and provide monitoring and evaluation data to determine outcomes and progress.

GOALS/VISION





Open Learning Exchange

Moving from education to learning

FELS

Free Education Library for Syrians

ole.org