Zeinab’s story

Here is Zeinab who with here brother Ali, their mother didn’t want them to be identified from the photo as they feel unsafe and so they chose to have a photo take of their backs.

Zeinab says: “After the war broke through in Syria, my family and I had to relocate to Lebanon and leave our home and life behind.

I was not able to go to school in Syria. There were bombs and it was not safe to walk to school or anywhere else.

When I came to Lebanon, none of the schools here would enrol me. My father had to talk to a lot of people and ask them to enrol me in a school until I was lucky enough to go to school this year. I only go to school in the afternoon.”
I like school. My favourite subject is Arabic. Our teacher reads to us and it is fun. Little Red Riding Hood is my favourite story.

I have fun with my cousin and my brother. I like to play hide-and-seek with them during our school break.

But I am scared of using the toilets at school. My cousin was inside once and a boy tried to lock her in and was laughing at her. The door knob is broken so she was very afraid. She was crying and shaking. I told my mom about what happened. She talked to the school but the door knob is still broken.

Plus, there is no water in the toilets; we can’t even wash our hands. The toilets are disgusting. If I need to use the toilet, I wait till I get home. “

Zeinab’s story was shared with Oxfam GB.