

Key figures

30,000 Syrian refugee children enrolled in public school in 2012/2013

270,000 school aged Syrian refugee children registered with UNHCR currently

UNHCR key targets (RRP 5)

50,000 Syrian refugee children supported for primary education

17,200 Syrian refugee children supported for academic or technical lower and higher secondary education

15,000 Syrian refugee children receive accelerated learning support

15,000 Syrian refugee children receive after school support

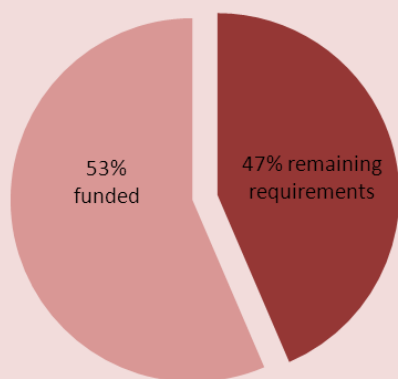
Funding

UNHCR education requirements: **37.5 m**

Percentage funded: **53 %**

■ Remaining UNHCR requirements (RRP5)

■ Funding for education as of August



Needs

Uprooted from their homes and schools in Syria, refugee children need the opportunity to continue their education in Lebanon. However, approximately 90% of Syrian refugee children aged 6 to 17 are estimated to be out of school. Their large number has overwhelmed the limited capacity of the public school system.

Challenges

Public schools cannot absorb the increasing number of refugee children:

Public schools currently cater for 300,000 Lebanese students. 30,000 Syrian refugee children were enrolled during the 2012-2013 school year, and this year public schools have the capacity to enroll up to 100,000 additional students during normal school hours. Additionally, the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) has agreed, with UNHCR's support, to put in place a 'second shift' in 70 schools in an effort to increase their current capacity. This plan, if achieved, will provide seats for an additional 21,000 children in afternoon classes. Educational resources need to be expanded and developed throughout the country to respond to both immediate and projected longer-term educational needs of school-aged refugee children, especially for those who will remain without a place in the public school system during 2013/2014.

Special needs of Syrian refugee children:

Education assessments have highlighted a number of barriers to learning including differences between Lebanese and Syrian curriculum, language barriers, transportation costs, bullying and limited psycho-social interventions to help traumatized children.

Strategy

UNHCR has a two-fold strategy for education of school-aged children:

- creating space for them in the public system, through institutional capacity building and 'second shifts,' where possible; and
- increasing other educational opportunities, for school-age children including community-based education.

Special programmes will be designed and supported to reach children with special needs, vulnerable populations and those needing vocational and technical education.

Achievements January - August

	Individuals reached
Children enrolled in the public school system	30,000
Back to school packages distributed	10,000
Remedial classes	3,521
Accelerated learning program	7,318
Recreational activities	7,290
Children with specific needs supported	62
Tertiary education support	12

August developments

- 10,378 Syrian refugee children attended UNHCR-funded accelerated learning program summer school classes and recreational activities; in September they will sit for placement tests to be enrolled in public school at the appropriate level.
- National and regional consultations were held in August with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education and interagency stakeholders to develop the strategy to increase capacity in the 2013-2014 school year.
- UNHCR, together with implementing partners, conducted a mapping of schools for the opening of second shifts, which will be completed in September.
- UNHCR, together with interagency partners, finalized the technical assessment of public school buildings for rehabilitation in August; 21 public schools were selected.
- Preparation of materials for a mass information and back-to-school enrollment campaign was completed in August; rollout is planned for September in UNHCR's four registration centers.



Syrian refugees attending remedial classes in the Bekaa © UNHCR/S.Baldwin

UNHCR implementing partners

Amel Association – Lebanese Popular Association for Popular Action (AMEL), Caritas Lebanon Migrant Center (CLMC), Cooperative Housing Foundation (CHF), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Terre des Hommes (TdH), War Child Holland (WCH), Save the Children (SCI).