

Key figures

33,000	Syrian refugee children enrolled in public school in 2012/2013
25,000	Syrian refugee children accepted by the MEHE in the formal first shift for 2013/2014
225,000	school aged Syrian refugee children (5-17years old) registered with UNHCR currently

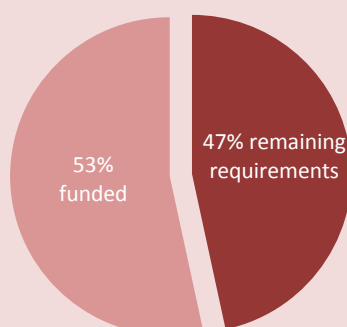
Funding

UNHCR education requirements: **37.5 m**

Percentage funded: **53 %**

■ Remaining UNHCR requirements (RRP5)

■ Funding received as of September



September developments

- School enrolment started and the back-to-school programme is underway.
- UNHCR and UNICEF continued intensive advocacy with the government to increase enrolment opportunities for children in the public school system. The 2 agencies divided areas of intervention among partners to maximise support to schools.
- UNHCR and the Ministry for Education and Higher Education finalized guidelines for the opening of second shifts that will increase the number of children able to attend public schools with more than 25,000.
- UNHCR distributed some 130,000 information brochures as well as posters to registration, distribution and community centres in all field locations, as well as to education partners and during information sessions.

UNHCR's Achievements January - September

Activity	January - September	Target for 2013
Syrian refugee children supported for primary education (school year 2013/2014)	10,000	50,000
Syrian refugee children receive accelerated learning programs	7,318	15,000
Syrian refugee children receive after school support	3,521	15,000
Children with special needs accessing education	62	200
Schools supported to run second shifts	1	70

Note: Progress numbers are the same as for August due to the short recess between 2012 summer activities and the 2012/2013 school year. Numbers on enrolment and back-to-school will be adjusted as of October to show only progress against targets for the 2013/2014 school year.

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.

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:

- At end of the 2012-2013 school year the public school system catered for 250,000 Lebanese students, 43,000 Syrian students (10,000 children that were in Lebanon before the Syrian conflict and 33,000 refugee children) as well as 7,000 students of other nationalities. This year the MEHE has agreed to accommodate some 100,000 refugee children in public schools. The 33,000 refugee children that enrolled in 2012/2013 will continue their education during regular school hours. Additionally, the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) has agreed to put in place a 'second shift' to accommodate almost 70,000 refugee children. UNHCR will support more than 25,000 of these children by assisting 70 schools to start afternoon classes. Despite these efforts, upscaled educational resources will need needed throughout the country to respond to both immediate and longer-term educational needs of school-aged refugee children, especially in finding alternative learning opportunities for children 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 the Lebanese and Syrian curriculum, language barriers, transportation and additional (uniforms, stationaries) costs, bullying and limited psycho-social interventions to help traumatized children.

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), Save the Children (SCI), Terre des Hommes (TdH), War Child Holland (WCH).