

Key figures

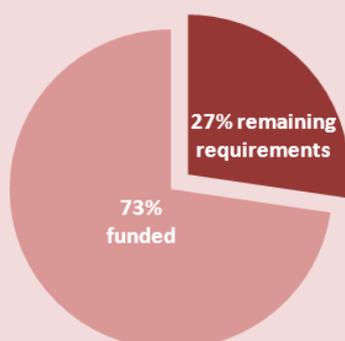
75,000	Syrian refugee children enrolled in public schools in 2013/2014
43,000	Syrian refugee children accepted by the MEHE in the formal "first shift" for 2013/2014
32,000	School-aged Syrian refugee children enrolling in second shift
280,000	School aged Syrian refugee children (3-18 years old) currently registered with UNHCR

Funding

UNHCR education requirements: **37.5 m**

Percentage funded: **73 %**

- Remaining UNHCR requirements (RRP5)
- Funding received as of November



November developments

- UNHCR and the Ministry for Education and Higher Education (MEHE) opened afternoon "second shifts" in 87 schools across the country, which will provide 32,000 refugee children with accredited primary education following the Lebanese curriculum.
- UNHCR and UNICEF continued intensive advocacy with the Government to increase enrolment opportunities for Syrian children in the "first shift". The government will ensure the enrolment of 43,000 children for the 2013/14 school year.
- UNHCR continued distribution of education materials (school-in-a-box) to more than 400 schools supporting 134,560 children and 6,728 teachers with basic school supplies.

UNHCR's achievements January - November

Activity	January - November	Target for 2013
Syrian refugee children supported for primary education in the "first shift" (school year 2013/2014)	20,460	20,000
Syrian refugee children supported for primary education in the "second shift" (school year 2013/2014)	32,000	32,000
Syrian refugee children receiving accelerated learning programmes	7,318	15,000
Children receiving after school support	3,521	15,000
Children with special needs accessing education	62	200
Schools supported to run "second shifts"	87	70



Syrian and Lebanese children in a school in Aarsal, Bekaa © UNHCR

Needs

Uprooted from their homes and schools in Syria, refugee children need the opportunity to continue their education in Lebanon. However, local public schools in Lebanon lack both the capacity and resources to accommodate the large increase in school-aged children. Despite the enrolment of 75,000 refugee children in public schools, approximately 90% of Syrian refugee children aged 6 to 17 are estimated to be out of school.

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 Syrian children who were in Lebanon before the Syrian conflict and 33,000 refugee children) as well as 7,000 students of other nationalities.
- For the 2013-2014 school year, the MEHE will accommodate some 75,000 refugee children in public schools. The 43,000 refugee children who enrolled in 2012/2013 will continue their education during regular school hours. In addition, UNHCR will support more than 32,000 additional children in 87 “second shift” afternoon classes.
- Despite these efforts, additional educational resources need to be put in place throughout the country to respond to both immediate and longer-term educational needs of 205,000 school-aged refugee children, all of whom should have access to age-appropriate education.

Special needs of Syrian refugee children:

- Education assessments have highlighted a number of barriers to learning for Syrian students including: differences between the Lebanese and Syrian curriculum, language barriers, transportation and additional costs such as uniforms, as well as bullying and limited psycho-social interventions to help traumatized children.

Strategy

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

- **Formal Education:** ensuring access for refugee children through payment of tuition fees and creating space for children in the public system through school rehabilitation and “second shifts”
- **Non-Formal Education:** increasing other educational opportunities, for school-aged children including Accelerated Learning Programs and community-based education programmes.
- **Support to the MEHE:** providing coordination support, the secondment of staff to central and regional offices to ensure good coordination and timely information-sharing and follow-up on student retention, as well as providing equipment and material support to schools and regional offices.

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

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).