

Workshop held for 62 Syrian university scholarship holders

FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHTS:

In Syria, before the war, an estimated 25% of youth between the ages of 18 and 25 were enrolled in higher education programmes. This number dropped significantly as a result of the conflict, with many refugee youth forced to abandon their studies as a result of displacement. Turkey's Directorate General for Migration Management (DGMM) estimates that there are 100,000 Syrian youth between 18 and 25 in Turkey. Turkey has facilitated access to higher education for Syrian youth by waiving university tuition fees and offering over 2300 full scholarships.

UNHCR, in partnership with the Presidency for Turks Abroad and Related Communities (YTB) manages the Albert Einstein Refugee Academic Initiative (DAFI) scholarship programme in Turkey. A workshop was held in February for 62 scholarship holders that allowed scholarship holders in different universities to meet, learn more about academic, social and cultural opportunities available to them and to discuss community development projects. Each scholarship holder is expected to implement at least one activity or project that contributes to the communities in which they live.

UNHCR, with YTB, is assisting 1413 students to obtain academic proficiency in Turkish so that they will meet university admission requirement for language proficiency.

The number of Syrian boys and girls with access to formal education increased significantly in February, with almost 325,000 children enrolled in school – a nearly 50% increase over the end of the school year in July 2015. Nevertheless, due to the continuous increase of refugees registered in Turkey, the number of out of school remains significant.

UNICEF provided monthly incentives to nearly 10,000 Syrian volunteer teachers in February – 91% of all those working in Turkey – and is on track to exceed the 3RP target for 2016 by next month.

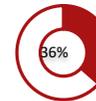
Serious challenges persist in the area of non-formal education. UNICEF is working with existing partners to strengthen their capacity to reach more children, but the larger problem continues to be the limited number of qualified local or international NGOs on the ground and challenges in tapping in to additional potential stakeholder, such as universities and semi-governmental entities. To address this gap, UNICEF has begun a comprehensive mapping exercise to identify potential partners with the necessary expertise, capacity and reach to scale up programming and is reaching out to new governmental partners, such as the Ministry of Youth and Sports.



Sector Response Summary:



928,800 Refugees & Local Community Members targeted for assistance by end of 2016, 338,320 assisted in 2016.



Syrian Refugees in TURKEY:



2,750,000 Syrian Refugees expected by end-2016, 2,688,700 currently registered or awaiting registration.



3RP Overall Funding Status:



USD 117.4 million required in 2016, USD 1.6 million received in 2016.



NEEDS ANALYSIS:

The national legislative framework supports the right of refugee children and youth to have free access to schooling, and the Government of Turkey has facilitated refugees' access to skills training and higher education. All activities in the sector are implemented in close collaboration with the Government of Turkey.

Increasing access: Increased provision of educational places (through the establishment of additional temporary education centres and promoting greater participation in national schools) remains a priority and will take place within the regulatory framework established by the Ministry of National Education. This will be complemented by policy support, enhancing information management systems to effectively report on refugee participation; refurbishment of infrastructure and assistance to strengthen coordination of the refugee response.

Access to education and training for youth through non-formal education, technical training programmes and access to higher education is also a priority within the sector.

Enhancing quality: The education strategy includes ongoing efforts to increase the quality of education. A key element of this is the payment of financial incentives to volunteer refugee teachers. There is also a need for quality teaching support materials in many schools and stationery for children. Language support programmes are needed to ensure effective academic integration into national schools, training centres and universities.

TURKEY RESPONSE INDICATORS: JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2016

Indicator	Progress	Planned Response, by end-2016
323,592 # of Syrian refugee children enrolled in schools (Grades 1-12)	81%	400,000
12 # of schools hosting refugees that are constructed, renovated or refurbished	7%	180
2,992 # of refugee children participating in informal and nonformal education programmes	6%	50,000
116 # of persons participating in vocational training programmes		6,500
70 # of persons awarded higher education scholarships	28%	250
2,525 # of Syrian men and women who are participating in language programmes		402,000
# of children provided with learning support materials		400,000
# of schools provided with teaching materials		175
# of Syrian volunteer and Turkish teachers trained		11,000
9,993 # of volunteer teachers receiving regular incentives	100%	10,000
4,062 # of children benefitting from subsidised school transportation services	41%	10,000