



Ensuring relevant, responsive programming through consultation with refugees.

### MARCH HIGHLIGHTS:

During March, UNHCR conducted a number of focus group interviews with refugees across South East Turkey in order to better understand their needs and concerns. Direct engagement with refugees forms an important part of response planning in order to ensure that interventions are appropriate and address the immediate needs of refugee families.

The findings of these interviews revealed that many refugee families do not have sufficient information on the procedures that should be followed when they wish to enroll their children in either Turkish schools or Temporary Education Centres. In order to address this, UNHCR has been meeting with Provincial Education Directorates in South East Turkey in order to collect information on the local enrolment procedures and the documentation that refugees should present when applying for enrolment in both Turkish schools and Temporary Education Centres. As these procedures vary slightly from one area to another, UNHCR will use information provided by Provincial Directorates to prepare detailed guidance documents for those providing refugee counseling in these areas. Refugees' information needs will also be taken into account when preparing pamphlets and other outreach materials to encourage school registration ahead of the new academic year.

Refugees mentioned that the number of places offered in Temporary Education Centres is not sufficient to meet the demand for education. UNICEF has worked closely with five Provincial Education Directorates (Adana, Hatay, Sanliurfa, Mersin and Gaziantep) to develop Provincial Action Plans to expand access to educational services for an estimated 75,000 Syrian refugee children.

The cost of school transportation was also identified as a significant barrier to educational participation. IOM provides free transportation for 1962 children in Sanliurfa (in the Ayup and Sirrin districts) and 714 children in Mersin. In coming months IOM will also provide school transportation services in Adana.

The cost of school materials was also cited as one of the factors discouraging refugee families from enrolling children in school. During the first quarter of 2015, UNICEF has provided 14 schools with educational materials which will benefit 19,599 children.

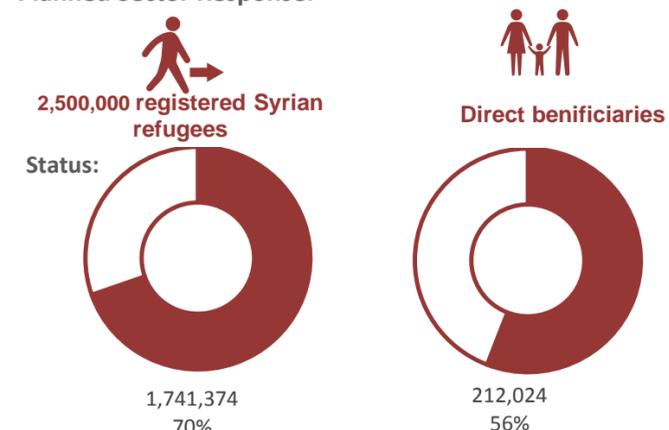
Refugee parents were concerned that their children may lose the ability to read and write fluently in Arabic after seeking international protection Turkey where the dominant language differs significantly from their children's home language. During March, UNICEF supplied six camps with library containers where children will have access to a range of Arabic reading materials.



IOM providing school transport in Sanliurfa

### Key Figures:

#### Planned Sector Response:



### NEEDS ANALYSIS:

- The national legislative framework supports the right of refugees to free access to schooling and the Government of Turkey has facilitated refugees' access to skills training and higher education. In spite of these efforts, an estimated 70 per cent of school-aged refugee children are not accessing education.
- Increased provision of educational places (through the establishment of additional temporary education centres and greater participation in national schools) remains a priority and will take place within the regulatory framework established by the Ministry of National Education.
- The education strategy includes ongoing efforts to increase the quality of education. Through a partnership between Government agencies and international organizations, a system for payment of incentives to volunteer refugee teachers will be established and implemented in 2015.
- All activities in the sector will be implemented in close collaboration with the Government of Turkey. The provision of services to large numbers of refugee children and youth requires the rapid expansion of the education sector which will be supported by the efforts of the international community through policy support, technical assistance in information management to capture, analyse and report on refugee needs and participation; refurbishment of infrastructure – in national schools used to host second shifts or where rapid expansion has taken place - and assistance to strengthen coordination of the refugee response. Existing efforts to accommodate refugee children in the national system will be scaled up through the provision of teaching materials and capacity to teach Turkish as a foreign language to refugees and supporting programmes to reduce bullying and foster social cohesion.

### TURKEY RESPONSE INDICATORS: JANUARY TO MARCH 2015

