

Around half of the approximately 900,000 Syrian refugee children are not participating in any form of education

APRIL HIGHLIGHTS:

In Turkey, five out of a planned 10 prefabricated schools have now been completed (three in camps and two in host communities) and handed over to authorities. In Iraq, six projects that will benefit more than 800 students are underway to **expand school capacity** and improve sanitation facilities.

In Egypt, **direct support** is being provided to students in the form of education grants, with grants distributed this month to around 6,000 kindergarten, primary and secondary students in Alexandria. In Iraq, almost 12,000 children benefitted from the distribution of recreational kits which will provide resources for their participation in after-school sports where they can learn and practice social and cooperative skills. In Turkey, almost 800 students continue to be provided with transport assistance to get to school in Sanliurfa province, and there are plans to expand the service to other provinces.

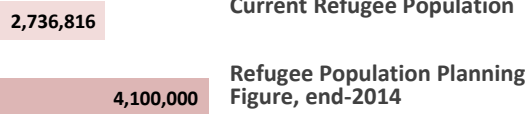
School settings allow the provision of a range of **other services** to benefit children. For instance, in seven camps in Iraq students from grades 1-9 are being screened for ENT, dermatology, ophthalmology and dentistry, and being provided with treatments such as hearing aids and glasses. In Lebanon, more than 30,000 children have now been reached this year with psychosocial support activities in education settings, an increase of 40 per cent in April alone.

Teacher training continued across the region, with more than 1,700 Syrian volunteer teachers trained Turkey during April. In Egypt, over 100 teachers and principals received training in April on active learning, the rights of children, and dealing with children needing psychosocial support. Some 260 teachers were trained in Iraq in April, which will benefit some 6,000 children. Almost 900 teachers, administration staff, Ministry of Education officials, and counsellors have so far been trained in Jordan in 2014.



Education in Jordan. UNICEF.

SYRIAN REFUGEES IN THE REGION:



NEEDS ANALYSIS:

Nearly 2.3 million children have stopped attending school or attend school infrequently in Syria. The situation is also extremely worrying for Syrian children in the refugee-hosting countries, where only around 50 per cent of school-aged refugee children are enrolled in formal, non-formal or informal education.

While education ministries in refugee-hosting countries have generally welcomed Syrian children into their national public systems, children face major obstacles to access and learning. School-related expenses, placement tests and documentation, the difficulties in grappling with a new curriculum and different languages of instruction, the quality and relevance of education and concerns around overcrowding, certification and accreditation are all key factors contributing to low enrolment and attendance rates. Moreover many parents are reluctant to let their children, in particular girls, leave the house for fear of harassment and discrimination in and around schools.

Accommodating Syrian children is placing a profound strain on fragile national education systems, causing delays in planned education reforms. Children from host communities, who are often themselves facing economic constraints, are studying in classrooms that are overcrowded and under-resourced. The efficiency of the public education system is at serious risk, with the most marginalized groups bearing a disproportionate burden.

The obstacles to education and the accumulated loss of school years are jeopardizing a whole generation of Syrian children.

