

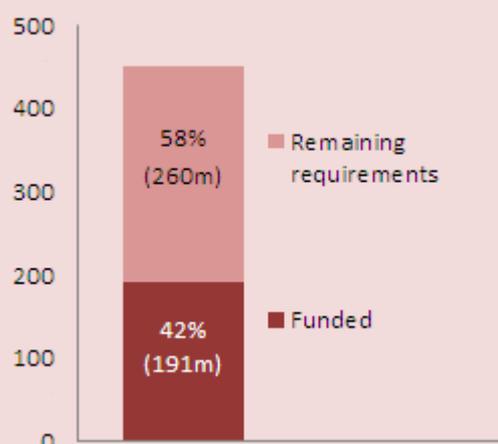
Key Figures

391,000 School aged Syrian refugee children (5-17 years old) currently registered or awaiting registration with UNHCR

90,000 Syrian refugee children enrolled in public schools in 2013/2014 (5 – 17 years old), both first and second shift.

Funding

UNHCR total requirements: USD 451 m



August developments

- Accelerated learning programmes are being completed. Catch-up programmes in public schools resumed mid-August, and will end on 22 September at the Ministry’s request. Data show that school dropout rates went up during summer when activities had to be moved to alternative locations, pending the Ministry’s authorization to use public schools.
- At the end of the school year 2013-14, dropout rates stood at 8.5% for second shifts. While there was not sufficient data available for first shifts, dropout rates are reportedly higher. School pass rates for second shift stood at 60%.
- In line with the Government strategic plan R.A.C.E. (Reaching All Children with Education) UNHCR is ready to support the enrolment of 15,000 children in the first shift and 32,000 in second shift as well as supporting improvements in the quality of education along with its partners.

Achievements: January - August

Activity	reached January- August	School year 2013/14 Target
Total number of children supported for primary education in the “first shift” (school year 2013/2014)	32,558	20,000
Syrian refugee children supported for primary education in the “second shift” (school year 2013/2014)	31,715	32,000
Children with special needs accessing education	62	500
Syrian refugee children enrolled in accelerated learning programmes	16,319	15,000
Syrian refugee children enrolled in remedial classes after school	3,459	2,100

Needs

Refugee children need to continue their education in Lebanon after being uprooted from their homes and schools in Syria. Local public schools in Lebanon do not currently have the capacity and resources to accommodate the large increase in the number of school-aged children. MEHE launched the RACE initiative to enhance resources and build capacity of schools to assimilate these children. While exact numbers are not available, it is estimated that more than 50% of Syrian refugee children aged 5 to 17 are out of any form of

education (some children might be enrolled in private and Syrian schools). Among these, adolescents are particularly left out of any form of education due to the following factors: high drop-out rates, having missed several years of schooling and inability to catch up in class while many are under pressure to financially support their families.

Challenges

Based on assessments and profiling of out-of-school children, the following are barriers to learning for Syrian children: financial difficulties, differences between the Lebanese and Syrian curriculum, language barriers, lack of information, lack of transportation to access schools, other incurred costs such as uniforms, increasing incidence of child labour among older children and bullying and limited psychosocial support to help children with specific needs.

The assessments highlight the importance of mobilizing and building awareness among parents as crucial to overcoming some of these challenges.

Ensuring access to quality education is difficult due to the pressure on school resources. This has sometimes led to discriminatory attitudes, frustration and occasional violence. UNHCR and its partners have distributed school material and equipment to all students, both Syrians and Lebanese and rehabilitated public schools to help mitigate these tensions. A lot needs to be done to ensure social cohesion in schools. Inclusive approaches and access to education remain challenging for children with specific needs. In addition, the role of the education outreach volunteers (70 currently being deployed by UNHCR) is pivotal for outreach.

Strategy

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

- **Formal Education**

Support resources mobilization for MEHE to ensure quality access to first and second shift schooling for refugee children, provide access to secondary and vocational education, create space for children in the public system and build social cohesion in and around schools.

- **Non-Formal Education**

Increase other educational opportunities for school-aged children including through better identification of out-of-school children, provide Accelerated Learning Programmes (ALP) and other ways to prepare children for access to certified and quality education.

- **Support to the MEHE**

MEHE launched the three year strategy, *Reaching All Children with Education in Lebanon (R.A.C.E)* in May 2014 that aims to enroll more than 400,000 children in education by 2016. UNHCR supports the initiative through coordination, secondment of staff to central and regional offices to ensure information-management and monitoring, and provides equipment and material support to schools and regional offices.



UNHCR implementing partners

Lebanese Popular Association for Popular Action (AMEL), ACTED, 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).