



MONE released a new circular governing foreigners’ access to schooling in Turkey.

SEPTEMBER HIGHLIGHTS:

During September 2014, the Ministry of National Education released a new circular governing foreigners’ access to schooling in Turkey. In terms of the circular, Provincial Education Commissions will be established in provinces hosting large numbers of refugees that will have the authority to determine educational needs, recommend the establishment of temporary education centres and facilitate the enrolment of Syrian children in public schools. This circular provides a stronger policy framework within which the planning and delivery of educational services for Syrian refugees can take place. Both UNHCR and UNICEF provided feedback and comment during the preparation of the circular.

The new education circular addresses previous administrative barriers to enrolment in schools by refugees who do not hold residence permits. The new circular allows for students to be enrolled in schools and their personal and academic data to be entered using a new education management information system (Syrian Education Monitoring and Information System – SEMIS), the development of which is being funded by UNICEF. It is anticipated that this system will be finalised in October 2014.

In response to the on-going demand for schooling, UNICEF Turkey, in partnership with AFAD, has begun the second phase of its school building project. Thirteen prefabricated schools will be constructed in urban and camp locations in 9 provinces (10 schools in urban areas and 3 in camps). The availability of land has been the greatest challenge encountered in implementing this programme.

UNICEF Turkey has provided 107,030 school bags and stationery kits to 21 camp and five urban schools to coincide with the start of the new academic year. Through a partnership between UNICEF, the Ministry of National Education, AFAD and PTT (Postal Bank), volunteer teachers in camp schools and urban schools constructed by UNICEF will be provided with regular financial incentives.

During September, the Council of Ministers announced that the costs of university tuition fees for would be waived for Syrian students. UNHCR Turkey joined the international DAFI (Albert Einstein German Refugee Academic Initiative) programme and launched a DAFI scholarship programme. During its first year of implementation the programme will provide 12 students with the opportunity to pursue degree programmes in Turkish universities and it is hoped that numbers will be increased in subsequent years. This programme is being implemented with the support of the Presidency for Turks Abroad (YTB) which is responsible for the management of the government’s Turkiye Burslari scholarship programme.

Other educational activities include the on-going work to establish libraries in camps by UNICEF. IOM provided transport to 1,971 children attending two schools in Sanliurfa.



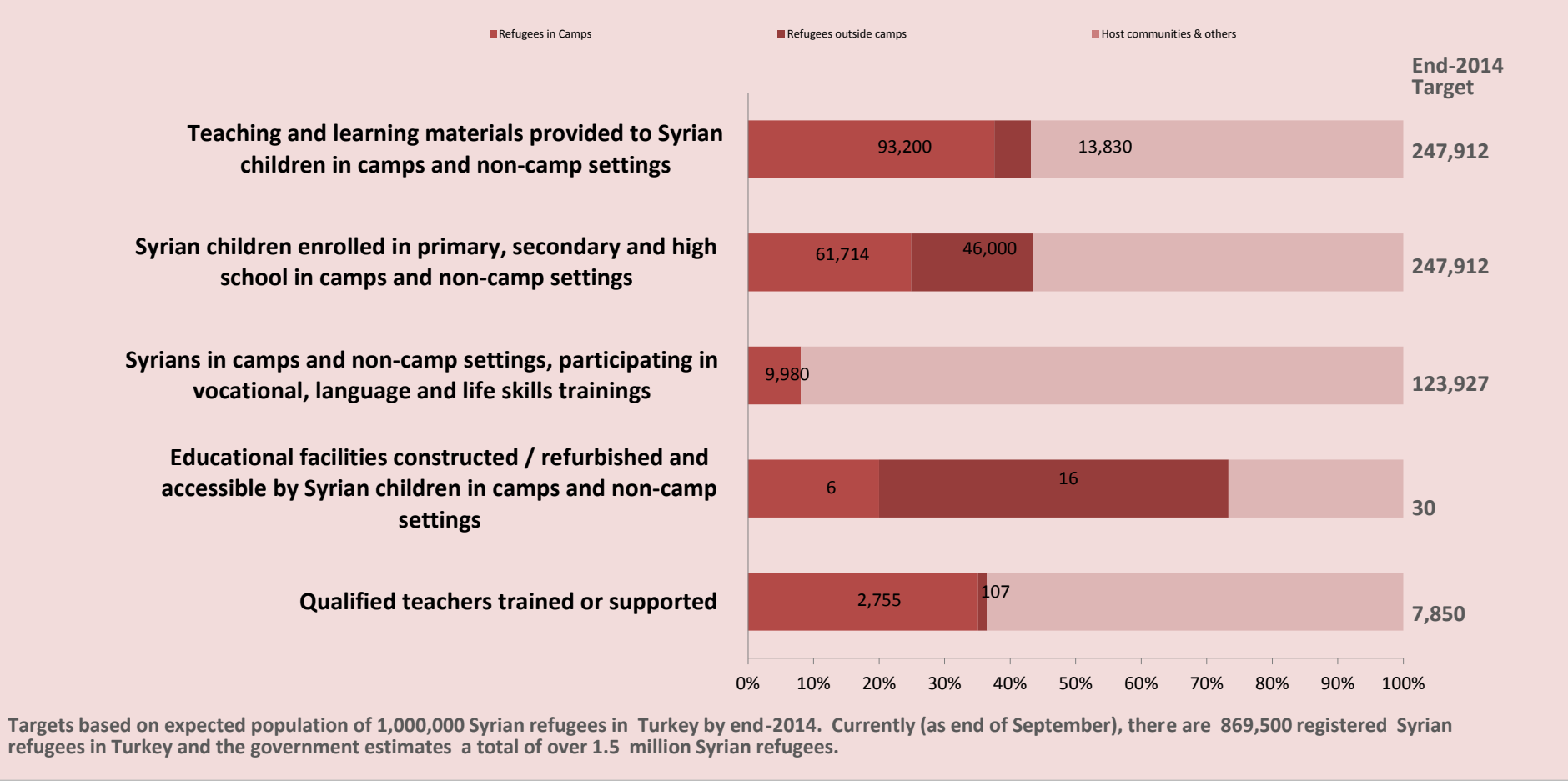
School bags distributed for Syrian students / UNICEF 2014

The Government of Turkey takes the lead role for determining and implementing assistance provided to Syrian refugees, through the Prime Ministry Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD). AFAD reports spending 4 billion USD on the Syrian Refugee Response in Turkey.

NEEDS ANALYSIS:

- 53% of the population are children (0-18 years) and of that 65% is expected to be of school-age (6-17 years), and 15% are pre-school age (3-5 years).
- Key priorities in the education sector include:
- Cash support for the most vulnerable families in non-camp settings, to encourage school attendance and to discourage parents from sending their children to work.
 - Opportunities for vocational training and extra-curricular activities to be expanded.
 - Provision of learning materials to all students.
 - Campaigns and targeted community-based activities to promote school enrolment, attendance, and retention, in camps and non-camp settings.
 - Recreational activities to address and alleviate the impact of war, including Child Friendly Spaces.
 - Work together with municipalities and governorates to provide adequate WASH facilities in all refurbished schools and pre-fabricated schools.
 - Provision of school-feeding in schools in non-camp settings and setting up a system to provide cash support to the most vulnerable families.
 - Provision of transportation for children from camps to schools and for children in host communities.
 - Provision of periodic, relevant and structured training for teachers and teaching personnel.
 - Support NGOs to expand Child Friendly Spaces in municipalities hosting Syrian refugees.
- * Needs analysis are based on the RRP6 analysis made at the end of 2013.

PROGRESS AGAINST TARGETS:



Leading Agencies: UNICEF - Lucy Watt Monitoring and Reporting Officer – Emergency: lwatt@unicef.org; UNHCR - Jennifer Roberts, UNHCR Education Officer: roberts@unhcr.org; UNHCR ; Roberta Montevocchi, UNHCR Snr. Programme Officer: montevr@unhcr.org
Participating Agencies: UNICEF, UNHCR, IOM