

Schools across the region are in various stages of enrolment and re-enrolment of students for the new school year

SEPTEMBER HIGHLIGHTS:

In Iraq, schools in refugee camps re-opened in September after the summer break, with 14,685 Syrian refugee children enrolled in formal education in the camps. Non-formal education activities are also being provided to 3,753 children. Schools outside of camps are expected to re-open during October, and registration is currently ongoing. Sector partners and the Ministry of Education are in the process of rehabilitating some 200 primary schools through the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI), while teacher training is underway for teachers in three refugee camp schools.

While the new school year started in September in Lebanon, Syrian refugee children have not yet been enrolled, though a circular to allow this is expected from the Government soon. Notwithstanding, some 6,100 children (mainly Palestinian Refugees from Syria and Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon, as well as some affected Lebanese) have been assisted to enrol. Over 88,000 children continue to access non-formal education in Lebanon. Nearly 100 schools have been rehabilitated this year, including with WASH facilities, while more than 2,500 teachers have been trained.

In Egypt, a new community school has been established in Burg Al Arab which has enrolled 600 Syrian students from kindergarten to secondary for the new academic year. Construction and refurbishment is also ongoing for an additional nine schools in areas with high density of Syrian students. The project aims to create an additional 95 classrooms and bring the average class size down from the current 70-90 to around 60.

In Turkey, partners have provided more than 107,000 school bags and stationary kits to students to coincide with the start of the new academic year. A new circular was also released by the Ministry of National Education to address administrative barriers to enrolment in schools by refugees who do not hold residence permits.

In Jordan's Azraq camp, a new kindergarten was launched in September and is currently being attended by 100 children between the ages of 4-5. A Joint Education Needs Assessment for Jordan has found the majority of respondents that the quality of education is good. However a range of factors, including distance to school, gender barriers, and ineligibility for enrolment, contribute to an overall enrolment rate of only 52 per cent among all school-aged children (59 per cent for girls and 44 per cent for boys). Boys aged 12-17 years old are the least likely to be attending any form of education. The assessment will inform the ongoing education sector response, through filling information gaps around the needs, motivations, activities, perceptions and priorities of affected children and their parents.



School bags distributed for Syrian students / UNICEF 2014

SYRIAN REFUGEES IN THE REGION:

3,168,659	Refugee Population, end-September 2014
3,590,000	Refugee Population Planning Figure, end-2014

NEEDS ANALYSIS:

Into the fourth year of crisis, and despite a consensus that efforts are needed to avert a “lost generation”, almost half a million refugee children are not participating in educational activities. Only thirty-eight per cent of Syrian school-aged children were enrolled in formal education during the first part of 2014.

Enrolment rates in camps are generally higher than outside of camps: in Iraq, Jordan and Turkey the rates in camps are 57 per cent, 67 per cent and 97 per cent respectively. National authorities are engaged in education in these camps and Syrian teachers are permitted to contribute. Girls’ enrolment and attendance lags behind same-age boys in most camps.

Outside of camps, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan and Turkey offer refugee children free access to formal national schools, whereas RRP partners underwrite the costs of children to attend formal education opportunities in Lebanon. Challenges to accessing formal education, which limit the numbers enrolled outside of camps, include overburdened public school systems, overcrowded classrooms, and the limited number of qualified teachers. RRP partners have supported the construction of classrooms and schools, and second shifts have been initiated in Lebanon and Jordan to expand the available spaces for refugee children.

In a number of host countries, efforts are being made to offer non-formal education or provide “catch up” classes to facilitate subsequent access to formal education. It is equally important to ensure that Syrian youth have access to post-secondary education or vocational training.

