

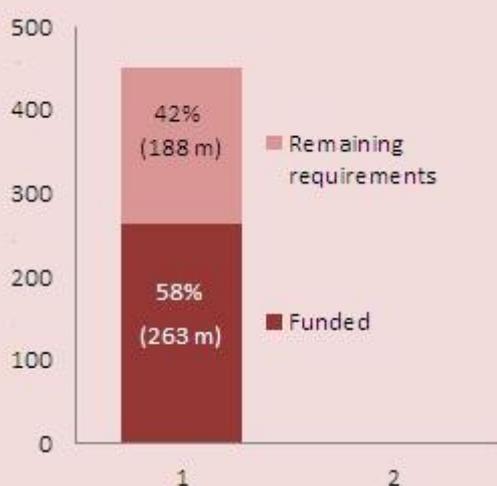
Key Figures

385,168 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**



October developments

- Enrolment of Syrian refugee children in public schools began this month. The Ministry has declared that 157,000 foreigners will be able to enrol, with 100,000 in the first shift, and 57,000 in the second. Numbers of children registered for the first shift are not yet available, and UNHCR is waiting for the MEHE to share the modalities for enrolment in the second shift.
- In some areas of high-refugee concentration, there will be a decrease in the number of refugee children attending first shift in some schools, as enrolment for foreigners is limited to 50%. These children will be enrolled in the second shift.
- UNHCR and partners have observed through monitoring of communities that access of refugee children to the first shift has been uneven, due in part to misunderstanding of some schools on the enrolment procedure for non-Lebanese students in the first shift. MEHE is following up with schools where problems to ensure correct application of the policy.
- A group of 26 families demonstrated in front of UNHCR's office in Tripoli. They were protesting the fact that their grade 9 children have not yet received certificates of completion of studies, necessary for enrolling in grade 10. UNHCR is following the issue in coordination with the Ministry, as Syrian refugees without validation of their previous studies from Syria, cannot obtain grade 9 certificates, or sit for their exams. As a result, these students are prevented from enrolling in grade 10.

Achievements: January - October

Activity	Reached January-October	2014 Target
Total number of children supported for primary education in the "first shift" (school year 2014/2015)	0*	10,000
Syrian refugee children supported for primary education in the "second shift" (school year 2014/2015)	0*	32,000
Syrian refugee children enrolled in accelerated learning programmes	17,500	15,000
Syrian refugee children enrolled in remedial classes after school	3,513	2,100
Total children supported in school year 2013/2014		
Formal education	64,273	52,000
Children with special needs	62	500

*Awaiting data from the Ministry of Education

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. The Ministry of Education launched the R.A.C.E. initiative to enhance resources and build capacity of schools to receive these children. While exact numbers are not available, it is estimated that more than 50% of Syrian refugee children aged 5 to 17 are excluded from any form of education (some children might be enrolled in private and Syrian schools). Among these, adolescents are the most affected, due to discontinuity in schooling and inability to catch up in class, high drop-out rates and widespread pressure to financially support their families.

Challenges

Based on assessments and profiling of out-of-school children, Syrian children face the following obstacles to learning: financial difficulties compelling families to recourse to child labour, differences between the Lebanese and Syrian curriculum, language barriers, lack of school readiness, lack of transportation to schools, and other incurred costs such as uniforms. Access to education and inclusion for children with specific needs remains a challenge. Assessments highlight the importance of mobilizing and building awareness among parents to overcome some of these difficulties, and UNHCR's 70 education refugee outreach volunteers play a critical role in this respect.

Ensuring that the quality of education is not compromised by expanding access to education is both a challenge and a priority. Overstretched school resources not only negatively affect learning outcomes; they also have the potential to fuel discriminatory attitudes, frustration and occasional violence. To help mitigate these tensions, UNHCR and partners distribute school materials and equipment to all students, both Syrians and Lebanese. The Government plan R.A.C.E. also calls for support to improve teacher training and learning environments.

Monitoring school retention rates and learning outcomes for both refugee and Lebanese children remains a key challenge for 2014-2015. Real-time monitoring of attendance would help inform response measures to prevent drop-out and sustain learning progress. System strengthening, especially with the Department of Counselling and Guidance, is also planned with the support of UNICEF.

Strategy

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

- **Formal Education**

Support resources mobilization for the Ministry of Education 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. Scholarships for higher education are also provided.

- **Non-Formal Education**

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

- **Support to the Ministry of Education**

The Ministry of Education launched the three year strategy, *Reaching All Children with Education in Lebanon (R.A.C.E.)* in May 2014 aiming to enrol 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.



13 years old refugee student in Qwechra School second shifts @ UNHCR/S. Hoibak

UNHCR implementing partners

Agence d'aide à la Coopération Technique et au Développement (ACTED), Caritas Lebanon Migrant Center (CLMC), Cooperative Housing Foundation (CHF), Lebanese Popular Association for Popular Action (AMEL), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Save the Children (SCI), Terre des Hommes (TdH), War Child Holland (WCH)