



Initiatives being launched in the region to promote access to education for refugee children

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS:

In the month of August, a number of educational initiatives were launched aimed at promoting access to education amongst refugee children both in camps and urban communities.

In Iraq, education partners supported the 'Back to School' campaign in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) to raise awareness of the importance of education and encourage parents to enrol children at the beginning of the new school year in September. The campaign, launched together with the Ministry of Education (MoE), aims to reach nearly 30,000 children. Focus group discussions were conducted to inform refugee families of the new decision of MoE to allow Syrian refugee children to register in primary grades of local Kurdish schools and to highlight the benefits of education. Leaflets, posters and banners were used to disseminate information in the communities.

Preparations for a similar initiative started in Jordan in August. Of the 226,000 school-aged Syrian children in Jordan only around 130,000 children were enrolled in formal education in the 2014-2015 academic year. Nearly 1 out of 3 Syrian children are not benefiting from any form of education. To bridge the gap, education partners made the necessary preparations for the 'Learning for All' campaign planned to be launched nationwide in September. The campaign aims to promote continuation and retention of students in the formal education, increase access to alternative education opportunities for out-of-school children, and encourage good reading habits amongst children.

In Turkey, education partners worked with the Ministry of National Education (MoNE) to improve access to Syrian children in the new school year 2015-2016. Over 30 additional schools and educational facilities were rehabilitated or refurbished which will allow more children to access education.

In Lebanon, following continuous advocacy by 3RP partners, the Ministry of Education (MoE) has agreed to provide a total of 200,000 spaces in public schools to non-Lebanese children (45,000 in the first shift and 155,000 in the second shift sessions) in the new school year.

NEEDS ANALYSIS:

While education ministries in refugee hosting countries have generally welcomed Syrian children into their education systems, there is a profound strain on resources, leading to significant needs in terms of access and quality. Some 714,000 Syrian refugee children (53 per cent) are out of school.

There are a range of factors contributing to low enrolment and attendance rates, including policy and bureaucratic regulations, with many children required to take placement tests and provide documentation for school registration, which many families no longer have or are unable to obtain.

There are issues in the quality of education, including: new and different curricula; language of teaching; lack of appropriate infrastructure; teacher capacity; overcrowding; lack of certified education programmes; students with trauma and distress; and limited programmes to address lost years of schooling. Targeted education interventions are needed to address the risks of negative coping behaviours.

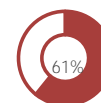


Syrian refugee children at the private community school, 6th of October, Cairo, Egypt. S.Nelson/UNHCR

Sector Response Summary:



1,414,255 Refugees & Local Community Members targeted for assistance by end-2015
853,593 assisted in 2015



Syrian Refugees in the Region:



4,270,000 Syrian Refugees expected by end-2015
4,089,023 currently registered or awaiting registration



3RP Overall Funding Status:



USD 4.5 billion required in 2015 (Agencies)
USD 1.678 billion received in 2015



'MAKANI' (MY SPACE) PROGRAMME PROVIDES LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES TO OVER 100,000 VULNERABLE OUT-OF-SCHOOL CHILDREN IN JORDAN

Ensuring that vulnerable children from both the refugee and host communities are able to access education is integral to the overall Syria crisis response. Education partners continue its effort to provide access to education to children, particularly to out-of-school through alternative educational programmes.

The 'Makani' (My Space) initiative in Jordan has been a success in reaching vulnerable out-of-school children with structured psychosocial support, alternative education, and adolescents and youth services under one roof. It builds on already existing community networks and aims to provide a holistic programme to boys and girls in Jordan who are excluded from any form of education and are exposed to high risks of child labour, exploitation and early marriage.

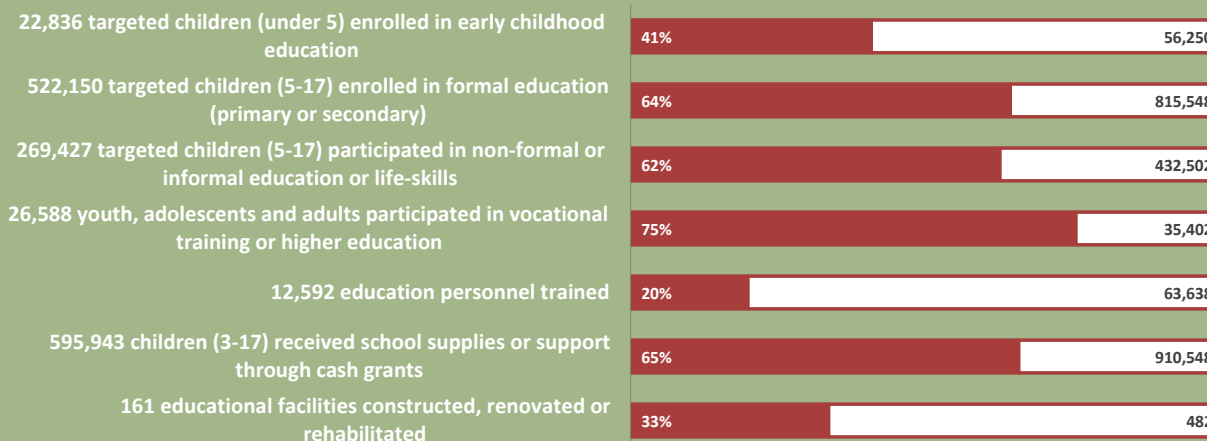
Since its launch in March, the programme has been rolled out in 128 places across the country with 93 additional places planned by end of the year depending on ongoing assessments and funding availability.

As of August, some 136,467 children (52 per cent girls) are registered with Makani centres across the country. Of these, 10,829 children were newly registered for psychosocial support in camps and host communities in the month of August alone.

Education partners continue to work to ensure that each Makani provides children with the best possible psychosocial support (PSS) services. Training on child protection issues particularly in an emergency context are provided on a regular basis to the social workers, animators and volunteers in the centres.

REGIONAL RESPONSE INDICATORS: JANUARY - AUGUST* 2015

■ Progress ■ Planned Response, by end-2015



*Note updated data not yet available for Turkey response for August 2015

These dashboards reflect the achievements of the more than 200 partners, including governments, UN Agencies, and NGOs, involved in the 3RP response in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey. Progress and targets may change in line with data revisions. All data on this Dashboard is current as at 31 August 2015.