



UNICEF provides training to 6,500 Syrian volunteer teachers.

APRIL HIGHLIGHTS:

In many emergency contexts it is difficult to find suitably qualified teachers who are able to teach refugee children. As Syria had an established and well-functioning education system prior to the onset of the conflict, this has meant that many qualified teachers also became refugees. Many of these teachers have volunteered their efforts to support the education of Syrian children both the temporary education centres established in camps and in urban areas. In addition, qualified professionals and students who were part-way through their studies also volunteered to teach in these centres.

In late 2014, UNICEF – through a protocol with the Ministry of National Education (MoNE) and the Post and Telecommunications Bank (PTT) – began supporting volunteer teachers with financial incentives. These incentives are paid to teachers working in both host communities and camps. As of May, UNICEF supported 4,958 teachers with incentives. It is anticipated that this will contribute to improving the quality of education provided to about 190,000 Syrian refugee children by ensuring stability in the teaching force, as teachers who receive incentives are less likely to seek economic opportunities elsewhere and will also be more motivated.

Between December 2014 and March 2015, a total of 6,500 Syrian volunteer teachers from 15 provinces received a 2-day psychosocial training on topics including, but not limited, to the effects of trauma, depression and anxiety, as well as related activities than could be undertaken with students. Provinces covered included: Kahramanmaraş, Hatay, Gaziantep, Sanliurfa, Adana, Kilis, Malatya, Adiyaman, Batman-Diyarbakir, Mardin, Osmaniye, Ankara, Kayseri, Kocaeli.

UNICEF continues investing in school infrastructure through school construction and refurbishment. During April two new prefabricated school buildings were opened – one in the Suruc camp and one in Ceylanpinar. There are 4,718 children enrolled in the Suruc camp temporary education centre (TEC) and it is estimated that the TEC in Ceylanpinar will provide access to education for 2,160 students. During the reporting period 17,040 children also benefitted from distribution of school supplies and school equipment. UNICEF is also partnering with IOM to provide school transportation to 1,960 students in Urfa province, addressing another important barrier to school attendance.

UNICEF is also working closely with the Provincial Education Directorates of the Ministry of National Education to develop Provincial Action Plans that will support expansion of access to education by Syrian students. The roll out of YOBIS (a complementary education information system to manage data related to foreign students, teachers and classrooms continues) with 50% of student data having been entered onto the system.

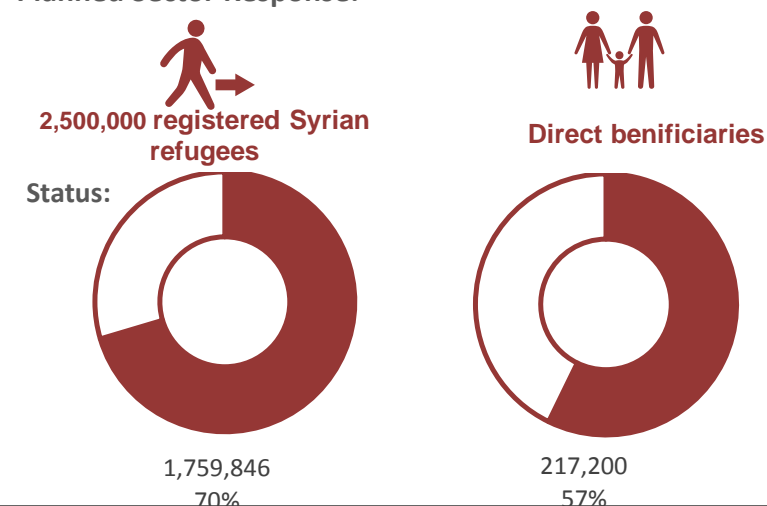
UNHCR's 12 DAFI (Albert Einstein Refugee Academic Programme) scholarship holders have all entered their second semester at universities in Turkey. During April, UNHCR initiated a partnership agreement with the Presidency for Turks Abroad to be responsible for the management of the 2015 DAFI student intake. YTB will develop an online application portal for scholarship applicants. Applications for scholarships will open in June 2015 for the coming academic year.



Syrian children attending school in Sanliurfa / IOM

Key Figures:

Planned Sector Response:



NEEDS ANALYSIS:

- The national legislative framework supports the right of refugees to free access to schooling and the Government of Turkey has facilitated refugees' access to skills training and higher education. In spite of these efforts, an estimated 70 per cent of school-aged refugee children are not accessing education.

- Increased provision of educational places (through the establishment of additional temporary education centres and greater participation in national schools) remains a priority and will take place within the regulatory framework established by the Ministry of National Education.

- The education strategy includes ongoing efforts to increase the quality of education. Through a partnership between Government agencies and international organizations, a system for payment of incentives to volunteer refugee teachers will be established and implemented in 2015.

-All activities in the sector will be implemented in close collaboration with the Government of Turkey. The provision of services to large numbers of refugee children and youth requires the rapid expansion of the education sector which will be supported by the efforts of the international community through policy support, technical assistance in information management to capture, analyse and report on refugee needs and participation; refurbishment of infrastructure – in national schools used to host second shifts or where rapid expansion has taken place - and assistance to strengthen coordination of the refugee response. Existing efforts to accommodate refugee children in the national system will be scaled up through the provision of teaching materials and capacity to teach Turkish as a foreign language to refugees and supporting programmes to reduce bullying and foster social cohesion.

TURKEY RESPONSE INDICATORS: JANUARY TO APRIL 2015

