



**57,736** Syrian children registered with UNHCR Egypt

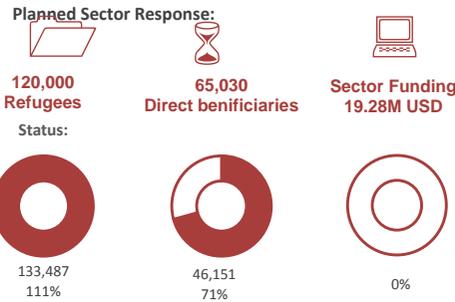
**MARCH HIGHLIGHTS:**

- On Monday March 30<sup>th</sup> 2015, UNHCR Regional Representative Ms. Elizabeth Tan met the Newly Appointed Minister of Education Dr. Mohib Al Rafei. Ms. Tan raised a number of issues with the minister including past and future cooperation between UNHCR and the MoE in schools with high density of Syrian refugee children.
- Save the Children reached an agreement with MoE to conduct Quality Learning Environment (QLE) assessment in public schools attended by Syrian refugee students. The QLE tool looks at measuring the quality of education provided in these schools, its impact on the learners themselves in terms of their increased competencies as well as access to educational services in the area. It included focus group discussion with teachers and psychosocial workers as well as with parents. A total of 13 schools in 10 of Ramadan City, Obour City and 6 of October City have been assessed to date.
- Save the Children Healing and Education through the Arts (HEART) training was delivered to staff involved in the refugee education program. HEART is implemented as a supplementary educational program to provide psychosocial support to children affected by chronic stress and poverty. It uses expressive arts to enhance learning activities creating fun and engaging learning environment for school children.
- Plan International are also now operating and managing 30 remedial classes benefiting over 500 students. In addition to that, 15 learning circles and 12 KGs were established and it is benefiting children of both Syrian and Egyptian communities. More than 400 children are now benefiting from activities held in these facilities.
- Plan International conducted a training program for teachers and administrators working in schools with high density of Syrian refugee students. This training targeted 75 teachers and 45 admin staff focusing on areas of peace education, inclusive learning/education and in positive discipline.



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

**Key Figures:**



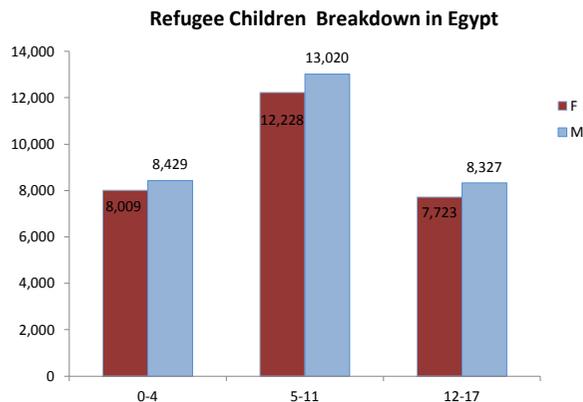
**NEEDS ANALYSIS:**

The Egyptian Government granted Syrians access to public schools under same rules that apply to Egyptian nationals. In practice several challenges have arisen when Syrian families attempted to enrol their children in public schools most importantly the required documentation, overcrowding and safety concerns inside and outside of school. The lack of capacity and quality of the environment in public schools remains a significant barrier to the enrolment and retention of Syrian children.

A key objective of the Education Sector is to promote and facilitate access to primary education through addressing those challenges Syrians face. Efforts are made to support national education systems to accommodate refugee children, including through support to teachers inside classrooms. Education is also an entry point to provide child-centred support and a mechanism to address the scars of war affecting those traumatized children and adolescents.

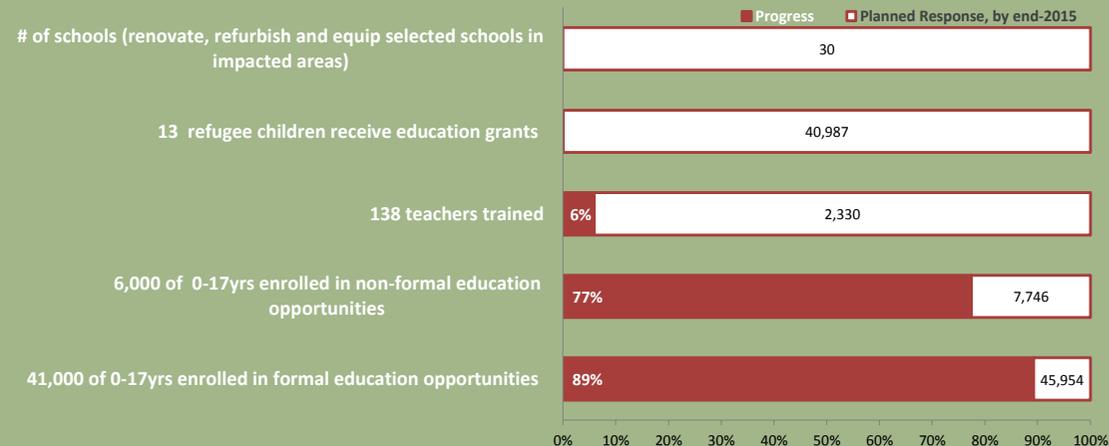
In order to enhance access to education for the most vulnerable boys and girls, around 100 disabled Syrian children will be supported in specialized private schools, as no public Egyptian schools currently have appropriate model of education and care required. These children will receive special education grants to cover the special needs school fees and their transportation needs. The education response plan is based on the assumption that the current Government policy under which Syrian students have access to public schools will be continued.

Based on the needs assessment conducted in December of 2014 by Ministry of Education (MoE) through their General Authority for Educational Buildings (GAEB), and the assessment planned by Save the Children International in early 2015. UNHCR and UNICEF will provide support to improve and rehabilitate schools in most impacted areas by Syrian refugee crisis. Mapping of government schools most frequented by Syrian children has already been concluded, and a report by the GAEB has been compiled listing the needs and work required to enhance the absorption capacity of the most affected schools in impacted areas. This report will continue to inform the dialogue with the Ministry. Around 62,000 children aged six to 17 from host communities should directly benefit from the planned school rehabilitation programme. Once implemented in 2015, it will also include a component to address the gender-sensitive learning environment in 50 basic and secondary schools. The Education Working Group continue to promote effective coordination through quality information management and a continuous collaboration with other sectors such as protection, health and water, sanitation and hygiene.



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Participating Agencies: UNHCR, UNICEF, CRS, IOM, Plan International, FARD Foundation, Ministry of Education, St. Andrews Education services, Tadamon Council

**REGIONAL RESPONSE INDICATORS: MARCH 2015**



Foot note: Education grants for 2014/2015 academic year have been disseminated under RRP6.