

Expansion of second shifts and distribution of school supplies help to increase access to education in February

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS:

Education partners continue efforts to increase enrolment and attendance rates across the region through more access to classes and the distribution of school supplies and materials.

In Lebanon, as of end-February, 44,507 non-Lebanese children are enrolled in the first shift and 62,288 children (mostly Syrian) are enrolled in 160 second shift primary schools. This is an increase of at least 10,000 children in second shift schools compared to the previous month.

Meanwhile, in Iraq, 29,559 Syrian children aged six to 17 years were enrolled in formal education in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI). During February, all 5,684 students across the four refugee camps in Erbil Governorate received three pieces of winter uniform clothing which were produced by Syrian refugee women. Catch-up classes at the four camps were organized for 1,997 students who had recently arrived from Kobani.

In Jordan, average attendance has increased from 14,550 in December 2014 to 15,537 during the first week of school. During February, a total of 6,470 Syrian children (1,514 in camps) received individual education kits including school bags, clothing and stationary.

Supporting Syrian volunteer teachers with financial incentives continued in Turkey this month, improving the quality of learning for about 123,000 Syrian refugee children. Since the beginning of the year, 12,989 children have also received school supplies. This month, 13 container libraries were deployed to camps. The books provided form part of the Arabic library book set for grades 1 to 6 and will benefit some 25,000 children.

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. Nearly 50 per cent of the 950,000 registered school-age Syrian refugee children in refugee hosting countries are not enrolled in 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.

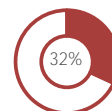


School in Qushtapa Refugee Camp, KR-Iraq - Erbil, UNHCR/ R. Fraser

Sector Response Summary:



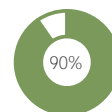
1,499,487 Refugees & Local Community Members targeted for assistance by end-2015
478,422 assisted in 2015



Syrian Refugees in the Region:



4,270,000 Syrian Refugees expected by end-2015
3,855,887 currently registered or awaiting registration



3RP Overall Funding Status:



USD 4.5 billion required in 2015 (Agencies)
USD 259.56 million received in 2015



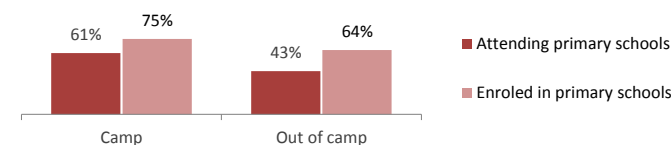
DISPARITIES REMAIN IN ACCESS TO EDUCATION IN CAMP AND NON-CAMP SETTINGS IN IRAQ

In Iraq, the recent humanitarian crisis leading to large-scale internal displacement has placed serious pressures on the education system, including through the use of schools as temporary shelters by IDPs. As of end-February, there is a big disparity in accessing education (both formal and non-formal) between children in camp and non-camp settings. Some 61 per cent of school-aged children are attending schools in camps whilst only 43 per cent are attending in non-camp or urban settings. Overall, of the children completing basic education only three per cent are in continuing on to secondary education.

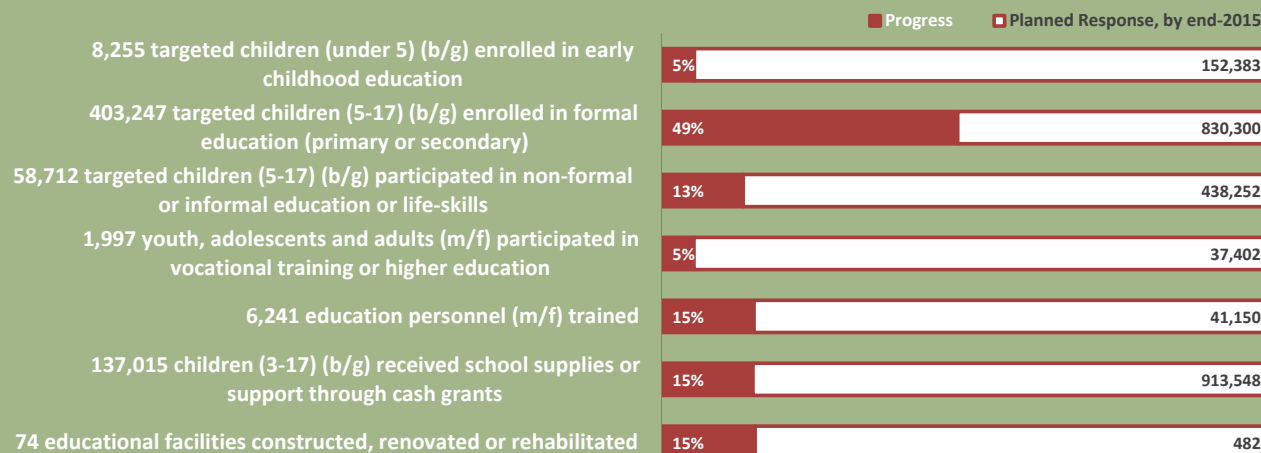
Education sector partners have highlighted key issues including a shortage of Syrian teachers and overcrowding of classes which is affecting the quality of services in most host communities.

To overcome these hurdles in Iraq and other refugee hosting countries, education partners are working to establish more schools, recruit additional teachers to improve education quality and run awareness sessions with community leaders, parents/care givers and children. Educational opportunities will also be expanded through remedial education, catch-up classes, life skills and child-centred innovative approaches (like e-learning).

Syrian refugee children enrolled and attending primary school in Iraq



REGIONAL RESPONSE INDICATORS: JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2015*



*Note: February education data not available for Egypt.

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. Targets are based on full funding of the 3RP and an expected 4.27 million refugees by end-2015. All data on this Dashboard is current as at 28 February 2015.