

Various education activities and initiatives all aimed at promoting the enrolment of refugee students into the public schools



REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS:

With the opening of the school year in public schools across the region in September, education efforts and initiatives continue to focus on enrolling more refugee children into schools and building the capacity of schools to be able to absorb more refugee children into the formal education system.

In Lebanon, many education NGO partners continue to dedicate staff to the 'Back to School' campaign for 2015/2016. Education partner meetings were held in the various regions of the country to plan outreach activities, which included mobilizing and training parent groups to support formal schools and to establish homework support groups to directly support learning outcomes in the formal second shift schools which started on 12 October.

In Jordan, a new initiative to support the capacity of schools is being implemented, with Syrian Assistant Teachers now being recruited. A series of initiatives have begun to tackle violence in schools in Zaatari camp.

In Egypt, an evaluation of the education grants programme was carried out, with the findings supporting the need of refugees for more financial assistance to be able to meet the cost of their children's education. This past month in Egypt, 26 classrooms in two schools were handed over, refurbished and are now fully operational. Inclusion programmes reached 16 public schools with supplies and renovation and 50 kindergartens were established. This will reduce the overall density in the classroom and will make the school a more welcoming place for both refugee and Egyptian children.

In Iraq, rehabilitation of a secondary school is underway in the Erbil Governorate with the work anticipated to be completed by November. Quick Impact Projects concerning rehabilitation in three Kurdish schools were completed to accommodate the enrolment Syrian students (grades 1-3). In Duhok Governorate, preparation and assessments were conducted to provide 25 prefabricated classrooms to increase learning spaces for refugee schools in the host community.

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 691,000 Syrian refugee children (50 per cent) are out of school as of September 2015.

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.

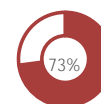
There are issues in the quality of education, including: new and different curricula; language of teaching; lack of appropriate infrastructure; teacher capacity; overcrowding; lack of certified education programmes; students with trauma and distress; and limited programmes to address lost years of schooling.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

Sector Response Summary:

Unicef Jordan/Kubwalo



1,349,299 Refugees & Local Community Members targeted for assistance by end-2015
983,771 assisted in 2015



Syrian Refugees in the Region:



4,270,000 Syrian Refugees expected by end-2015
4,279,567 currently registered or awaiting registration



3RP Overall Funding Status:



USD 4.3 billion required in 2015 (Agencies)
USD 2.019 billion received in 2015



LEBANON'S DOUBLE-SHIFT SYSTEM: AN INNOVATIVE APPROACH TO EDUCATING REFUGEES

In Lebanon, afternoon second shift classes started on 12 October, with the aim of including as many refugee students as possible, allowing Syrian children to study alongside Lebanese children, and making use of existing school infrastructure. Most importantly, this allows children to go back to school quickly as it becomes harder and harder for young people to re-enter the education system with each year that passes.

There are around 480,000 registered refugee children between 3 and 17 years old in Lebanon, and the Government has indicated that 200,000 of them can enter first and second shifts in public schools. So far, 155,095 refugee children are enrolled in basic education for the 2015-2016 school year (62,500 in first shift and 92,595 in second shift).

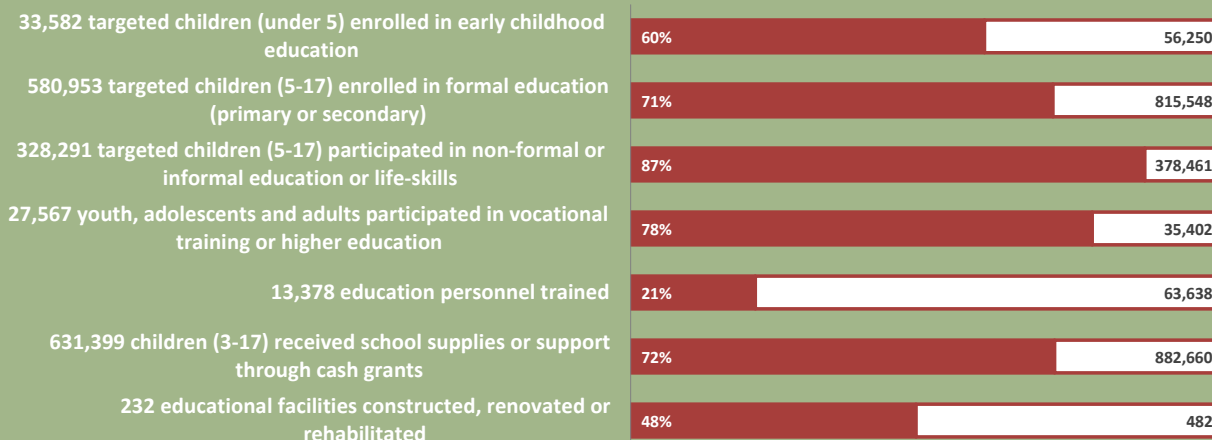
Getting children back into the classroom is only part of the challenge. 3RP partners in Lebanon are looking at innovative approaches to supporting children once they are back in school. Many of these young people have had significant gaps in their learning, the majority are learning in languages that are not their mother tongue, and on top of this some are coming to school having had little or nothing to eat to start the day. These children inevitably struggle to keep up in class because of this and eventually many drop out.

With 70 per cent of refugees in Lebanon living below the poverty line, some families are being forced to withdraw their children from school in order to send them off to work and improve the family's income. Agencies are working closely with MEHE for the expansion of the availability of second shift schools in order to reduce distance from and to schools. Extremely vulnerable families are also receiving financial grants to help them meet their basic needs and prevent them from resorting to detrimental measures including withdrawing their children from school.

3RP partners are looking at lessons from the innovative double-shift system that could be incorporated into programmes in other countries in the region.

REGIONAL RESPONSE INDICATORS: JANUARY - OCTOBER 2015

■ Progress ■ Planned Response, by end-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 October 2015.