



57,409 Syrian children registered with UNHCR Egypt

JULY HIGHLIGHTS:

- UNHCR, through its education partner Catholic Relief Services (CRS) is assisting refugees to meet the cost of educating their children through the education grant paid to families. In July, 1600 households registered for the grant for the 2015-2016 academic year. This in terms of students means some 3,900 students will be getting the grant in the next few weeks enabling them to attend a meaningful education program, both in the formal and non-formal education sector.
- UNHCR continues to work very closely with the Egyptian Ministry of Education (MoE) in order to enable it to support Syrian refugees attending public schools. Obour City, in Greater Cairo, is one of the highly populated areas with Syrian refugees and schools had an average of 65/80 students per classroom. UNHCR through an agreement with MoE is assisting in the expansion work of Moaaz Ibn Jabal School by establishing two extra buildings. This will reduce the capacity in the classrooms, provide a much healthier space for children in these early grades and enhance the learning environment for both Syrian and Egyptian students.
- UNHCR started a community school assessment for all Syrian non-formal education establishments prior to the start of the new academic year 2015 – 2016 to assist in the planning and preparation for it. To date 8 schools have been assessed and Initial findings indicate that; Most of these schools are based in 6th of October city and Obour City. Each school accommodates nearly from 400-600 students for all grades (from Primary till secondary).
- Additional remedial classes are operating in some of these community schools to students who failed to pass exams and will retake the exam especially in summer. In addition, most of these schools offer summer programme to students.



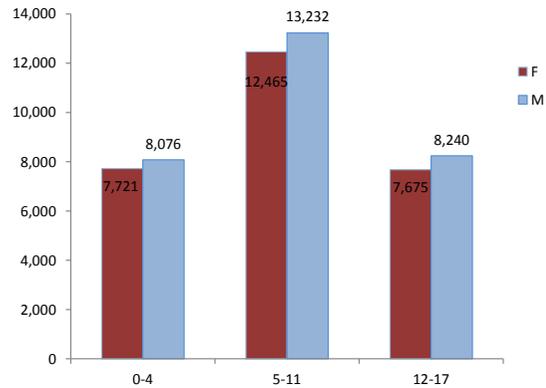
Syrian refugee children take part in classes at the private community school, 6th of October, Cairo, Egypt. S.Nelson/UNHCR

Key Figures:

Planned Sector Response:



Refugee Children Breakdown in Egypt



Leading Agencies: UNHCR- Moahmed Shawky: SHAWKYM@unhcr.org, UNICEF: Inas Hegazi, email: ihgazi@unicef.org
Participating Agencies: UNHCR, UNICEF, CRS, IOM, Plan International, FARD Foundation, Ministry of Education, St. Andrews Education services, Tadamon Council

NEEDS ANALYSIS:

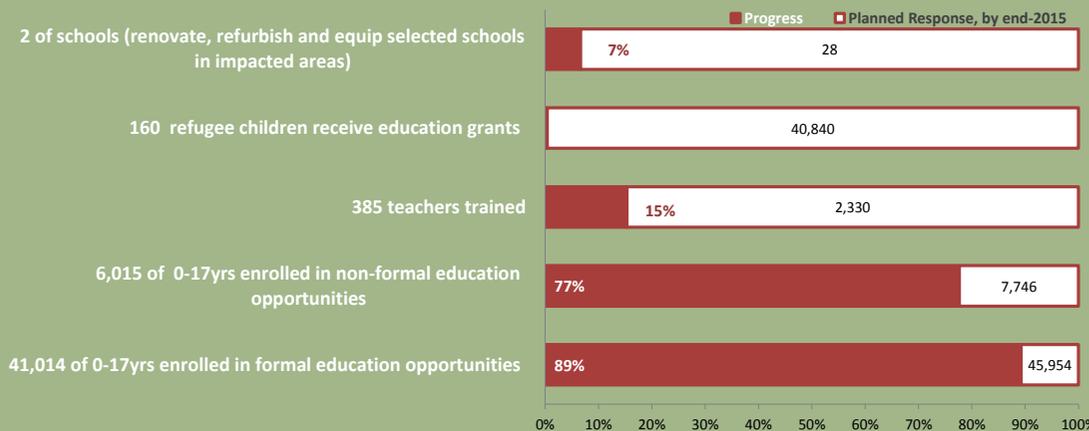
The Egyptian Government granted Syrians access to public schools under same rules that apply to Egyptian nationals. In practice several challenges have arisen when Syrian families attempted to enrol their children in public schools most importantly the required documentation, overcrowding and safety 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.

REGIONAL RESPONSE INDICATORS: JULY 2015



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