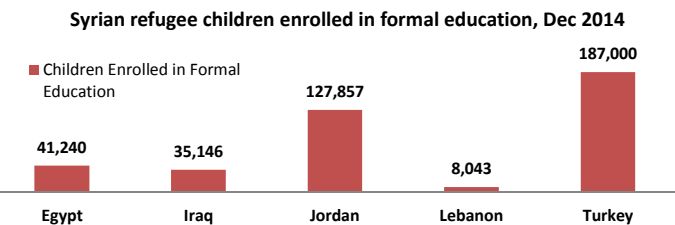


147 schools in Lebanon have now been approved for second shifts

DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS:

Extra efforts were made to encourage and improve access to education for Syrian refugees in the region in the run up to the new school year. In Lebanon, 147 schools were approved for enrolment of Syrians into second shifts following discussions between the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) and partners. Additional measures such as keeping the schools open on Saturdays and reducing the number of holidays for the coming months, will ensure that the children will get 750 hours of schooling. In Iraq, the Ministry of Education (MoE) of the KRI confirmed that the contracts of Syrian refugee teachers will be extended and their salaries paid. This had been a concern for both the MoE and partners for some time. In Jordan agencies in the education sector have been working with students and their parents to stress the importance of students sitting their end-of-year exams as well as to encourage students to continue to attend classes while those who dropped out are encouraged to re-enrol. In Egypt, 25 Syrian children have been selected for the Dafi scholarship provided by the Federal Government of Germany for the academic year 2014/15, in addition to the 15 students selected last year. In Turkey, the introduction of the Temporary Protection Regulation and a new foreign student information management system have removed a number of administrative barriers to the the full enrolment of Syrian students in the national system.

Increasing capacity of schools and investing in new facilities continues. In Iraq the construction of eight prefabricated schools completed in December will provide education space for more than 7,200 children. In addition, educational supplies were distributed to all camp and non-camp schools. In Egypt, 13 schools with high density of Syrian refugees have been targeted for expansion, painting of class rooms, provision of desks and other educational material. Additional support includes training for teachers, inspectors and social workers on how to work with classes with high densities of children. In Lebanon, transportation costs remain one of the barriers to accessing education, for which the UN has only limited funds available. In Turkey, the sector has supported the construction of 21 prefabricated schools this year (eight in camps and 13 in urban areas). These schools have been supported with furniture, computers and printers.



Jordan, UNICEF

SYRIAN REFUGEES IN THE REGION:

3,775,798	Refugee Population, end-December 2014
3,590,000	Refugee Population Planning Figure, end-2014

NEEDS ANALYSIS:

Into the fourth year of crisis, and despite a consensus that efforts are needed to avert a “lost generation”, over 600,000 refugee children are not participating in education activities. Of those participating, only 393,611 are in formal education.

Enrolment rates in camps are generally higher than outside of camps. National authorities are engaged in education in these camps and Syrian teachers are permitted to contribute. Girls’ enrolment and attendance lags behind same-age boys in most camps.

Outside of camps, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan and Turkey offer refugee children free access to formal national schools, whereas RRP partners underwrite the costs of children to attend formal education opportunities in Lebanon. Challenges to accessing formal education, which limit the numbers enrolled outside of camps, include overburdened public school systems, overcrowded classrooms, and the limited number of qualified teachers. RRP partners have supported the construction of classrooms and schools, and second shifts have been initiated in Lebanon and Jordan to expand the available spaces for refugee children.

In a number of host countries, efforts are being made to offer non-formal education or provide “catch up” classes to facilitate subsequent access to formal education. It is equally important to ensure that Syrian youth have access to post-secondary education or vocational training.

