

Key figures

33,000	Syrian refugee children enrolled in public schools in 2012/2013
33,000	Syrian refugee children accepted by the MEHE in the formal first shift for 2013/2014
30,000	School-aged Syrian refugee children on waiting list for second shift
280,000	School aged Syrian refugee children (3-18 years old) currently registered with UNHCR

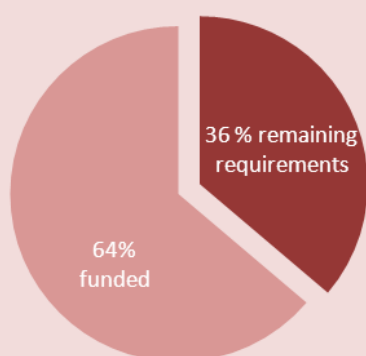
Funding

UNHCR education requirements: **37.5 m**

Percentage funded: **64 %**

■ Remaining UNHCR requirements (RRP5)

■ Funding received as of October



October developments

- Following the closure of school enrolment on October 11th, school directors started to register children on the waiting list for second shifts.
- UNHCR and UNICEF continued intensive advocacy with the Government to increase enrolment opportunities for children in first shift beyond the set limit of 33,000 children.
- UNHCR and the Ministry for Education and Higher Education (MEHE) finalized guidelines for the opening of second shifts in 50 schools across the country.
- UNHCR started distribution of education materials (School-in-a-Box) to more than 400 schools supporting 134,560 children and 6,728 teachers with basic school supplies.
- UNHCR attended the World Innovation Summit for Education in Doha. UNHCR Lebanon featured in a movie, "Education on the Brinks" and participated in a high level panel with UN High Commissioner for Refugees António Guterres, UNICEF Executive Director Tony Lake, and UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown.

UNHCR's achievements January - October

Activity	January - October	Target for 2013
Syrian refugee children supported for primary education in the first shift (school year 2013/2014)	20,460	20,000
Syrian refugee children receive accelerated learning programmes	7,318	15,000
Syrian refugee children receive after school support	3,521	15,000
Children with special needs accessing education	62	200
Schools supported to run second shifts	1	70



Syrian and Lebanese children in a school in Aarsal, Bekaa © UNHCR

Needs

Uprooted from their homes and schools in Syria, refugee children need the opportunity to continue their education in Lebanon. However, approximately 90% of Syrian refugee children aged 6 to 17 are estimated to be out of school. Their large number has overwhelmed the limited capacity of the public school system.

Challenges

Public schools cannot absorb the increasing number of refugee children:

- At end of the 2012-2013 school year the public school system catered for 250,000 Lebanese students, 43,000 Syrian students (10,000 Syrian children who were in Lebanon before the Syrian conflict and 33,000 refugee children) as well as 7,000 students of other nationalities. For the 2013/2014 school year, the MEHE has agreed to accommodate some 100,000 refugee children in public schools. The 33,000 refugee children that enrolled in 2012/2013 will continue their education during regular school hours. Additionally, the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) has agreed to put in place a 'second shift' in the afternoon to accommodate almost 70,000 refugee children. UNHCR will support more than 25,000 of these children by assisting 70 schools to start afternoon classes. Despite these efforts, up-scaled educational resources will be needed throughout the country to respond to both immediate and longer-term educational needs of school-aged refugee children, especially in finding alternative learning opportunities for children who will remain without a place in the public school system during 2013/2014.

Special needs of Syrian refugee children:

- Education assessments have highlighted a number of barriers to learning including differences between the Lebanese and Syrian curriculum, language barriers, transportation and additional (uniforms, stationaries) costs, bullying and limited psycho-social interventions to help traumatized children.

Strategy

UNHCR has a three-fold strategy for education of school-aged children:

- Formal Education: ensuring access for refugee children through payment of tuition fees and creating space for children in the public system through school rehabilitation and 'second shifts,'
- Non-Formal Education: increasing other educational opportunities, for school-aged children including Accelerated Learning Programs and community-based education
- Support to the Ministry to respond to the crisis: coordination support, equipment support to schools and regional offices, secondment of staff to central and regional offices to ensure good coordination and timely information-sharing/follow-up on student retention

Special programmes will be designed and supported to reach children with special needs, vulnerable populations and those needing vocational and technical education.

UNHCR implementing partners

Amel Association – Lebanese Popular Association for Popular Action (AMEL), Caritas Lebanon Migrant Center (CLMC), Cooperative Housing Foundation (CHF), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Save the Children (SCI), Terre des Hommes (TdH), War Child Holland (WCH).