



Over 391,000 Syrian refugee children are now accessing formal, non-formal or informal education services

## FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHTS:

**Enrolment rates in formal education** among school-aged children across the region remain extremely low, with some 44 per cent enrolled in school across the five refugee hosting countries. This figure ranges from 83 per cent in Egypt, 55 per cent in Jordan, 42 per cent in Turkey, 35 per cent in Lebanon, and 31 per cent in Iraq.

Critical investments in **school infrastructure and capacity** are therefore continuing. In Iraq, access has increased with the completion of five new schools, including one secondary school, in three camps in Dohuk Governorate. In Turkey, the government and partners are working on the construction of 19 pre-fabricated schools in the host communities and the provision of tents and furniture for schools outside of camps.

**Monitoring** of school enrolment, attendance and performance is vital. In Turkey, the construction of a comprehensive Education Management Information System (EMIS) is underway to monitor children as well as teachers and staff, while in Egypt a mechanism is being prepared to monitor dropouts from school.

**Non-formal and informal education** opportunities are also pursued. In Lebanon programmes and outreach on non-formal education have been scaled-up, while in Iraq almost 700 children are participating in non-formal education in three community centres in Erbil.

In the **higher education** sector, Egypt has now granted Syrians applying for post-graduate studies in universities the same standing as Egyptians with respect to



## REFUGEE POPULATION IN THE REGION:

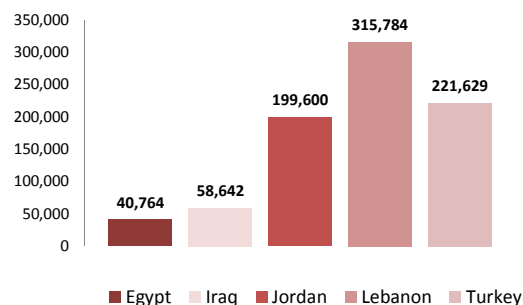
2,508,402

Current Refugee Population

4,100,000

Expected Refugee Population by end-2014

## 836,420 School Aged Refugee Children, February 2014



## NEEDS ANALYSIS:

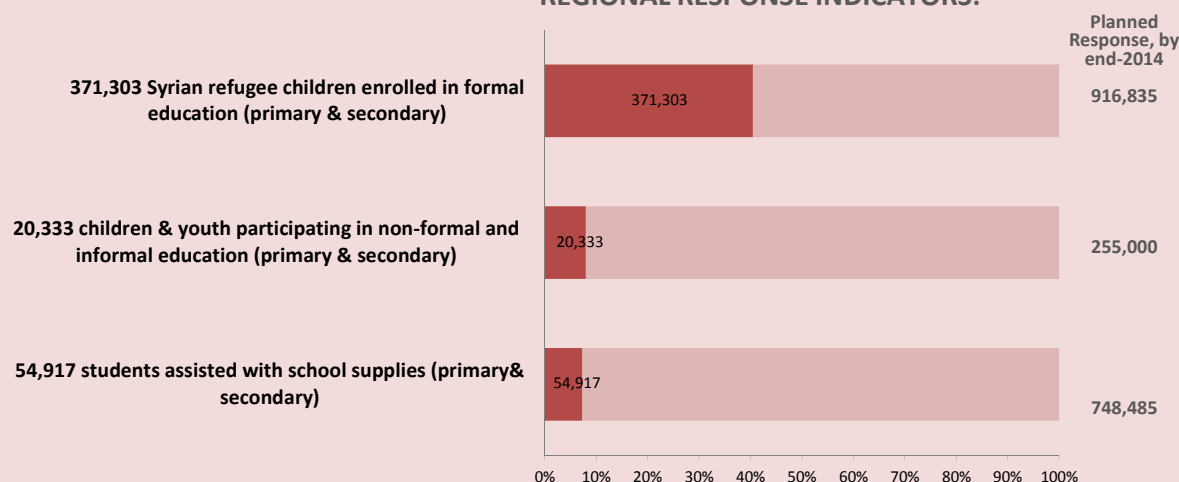
Nearly 2.3 million children have stopped attending school in Syria and the situation is similar in refugee-hosting countries. At the end of 2013, over 60 per cent of the 735,000 school-age refugee children in the region were not enrolled in school.

While education ministries in refugee-hosting countries have generally welcomed Syrian children into their national public systems, children face major obstacles to access and learning. School-related expenses, placement tests and documentation, the difficulties in grappling with a new curriculum and different languages of instruction, the quality and relevance of education and concerns around overcrowding, certification and accreditation are all key factors contributing to low enrolment and attendance rates. Moreover many parents are reluctant to let their children, in particular girls, leave the house for fear of harassment and discrimination in and around schools.

Accommodating Syrian children is placing a profound strain on fragile national education systems, causing delays in planned education reforms. Children from host communities, who are often themselves facing economic constraints, are studying in classrooms that are overcrowded and under-resourced. The efficiency of the public education system is at serious risk, with the most marginalized groups bearing a disproportionate burden.

The obstacles to education and the accumulated loss of school years are jeopardizing a whole generation of Syrian children.

## REGIONAL RESPONSE INDICATORS:



Planned response based on full funding of RRP6 for an expected population of 4.1 million Syrian refugees in the region by end-2014. There are currently 2.5 million refugees in the region and the overall RRP6 appeal is 14% funded.