



Only around 54 per cent of school-aged Syrian refugee children in the region are enrolled in formal, informal or non-formal education

MARCH HIGHLIGHTS:

Access to schooling remains a challenge across the region. In Egypt, the sector and government are working together to increase the capacity of schools in areas with a high concentration of Syrians. Computers, furniture and education supplies have been provided to 10 schools. In Lebanon, more than 80 schools have been rehabilitated this year, including with water and sanitation facilities. In Turkey, five schools are currently under construction in host communities, as well as another two in the newer camps.

Strengthening the **human and administrative capacity** to meet the demands placed on school systems by Syrian refugee children is a priority. In Turkey, a standardized teacher support policy is being developed, and training of trainer sessions were conducted as part of efforts to develop the skills of volunteer teachers in camp schools. In Egypt, a new guide has been released that highlights the rules and regulations of primary schools and provides guidance on all education-related issues for the refugee communities in Egypt. In Iraq, engagement with the parent-teacher associations is being strengthened in three camps, with an information plan developed to ensure parents are aware of the role and responsibilities of the PTA, along with ways they can be involved. In Lebanon, the education sector is currently developing a strategic response framework which outlines the different options for learning offered to children in need and the pathways for these children to ensure continuity of learning and the realization of their right to education. In Jordan, some 760 teachers and administrators have now received training in 2014.



Refugee children assisted with transport to school in Urfa, Turkey. IOM.

SYRIAN REFUGEES IN THE REGION:

2,606,281

Current Refugee Population

4,100,000

Refugee Population Planning Figure, end-2014

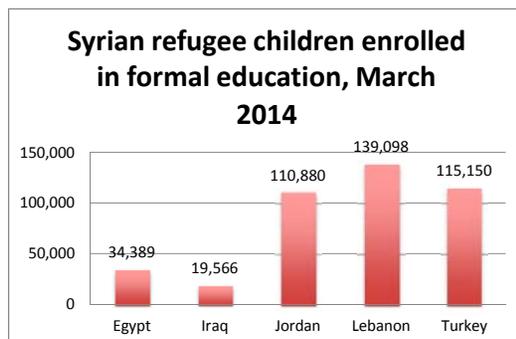
NEEDS ANALYSIS:

Nearly 2.3 million children have stopped attending school or attend school infrequently in Syria. The situation is also extremely worrying for Syrian children in the refugee-hosting countries, where only around 54 per cent of school-aged refugee children are enrolled in school.

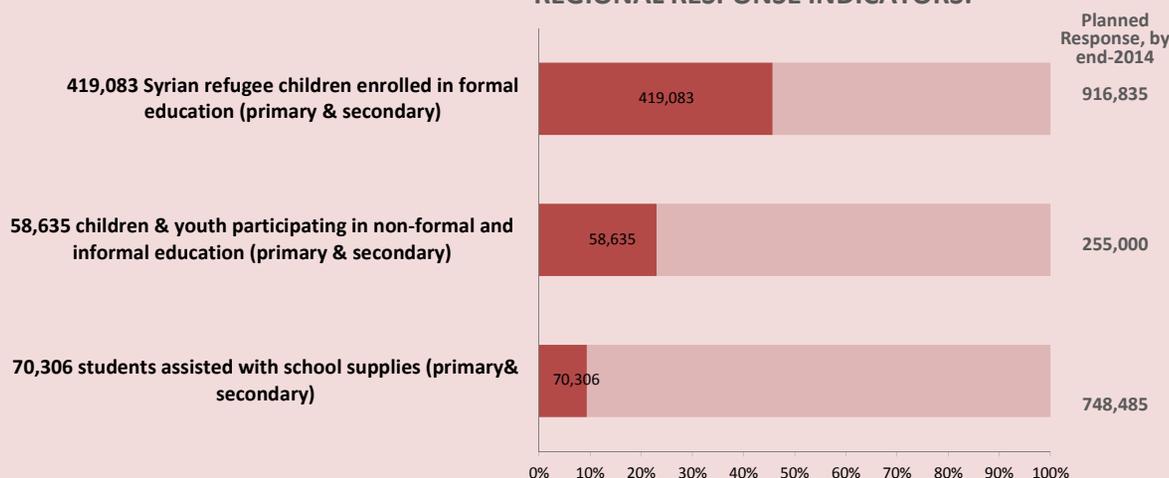
While education ministries in refugee-hosting countries have generally welcomed Syrian children into their national public systems, children face major obstacles to access and learning. School-related expenses, placement tests and documentation, the difficulties in grappling with a new curriculum and 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 2.6 million refugees in the region and the overall RRP6 appeal is 24% funded.