



Back to School campaigns and assistance schemes are rolling out across the region ahead of the new school year

AUGUST HIGHLIGHTS:

In Jordan, the Back to School campaign was launched on 5 August with the message "Education is My Future" being spread through a door-to-door campaign, information materials, the support of religious and street leaders, and peer-to-peer educators. School officially started in Jordan on 24 August.

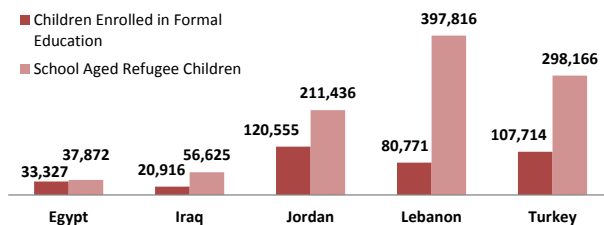
In Egypt, the new school year will start on 20 September, and the education sector is conducting intensive communication with the community to deal with any issues before the start of the school year. The distribution of refugee grants has started for the academic year 2014-15 for all registered Syrian students. Payments will be disbursed through a one-time installment upon interview, based on the applicant's number of children attending schools.

In Iraq, summer school activities were completed in four camps in Erbil, reaching over 2,200 children in the camps and over 500 in the non-camp areas. Catch up classes were also conducted for grades 1-6 for over 1000 children in preparation for the transition from the Syrian to the Kurdish curriculum. The Back to school campaign in Iraq - being conducted with Parents Teachers Associations and community groups - was temporarily interrupted due to the influx of internally displaced people.

In Lebanon, even though schools were closed for the summer, learning continued through a variety of non-formal educational programmes which enrolled a total of 15,090 children. The month of August was also critical to the planning of the 2014-15 school year and the implementation of Reaching All Children with Education (RACE) throughout the country. This plan includes how to increase access of quality educational programmes both through formal and non-formal education to vulnerable Lebanese and refugee children. The new school year begins in October.

In Turkey, as part of the Back to School campaign, the sector provided almost 100,000 school bags and stationary kits to 26 schools.

Syrian school aged refugee children enrolled in formal education, August 2014



Jordan, UNICEF

SYRIAN REFUGEES IN THE REGION:

2,986,008

Refugee Population, end-August 2014

3,590,000

Refugee Population Planning Figure, end-2014

NEEDS ANALYSIS:

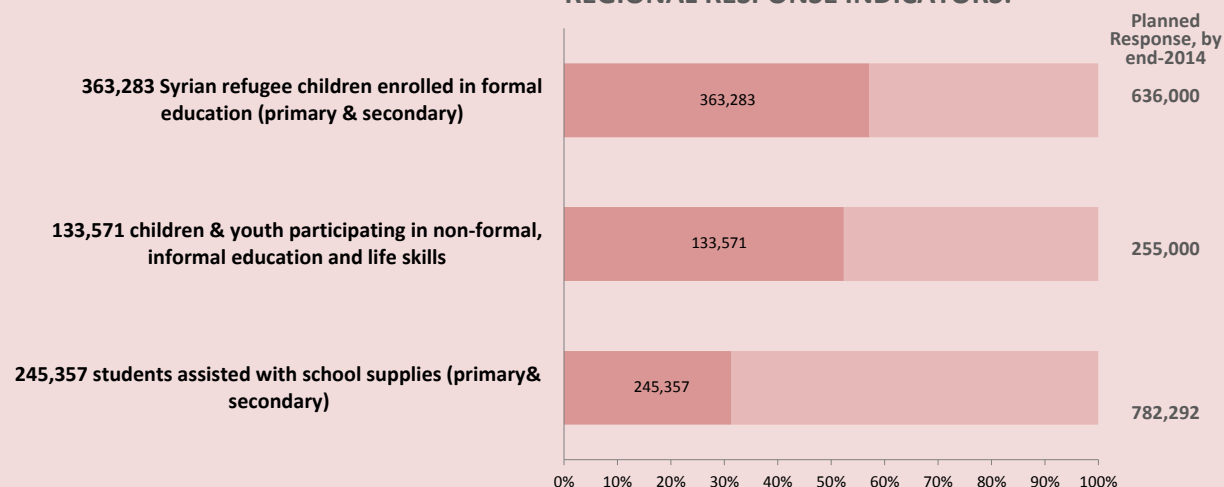
Into the fourth year of crisis, and despite a consensus that efforts are needed to avert a "lost generation", almost half a million refugee children are not participating in educational activities. Only thirty-eight per cent of Syrian school-aged children were enrolled in formal education during the first part of 2014.

Enrolment rates in camps are generally higher than outside of camps: in Iraq, Jordan and Turkey the rates in camps are 57 per cent, 67 per cent and 97 per cent respectively. 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.

REGIONAL RESPONSE INDICATORS:



Planned response based on full funding of RRP6 for an expected population of 3.59 million Syrian refugees in the region by end-2014. As at end-August 2014, there were 2.98 million refugees in the region and the overall RRP6 appeal was 44% funded.