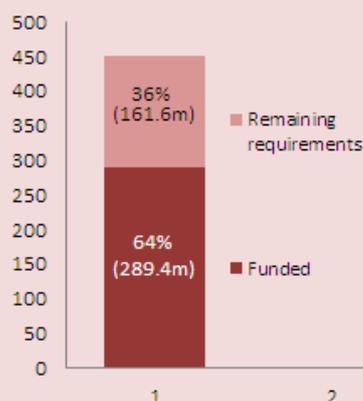


Key Figures

387,250	School aged Syrian refugee children (5-17 years old) currently registered or awaiting registration with UNHCR
88,000	Syrian refugee children enrolled in public schools in 2014/2015 (morning and afternoon shift) as per MEHE's estimates
6,300	Syrian children enrolled in the morning shift in 2014/2015 school year with UNHCR's support
35,500	Syrian children that will be enrolled in the afternoon shift in 2014/2015 school year with UNHCR's support

Funding

UNHCR total requirements: USD 451 m



December developments

- Collation of data on school enrollment in the **morning shift** started in December by UN volunteers, deployed to regional offices of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE). While data are still being processed, the number of Syrian refugee children enrolled in the morning shift for the school year 2014/2015 appears to be lower than the 60,000 enrolled in the past school year, despite MEHE's will and joint UN funding commitments to accommodate more children. UNHCR's targets for the current school year are being revised to support more children in second shift.
- In December, MEHE provided a list of 147 schools across Lebanon where the **afternoon shift** could be open. The afternoon shift will start in January 2015, targeting 57,000 children with UN agencies' support. This represents a clear increase from the 2013/2014 school year, when 32,000 children were enrolled in 80 schools supported by UNHCR.
- Discussions with MEHE over monitoring and oversight of enrolment, as well as on modalities to transfer funds for the supported children are ongoing.
- Close to 1,000 Syrian and Lebanese youth were supported by UNHCR in **vocational public schools** in the 2014/15 school year.
- UNHCR and partners completed the rehabilitation of eight public schools, bringing to 22 the total number of schools rehabilitated in 2014.
- In 2014, education partners supported **non-formal education** programmes for more than 100,000 children. Of these, close to 20,000 were supported by UNHCR. Their transition to school is currently being monitored.

Achievements: January - December

Activity	Reached January-December	2014 Target
Total number of children supported for primary education in school year 2014/2015:		
- Morning shift	6,200*	10,000
- Afternoon shift	35,500*	32,000
Total number of children supported for vocation education in school year 2014/2015:	950	1,000
Syrian refugee children enrolled in Accelerated Learning Programmes (ended in September 2014)	17,500	15,000
Syrian refugee children enrolled in remedial classes after school (ended in September 2014)	3,513	2,100
Total children supported in school year 2013/2014		
- Formal education	64,000	52,000
- Children with special needs	62	500

*Awaiting final data from MEHE

Needs

Refugee children need to continue their education in Lebanon after being uprooted from their homes and schools in Syria. Local public schools in Lebanon do not currently have the capacity and resources to accommodate the large increase in the number of school-aged children. The Ministry of Education launched the R.A.C.E. initiative to enhance resources and build capacity of schools to receive these children. While exact numbers are not available, it is estimated that more than 50% of Syrian refugee children aged 5 to 17 are excluded from any form of education (some children might be enrolled in private and Syrian schools). Among these, adolescents are the most affected, due to discontinuity in schooling and inability to catch up in class, high drop-out rates and widespread pressure to financially support their families.

Challenges

Based on assessments and profiling of out-of-school children, Syrian children face the following obstacles to learning: financial difficulties compelling families to recourse to child labour, differences between the Lebanese and Syrian curriculum, language barriers, lack of school readiness, lack of transportation to schools, and other incurred costs such as uniforms. Access to education and inclusion for children with specific needs remains a challenge. Assessments highlight the importance of mobilizing and building awareness among parents to overcome some of these difficulties. Several means are used to ensure refugees receive appropriate and timely information on education opportunities, thanks to SMS, public information campaigns on the radio, dissemination of information in community centres, registration centres and through Refugee Outreach Volunteers.

Ensuring that the quality of education is not compromised by expanding access to education is both a challenge and a priority. Overstretched school resources not only negatively affect learning outcomes; they also have the potential to fuel discriminatory attitudes, frustration and occasional violence. To help mitigate these tensions, UNHCR and partners distribute school materials and equipment to all students, both Syrians and Lebanese. The Government plan R.A.C.E. also calls for support to improve teacher training and learning environments.

Monitoring school retention rates and learning outcomes for both refugee and Lebanese children remains a key challenge for 2014-2015. Real-time monitoring of attendance will help inform response measures to prevent drop-out and sustain learning progress. System strengthening, especially with the Department of Counselling and Guidance, is also planned with the support of UNICEF.

Strategy

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

- **Formal Education**

Support resources mobilization for the Ministry of Education to ensure quality access to first and second shift schooling for refugee children, provide access to secondary and vocational education, create space for children in the public system and build social cohesion in and around schools. Scholarships for higher education are also provided.

- **Non-Formal Education**

Increase other educational opportunities for school-aged children including through better identification of out-of-school children, Accelerated Learning Programmes (ALP) and other ways to prepare children for access to certified and quality education.

- **Support to the Ministry of Education**

The Ministry of Education launched the three year strategy, *Reaching All Children with Education in Lebanon (R.A.C.E.)* in May 2014 aiming to enrol more than 400,000 children in education by 2016. UNHCR supports the initiative through coordination, secondment of staff to central and regional offices to ensure information-management and monitoring, and provides equipment and material support to schools and regional offices.



Refugee child enrolled in a Non Formal Education programme in Beirut @UNHCR/R.Vicentini

UNHCR implementing partners

Agence d'aide à la Coopération Technique et au Développement (ACTED), Caritas Lebanon Migrant Center (CLMC), Cooperative Housing Foundation (CHF), Lebanese Popular Association for Popular Action (AMEL), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Save the Children (SCI), Terre des Hommes (TdH), War Child Holland (WCH)

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