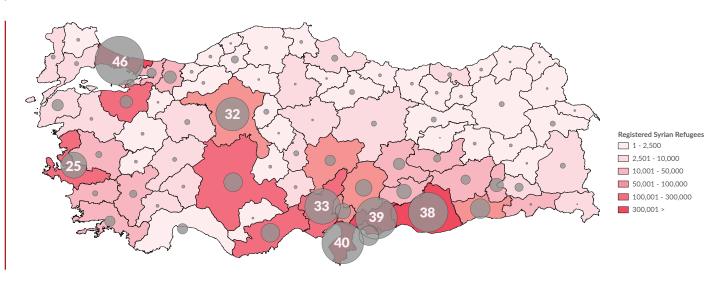
# **TURKEY EDUCATION SECTOR** Q4 January - December 2017





## **COUNTRY COVERAGE:** NUMBER OF REGISTERED SYRIAN REFUGEES AND NUMBER OF EDUCATION INTERVENTIONS BY PROVINCE



#### **ENHANCING ACCESS TO EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES**

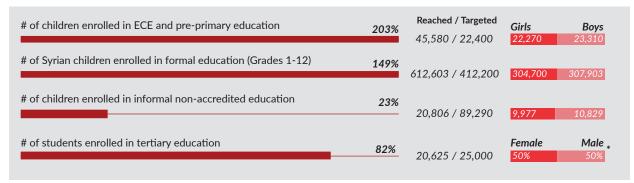
As of the end of 2017, more than 600,000 children were enrolled in formal schooling, representing a gross enrolment rate of 61.8% for Syrian children. Since 2015 the number of children enrolled has risen steadily, with increasing numbers of children enrolled in Turkish public schools. By December 2017 almost 60% of those enrolled were attending Turkish public schools. In spite of the good progress made in providing access to education, around 350,000 children and adolescents remain out of school. High school enrolment (Grades 9-12) remains low and enrolment rates have not increased at the same rate as enrolment in the primary grades.

The extension of the national Conditional Cash Transfer for Education (CCTE) programme to vulnerable Syrian children under temporary protection and other refugee children was a significant development in 2017 that aims at addressing economic barriers to educational participation. The programme incentivises the school attendance of older girls to ensure retention. As payments are conditional on regular school attendance the programme also aims to support students' learning retention.

The Government of Turkey has continued to waive tuition fees for Syrian students studying at state universities. The number enrolled in higher education continued to rise in 2017. The Higher Education Preparation Programme, offered in partnership with the Presidency for Turks Abroad and Related Communities, expanded in 2017 to just over 6,000 students. This programme assists high school graduates to meet the language proficiency requirements for entry into Turkish universities. The number of scholarships provided to students also increased during 2017.

NGOs that have signed protocols with the Ministry of National Education have started to provide Turkish language classes and vocational skills building courses. These informal and non-formal education programmes help prepare children and adolescents for entry into Turkish schools and also offer courses for adults.

### INCREASING ACCESS TO EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES (RESULTS ACHIEVED)



No gender disaggregation provided\*

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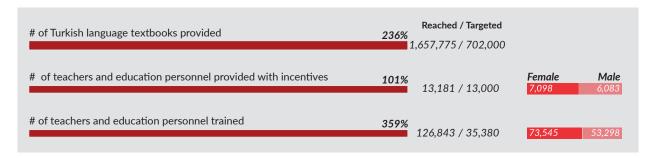


## **PROGRESS AGAINST 3RP TARGETS**

A number of activities were undertaken in 2017 to enhance the quality of educational opportunities available to Syrian refugee children. In order to prepare children for the transition to public schools and to enhance their ability to learn in Turkish and interact with their Turkish peers, more than 1.5 million Turkish language textbooks were provided by 3RP partners. These textbooks allow for the delivery of a graded language learning programme from basic to more advanced

Professional development systems for Syrian and Turkish education personnel were strengthened. More than 18,000 Syrian volunteer teachers and trainers received training on inclusive education pedagogy and relevant knowledge and skills and 37,023 Turkish teachers were trained enhancing their capacity to support Syrian children in Turkish public schools through promoting social cohesion and supporting learners' academic and psychosocial needs.

# ENHANCING THE QUALITY OF EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES (RESULTS ACHIEVED)



#### **PROGRESS ACHIEVED IN ACTIVITIES**



#### **SYSTEM STRENGTHENING**

MoNE's Information Management Systems are being more effectively used to generate data on student attendance. YOBIS was integrated within the national social assistance database to facilitate the implementation of the CCTE programme. Necessary preparations were made to ensure 12th grade students studying at TECs receive an equivalency certificate for their learning achievements and a total of 8,000 Syrian 12th graders took the Open High School exam.\* Students who pass the exam obtain a Turkish high school certificate which is recognized by state institutions in Turkey and abroad. An Early Childhood Education (ECE) regulation for alternative ECE models is being revised. Syrian university students enrolled in state universities continue to benefit from a tuition fee waiver supported by the Turkish government.

<sup>\*</sup>The Open High School Exam provides an opportunity for students who attended TECs to obtain the Grade 12 completion certificate issued by the MoNE that is equivalent to the diploma awarded to Turkish students in the national system and is internationally recognized.

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# **UNMET NEEDS AND GAPS IN THE RESPONSE**

More information is needed on the profiles of out-of-school children (OoSC) and adolescents. In 2018, 3RP partners will develop a profiling tool to gather additional information on OoSC. The education working group will also develop referral pathways to different types of educational programmes based on needs and educational experiences.

Given the number of out-of-school children, there is a need to scale-up relevant, accredited programmes that provide a wider range of relevant pathways to learning that support access and links to formal education, vocational training and life skills development for those who have missed several years of education. MoNE has developed an Accelerated Learning Programme (ALP) targeting 10-18 year old out of school adolescents, which will be implemented with 3RP partners.

Turkish public schools-particularly in areas with high concentrations of Syrians- are suffering from crowded classrooms and limited capacity. Likewise, limited spaces are available for ECE for both Syrian and vulnerable Turkish children. Making more resources available at school level is crucial for maintaining social cohesion in local commu-

Existing programmes in higher education need to be expanded as the current levels of provision are far lower than needs, as demonstrated by the fact that more than 8,000 high school graduates applied for higher education preparation programmes.