

Iraq

August 2022

Since the beginning of the Syrian crisis, the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) has been hosting more than 71,000 school-age Syrian refugee children. The KRI Ministry of Education (MoE) initially set-up and managed a parallel refugee education system, with a KRI curriculum and learning materials, taught in Arabic by Syrian refugee teachers. The Education Sector co-lead by UNICEF, Save the Children and UNHCR advocated for the integration of refugee children into the KRG public education system.



71,000

School-age Syrian refugee children live in KRI, 36,408 are enrolled in schools which are 51% of the refugee school-age children population



As a result, the Refugee Education Integration Policy (REIP) was devised through a collaborative engagement of all education partners. The MoE and the KRI Council of Ministers endorsed it in November 2021. The policy highlights the importance of integrating refugee children into the public education system to:

1. Minimize disruptive, costly, temporary measures necessary to sustain parallel schooling for refugee children only
2. Foster social cohesion between refugee and host communities
3. Facilitate streamlined capacity building for teachers and their fair distribution among schools
4. Facilitate school rehabilitation and construction to welcome new students and reduce overcrowding
5. Advance development and investment in refugee and host community areas alike.

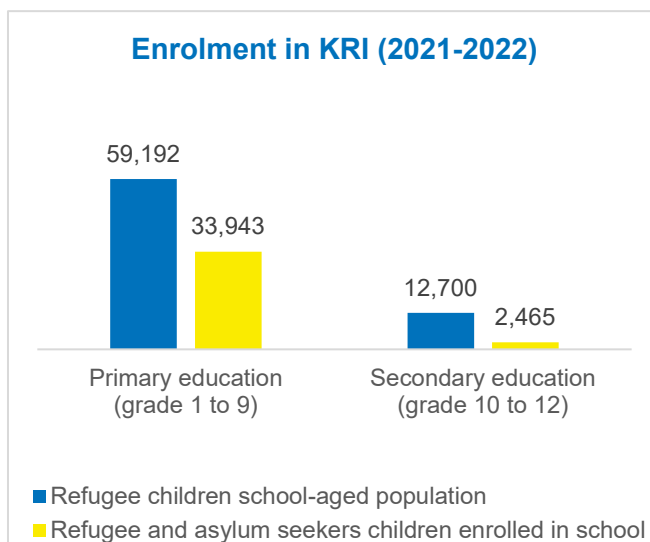
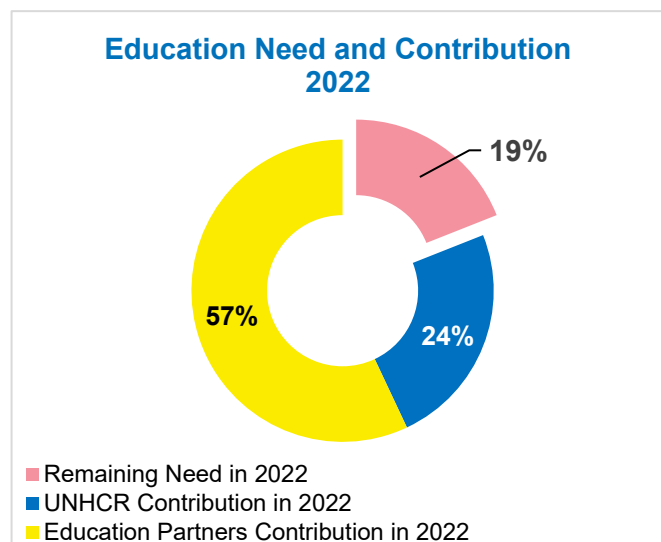
On 19 July 2022, the KRG MoE officially announced the launch of the REIP. Its first implementation phase in the academic year 2022/23 will target grades 1-4, i.e., 30,105 refugee children.

With the integration of refugee children into the public education system, the KRI authorities advance refugee protection and rights well as the Sustainable Development Goal 4, which recognizes that education is one of the most important ways *to build self-reliance and resilience for refugee and host community children and youth; foster social cohesion between refugee and host communities; and, mitigate child protection risks.*

With education partners, UNHCR supports the implementation of the REIP to **access to quality and inclusive education** for all refugee children in KRI. This includes equal and sustainable **access to formal and non-formal education** for refugee children, adolescents, and youth through **school construction and rehabilitation**; increased capacity of the education system through training for teachers, engagement of parents and provision of school materials; and, further investment in local communities that host refugees.



The estimated budgetary requirement for the implementation of REIP stands at ~10M (USD) for the first-year implementation, while an overall budget of ~18M (USD) is required for the three years of REIP implementation (2022 to 2024). The education partners committed to a total of USD ~5,5M to support the implementation of REIP (2022-2023 academic year) in camps and urban settings. UNHCR committed USD ~2,4M including school construction, rehabilitation, and expansion of classrooms; and language classes (for teachers, children, and parents), catch-up and remedial classes, communication with the community (CwC), support to outreach volunteers.



Overall needs and contribution for the implementation of the REIP for 2022

Contribution Category	Needs Overall Cost for 2022 (USD)	UNHCR Contribution (USD)	Education Partners Contribution (USD)
Infrastructure (School Construction, rehabilitation, classroom extension, WASH facilities, school playgrounds)	5,382,000	1,978,000	2,754,000
Other activities language classes, catch-up classes, CwC.	4,522,500	419,483	2,881,510
Total	9,904,500	2,397,483	5,635,510