



55,584 Syrian children registered with UNHCR Egypt

SEPTEMBER HIGHLIGHTS:

- Capacity building programme targeting public schools attended by Syrian refugee students continued in partnership with the Ministry of Education, through school construction and renovation projects. During the reporting period, 26 classrooms in two schools were handed over, refurbished and now fully operational.
- UNICEF's inclusion programme reached 16 public schools with supplies and renovation and 50 Kindergarten were established and operating with both Syrian refugees and Egyptian students included. This will reduce the overall density in the classroom and will make the school a more welcoming place for both refugee and Egyptian children.
- Care International assisted some 10,000 students both Syrians and Egyptians, in 28 public schools with back to school kits including stationary, books, school bags.
- Save the Children, also, distributed 800 back to school kits for Syrian students. In addition, Save the Children conducted screening event in Oubor city in the existing community schools which targeted 1,000 students. The screening included sight, hearing and anemia carried out in order to examine the effect of such conditions on students learning abilities and achievements. Students who were found to have defects in their sight or hearing senses were provided with appropriate devices.
- Catholic Relief Services (CRS), finalized the disbursement of the first instalment of the education grant, which benefitted 7,277 students. CRS also started registering Syrians for the 2nd instalment. For those refugee households who missed the 1st instalment, they are being registered as late comers' and will be paid subject to availability of funding. The grants were distributed in three locations Cairo, Alexandria and Marsa Matrouh (near the Libyan Borders). Moreover, 26 students received the special needs grants and 346 individuals received additional financial assistance after their assessment of needs found them to be eligible for the Vulnerable Cases (VC) assistance.
- During October, an evaluation of service provided to refugees receiving the education grants was conducted in three locations Cairo, Alexandria and Marsa Matrouh. The evaluation surveyed 96 households, 6 focus group discussions (3 males and 3 Females) across the 3 governorates, and 12 in depth interviews with vulnerable and special needs' cases across all three governorates. The results showed that only 18% of applicants received the education grant for the first time in 2015, while the rest of Syrian refugee applicants had received the grant at least once before. This means that they have been living in Egypt, at least, for the past two or three academic years and their resources have diminished thus needing more assistance to be able to meet the cost of their children's education.
- During the reporting period UNHCR interviewed over 65 Syrian refugee students for the DAFI scholarship. 20 Syrian students (9 females and 11 males). The students were registered in wide range of academic faculties including Faculty of Engineering, Medicine, Mass communication, Economics, Translation and Foreign languages, pharmacy and Commerce. By the end of November, an orientation session is expected to take place to familiarize the new DAFI Scholars with the rules and regulations applicable to DAFI scholarship beneficiaries.



Syrian refugee children take part in classes at the private community school, 6th of October, Cairo, Egypt. S.Nelson/UNHCR

Key Figures:

Planned Sector Response:



NEEDS ANALYSIS:

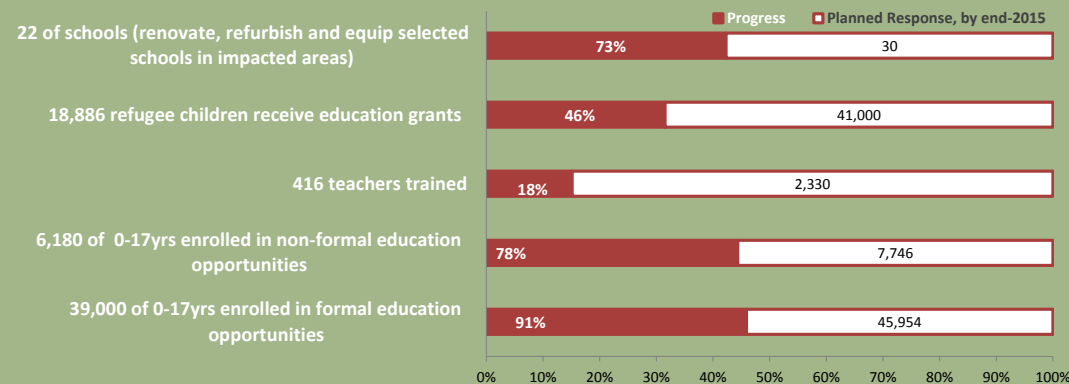
The Egyptian Government granted Syrians access to public schools under same rules that apply to Egyptian nationals. In practice several challenges have arisen when Syrian families attempted to enrol their children in public schools most importantly the required documentation, overcrowding and safety concerns inside and outside of school. The lack of capacity and quality of the environment in public schools remains a significant barrier to the enrolment and retention of Syrian children.

A key objective of the Education Sector is to promote and facilitate access to primary education through addressing those challenges Syrians face. Efforts are made to support national education systems to accommodate refugee children, including through support to teachers inside classrooms. Education is also an entry point to provide child-centred support and a mechanism to address the scars of war affecting those traumatized children and adolescents.

In order to enhance access to education for the most vulnerable boys and girls, around 100 disabled Syrian children will be supported in specialized private schools, as no public Egyptian schools currently have appropriate model of education and care required. These children will receive special education grants to cover the special needs school fees and their transportation needs. The education response plan is based on the assumption that the current Government policy under which Syrian students have access to public schools will be continued.

Based on the needs assessment conducted in December of 2014 by Ministry of Education (MoE) through their General Authority for Educational Buildings (GAEB), and the assessment planned by Save the Children International in early 2015. UNHCR and UNICEF will provide support to improve and rehabilitate schools in most impacted areas by Syrian refugee crisis. Mapping of government schools most frequented by Syrian children has already been concluded, and a report by the GAEB has been compiled listing the needs and work required to enhance the absorption capacity of the most affected schools in impacted areas. This report will continue to inform the dialogue with the Ministry. Around 62,000 children aged six to 17 from host communities should directly benefit from the planned school rehabilitation programme. Once implemented in 2015, it will also include a component to address the gender-sensitive learning environment in 50 basic and secondary schools. The Education Working Group continue to promote effective coordination through quality information management and a continuous collaboration with other sectors such as protection, health and water, sanitation and hygiene.

REGIONAL RESPONSE INDICATORS: OCTOBER 2015



Foot note: Education grants for 2014/2015 academic year have been disseminated under RRP6.