

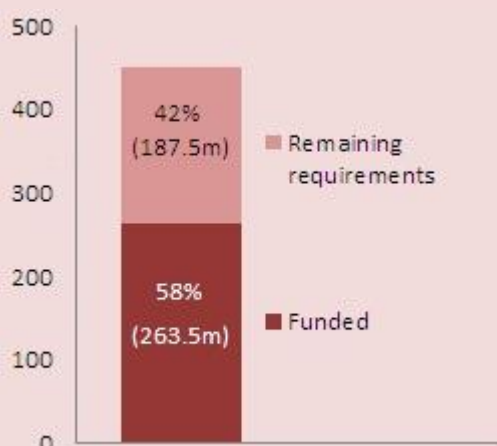
Key Figures

395,761 School aged Syrian refugee children (5-17 years old) currently registered or awaiting registration with UNHCR

90,000 Syrian refugee children enrolled in public schools in 2013/2014 (5 – 17 years old), both first and second shift.

Funding

UNHCR total requirements: USD **451 m**



September developments

- Accelerated learning programmes are being completed. Catch-up programmes in public schools ended on 22 September at the Ministry's request allowing the formal school year to start.
- In line with the Government strategic plan R.A.C.E. (Reaching All Children with Education) UNHCR is ready to support the enrolment of 10,000 children in the first shift and 32,000 in second shift as well as supporting improvements in the quality of education along with its partners.
- The Ministry has adopted a gradual approach, opening enrolment first for Lebanese children, and then for non-Lebanese students who had been registered in public schools for at least three years. The Ministry however announced a major shift of policy to open enrolment for up to 100,000 children in the first shift (until 1st November) and 57,000 in the second shift (modalities for this second shift are still awaited).
- Outreach and monitoring with refugee parents is on-going to ensure information on enrolment in schools is disseminated to parents.
- 60 refugees will benefit from DAFI, a UNHCR global scholarship programme for selected candidates to start or resume their tertiary education in Lebanese universities. The scholarships will cover registration fees and subsistence allowance costs enabling young motivated refugees to achieve academic success while being of inspiration for their community fellows.

Achievements: January - September

| Activity | Reached January-September | 2014 Target |
|---|---------------------------|-------------|
| Total number of children supported for primary education in the "first shift" (school year 2014/2015) | 0* | 15,000 |
| Syrian refugee children supported for primary education in the "second shift" (school year 2014/2015) | 0* | 32,000 |
| Syrian refugee children enrolled in accelerated learning programmes | 17,500 | 15,000 |
| Syrian refugee children enrolled in remedial classes after school | 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 Ministry's decision to start enrolling refugee children

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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, and UNHCR's 70 education refugee outreach volunteers play a critical role in this respect.

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 would 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.



UNHCR implementing partners

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).