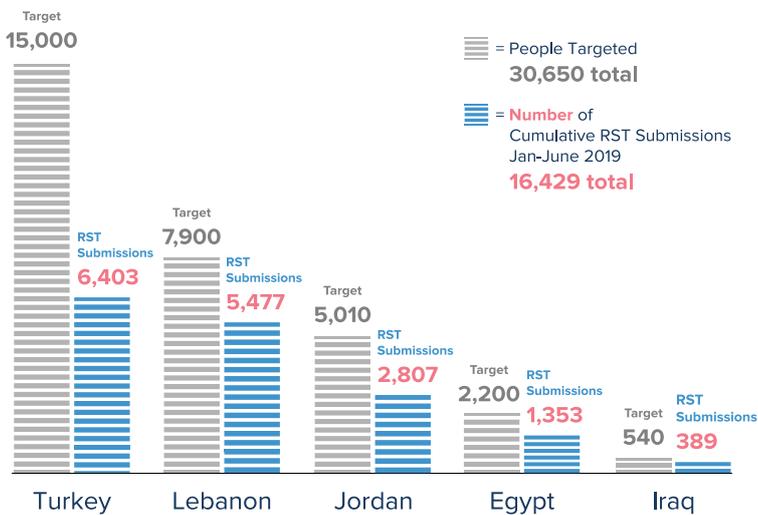


Update: Durable Solutions for Syrian Refugees

The July/August 2019 update on durable solutions for Syrian refugees provides a figures and trends update at the mid-way point of 2019. The issue also focuses on local solutions and opportunities in the 3RP countries, looking particularly at progress and challenges related to the Education, Livelihoods, and Health sectors.

Resettlement and Return Figures

Resettlement Targets and Submissions Jan - June 2019

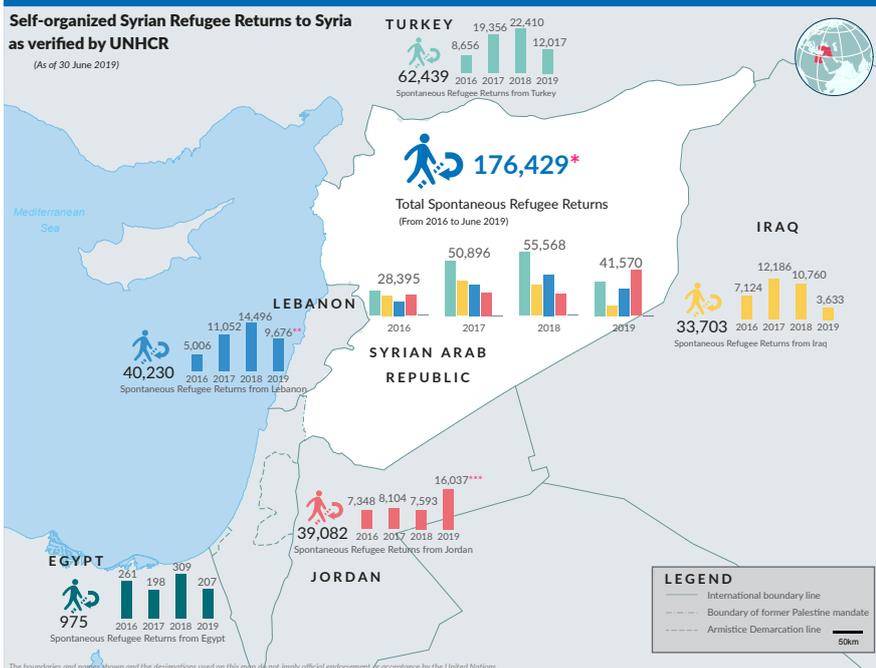


Resettlement Needs

10% of Syrian refugees are in need of resettlement and meet resettlement criteria

0.5% of Syrian refugees will be submitted for resettlement (only one in 20 of those in need) (total 27,277 submissions in 2018)

Self-Organized Syrian refugee returns as verified by UNHCR* as of 30 June 2019



50,896
Refugee returns in 2017

55,568
Refugee returns in 2018

41,570
Refugee returns so far in 2019

* The numbers reported are only those monitored/verified by UNHCR and do not reflect the entire returns.

** These figures include only those verified by UNHCR. General Security reported additional figures from their group returns and these total 484 individuals were not known to UNHCR.

*** The figures following the re-opening of the border in October 2018 are tentative. UNHCR identifies returns based on departure lists regularly obtained from the Government.

data: https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/syria_durable_solutions

Local Solutions and Opportunities

The protracted nature of the Syria refugee crisis urges for durable solutions in order for refugees to look to the future with hope and dignity. The comprehensive protection and solutions approach seeks to: support host country resilience; ensure planning and support for voluntary, safe and dignified return; expand access to resettlement and other safe (complementary) pathways to a third country, and; expand and promote local solutions and sustained refugee protection, including access to basic social services, well-being and self reliance.

Local solutions and opportunities constitute a crucial form of protection which provide refugees with sustainable opportunities that would mitigate the need to resort to harmful coping mechanisms. As mentioned in the [3RP 2019/20](#), this can include providing livelihood support for refugees, which would mitigate the need to consider irregular movements to third countries, and bridging the gap between refugees' skills and local market demands through supportive legal frameworks and more certification and recertification opportunities for recognizing education and skills.

[The Global Compact on Refugees](#) provides that “States and relevant stakeholders will contribute resources and expertise, including technical guidance on legal and institutional frameworks that foster the peaceful and productive inclusion of refugees and the well-being of local communities, and to address issues such as documentation and residence permits”.

However, the implementation of local solutions and opportunities is often limited by legal, economic, social and cultural barriers. The political sensitivities related to this critical solution vary from country to country and are linked to context-specific challenges and opportunities. In fact, currently, local integration of Syrian refugees is not a viable durable solution in the region on a large scale or at all in certain countries.

Despite the limitations, a number of positive developments occurred over the past years. The below focuses on those achievements, and remaining challenges, in relation to Education, Livelihoods and Health.

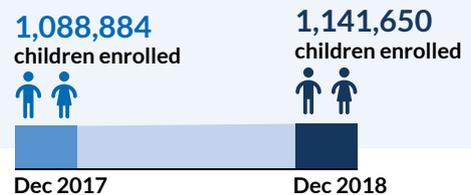
Education

EDUCATION – PROGRESS

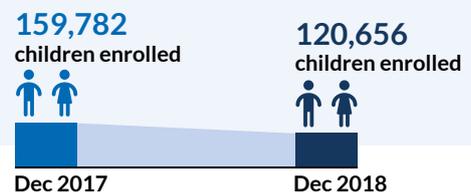
- As of December 2018, there were 2,064,069 refugee children and youth from Syria in the 3RP countries (Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt), compared to 1,947,429 in December 2017. The number of school-age Syrian children enrolled in formal education increased from 1,088,884 in December 2017 to 1,141,650 in December 2018, while those enrolled in regulated non-formal education decreased from 159,782 in December 2017 to 120,656 a year later.
- The enrolment rates of children in basic education (6-14) are around 60 per cent or higher.
- Across four host countries – Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq – refugee university enrolment reached 5 per cent, well above the global refugee average (1 per cent). The cumulative number of scholarships provided by multiple providers expanded from 9,639 in 2017 to 11,970 in 2018, a 21 per cent increase.

- In the five host countries, the Gender Parity Indices of formal school enrolment are all around 1.05, meaning that a refugee girl is 5 per cent more likely to be enrolled than a refugee boy.

Syrian children enrolled in formal education

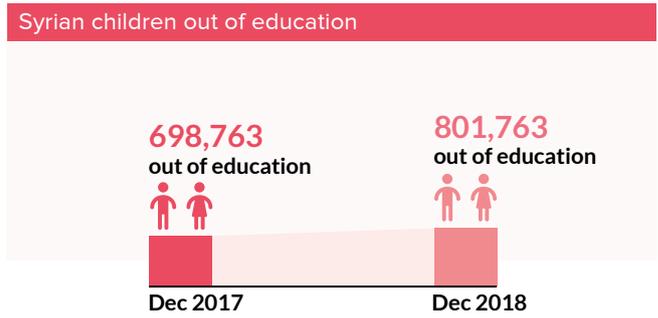


Syrian children enrolled in regulated non-formal education



EDUCATION – GAPS

- 801,763 (39 per cent) school-age Syrian refugee children are out of both formal and regulated non-formal education in 2018 compared to 698,763 (36 per cent) in 2017.
- The enrolment rates of children in secondary level is under 25 per cent in all host countries, except Egypt.



Livelihoods

LIVELIHOODS – PROGRESS

- Since 2016, livelihoods opportunities improved significantly for refugees in the region. Of particular note were strides in Turkey and Jordan following the 2016 Supporting Syria and the Region Conference in London and the agreed burden sharing efforts by the international community. At the London Conference, a joint commitment was made to create 1.1 million jobs for Syrians and their host communities. Additionally, the London Conference saw:
 - over US\$12 billion in pledges by the international community to finance employment creation through conditional financing and to provide access to external markets;
 - host countries committing to open labor markets, in particular in Jordan and Turkey, which led to formalized employment of refugees;
 - the private sector committing to provide new investments and to strengthen business and employment opportunities for refugees and host communities.

These commitments were further expanded in the subsequent Brussels Conferences.

- Since the London Conference, and subsequent Syria conferences in Brussels, in Jordan over 146,000 work permits have been given to refugees. In Turkey, thanks to EU conditional funding, over 80,000 Syrian refugees have been granted work permits since 2016. Syrian entrepreneurs have so far set up over 7,000 formalized enterprises and by end of 2018 had invested over US\$ 400 million in Turkey.
- Numerous training, job matching, skills building and business developments projects have been supported by 3RP partners, including providing support for 133,340 individuals to access employment in 2018.
- Private sector partners have been at the forefront of economic inclusion of refugees in the region understanding that refugees are people with assets and can contribute to their work force.



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3RP partners supported **133,340** individuals to access employment in 2018.



LIVELIHOODS – GAPS

- Female labor force participation remains very low across the region, with Syrian refugee women disproportionately affected. Contributory factors include the lack of an enabling environment and childcare, and gender and societal norms.
- Access to finance remains a major challenge, be it access to loans for enterprise development, seed money for start-ups, or microfinance. Additionally, there are restrictions placed on refugees opening bank accounts, which makes it much more difficult for refugees to obtain loans, remittances or maintain savings.
- Throughout the MENA region, refugees are mostly limited to working in low-skilled and/or temporary/short-term jobs to prevent competition with high-skilled nationals. As a result, refugees are often unable to work to their full potential. Medical care professionals, engineers and others have for many years been largely unable to practice their profession in countries of asylum.
- Despite the availability of new technologies and opportunities for regional and global remote working opportunities, such as in coding, translating services and others, these sectors remain closed for most refugees.

Health

HEALTH – PROGRESS

- In Egypt, Iraq and Turkey, Syrian refugees have access to public health services on equal footing with nationals.
- Best practices include programmes for the mainstreaming of refugees into national primary healthcare services. These programmes' main objectives are to improve the quality of primary healthcare services in public facilities in areas of high refugee concentrations, and to enhance access to these facilities through community mobilization activities within the refugee and host populations.

HEALTH – GAPS

- In some countries, namely Lebanon and Jordan, access to health services remains extremely challenging for many refugees due to the cost of medical fees, particularly when it comes to hospitalization. While further resources continue to be required, in Lebanon, UNHCR reimburses contracted hospitals for 75% of the costs of emergency life-saving services for refugees. IMC and UNHCR also subsidize primary health care services so that costs for refugees are minimized.
- Despite considerable assistance provided by the humanitarian community to support national health systems and promote quality of care, in some countries the health sectors face increasing challenges to secure needed funds.

Conclusion

Local solutions and opportunities are a key pillar of the Comprehensive Protection and Solutions Strategy and approach. Despite some progress, the pursuit of local solutions and opportunities remains a complex endeavor in consideration of social, economic, and legal opportunities. Long-term investment, significant donor support, and a specific and country-contextualized approach are essential.

Contact: For further information, please contact hepps@unhcr.org

Further Information: http://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/syria_durable_solutions