

With the start of the new academic year campaigns promoting access to education launched

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS:

With the reopening of schools in September, children throughout the region both in camp and public schools started the new academic year 2015/2016, and education partners launched campaigns aimed at drawing more children to schools, expanding formal education absorption capacity and quality improvements in the delivery of formal education.

In Lebanon, the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE), with the support of education partners, launched the 'Back to School' campaign for 2015/2016 which will ensure that certified formal education is provided for free for all children from Kindergarten to Grade 9 in public schools across Lebanon. The MEHE has also waived the requirement for refugee children to present a valid residency permit to enrol. The initiative aims to reach a total of 366,667 children (166,667 Lebanese and 200,000 non-Lebanese vulnerable children).

A similar campaign was launched in Jordan, where educational partners started the 'Learning for All' campaign which aimed to ensure that families were provided with the needed information for accessing a seat in schools for their children. Children, parents and community members collaborated to develop key messages which were used in the campaign, which centred on promoting the continuation and retention of students in the formal education system and increasing access to alternative education options for children who are on the waitlist for formal education.

In Iraq, the 'Back to school' campaign which started in August continued during the month of September with the implementation of a number of promotional activities to encourage government and other stakeholders to support access to education for refugee children. A television promo informed Syrian families about the decision of the Ministry of Education to allow Syrian refugee children to register in primary grades of local Kurdish schools.

In Egypt, the first instalment of education grants were paid to 3,476 families with 7,251 school age children in both Cairo and Damietta. Thirty three families with 39 disabled children were paid an enhanced education grant.

NEEDS ANALYSIS:

While education ministries in refugee hosting countries have generally welcomed Syrian children into their education systems, there is a profound strain on resources, leading to significant needs in terms of access and quality. Some 691,000 Syrian refugee children (50 per cent) are out of school.

There are a range of factors contributing to low enrolment and attendance rates, including policy and bureaucratic regulations, with many children required to take placement tests and provide documentation for school registration, which many families no longer have or are unable to obtain.

There are issues in the quality of education, including: new and different curricula; language of teaching; lack of appropriate infrastructure; teacher capacity; overcrowding; lack of certified education programmes; students with trauma and distress; and limited programmes to address lost years of schooling. Targeted education interventions are needed to address the risks of negative coping behaviours.



Children return back from school in Akre camp. UNHCR/ V. Ameen

Sector Response Summary:



1,414,255 Refugees & Local Community Members targeted for assistance by end-2015
800,176 assisted in 2015



Syrian Refugees in the Region:



4,270,000 Syrian Refugees expected by end-2015
4,047,013 currently registered or awaiting registration



Education Sector Funding Status:



USD 440 million required in 2015 (Agencies)
USD 252 million received in 2015



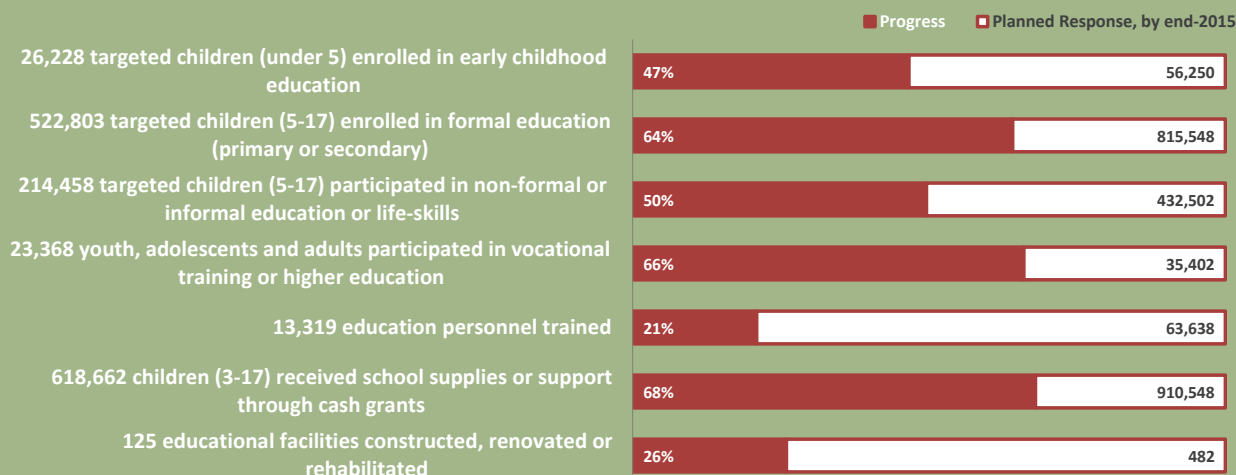
NEW INITIATIVE LAUNCHED TO FACILITATE ACCESS TO SECONDARY EDUCATION FOR YOUTH IN JORDAN AND LEBANON

To facilitate access to secondary education for youth affected by the Syrian crisis, a new initiative *Enhancing Access to Secondary Education and Quality Results for Youth Affected by the Syria Crisis (EASE)* has been launched. The project also aims to improve the quality of education by developing the capacities of education authorities and schools to accommodate more students and to provide quality education services in Jordan and Lebanon.

In Lebanon, the project will facilitate the enrolment of around 1,500 students in secondary schools located in all governorates across the country. Students will benefit from direct support in the form of school registration fees and stationery, while around 35 schools will be provided with needed equipment. Education partners will work with the Centre of Educational Research and Development (CERD) to reinforce the capacities of a number of secondary schools, including training principals and teachers.

As part of this project in Jordan, UNESCO and the Queen Rania Teacher's Academy (QRTA) are working on creating an online teacher training course that will combine three important factors: technology, specialized content, and delivery of the Blended Approach to Teacher Training (BATT). UNESCO-QRTA's vision is to expand the BATT to reach a large number of teachers across disciplines and throughout country, expanding the knowledge base and teaching capacity of teachers. The project's design and implementation will be applied in two stages. The first stage will concentrate on developing and piloting a blended approach to the training course. The second stage will concentrate on scaling up the training to a large number of teachers across Jordan.

REGIONAL RESPONSE INDICATORS: JANUARY - SEPTEMBER 2015*



These dashboards reflect the achievements of the more than 200 partners, including governments, UN Agencies, and NGOs, involved in the 3RP response in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey. Progress and targets may change in line with data revisions. All data on this Dashboard is current as at 30 September 2015.

* Progress data not yet received for Turkey in September 2015.