

LEBANON/SYRIA SITUATION

EDUCATION MONTHLY UPDATE

July 2014

JULY DEVELOPMENTS

- UNHCR started rehabilitating 18 public schools following authorization from the Ministry for Education and Higher Education (MEHE).
- UNHCR is participating in an ambitious Government initiative, *Reaching All Children with Education (RACE)*, with the aim of enrolling over 430,000 Syrian children in school by 2016.
- MEHE discussed the findings of a UNHCR report on the second shift programme. It summarizes lessons learned from the academic year 2013-14, based on consultations with school directors, regional offices of the Ministry, implementing partners and UNHCR.
- UNHCR is working to ensure that Accelerated Learning Programmes (ALP) continue in alternative locations throughout summer as the use of public schools was put on hold by the Ministry. In August, UNHCR will resume supporting ALP and catch-up programmes in public schools supporting more than 15,000 children.

Needs

Uprooted from their homes and schools in Syria, refugee children need to continue their education in Lebanon. Local public schools in Lebanon do not have the capacity and resources to accommodate the large increase in the number of school-aged children. MEHE launched the RACE initiative to enhance resources and build capacity of schools to assimilate these children. While exact numbers are not available, it is estimated that more than 50% of Syrian refugee children aged 5 to 17 are out of any form of education (some children might be enrolled in private and Syrian schools). Among these, adolescents are particularly left out of any form of education due to the following factors: high drop-out rates; having missed several years of schooling; inability to catch up in class while many of them are under pressure to financially support their families.



Challenges

Based on assessments and profiling of out-of-school children, the following are barriers to learning for Syrian children: financial difficulties, differences between the Lebanese and Syrian curriculum, language barriers, lack of information, lack of transportation to access schools, other incurred costs such as uniforms, increasing incidence of child labour among older children and bullying and limited psychosocial support to help children with specific needs. The assessments highlight the importance of mobilizing and building awareness among parents as crucial to overcoming some of these challenges.

Ensuring access to quality education is difficult due to the pressure on school resources. This has sometimes led to discriminatory attitudes, frustration and occasional violence. UNHCR and its partners have distributed school material and equipment to all students, both Syrians and Lebanese and rehabilitated public schools to help mitigate these tensions. A lot needs to be done to ensure social cohesion in schools.

Inclusive approaches and access to education remain a challenge for children with specific needs. In addition, the role of the education outreach volunteers (70 currently being deployed by UNHCR) is pivotal for outreach.

Strategy

UNHCR has a three-fold strategy for education of school-aged children:

- **Formal Education**
Support resources mobilization for MEHE 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.
- **Non-Formal Education**
Increase other educational opportunities for school-aged children including through better identification of out-of-school children, provide Accelerated Learning Programmes (ALP) and other ways to prepare children for access to certified and quality education.
- **Support to the MEHE**
MEHE launched the three year strategy, *Reaching All Children with Education in Lebanon* in May 2014 that aims to enroll 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.

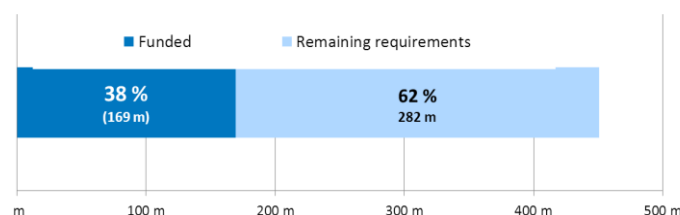
Achievements: January – July

Key figures

Activity	reached Jan- Jul	2014 Target
Total # of children supported for primary education in “regular shift” (school year 2013/14)	31,284	20,000
Syrian refugee children supported for primary education in “second shift” (school year 2013/14)	31,380	32,000
Children with special needs accessing education	62	500
Syrian refugee children enrolled in Accelerated Learning Programmes	15,129	15,000
Syrian refugee children enrolled in remedial classes after school	2,673	2,100
Total # of public schools rehabilitated (in progress)	18	25

- **377,000** 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)



UNHCR implementing partners

Lebanese Popular Association for Popular Action (AMEL), ACTED, Caritas Lebanon Migrant Center (CLMC), Cooperative Housing Foundation (CHF), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Save the Children (SCI), Terre des Hommes (TdH), War Child Holland (WCH).

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Links: Inter-agency Information Sharing: <http://data.unhcr.org/lebanon>

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