

Back to School Burden Eased by UNHCR



Education is a right, like the right to have proper food or a roof over your head. Article 26 of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that “everyone has the right to education”. Education is not only a right but a passport to human development by reducing poverty, promoting gender equality, reducing child and maternal mortality rates, helping to combat diseases such as HIV, malaria and other preventable diseases as well as fighting against discrimination.

The role of education even during conflicts is extremely important as it plays a critical role in normalizing the environment for children and contributes significantly to helping children overcome the psychological impact of the crisis. Equally important, education provides a protective environment for children, who are more vulnerable to exploitation and abuse in the wake of emergencies or armed conflict. However one of the obstacles to education for many refugee families are the extra costs involved, especially around this time of year in getting children back to school. In recognition of this, UNHCR proceeded this week with the distribution of Education Grants for refugee children to support their families in covering educational expenses. On 28 August grant was paid to the families in Damascus of 6,251 Iraqi children aged 6-18 and 2,905 Iraqi cases residing in all Syrian governorates. The grant for children in primary level aged 6-14 years was **15,000 SYP** per child and for children in secondary level aged 15-18 years old was **20,000 SYP** per child. A second round of payments for refugee children, asylum seekers and newly registered cases will be completed by the end of September.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Helps with back to school expenses
- UNHCR registers over 4000 Yazidis
- 11 million CRIs distributed

UNHCR Syria Mid-Year Report now available



Refworld:

<http://www.refworld.org/docid/53df49044.html>

Reliefweb:

<http://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/accessing-vulnerable-across-conflict-lines-unhcr-syria-mid-year-analysis>

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Influx of Iraqi Yazidis in the Hassakeh Governate Stabilizes

The massive influx of **95,000** Yazidis into Hassakeh after heavy attacks on the Sinjar district of Ninewa in Iraq has stabilized. Many of those (approximately 84,000) who entered Syria have departed using the Semalka border crossing allowing them to move to KRG. The rest are staying in the Nerwoz camp in Hassakeh and in Yazidi villages in the surrounding areas. UNHCR's response was immediate and extremely effective with tents, mattresses, blankets and kitchen sets amongst the items distributed immediately as well as organizing a large-scale airlift operation from Damascus to Qamishly transporting **2,000** tents for **10,000** people, 5,000 mattresses and **1,000** Core Relief Item (CRI) packs for 5,000 people as well as medical supplies from the WHO and Ministry of Health. CRIs have now been distributed to everyone in the camp. UNHCR has also concluded its identification exercise in the camp having registered **3,761** individuals and is now focusing on identification outside the camp concentrating initially on the Qahtania area, where the second largest Iraqi Yazidi reside. The total number of Yazidis registered with UNHCR to date is **4,123** individuals. In addition UNHCR continues to provide transportation to refugees at the camp to the Semalka border or Yazidi villages in Hassakeh. The transport service from the Yaroubia crossing to the Newroz camp has now been suspended due to the absence of needs. To date UNHCR has provided transport for 6,235 individuals.



UNHCR CRI Distributes passes 11 Million mark

On the 27 August the amount of CRIs distributed by UNHCR since the start of 2014 surpassed the **11 million** mark. As of the 09 September, **11,548,859** individual CRIs were distributed to a staggering **3,255,392** individuals, despite the many constraints such as the volatile security situation faced by staff daily and the lengthy bureaucratic procedures.

Colored Stones “Color It” in Old Homs -Homs

After the reconciliation in Old Homs, many Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) returned to their homes to find it either destroyed or damaged and in need of rehabilitation. A group of youth and art students from the area wanted to encourage families to return to their neighborhoods and to bring life back to it.



Therefore they started with the participation of the returnees painting and decorating the area walls with colored and peaceful paintings to improve the overall appearance of the area and to mitigate the stress that IDPs went through during war time. This community-based initiative was supported by UNHCR partner GOPA and it is still ongoing to cover many neighborhoods in Old Homs.

Thanks to Our Donors



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