

Key figures

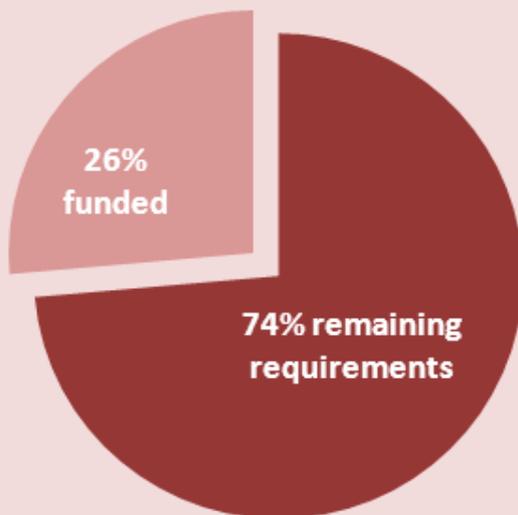
324,267 School aged Syrian refugee children (5-17 years old) currently registered or awaiting registration with UNHCR

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 2014:

USD 468 m



Education requirements: 54 m



Syrian refugee students at public school in Bekaa Valley@UNHCR/S. Baldwin

March developments

- Enrolment in afternoon shifts is now complete. Over 30,000 children are enrolled in the second shift that delivers a lighter, certified curriculum for Syrian students who were not able to enrol in the first shift.
- More than 6,600 children are now attending accelerated learning programmes that will help them prepare for enrolment in the next academic year.
- 70 education outreach volunteers have been hired this year to provide information and collect feedback on obstacles for refugee families in accessing educational opportunities.

Achievements: January - March

Activity	reached January- March	School year 2013/14 Target
Total children supported for primary education in the "first shift" (school year 2013/2014)	28,495	20,000
Syrian refugee children supported for primary education in the "second shift" (school year 2013/2014)	31,509	32,000
Children with special needs accessing education	62	500
Syrian refugee children enrolled in accelerated learning programmes	6,608	15,000
Syrian refugee children enrolled in remedial classes after school	1,954	2,100

Needs

Uprooted from their homes and schools in Syria, refugee children need to continue their education in Lebanon. Education is a key protection tool and prepares refugee children to lead healthy and productive lives. Local public schools in Lebanon lack both the capacity and resources to accommodate the large increase in the number of school-aged children. Despite the Ministry's efforts to expand capacity in schools to enroll almost 90,000 Syrian children and the availability of non-formal education, more than 50% of Syrian refugee children aged 5 to 17 are estimated to be out of any form of education (some children might be enrolled in private schools, but numbers are unknown). Adolescents are particularly left out of any form of education.

Challenges

Education assessments have highlighted a number of barriers to learning for Syrian students including: financial difficulties, differences between the Lebanese and Syrian curriculum, language barriers, accessibility of school, transportation and additional costs such as uniforms, as well as bullying and limited psycho-social interventions to help children in need of specific support.

For the 2013/14 school-year, the MEHE accommodates close to 90,000 refugee children in public schools. This includes more than 30,000 children supported by UNHCR in newly established second shifts to expand capacity. This second shift is expensive, but crucial in providing formal education opportunities for refugees. A lesson learnt exercise to inform planning of the next school year is on-going.

UNHCR supports more than 6,000 children in non-formal education to help them catch up and prepare their future integration in schools. Dedicated programmes and resources are needed to tackle specific issues related to language barriers. Older children and youth are also confronted with the prospect of child labor. The integration of these children in formal schooling leading to certification will require time, increased capacity and creative solutions. In depth profiling of children out-of-school is needed. The role of the education outreach volunteers currently being deployed by UNHCR will be pivotal.

Ensuring access to quality education in a safe environment is difficult due to the pressure on school resources. This may lead to discriminatory attitudes, building frustration and occasional violence. Holistic provision of equipment as the distribution of scholastic materials by UNHCR and partners helped mitigate this. However, more is to be done to ensure social cohesion in schools. Inclusive approaches and access to education remain challenging for children with specific needs.

Strategy

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

- **Formal Education:** ensuring access for refugee children through payment of tuition fees; supporting access to secondary and vocational education; supporting creation of space for children in the public system and supporting social cohesion in and around schools.
- **Non-Formal Education:** increasing other educational opportunities for school-aged children including through better identification of out-of-school children, provision of Accelerated Learning Programs and other ways to prepare children for access to certified and quality education.
- **Support to the MEHE:** providing coordination support, secondment of staff to central and regional offices to ensure information-management and monitoring, as well as providing equipment and material support to schools and regional offices.

UNHCR implementing partners

Amel Association – 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).