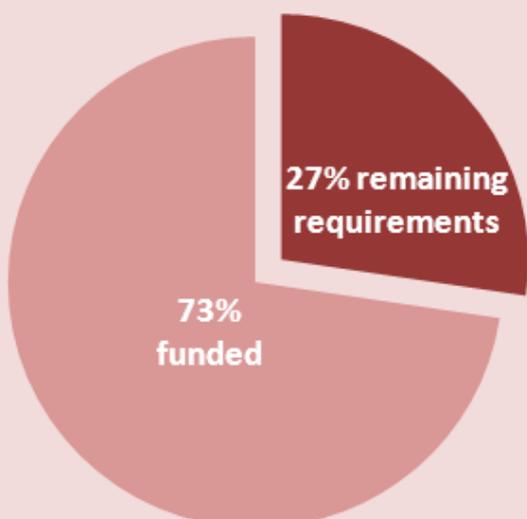


Key figures

280,000	School aged Syrian refugee children (5-17 years old) currently registered or awaiting registration with UNHCR
75,000	Syrian refugee children enrolling in public schools in 2013/2014 (5 – 17 years old)

Funding

UNHCR education requirements: **37.5 m**



Syrian and Lebanese children in a school in Aarsal, Bekaa @ UNHCR

December developments

- At the end of the month, the Ministry for Education and Higher Education (MEHE) has opened “second shifts” for students in 55 out of 87 schools planned for the 2013-2014 school year. These “second shifts” will provide 32,000 refugee children on waiting list with accredited primary education following the Lebanese curriculum.
- UNHCR continued the distribution of education materials (school-in-a-box) to 400 schools (3,670 classrooms) supporting 146,800 children and 7,340 teachers with basic school supplies.
- Together with UNESCO, UNHCR hosted a two-day regional conference on providing quality education for Syrian refugees. Discussions focused on developing immediate and long-term regional responses including innovative and holistic solutions. Participants included members of Ministries from Lebanon, Egypt, Turkey, Iraq, Jordan and Syria, NGOs, donors, education and research institutes and education experts.

Achievements: January - December

Activity	January - December	2013 Target
Syrian refugee children supported for primary education in the “first shift” (school year 2013/2014)	20,460	20,000
Syrian refugee children supported for primary education in the “second shift” (school year 2013/2014)	32,000	32,000
Syrian refugee children receiving accelerated learning programmes	7,318	15,000
Children receiving after school support	3,521	15,000
Children with special needs accessing education	62	200
Schools running “second shifts”	55	87

Needs

Uprooted from their homes and schools in Syria, refugee children need the opportunity to continue their education in Lebanon. However, local public schools in Lebanon lack both the capacity and resources to accommodate the large increase in school-aged children. Despite ministry's efforts to ensure capacity in schools to enroll 75,000 refugee children in public schools, 43,000 in the morning shift and 32,000 in the afternoon shift approximately 73 % of Syrian refugee children aged 5 to 17 are estimated to be out of formal education and in need of other education services.

Challenges

Public schools cannot absorb the increasing number of refugee children:

- At end of the 2012-2013 school year the public school system catered for 250,000 Lebanese students, 43,000 Syrian students (10,000 Syrian children who were in Lebanon before the Syrian conflict and 33,000 refugee children) as well as 7,000 students of other nationalities.
- For the 2013-2014 school year, the MEHE will accommodate some 75,000 refugee children in public schools. The 43,000 refugee children who enrolled in 2012/2013 will continue their education during regular school hours. In addition, UNHCR will support more than 32,000 additional children in 87 "second shift" afternoon classes.
- 7,318 children are attending Accelerated Learning Program with the aim to be enrolled in the second shift for the 2013/14 school-year.
- Despite these efforts, additional educational resources need to be put in place throughout the country to respond to both immediate and longer-term educational needs of 205,000 school-aged refugee children, all of whom should have access to age-appropriate education.

Special needs of Syrian refugee children:

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

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 and creating space for children in the public system through school rehabilitation and "second shifts"
- **Non-Formal Education:** increasing other educational opportunities, for school-aged children including Accelerated Learning Programs and community-based education programmes.
- **Support to the MEHE:** providing coordination support, the secondment of staff to central and regional offices to ensure good coordination and timely information-sharing and follow-up on student retention, as well as providing equipment and material support to schools and regional offices.

Special programmes will be designed and supported to reach children with special needs, vulnerable populations and those needing vocational and technical education.

UNHCR implementing partners

Amel Association – Lebanese Popular Association for Popular Action (AMEL), 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).