

Background

As the Syrian conflict heads towards a fifth year, the impact of the crisis on neighbouring countries continues to deepen. Jordan hosts over 620,000 vulnerable Syrian refugees, more than half of them children and one in five under the age of five. Jordan has a population of six million people and the estimated Syrian refugee population constitutes an additional 12 per cent to this population. This results in additional pressure on Jordan's scarce resources and national institutions limited capacity to deliver social services such as education.

Tensions between the refugee and host communities are increasing, calling for a strong support to national institutions and communities hosting refugee populations, in order to foster peaceful coexistence, increase the protection space and maintain stability in the country. Host communities need to be integrated in humanitarian response interventions, especially in the field of education.

Needs analysis



An estimated 40% of Syrian refugee children, both boys and girls, living inside camps and in urban areas, are not attending school. For the school year 2014/2015 as of December, the enrolment rate of Syrian children in the Jordanian education system is 130,000 children, which associated to 30,000 children attending informal education classes, leaves 60,000 children totally out of any form of learning.

Among the many reasons for this lack of school attendance are: The lack of school spaces (resulting in waiting lists and crowded classrooms) and shortages in teachers and textbooks; the lack of financial ability, the time spent out of schools (resulting in children behind in the curriculum having difficulty integrating into an age-appropriate Jordanian classroom, without significant additional catch-up support); the distance from/to school and other children's various concerns and experiences (anxiety about leaving home, experiencing violence on route to school, obligations to earn money for the family, etc.); children with physical, mental and sensory disability requiring special education; child labour (extensive for both boys and girls, but especially for young boys, one in ten refugee boys and girls -30,000- are estimated to be working) as well as early marriage.

Out of 220,000 school age Syrian refugee children in Jordan: **1 out of 10 School-aged children is Syrian** **130,000 are enrolled (2014/2015)** **30,000 children accessing various forms of informal** **60,000 children either have no (or very limited) access to learning**

In Za'atari and Azraq camps: 34,481 school-aged children, with 23,227 enrolled (67%) and 4,900 children attending informal education, leaving 6,354 out of school

Needs for adolescent boys and girls remain a clear gap, specifically due to limited access to overcrowded or distant schools and lack of social activities.



Every girl and boy is entitled to education.

Promoting **inclusive quality education** is essential to give all children opportunities for a **successful and productive future** and to promote **peace and stability** in the region. UNICEF Jordan cooperates with the Ministry of Education, relevant non-governmental organizations and communities to support **education of all children**, in refugee camps and community settings, from early childhood education (preschool) until graduation.

Summary of action

In order to provide equitable access to formal education to Syrian refugee children, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Education (MoE) since 2012 to establish learning spaces in the refugee camps, and strengthened the capacity of MoE schools in host communities, to accommodate the increasing number of school-aged children. 98 double-shifted schools and 65 prefabricated classrooms to 26 schools have been established. UNICEF also supported partners to distribute school kits to 130,000 refugee students in host community schools in 2014 and provided stationery (school in a box, teachers and administrators kits) to 98 double shifted schools in host communities as well as schools in the three camps.

Total budget (2015):
USD 46.8 million

Funding Received:
USD 4.61 million

Funding Gap:
USD 42.19 million

Outcome: All school-aged children in Jordan access inclusive and quality education

Target beneficiaries:
All school-aged children in Jordan incl. 220,000 Syrian refugee children

Results for children:

- Vulnerable children benefit from equitable, safe and quality learning
- Children, parents and community members are engaged in outreach, school life and social cohesion

Main partners:

National partners: Ministry of Education, Madrasati, Islamic Charity Society, East Amman Charity, Yarmouk Baqa Club, Save the Children Jordan and the Middle East Children's Initiative.

International partners: Relief International, Mercy Corps, Norwegian Refugee Council

UNICEF comparative advantage

UNICEF's co-lead position in the Education Response provides the organization with opportunities to contribute to allocating resources efficiently to implementing partners and ensuring their effective use to answer the most urgent education gaps and support needs of education service providers.

UNICEF has extensive experience and credibility based on a positive track records in promoting access to quality education for all children with a focus on equity.

UNICEF has a long-time presence in Jordan and expertise across sectors to bring together education, child protection and WASH interventions and credibility to leading the advocacy dialogue with the Jordan Government to place education priorities high on the agenda. UNICEF is therefore envisaging a comprehensive approach to respond to the needs of vulnerable children which encompasses, psychosocial support-referrals; alternative education and life skills for adolescents and youth.

Proposed UNICEF support

Based on the No Lost Generation strategy which builds on the latest evidence of the impact the crisis is having on children generally, UNICEF is committed to support and expand educational opportunities for vulnerable Syrian refugees and host community children in Jordan, and is targeting in 2015:

130,000 children supported for Formal Education
7,500 supported with Non Formal Education
2,000 supported with Inclusive Education
90,000 supported with Alternative Education

In order to meet the **most urgent education needs**, UNICEF will act by:

- Scaling-up alternative education to reach some 90,000 children out of any form of education
- Supporting urgent recruitment of additional teachers, procurement of textbooks and learning materials to ensure more absorption capacity in public schools and accommodate children in waiting lists for public schooling
- Strengthening psychosocial support and induction training for existing and newly recruited teachers

On **medium-term priorities**, UNICEF will act by:

- Strengthening learning (particularly literacy) in the early years (Pre-school through Grade 3)
- Supporting MoE to strengthen services to students with disabilities
- Ensuring increased community participation in education delivery to strengthen social cohesion and reduce violence
- Strengthening MoE capacity to respond effectively in times of crisis by supporting its Disaster Risk Reduction Unit

Sustainability and Gender

UNICEF contributes to strengthen national and institutional capacity in education, addressing factors affecting quality and inclusive education. Addressing education issues and promoting inclusive quality education provides all children with opportunities for a successful and productive future, **promoting peace and stability in the region in the long term**. Through a **gender focused programming**, importance is given to understanding differences in access and quality and addressing opportunities and challenges faced by both boys and girls.

Unit costs

- \$282 supports a child not attending school with alternative learning opportunities for a year
- \$2,000 supports a child with disabilities to access education services for one school year
- \$29,000 rehabilitates a Jordanian public school to allow it to safely support additional students
- \$100,000 supports 6,500 children with education kits ("School bags")
- \$100,000 purchases 285 "school in a box", serving 11,500 children

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