



ABOUT UNHCR:

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees is mandated to lead and co-ordinate international action to protect refugees and resolve refugee problems worldwide. Its primary purpose is to safeguard the rights and well-being of refugees. Ensuring the provision of education is a core component of UNHCR's international protection and durable solutions mandate. Refugees value education and consider it one of their top priorities. Quality education that builds relevant skills and knowledge enables refugees to live healthy, productive lives and build self-reliance.

Education provides knowledge and skill development that strengthens the capacity of refugees to be agents of social transformation, and is essential to understanding and promoting gender equality and sustainable peaceful coexistence. The future security of individuals and societies is inextricably connected to the transferrable skills, knowledge, and capacities that are developed through education.

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EDUCATE A CHILD PROGRAMME



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266,083

children enrolled and retained in school since 2012

In 2012, a Multi-Year Strategic Partnership was initiated between UNHCR and Educate A Child (EAC), a programme of the Education Above All (EAA) foundation supported by Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser of Qatar. Since 2012, EAC has enabled over 266,000 out-of-school refugee children to access primary school in 12 countries through UNHCR and its partners. EAC complements the roll-out of UNHCR's Refugee Education Strategy 2012-2016, which focuses on promoting quality education in safe learning environments, lifelong educational opportunities, and the strengthening of partnerships, particularly with Ministries of Education. At the core of the strategy is a commitment to sound data management, including the ability to measure learning outcomes and the impact of interventions. Drawing on a range of innovative approaches, UNHCR's partnership with EAC underlines the fact that it is not just a question of getting refugee children into school, but also ensuring that children complete their education and leave school with the necessary knowledge and skills to help them become agents in their own protection.

Chad, Ethiopia, Iran, Kenya, Malaysia, Pakistan, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Uganda, and Yemen.

- EAC Implementing Countries

Countries in Review

Iran

With one of the largest protracted refugee populations, Iran continues to host over 800,000 refugees from Afghanistan and Iraq. Thanks to the generous support of Iran and EAC, 66,030 refugee children have been enrolled and retained in primary school since 2012. The cost of education has been a significant barrier to enrollment and attendance for refugee families; EAC has helped to address this gap through the provision of cash grants, facilitating access for 4,600 of the most vulnerable children. EAC has also supported the distribution of over 24,000 hygiene kits and 13,000 uniforms.

Kenya

Kenya hosts over 530,000 refugees, the majority of whom come from Somalia and South Sudan and reside in Dadaab and Kakuma camps, two of the world's largest refugee camps. Through EAC, over 43,000 refugee children were enrolled and retained in primary school since 2012. Community outreach using creative means such as theatre and film has improved enrolment in Kakuma camp. Introducing technology in classrooms in Dadaab camp through a partnership with Vodaphone has enhanced the quality and content of lessons, while 105 tablets uploaded with reading materials have allowed teachers and students to enrich learning while at the same time improving literacy skills.

Syria

Ongoing insecurity and economic hardship in Syria continues to disrupt educational access for refugee and Syrian children, including the closure of schools, frequent dropout and the inability of parents to cover basic educational costs. EAC has supported refugee children's education through cash grants, enabling 9,164 children to access formal and non-formal primary education. Vital information and services have been provided to refugees through 43 refugee Outreach Volunteers,

who manage an Education Hotline, provide counseling, and act as community focal points for education. While previous EAC activities focused on refugees, the program will support internally displaced children in 2014 and beyond.

Chad

Chad hosts over 300,000 refugees in 2013 from Darfur, Sudan, Central African Republic and other nationalities in the east and south of the country, in addition to the capital. EAC has promoted the enrolment and retention of 13,103 refugee children, and has indirectly benefited over 61,300 children in 71 primary schools. After over a decade of running a parallel Sudanese curriculum in the 13 camps in the east, students are transitioning to the Arabic Chadian curriculum in October 2014, thus ensuring sustainable access to quality education through integration into the national system. EAC has been instrumental in supporting this transition, through teacher training, materials and awareness campaigns in camps and host communities.

Pakistan

Pakistan hosts over 1.6 million Afghan refugees, one of the largest refugee populations in the world. Approximately 80 percent of Afghan refugees do not participate in formal schooling, with the enrolment and retention of girls posing a significant challenge due to cultural and economic constraints. Girls' education is promoted through community-based activities that reinforce linkages between communities and schools, involving community and religious leaders. EAC has supported thirteen Home Based Girls' Schools in Balochistan, and has distributed uniforms, school bags and solar lamps for girls. EAC's support in sanitation conditions in schools in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province has also improved the health and hygiene of students.