Of the 400,000 Syrian refugees expected to be in Iraq by the end of 2014, 168,000 will be school aged children.

JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS:

Key highlights for the sector in camps include; school construction was completed in two camps in Dohuk which will provide education provision for over one thousand children. School supplies were distributed to over 500 children providing them with vital learning materials to support quality learning. 902 Syrian Refugee Children were enrolled in January.

350 Children who were not able to enroll at the beginning of the academic year were given the opportunity to catch up through extra classes run in the holidays in Kawergost camp in Erbil.

With the identified need of out of school children in non-camp settings the sector is strengthening it responses.

Book banks were established in 2 urban Community Centers in Erbil. These reading materials are available to all children, youth and adults in the community to promote literacy development.

Out of school children had increased access to psychosocial support and non-formal education classes through the opening of a learning center in urban Erbil.

Sector coordination has improved with education working groups established and meeting regularly both at regional and governance level. A Terms of Reference for Education sector is being developed to support a more rigorous and uniformed approach.

PROGRESS AGAINST TARGETS:

- 13,902 Syrian refugee children enrolled in formal education (primary & secondary)
- 500 children received school supplies
- 190 children received psycho-social support

Targets based on expected population of 400,000 Syrian refugees in Iraq by end 2014. There are currently 217,144 Syrian refugees in Iraq.

NEEDS ANALYSIS:

Education remains key priority for Syrian refugees with school aged Syrian refugee children, adolescents and youth.

The issue of out of school children remains a concern with children enrolling and not attending, not having access to relevant school structures or staggered arrival dates not coinciding with academic start dates. In non-camp settings the situation is even more exasperated with an estimated 92% of children out of school due to language barriers and limited physical capacity of existing schools. Considering 60% of refugees are living in non-camp settings, this constitutes a significant gap.

The number of refugee adolescents and youths is around 74,000. The needs of this cohort remains a clear gap with no or very limited access to secondary school, vocational and skills training. Focus also needs to be given to ECD to ensure the school readiness of the younger children.

A recent Handicap International Assessment found that only 16% of children with disabilities are accessing education in the camps. This is only one of a number of assessments that recognize the need to identify and plan for an adequate and relevant response to special needs children.

The Education sector continues to provide support to the Ministry of Education to plan and respond to the influx of refugees and meet the primary objective of the Education Sector to promote and facilitate access to primary education. The Education Working Group will continue promoting an effective coordination through quality information management as well as through a continuous collaboration with other sectors such as protection, health and water, sanitation and hygiene.