



**Helping the
Khalid Ibn El
Walid School in
New Damietta
welcome 1,000
more students
back into
education...**

Helping UNHCR Egypt welcome more refugee children into

school... Egypt continues to be both a transit country and a host country for refugees fleeing the crisis in Syria. To date, we have registered a total of 132,356 Syrian refugees. Out of this total, more than 32,000 Syrian students were enrolled in Egyptian public schools during the 2013/14 school year, stretching the capacity of the education services to breaking point. We are delighted that Egypt has generously permitted all Syrian children to enroll in state-run schools and universities, and has provided equal access to assistance with school fees. Both these measures were the result of a 2012 Presidential Decree paving the way for Syrians to be treated in same footing as Egyptians in terms of access to public schools.

However, as a result of this generosity, cracks are now starting to show as many schools in Egypt are now functioning far beyond their capacity, with sometimes as many as 90 students per class – *3 times* the normal class size. UNHCR is determined to shore up this system to protect the education of both Syrians and Egyptians. We know that overcrowded classrooms can lead to a loss in quality of education, as highly skilled teachers are simply stretched too thinly to provide adequate care for the students, ultimately causing a drop in the level of student's achievement.

UNHCR in Action

We urgently need to build an 8 classroom school extension in a remote and important refugee-hosting area in the north of the country in New Damietta, where some 12,000 Syrian refugees live. Planning guidelines dictate that the Ministry of Education is required to build schools



using vacant spaces within existing school grounds, or build additional floors on top of existing schools. This extension will relieve the pressure on the overcrowded classrooms as well as providing extra capacity to ensure more of the refugee children currently out of school can join. This new capacity will house more than 1,000 Egyptian and Syrian students.

How your investment will help:

The cost of this expansion with eight classrooms is estimated to be \$150,000. This sum also covers the cost of all school furniture including teacher desks and chairs, student desks and chairs, ceiling fans, writing boards and cupboards in each classroom. We need your speedy support, to ensure that we can start work on this extension on May 29th – the start of the school holidays - ensuring the new classrooms are fully operational for the Autumn Term 2014.

Activity	Estimated cost (USD)
Construction of a school building with eight classrooms within the grounds of Khalid Ibn El Walid school, New Diametta. 8 classrooms each measuring 40 sq meters	\$130,000
Procurement of furniture and equipment for the classrooms including desks, chairs, ventilation, learning materials & teaching aids. Total for each classroom: \$2,500	\$20,000
Total Budget	\$150,000



Young Syrian refugees are missing out on secondary education. ©UNHCR/S.Baldwin