Background

Reaching school safely can be a major barrier for many refugee parents who send their children to 2nd shift schools.

The “Reaching School Program” will provide cash for children who face greater challenges getting to school and meet the eligibility criteria. These include: very young children; disabled children and children living far away from school.

1. What is the ‘Reaching School Programme’?

The Reaching School Programme is a UNICEF programme providing cash assistance to help children who face greater challenges getting to 2nd shift classes in public primary school.

2. Who will benefit from the programme?

Refugee households with children who are enrolled in 2nd shift classes in public schools and meet the eligibility criteria described below:

• Children in prep ECE
• Children with disabilities
• Children who have to walk over 30 minutes to reach school

3. What is the amount of money that will be given to each student/household from the Reaching School Programme?

Children who are enrolled in 2nd shift schools and are eligible for support, against the standard criteria, will each receive USD 20 per month.

4. Is the cash to be used for transportation?

The cash can be used for any purpose the household requires to help their children attend public primary school. The child’s parents or caregivers may choose. This may include transportation for some households, for others it may not. Households should call the hotline (04 727 300) if they have any questions about this or if anyone is telling them otherwise.

5. How do I register for the programme if I have received UNICEF cash support before?

Families who received cash last year will receive a text message informing them to call the hotline (04 727 300) to confirm and validate their identity.

They will be asked to confirm that they are still the primary caregiver, that they still have their Red Card (ATM card on which cash is transferred), and will be given the opportunity to change any details in our database (telephone number, etc)
Once they have validated their identity, the enrolment of children in school will be verified and if the family meets the eligibility criteria they will be notified via SMS that they will receive support.

Beneficiaries should also call the hotline (04 727 300) if they believe they require support for transportation but have:

1. Registered last year and did not receive a SMS
2. The family was registered but moved location or changed school

6. How do I register if I have not received UNICEF cash support before?

Beneficiaries who have newly enrolled their children in school should also call the hotline if they believe they require support for transportation but have not registered for any UNICEF cash support programmes previously and have registered their children in school.

All newly registered families will receive a text message informing them to visit a registration center in their respective area.

Afterwards, households will be asked to come to a registration center to register. Households must bring their UNHCR ID or “Chifra” (Barcode) to registration. If households are not UNHCR Registered, they may use their National ID to register. Other forms of ID are not accepted as this is the ID against which Red Cards are issued and distributed. For more information, households should call the hotline (04 727 300).

7. When will I know that I am eligible?

The first criteria for eligibility is having a child enrolled in 2nd Shift school.

Once it has been verified that your children are enrolled in a 2nd shift school and confirmed that you meet the eligibility criteria you will be contacted via SMS to be informed of your eligibility. This will take place after the first round of enrolment verification at the start of November.

8. What if I already enrolled my child in a 2nd shift school?

If you have already registered your children in a 2nd shift school but have not provided information to register in the programme. Please call the hotline number (04 727 300) to register by phone.

9. What if my child received support last year but is no longer eligible?

Unfortunately, not all students are covered with reaching school support and some children who received support last academic year may no longer be eligible. Eligibility to receive reaching school support is based on the standard eligibility requirements. Remember that it remains the responsibility of parents or caregivers to safely get their children to school.

10. What are the requirements for one to continue receiving the support?

Your child must be enrolled in a 2nd shift school and continue to be enrolled. Enrolment will be verified in October and November. There will be a further monitoring of enrolment of children in February 2019 to ensure that a child is still eligible for support in the programme.
11. How long will the Education support be available for?

The cash will be provided for the duration of classes in the 2018/19 school year. The cash will stop when the school year ends.

12. When are payments made?

The first payment will be made on the 22nd November for the months of October and November. Afterwards, payments will be transferred on the 22nd day of every month, during the school year. Payments stop once the school year ends.

13. Do refugees in first shift class benefit from the cash support?

Not at this stage. However, parents/caregivers are encouraged not to move their children to 2nd shift classes if they are currently enrolled in 1st shift, or were for the last two years.

14. Why is it only the children attending the 2nd school shift that are benefiting from the fund?

The cash assistance is one component of a much broader UNICEF support programme to the education sector in Lebanon.

UNICEF continues to support all children in Lebanon, including Lebanese, Syrian and Palestinian, as well as other non-Lebanese students, across the country by paying enrolment fees, providing school supplies; fuel for heating schools in winter; and training teachers.

When we improve the skills of a schoolteacher we do it to improve the quality of education for all children at school, when we pay enrolment fees and provide school supplies, we do so for all children attending school.

15. Where can I get more information on this cash assistance?

You can call the Hotline at 04 727 300 at any time.

16. What if I was receiving support through Min Ilia last year

Unfortunately, due to funding constraints the Min Ilia programme in Mount Lebanon, Akkar and Tripoli is not providing families with support this academic year.