

KEY FACT OF THE MONTH

The 2014/15 school year started despite pending enrollment of Syrian refugees

HIGHLIGHTS:

In September, the 2014-15 school year commenced in Lebanon. A total of 6,105 children have enrolled, the majority being PRS and PRL enrolled in UNRWA schools and a handful of affected Lebanese. Syrian refugee children have not enrolled yet and are awaiting decisions from the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE).

The Ministry has announced the possibility to expand access to the first shift to Syrian refugee children, depending on funding commitment from the UN and the donor community. In addition, 57,000 Syrian refugee children will have access to the second shift in public schools.

An executive committee is working with MEHE on the implementation of Reaching All Children with Education (RACE) throughout the country. This plan includes how to increase access of quality educational programs both through formal and non-formal education to vulnerable Lebanese and refugee children.



Syrian refugees cannot wait to go back to school

NEEDS ANALYSIS:

Due to the new school year, the indicator for formal education has been reset to zero with new enrollments starting this month, resulting in a low number of children enrolled in formal education. In addition, to avoid the difficulties and constraints that the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) faced last year regarding the limited capacity to accommodate Lebanese and refugee students for year 2013-14, MEHE decided to regularize 2014-15 school enrollment. To date, MEHE has issued 2 circulars to phase the enrollment. A 3rd circular is expected to be issued soon in order to allow Syrian refugee children and other nationalities affected by the crisis to enroll in public schools.

Non-formal education programs have continued across the country, reaching to 88,150. These programs are aimed at expanding access to education for out-of-school children and preparing them to enroll in formal education at a later date. Even with these programs expanding, more than 300,000 school-aged children in Lebanon have not accessed any form of educational program this year.

Nearly 100 schools have been rehabilitated, including the WASH facilities of these schools, to enhance the capacity of overburdened schools. More than 2,500 teachers have also been trained to strengthen their capacity as well. Psychosocial support programs continue to target children that have faced difficult and distressful moments, currently reaching nearly 55,000 children.

PROGRESS AGAINST 2014 TARGETS



Source: figures reported above reflect the information reported to Sector Coordinators by Partners participating in Working Groups

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