



KEY FACT OF THE MONTH

MEHE has approved the opening of 147 second shift schools.

HIGHLIGHTS:

At the end of November, the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) issued a circular authorising the start of the Second Shift in public primary schools for displaced Syrian children. In December, UN agencies and partners maintained a strong role in ensuring outreach, reporting on issues related to access, and assessing children’s needs and backgrounds for further programme development. Furthermore, based on field assessments and discussions with regional MEHE Offices, UNHCR and UNICEF proposed a list of second shift schools to be opened in areas of highest needs. At the end of December, 147 schools were approved by MEHE for enrolment of Syrians into second shift, ensuring that the children will get 750 hours of schooling by using Saturdays and by reducing the number of holidays for the coming months. There is a UN commitment to fund 57,000 children. Transportation costs, seen as one of the barriers to access education, remains a challenge. The UN has limited funds to cover for this.

In December, there was a positive move by MEHE to strengthen monitoring and oversight.

The Council of Ministers agreed on December 24 to allow MEHE to operate accounts for UN funds. For UNICEF, this will be the current special account. For UNHCR, it will be a special contract agreement. This special account will be used to financially support the enrolment of Syrian displaced children as well as vulnerable Lebanese in the first and second shift of public schools.

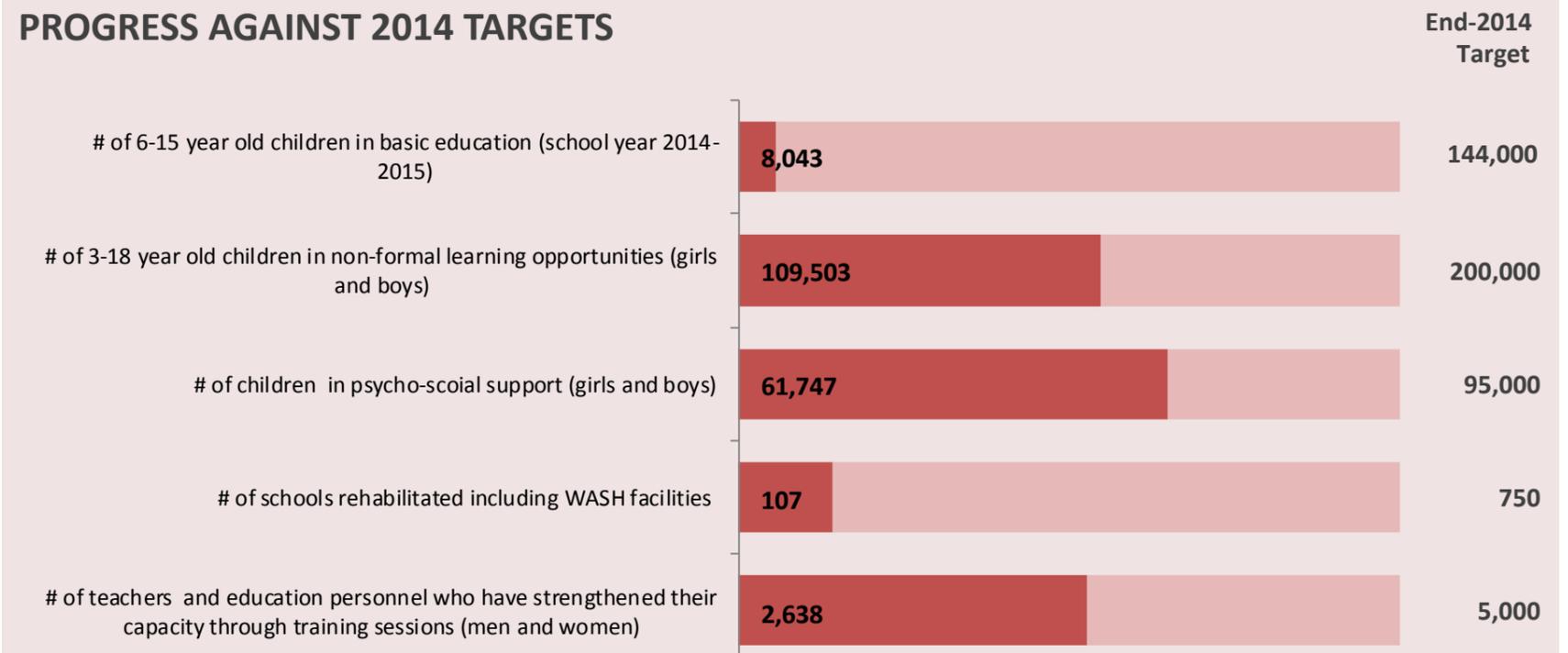
NEEDS ANALYSIS:

The joint advocacy and coordination with donors is useful. The RACE Executive Committee is now well-established and chaired by MEHE. MEHE restricts NGOs from operating at formal schools. NGOs are only permitted to provide outreach support at the community level as well as to provide limited non-formal education at community centers.

Lack of EMIS and proper data collection system is hampering implementation and advocacy efforts to ensure the enrolment of Syrian and vulnerable Lebanese children. The UN is currently supporting the MEHE regional directorates to assist in the data entry of children enrolled in public primary schools for the school year 2014 - 2015. This will help MEHE to analyze enrollment trends.



PROGRESS AGAINST 2014 TARGETS



*Figures have been corrected from previous months—Enrollment in basic education refers to children enrolled after September 2014

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

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