

SITUATION ANALYSIS

At the end of December, 147 schools all across Lebanon were approved by the Ministry of Higher Education (MEHE) for enrolment of Syrian children into second shift. The estimates from the MEHE show a positive response, with at least 51,000 - mostly Syrian - children enrolled, and 7,000 on waiting list. The UN worked on re-allocating funding committed for first shift to the second shift, while requesting to open additional schools in areas with high concentration of refugees. The UN also advocated to waive the second shift school selection criteria of 'minimum 250 students enrolled', to allow enrolment of students in smaller schools in remote areas. The MEHE is assessing the situation on a case by case basis. The estimate for enrolment in first shift is 37,000 refugee children.

Data compilation of children in formal education is still ongoing, and the enrolment figures of the number of first and second shift students will be updated as soon as they are available and confirmed by the MEHE.

During the month January, the UN and education partners accelerated their outreach efforts in order to facilitate the enrolment of a maximum number of Syrian displaced children into the second shift schools. The UN have funding to cover 20% of enrolled children with transportation. Assessment for eligibility are based on distance to schools, safety and protection issues as well as family's vulnerability.

Partners are referring children from previous non-formal education (NFE) programs to public schools, while MEHE is finalizing Standard Operation Procedures (SOPs) to initiate the roll out of the new Accelerated Learning Program (ALP) children that will target children who were not eligible to access schools. This new ALP programme is expected to start in April 2015.

Education supplies, i.e. the School-in-a-Box, are currently distributed to all public schools, first and second shift. Furthermore, 547 public primary schools with an altitude higher than 500 meters above sea-level have been provided with fuel for heating.

Discussions among MEHE and the Consortium members Save the Children, NRC and IRC continued over the last month defining the elements of the Consortium's support to MEHE. These include Early Childhood Education (ECE) support, non-formal education (NFE) for basic education, and youth (secondary education) support.

