

KEY ACHIEVEMENT OF THE MONTH

A total of **215,517** children have been reached with education services this year

HIGHLIGHTS:

The 2013/14 school year concluded and students are now on summer holidays. This school year completed the pilot of second shifts in public schools, which expanded access to formal education for refugees. As outlined in the government’s education proposal, “Reaching All Children with Education (RACE) in Lebanon,” RACE Lebanon, which was officially endorsed by the Minister of Education in June, the government is committed to education of on average 413,000 Syrian refugee and vulnerable Lebanese children each year through both formal public schools, and non-formal education programs.

There are plans for summer programs which have been put on hold awaiting final approval process of MEHE. These programs are targeting out of school children or those at risk of dropping out/falling behind to prepare them for the upcoming school year starting in October. Some non-formal education programs are still continuing outside of schools in the summer months to help prepare out of school children to transition into formal education.



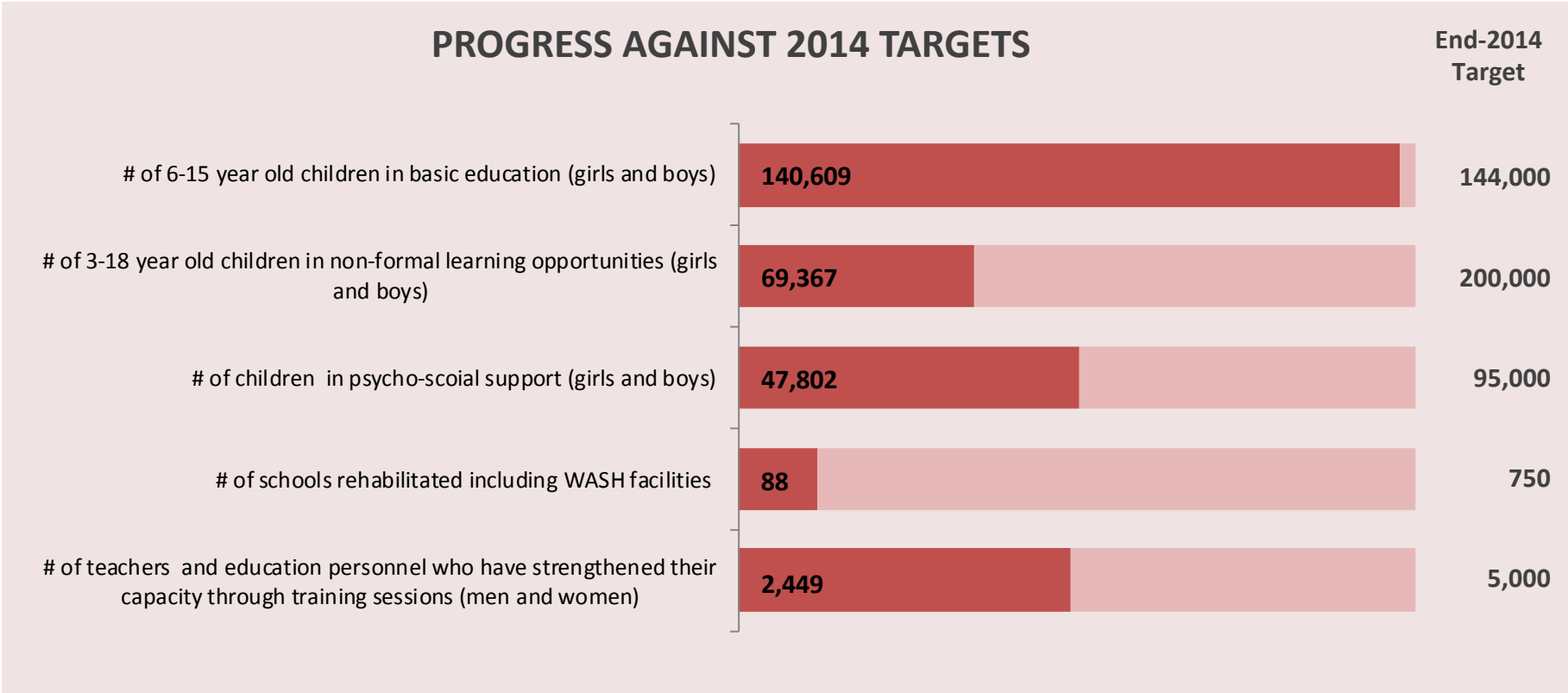
Syrian refugee children attending an accelerated learning programme in Bekaa. © UNHCR/Shawn Baldwin

NEEDS ANALYSIS:

A total of 140,609 children between the ages of 3-18 were supported to enroll in formal schools the 2013/2014 school year. This includes Syrian children, Palestine children from Syria and vulnerable Lebanese children. An additional 69,367 have been enrolled in non-formal education programs. Based on current registration data there are 459,886 Syrian, 21,000 Palestinian, 7,000 Lebanese returnees and 40,000 vulnerable Lebanese children in need of services. This means that approximately 317,910 children between the ages of 3 and 18 have not accessed learning opportunities.

Out of the 209,976 children reached 166,502 are Syrians and 27,004 are from the host communities showing that 13% of the population reached are Lebanese. 51% are girls versus 49% boys which demonstrates equality in outreach. 33% of the response falls within the non-formal education category, a response to the low absorption capacity of the local schools which demonstrates a need for further investment in the public system.

Common barriers to education include costs of transportation and tuition fees which can be excessive for refugee families with limited resources. Language barriers and safety concerns of Syrian parents contribute to a high drop-out rate among refugee children. However, the biggest barrier to schooling is the lack of space in public schools, however 90,000 Syrian refugee children have enrolled in these schools.



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

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