



SITUATION ANALYSIS

Children who have missed school for at least two years now have a new opportunity to resume their education. The Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) finalized the new Accelerated Learning Programme (ALP) which is the programme that will allow these children to catch up with the Lebanese curriculum in subjects like Arabic, French or English, Mathematics and Sciences to eventually enroll in public schools next year. Children could sit placement test in a total of 47 public schools to know which level they are at. The target for this initial pilot was to reach 10,000 children, and over 7,200 children have been tested so far, despite a short period provided for outreach. In order to reach the target, another test is planned for the end of May. Once the tests are corrected by MEHE, ALP classes will begin in June 2015 using the new material and programme in public schools all over Lebanon. Outreach and access to the ALP test was hampered by security issues in North Bekaa (Al Qaa, Ras Baalbek, Masharie Al Qaa etc) and Tyre caza.

In order to continue to monitor the achievements in the second shifts, MEHE and the UN conduct joint school visits. Notable improvements have been noticed regarding attendance and availability of books. Also, there is a total of 6,350 Palestinian children from Syria (PRS) regularly attending 60 UNRWA schools throughout Lebanon. Education partners aim to refer children to Lebanese public schools. Where this is not possible, they support children with non-formal education (NFE) programmes. In April 2015, a total of 47,490 Out-of-School-Children (OOSC) are being supported through short-term catch-up classes, life skills classes and basic literacy and numeracy (BLN) classes in settlements or community centers. Some 19,000 children benefitted from recreational activities such as sport, games and art in April. In addition, 253 facilitators and education staff have been trained on technical content in April.

A roundtable with the Education Minister from Lebanon, was organized in Washington DC by the United Nations Special Envoy for Global Education. This was followed by a two-day national education conference in Lebanon. These events brought together representatives from development partners to discuss the national response to educating children affected by the Syria crisis - Reaching All Children with Education (RACE). All participants highlighted the challenges with the large number of out-of-school-children and the Minister declared that for the school year 2015/2016, 200,000 Syrian children will be able to access the formal Lebanese education system, and committed to further develop a framework for NFE activities. Donors confirmed commitments for long term support to improve achievements.

