



## PROTECTION

- 441,684** Syrian refugees registered in 2014
- 3,243** Palestine refugees from Syria recorded in 2014
- 35,436** persons provided with individual legal counselling
- 194,786** persons benefitting from empowerment activities
- 7,247** Syrian refugees submitted for resettlement or HAP



## CHILD PROTECTION and SGBV RESPONSE

- 381,867** boys and girls benefitting from psychosocial support
- 5,592** boys and girls assisted with specialized services
- 146,350** caregivers benefitting from psychosocial support
- 2,752** service providers trained on SGBV prevention/response
- 29,323** women and girls received dignity kits



## BASIC NEEDS / NFI / CRI

- 596,350** persons received unconditional winter cash grants of vouchers to purchase fuel (for one month)
- 50,420** newcomers received unconditional cash grants or vouchers to purchase fuel (for one month)
- 457,830** persons who received Core Relief Items (CRI) (non winter)



## SHELTER

- 440,092** persons assisted with shelter interventions
- 115,438** persons received cash for shelter
- 134,011** individuals benefitted from weatherproofing of informal settlements
- 108,625** individuals benefitted from weatherproofing of buildings
- 44,580** individuals benefitted from rehabilitation of shelters



## WASH

- 192,962** individuals provided with storage containers
- 1,444,233** persons provided with improved water supply at adequate level of service
- 193,362** persons benefitted from improved sanitation facilities
- 726,614** persons have experienced a hygiene promotion session



## PUBLIC HEALTH

- 1,061,455** primary health care consultations in 2014
- 53,000** pregnant women attended ANC visits in PHC centres
- 328,782** children (<5) vaccinated with routine vaccinations
- 2,183,154** polio vaccine doses to children under 5 years old
- 57,950** patients in secondary and tertiary health care



## EDUCATION

- 8,043** 6 -15 year old children enrolled in formal education
- 109,503** boys and girls in non-formal learning opportunities
- 61,747** children benefitting from psychosocial support activities in education settings
- 2638** teachers and education personnel trained
- 107** schools were rehabilitated (including WASH facilities)



## SOCIAL COHESION AND LIVELIHOODS

- 2,031** Change agents trained and actively promoting conflict prevention and social cohesion
- 84** Communities with active conflict mitigation or participatory mechanisms
- 590** Communities benefitting from **249** completed CSPs
- 6,045** persons benefitting from income generating opportunities
- 15,379** persons receiving vocational training and life-skills support



## FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURE

- 287** million USD equivalent of e-cards, vouchers or food distributed and redeemed in 2014
- 72%** of planned population benefitted from food assistance
- 82%** of assisted individuals with acceptable food consumption score (>35.5)
- 760,740** animals vaccinated against trans boundary diseases



## KEY FACT OF THE MONTH

Persons provided with legal counselling exceeded end-2014 target

## HIGHLIGHTS:

Some 13,400 Syrian refugees were registered in December, and 12,590 were awaiting appointments, bringing the total number of Syrian refugees registered or awaiting registration to 1,146,405. The average waiting period countrywide increased from 13 to 21 days. The number of newly registered refugees increased for the first time since July, although the number of persons registered in December was over 70% lower than the monthly average number of registrations over the first six months of the year. The significant decrease is primarily a result of entry into Lebanon having become more difficult for Syrians.

In December, legal awareness sessions were provided to approximately 9,667 individuals, which is an 12% increase compared to the previous month. The total number of refugees that participated in legal awareness sessions in 2014 stands at over 124,000 persons, exceeding the target for the year. With continued high needs for individual legal counseling, some 2,070 individuals benefited from legal counseling, a 77% increase over the previous month, largely a result of intensification of counseling in respect to the gratis regularization process.

Since the beginning of the year, 35,436 persons have been provided individual legal counseling, meeting the end of year target. In December, over 20,689 individuals, over 60% of whom were female, benefited from empowerment activities, primarily group information sessions to increase awareness of available services and assistance. In 2014, almost 195,000 persons benefited from these types of activities, exceeding the yearly target by almost 40%. In December, 57 persons were submitted for resettlement or humanitarian admission. By the end of the year over 7,304 persons had been submitted for solutions in a third country, exceeding the end of year target of 7,000.

Governorate	Registered	Awaiting	Average waiting period	Total	
Beirut & Mt Lebanon	Persons	320,024	7,824	24 days	327,848
	Households	81,298	2,679		
North	Persons	285,235	529	11 days	285,764
	Households	70,210	218		
Bekaa	Persons	404,914	3,882	20 days	408,796
	Households	90,932	1,125		
South	Persons	136,232	355	9 days	136,587
	Households	30,344	107		
Total Lebanon	Persons	1,146,405	12,590	21 days	1,158,995
	Households	272,784	4,129		

## NEEDS ANALYSIS:

While targeting new registrants, registration will focus on the process of renewal/verification in order to update data and foster accuracy. Efforts to improve access to registration will continue through various modalities, including transport support to registration facilities.

Following the introduction by the Government of a gratis regularization period, legal aid partners have intensified their awareness and counseling activities, ensuring that as many refugees as possible are aware of the regularization process and can make an informed choice to regularize their stay in Lebanon. Messages regarding regularization are being harmonized and a mass information campaign on regularization will be rolled out.

Systematic protection monitoring by sector partners will contribute to increased analysis of common protection issues and trends countrywide. Particular attention has been, and will be, devoted to the continued high number of evictions affecting vulnerable refugee families throughout the country. Monitoring of eviction trends has been reinforced through improved information collection tools across the country, and the protection sector is coordinating with the shelter sector, particularly through field based Eviction Committees/Technical Groups.

As evident in falling registration numbers, restrictions on entry imposed at border points have significantly reduced the number of Syrians and PRS gaining admission to Lebanon. In light of the restrictions, intensified border monitoring and border interventions will contribute to persons seeking international protection having access to territory. It will also aid in the sharing of information on the border situation as well as in developing advocacy messages regarding border policies.

## PROGRESS AGAINST 2014 TARGETS

	Actual	End-2014 Target
# of Syrian refugees registered with UNHCR in 2014	441,684	850,000
# of PRS recorded with UNRWA in 2014	3,243	3,300
# of Lebanese returnees profiled	-	50,000
# of persons provided with individual legal counselling	35,436	35,000
# of persons reached with legal awareness	124,180	110,000
# of persons benefitting from empowerment activities	194,786	140,000
# of persons with specific needs receiving specialized support	32,958	85,000
# of persons submitted for resettlement of humanitarian admission	7,247	7,000

Leading Agencies: UNHCR - David Welin—welin@unhcr.org  
Reporting Agencies:

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





**HIGHLIGHTS:**

In late November and early December, trainings were conducted throughout Lebanon as part of on-going capacity building initiatives to strengthen child protection case management. These specific trainings focus on the specific knowledge and skills needed when participating as part of a formal decision-making panel that comes to determine the best interest of a child under specific circumstances, such as unaccompanied children whose parents or legal guardians are not with them. They also included training on case conferences, reporting to the Ministry of Justice, and on the implementation and documentation processes associated with this work.

As the year came to an end, child protection actors undertook reviews of progress during 2014 to inform 2015 preparations and plans. Child protection actors in the South undertook a mapping exercise of their children spaces and youth programming. Actors in Akkar undertook a review of child protection concerns and trends from 2014 that require priority attention in 2015. These include addressing the needs of out-of-school children, child labour, and addressing issues of child marriage and sexual exploitation.

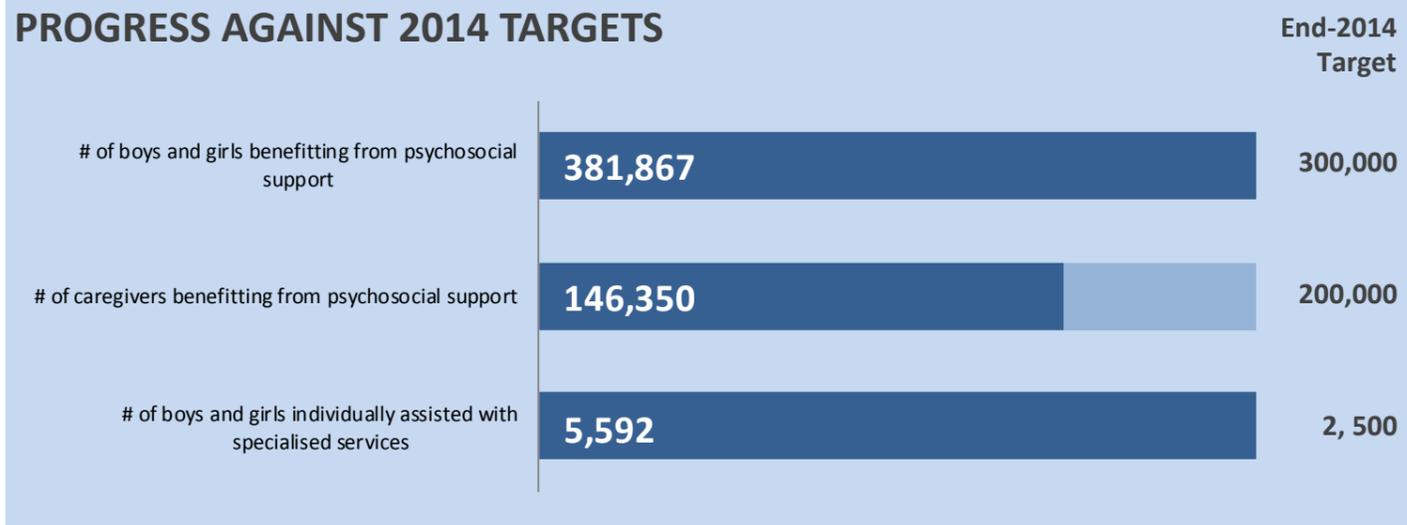
**NEEDS ANALYSIS**

Linkages between child protection and education actors became even more important as registration for the second shift – intended for Syrian children – continued to be delayed. Out-of-school children are at increased risk of child labour and exploitation. Parents are also encountering other challenges to enrollment, including reports of discrimination and abuse experienced by children. Actors agreed as well on the need to formalize referral processes between abuse reported in school and child protection case management actors for follow-up care.

The on-going constraints and lack of clarity surrounding the correct process for referring cases to the judiciary continue to result ad hoc processes being applied. Relevant line ministries are working on identifying new options and plans for a formal, nation-wide approach.

As 2014 concludes, and with the possibility of decreased funding levels in the future, child protection actors are concerned with how this will impact programming. This is especially the case for areas where capacity is lacking, such as specific and specialised services for children, which are also the most costly. Child protection actors and donors alike will need to reflect seriously on the importance of quality programming and reaching the most vulnerable children. They will also need to accurately assess the cost of achieving these important aims.

**PROGRESS AGAINST 2014 TARGETS**



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



**HIGHLIGHTS:**

As part of the 16 days campaign, partners have carried out awareness raising and advocacy activities targeting communities and institutions.

Institutions were mobilized through the launch of a nation-wide media campaign on state due diligence to end violence against women, as well as round-tables with religious leaders and judges on prevention and response to SGBV. In addition, an advocacy campaign was launched to increase effective comprehension of the “Law to Protect Women & Other Family Members from Family Violence,” including the creation of a user-friendly webpage and FAQ on how the new law can help women and girls and a one-day workshop for organizations from the National Coalition to create a common understanding of the law.

Communities were mobilized through several activities such as interactive theatre, focus group discussions, photo exhibitions on gender roles/gender equality and SGBV. Approximately 20,000 members from Lebanese, Syrian and Palestinian communities have participated in these activities.

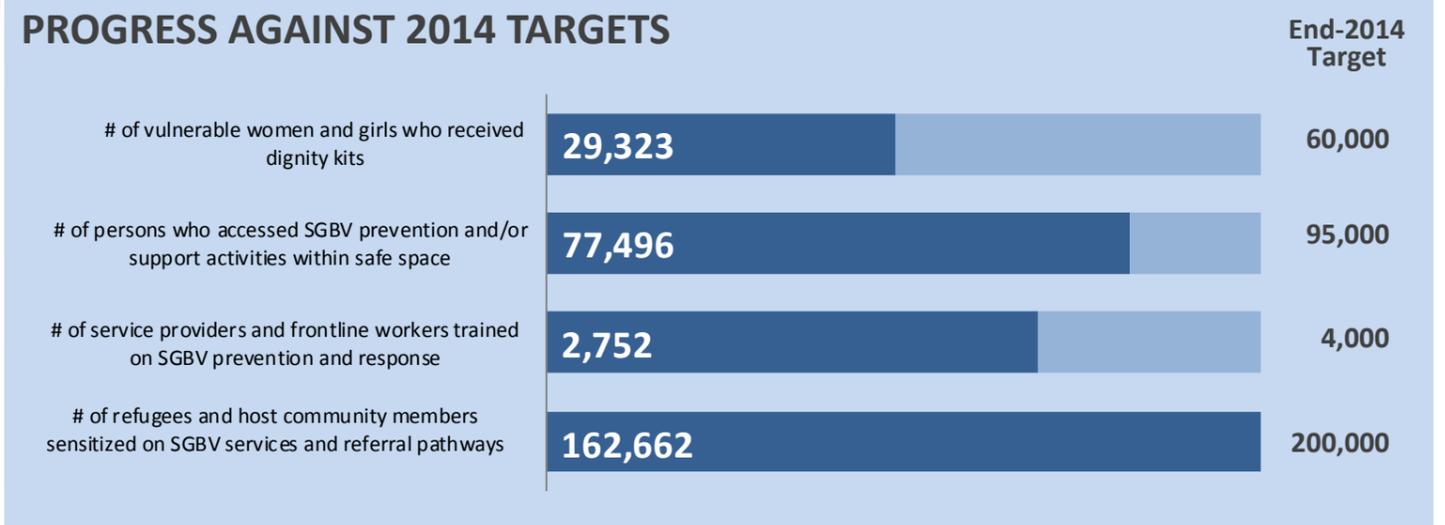
Studies, researches and tools: a new report on the situation of LGBTI refugees was launched. The report gives specific recommendations to SGBV actors to ensure inclusive design of programmes. A new video on early marriage was launched. The video targets children, adolescents and caregivers with a set of rights-based messages that highlight the negative consequences of such practices on girls' health and physical and emotional development.

**NEEDS ANALYSIS:**

The SGBV Task Force has concluded an important process of standard setting in December through the signature of the Information Sharing Protocol for safe and ethical data sharing on SGBV incidents, and the finalization of minimum standards for provision of case management services for SGBV survivors. These documents will allow increased quality of the response and increased capacities to analyze trends and patterns of SGBV.

In an effort to increase prevention capacities existing in country, the SGBV Task Force has supported all sectors involved in planning for the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan in applying the gender marker to their response plans to ensure that the different concerns, experiences and capacities of women, girls, boys and men are reflected in the core elements of the response strategies (gender analysis in the needs assessment, gender-responsive activities and related gender outcomes). In addition, an inter-agency pool of resource persons has been created to scale up gender mainstreaming in the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan. Five representatives of UN agencies and NGOs have attended a three-day training in Amman aiming at enabling humanitarian practitioners to have an increased understanding of gender equality programming and how to apply it in their respective areas of work. The development of a national protocol on Clinical Management of Rape has been initiated in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health.

**PROGRESS AGAINST 2014 TARGETS**



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





## KEY ACHIEVEMENT OF THE MONTH

**917,941** refugees and vulnerable host members received food assistance

## HIGHLIGHTS:

In December, thanks to a generous contribution from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, WFP avoided a catastrophic sudden cut-off of food assistance to targeted individuals due to a funding pipeline break.

As a result, WFP and its co-operating partners managed to reach some 880,968 Syrian refugees with the USD30 per individual food voucher towards mid-December. Some 4,446 newly arrived refugees were assisted with food parcels as normal.

Through the e-card, WFP injected an additional USD\$26.4 million into the Lebanese economy. Other food security sector partners reached some 32,527 vulnerable individuals (20,887 of which were reached with RRP6 funding) among the four different caseloads, and in the process injected a further USD\$1.4 million into the Lebanese economy.

In light of the pipeline break that was almost experienced in December, the Food Security sector and an IA core group began working on a contingency plan that could be activated in the event of possible future recurrence of a similar scenario.

The Government of Lebanon's emergency NPTP food assistance to vulnerable Lebanese gained momentum. In December, the programme reached 5,076 vulnerable households (27,209 individuals).

The beneficiaries are extremely poor Lebanese registered under the NPTP who live on less than USD2 per day.

Enumerator training and testing of the household targeting questionnaire began in December. This process was done jointly by the Food and Cash assistance actors.

## NEEDS ANALYSIS:

The need for food assistance remains a priority among Syrian refugees and other vulnerable groups. Food Security sector partners will continue to provide food assistance for targeted vulnerable groups. Contingency planning for possible funding pipeline breaks will continue to be prioritised. In January, food Partners plan to reach out to some 950,000 Syrian refugees and other population groups.

The government of Lebanon's emergency e-card for food assistance project under the emergency NPTP programme will continue in January.

Food security and cash sector partners will begin to administer the household targeting questionnaire through household visits.



## PROGRESS AGAINST 2014 TARGETS

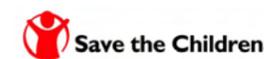


\*\* Indicators are reported on a quarterly basis - \*\*\* Target changed and achievements reported since July 2014.

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

Leading Agency: WFP - Naison CHAKATVA - naison.chakatsva@wfp.org

Reporting Agencies:





**KEY ACHIEVEMENT OF THE MONTH**

**68,740** vulnerable families received **USD 7.3 million** in cash assistance

**HIGHLIGHTS:**

Winterization activities are ongoing through the distribution of in-kind items (blankets, stoves, clothes), fuel vouchers and cash-for-winter assistance (USD 100 or 80 depending on altitude) to support beneficiaries most affected by winter and address exacerbated basic needs to ensure reduced adverse effects and negative coping mechanisms:

Distribution of fuel vouchers reached 28,572 vulnerable families, amounting USD 5,714,400 covering estimated needs during November and December.

50,065 families were assisted with a total of USD 4,109,800 as cash-for-winter. Some families received the assistance for December while others received the assistance for both December and January months in one payment.

18,675 of the most socio-economically vulnerable families were supported with USD 3,273,200 multi-sector cash assistance (USD 175).

15,580 persons (3,116 families) received general (non-winter related) core relief items. A standard kit consists of one blanket and one mattress per person (5 blankets and 5 mattresses per family/kit on average), one kitchen set and one hygiene kit per family, and a baby kit for each child under the age of two.



**Leading Agencies:** UNHCR - Chadi Ghajar—Ghajar@unhcr.org  
**Reporting agencies:**



**NEEDS ANALYSIS:**

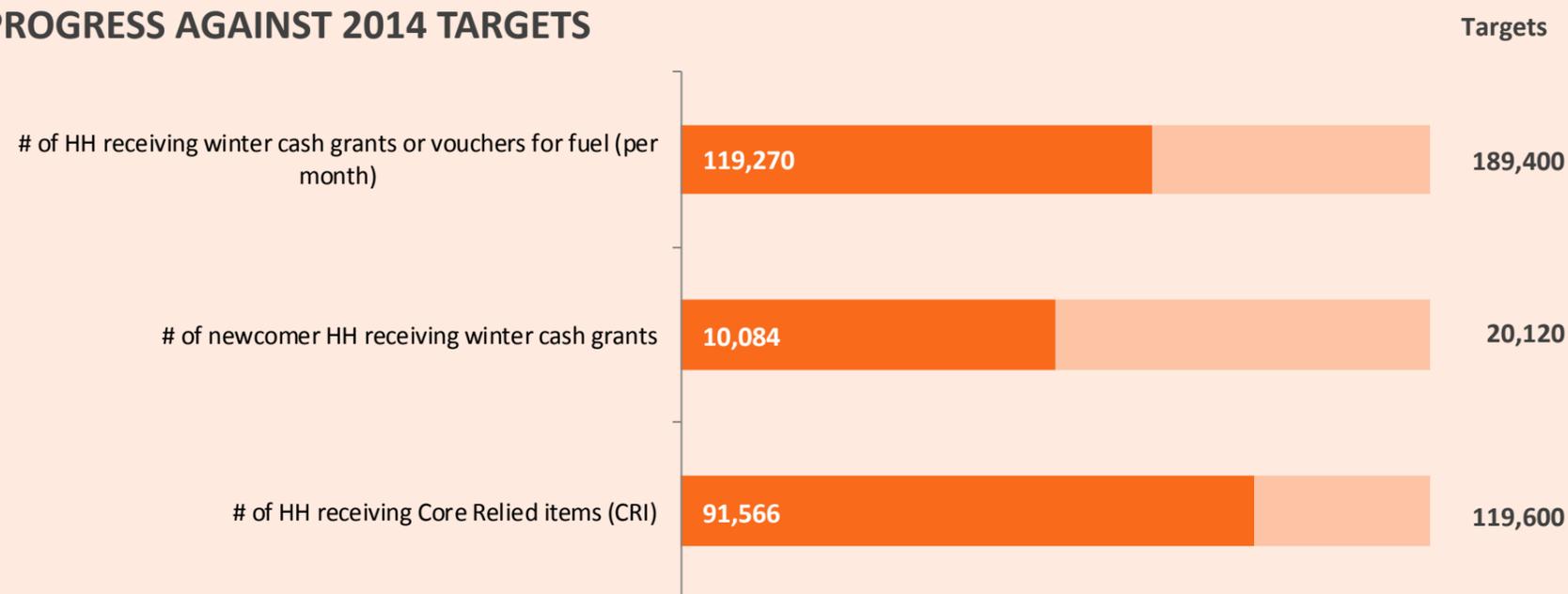
December is the last month that this sector will be referred to as 'Basic Needs'. From 2015 onwards, via the new mechanism of the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP), this sector will be called 'Basic Assistance'. This sector will focus on addressing a range of basic cross-sectoral needs of the most economically vulnerable households by providing multi-purpose cash assistance to enable families to meet their basic needs in a safe and dignified manner that provides choice and allows households to access products available in the local markets.

The targeting exercise started late December and saw 3,016 households assessed and over 1,000 questionnaires scored against economic vulnerability criteria.

The winterization programme continued assisting households according to economic vulnerability and exposure to cold, as outlined in inter-agency strategy. This programme will also be used as an opportunity to identify and refer economically vulnerable households into the multi-purpose cash assistance program.

As the numbers of newcomers are decreasing, the eligibility criteria in the assistance SOPs will focus on the needs for CRIs identified by field assessments. Households could be in need of CRIs because of internal displacement, during which families could not carry items with them. The assistance could also meet gaps in coverage for households not assessed and assisted within the newcomer eligibility period. Finally, some items may need to be replaced after prolonged use.

**PROGRESS AGAINST 2014 TARGETS**



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



## KEY FACT

All types of refugee substandard dwellings need to be mapped and reached.

## HIGHLIGHTS:

By the end of December, all agencies reported shelter assistance reaching 440,092 individuals in 2014. This includes 341,345 SYR - 60,985 PRS - 2,243 LRS - and 35,519 Affected Lebanese.

Agencies have been busy with activities in preparing winterization programs as of the last quarter of 2014. Thus, weatherproofing and IS site improvement activities have been boosted. 20,455 refugees benefited this month from the distribution of 4,091 weather proofing kits in their informal settlements across the country. 6,243 refugees also received 1,250 sealing off kits to be installed in their substandard shelters. 862 refugees as well benefited from site improvement activities in flood prone IS, mainly in Beka'a.

The house rehabilitation activity remains a strategic intervention that aims to provide descent shelters for vulnerable populations while benefiting their host communities at the same time. In December, 2455 Syrian Refugees and 925 affected Lebanese benefited from the provision of adequate shelters under house rehabilitation activity.



## NEEDS ANALYSIS:

The shelter sector achieved the weatherproofing of identified needs within informal settlements for the winter of 2014-2015. Yet, the gap remained in weatherproofing of shelters within substandard buildings including garages, unfinished houses, and worksites.

There is still a gap of 35,000 families thereby. These families are still, not protected from cold, and exposed to health risks and other hazards that might affect them. Beside insufficient funding, the gap is caused by the dispersed substandard buildings and difficulties experienced by agencies to locate and respond to their needs.

## PROGRESS AGAINST 2014 TARGETS



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

**Leading Agencies:** UNHCR—Mohamad Mukalled mukalled@unhcr.org;  
MoSA Ahmad Kassem - Kassema@unhcr.org

**Reporting Agencies:**





## KEY FACT

**2,162** cases of viral Hepatitis A have been reported as of 5/12/2014

## HIGHLIGHTS:

From the 2nd until the 11th of December 2014, a joint WHO, European CDC and EPIET mission visited Lebanon mostly concerned about repeated outbreaks of hepatitis A across the country over the past two years.

In the same line, WHO has been technically supporting MoPH to adopt efficient vaccination strategy against the mentioned disease. The objective of the mission was to compile and analyze the available information (incidence of hepatitis A, patterns of the outbreaks among age groups and geographical locations and population coverage of hepatitis A vaccination), meet with stakeholders, and conduct field visits to better understand risks of infection.

In addition, another WHO mission has been conducted the 8th to the 10th of December 2014 to assess the country's preparedness measures for Ebola virus disease (EVD) using standardized public health methods approach. It also identified areas of concern for stepping up national preparedness for EVD and recommended remedial measures to strengthen capacities for risk mitigation of spread and transmission of EVD.

The mission appreciated the high level of awareness and engagement of the Lebanese authorities especially the Ministry of Public health and the measures implemented to enhance the level of preparedness.



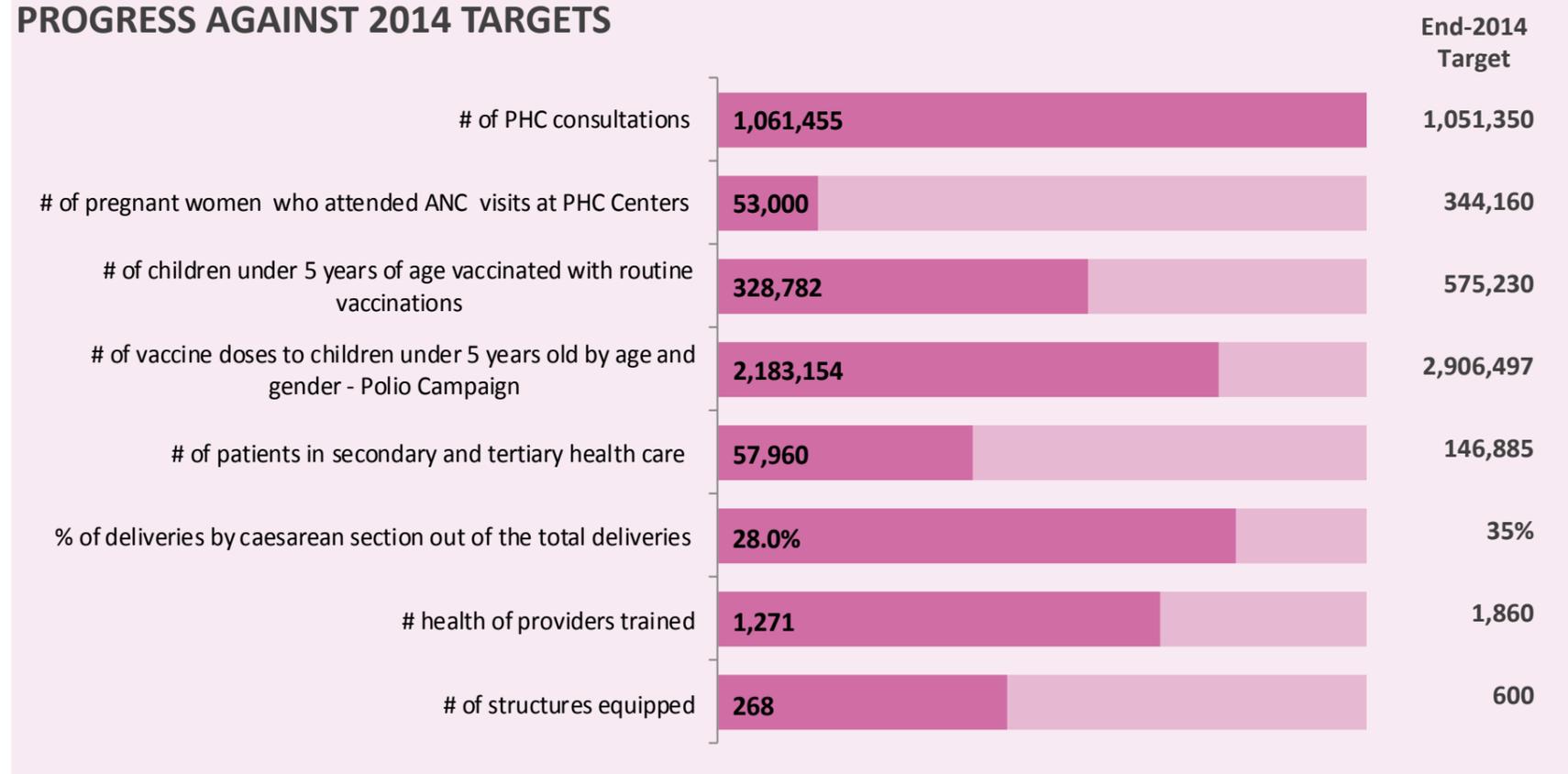
## NEEDS ANALYSIS

Preliminary recommendations for the Hepatitis A mission were to carry out a nation-wide catch-up vaccination for all children between 18 months to 3 years and to include Hepatitis A vaccination in the routine childhood vaccination.

Depending the availability of funds, the age bracket of catch-up vaccination can be extended to older children. The mission team also recommended to promote hand hygiene practices, reinforce water and sanitation access and quality monitoring on a continuous basis.

Moreover, Ebola mission recommended further formalization of coordination structures with various non-health actors, more development of the risk communication strategy, and further harmonization of national contingency plans.

## PROGRESS AGAINST 2014 TARGETS



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

Leading Agencies: WHO - Alissar Rady- [radya@who.int](mailto:radya@who.int) - UNHCR - Michael Woodman—[woodman@unhcr.org](mailto:woodman@unhcr.org)

Reporting Agencies:





## 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.

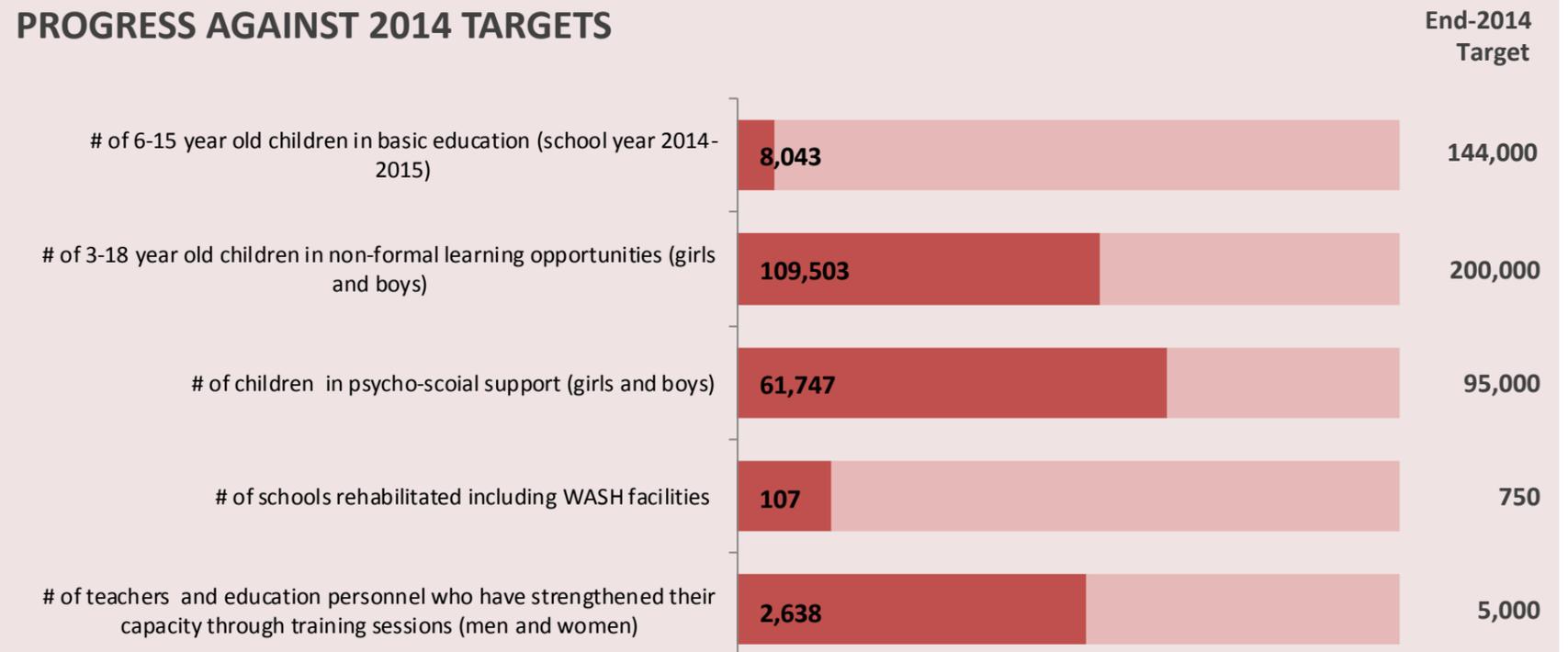
## NEEDS ANALYSIS:

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

Leading Agencies: UNHCR — UNICEF — Audrey Nirrengarten—nirrenga@unhcr.org - Simone Vis — svis@unicef.org





## ACHIEVEMENT

Distribution of drainage and sanitation kits to prepare for winter

### HIGHLIGHTS:

December marked the completion of several water projects in Lebanon, including in Akkar (the Bsartine water treatment plant serving 2,500 individuals) and Kfartoun (a borehole pump-station and 1.4 km of pipeline benefitting 4000 individuals).

In Mount Lebanon, the completion of 6 village water reservoirs serving a total of 38,118 Lebanese and 9,046 Syrian Refugees were completed and connected to the Water Establishment networks.

At a household level, water filters were distributed in Beirut Mount Lebanon to 103 families and in Marjeyoun to 39 families.

A total of 6,624 people benefited from new latrine construction in December. Additional populations benefited from latrine dislodging. There were over 100,000 beneficiaries of communal waste-water systems. These projects were carried out with 6 partners, and ranged from small initiatives in informal settlements to large projects in villages.

Water quality issues in several locations were apparent, specifically regarding nitrate and phosphate contamination. There were also concerns over biological water quality, for which agencies are procuring water quality test kits. Investigations are under way over concerns regarding the contamination of water networks due to old piping that is permitting sewage.



Syrian refugees carry water to their shelter after distribution © Tarek Hamam/ UNHCR 2015

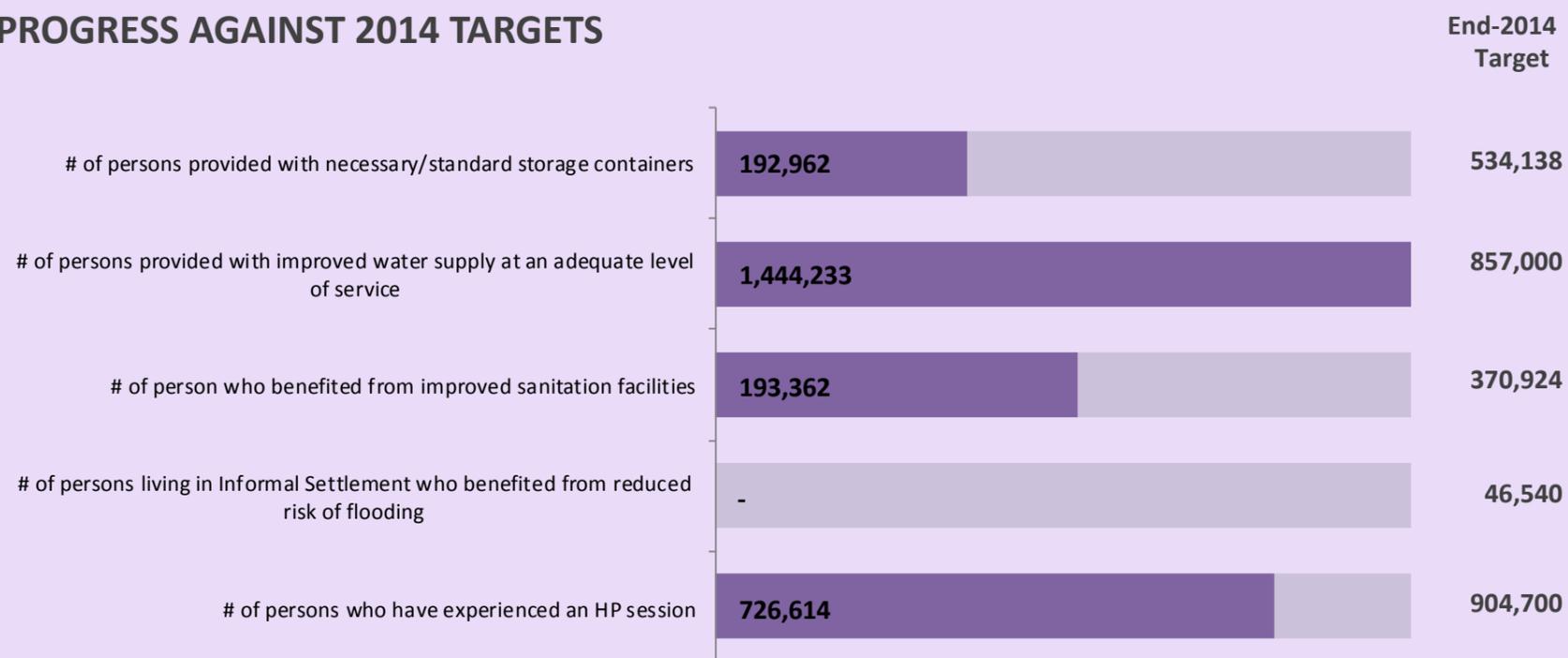
### NEEDS ANALYSIS:

WASH needs in Lebanon continue to be diverse and demanding. In some locations, the initial supply of infrastructure is lagging due to new settlements, growth in existing settlements, and prohibitions to build by landowners. Service delivery on a day-to-day basis continues to stretch agency resources as gaps in water supply delivery, solid waste collection, and septic tank emptying emerge across refugee settlements and impact significantly on the Lebanese services.

Preparation for the winter in December with drainage and sanitation kits is expected to evolve into responding to the most seriously affected communities due to the cold weather.

November and December have seen renewed interest in WASH goals from the Ministry of and in the media. This has been partly generated by the media response to Typhoid. As a result, WASH agencies will be working with the Ministry of Public Health and select municipalities on strategies to reduce water-borne diseases due to the poor environmental sanitation conditions.

### PROGRESS AGAINST 2014 TARGETS



Source: figures reported above reflect the information reported to Sector Coordinators by Partners participating in Working Groups—achievement have been corrected from previous months

Leading Agencies: Ross Tomlinson—UNHCR—TOMLINSO@unhcr.org—UNICEF- David Adams—dadams@unicef.org - Reporting Agencies:





## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE MONTH

**48** CSPs completed

**1147** benefited from livelihoods activities

## HIGHLIGHTS:

Partners continued to implement livelihood activities at a fast pace in December, once again reaching over 1,000 beneficiaries. Beneficiaries of income-generating activities remained at a high level (over 400), in line with the positive results already achieved in November. However, this was not enough to significantly progress towards the 90,000 target-level for the year. This was in contrast with vocational training activities, which reached two-third of the yearly target, a positive result for a chronically under-funded sector.

On the social cohesion side, partners did not establish new conflict mitigation or participatory mechanisms, nor trained new change agents. Yet the overall results for this year for these confidence-building activities remains positive, with over 2,000 change agents reached and 84 mechanisms established.

The main progress on the social cohesion side related to the implementation of community and municipal support projects, with another 48 projects completed this month, bringing the total for the year to nearly 300 (50% of the overall target). Projects completed this month benefited 51 host communities and represented an investment of nearly USD 1 million.



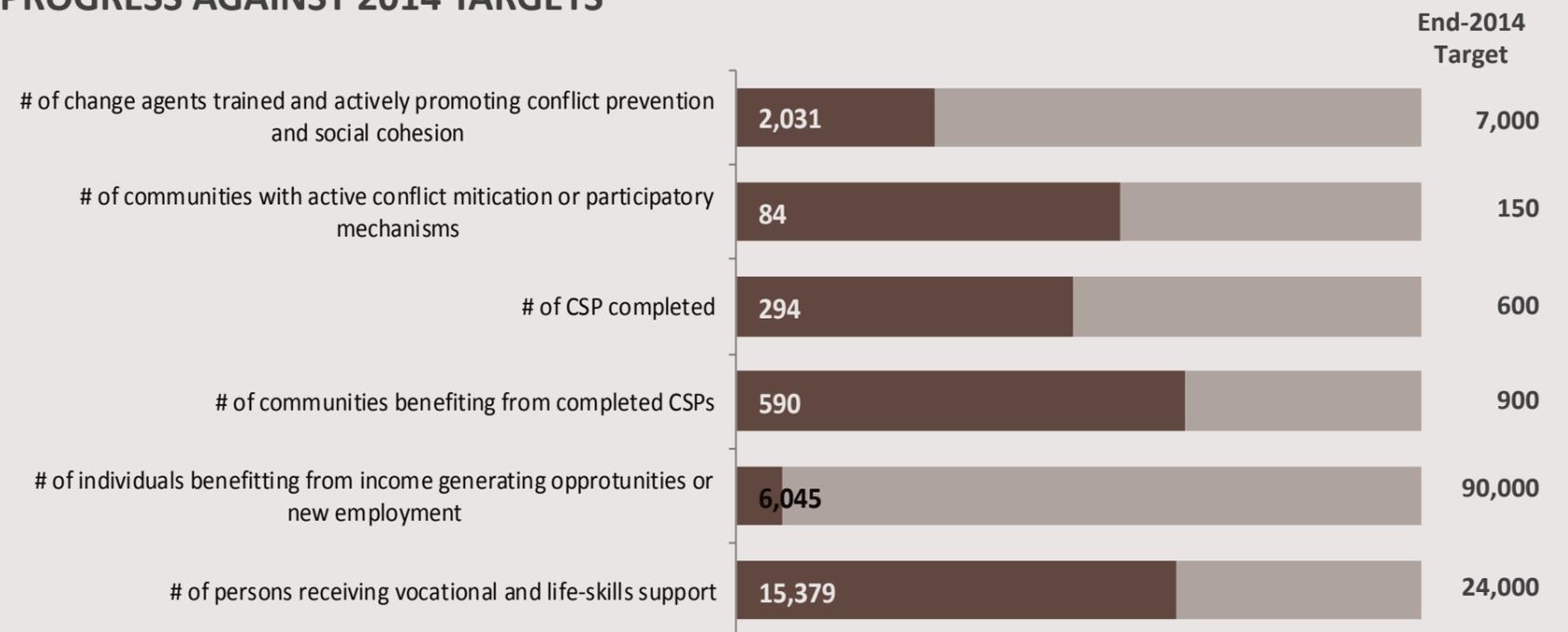
## NEEDS ANALYSIS:

The Ministry of Economy and Trade launched the 'Lebanon SME Strategy: Roadmap to 2020' which aims to foster the creation of vibrant and globally competitive SMEs that contribute to employment opportunities and high value-added economy. This will provide an excellent basis for the Livelihoods sector work in 2015, given its strong focus on supporting MSMEs.

On the other hand, the ILO released a study on labour market conditions in Lebanon, outlining major challenges in the Lebanese labor market. These include high unemployment rates and poor working conditions. Regulation of, and investment in, the Lebanese labor market is seriously lacking. The outcome is an increasingly low-skilled labor force with minimal social protection stuck in a 'downward spiral' towards increasingly dire working conditions. While the absence of decent work is not new to Lebanon, the addition of hundreds of thousands of largely low-skilled Syrian workers is exacerbating an already fragile situation.

On the social cohesion side, Search for Common Ground released a report on Youth and Peace building, pointing out that stereotypes and prejudices limit the interaction of youth from different communities. The study also confirms the importance of adopting a gender perspective when working with youth: young males are more likely to be concerned about the crisis while young females are more focused on their daily life.

## PROGRESS AGAINST 2014 TARGETS



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

Leading Agencies: UNDP Afke Bootsman—afke.bootsman@undp-lebprojects.org — Bastien Ravel — bastien.revel@undp.org

Agencies reporting:

