SITUATION ANALYSIS

Until the end of 2015, the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE), UN and NGO’s continued to focus on the enrollment of all children into certified formal education opportunities. As a result, by the end of 2015, a total of 158,500 non-Lebanese children and 197,000 Lebanese were registered in formal education. From the 158,500 registered non-Lebanese children, 147,285 children were attending.

In November, MEHE organized a series of meetings in all governorates to facilitate the enrolment and retention of Lebanese and Syrian children in the public education system. The regional meetings were organized to discuss and address any further issues or misunderstandings regarding the enrolment process. Recurring issues related to schools revolve around registration fees, residency papers and vaccination certificates. The UN has been gathering these cases on a regular basis and raising them with MEHE at central level for follow-up.

Education Refugee Outreach Volunteers (ROVs) also continued to inform the communities about the enrolment process and to support families in addressing education related challenges. In December community-based homework support groups had doubled since the start up in October and the number of parents reached through community awareness sessions was more than 18,000.

At the end of December, more than 4,500 Syrian and vulnerable Lebanese youth were admitted to formal vocational education, and 134 Syrian students had started their academic careers benefiting from the DAFI scholarship programme, enrolled in Lebanese public universities.

In December, the UN and its implementing partners distributed School-in-a-Box kits to 1,200 first shift and 240 second shift schools, providing essential learning materials to both refugee and Lebanese children. In the same month, the UN started discussing transportation modalities for children that are enrolled in school but not attending classes. Education partners are contacting these children and their families to assess eligibility for transportation support to be provided as of January 2016.

A new outreach campaign was launched during the last weeks of December in preparation for a new round of the Accelerated Learning Program (ALP) to take place early 2016. The campaign aims to ensure that out of school children in Lebanon who missed 2 years of education or more, are provided with the opportunity to enroll in a program that facilitates their transition into formal education. Education partners also completed the rehabilitation of 72 public schools located to meet safety, accessibility and WASH standards, of which 7 schools meet accessibility standards for children with special needs.