

Meeting with North Lebanon Governor

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| **Name** | Education Partners Meeting | **Meeting Date** | Tuesday 14th November, 2017 |
| **Meeting Location** | Seraya Tripoli | **Meeting Time** | 13:00-13:45 |
| **Purpose of Meeting** | Ongoing Advocacy efforts for children to stay in schools and against eviction threats | **Participants** | Governor of North Lebanon; Governor Advisor for Municipalities, UNHCR Deputy Representative, UNHCR Protection, UNHCR Liason, UNDP North, UNDP Coordinator, UNICEF ( Chief of Field Office) , UNICEF Security Officer , UNICEF Education Officer |

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| UNHCR Deputy Representative:  \*Expressed appreciation for Governor leadership and prevention of further escalation of tension between the host Lebanese community and the refugees.  \*Governor’s role in absorbing the fear of the host community and reinforcing the role of the Central government in enforcing the rule of law and keeping the peace.  \*Understands the Governor’s request to:  \*organize the presence of Syrian refugees in Lebanon  \*right to know where refugees are present and how many  \*Evictions of Syrians in Bchare, Koura, and other places in North Lebanon  North Lebanon Governor’s Response  \*Syrian Presence burden on Lebanese Host community  \*Governor Office placing conditions on the presence of Syrians not the Municipality  \*Need to legally organize the living conditions of Syrian families.  \*Cannot allow Syrians living in unhealthy conditions under stairs, in garages,  \*overcrowding( 4-5 families living in one room)  \*Number of Syrian birthrates burden on Lebanon  \*As per the guidance of the Lebanese President Syrians need to return to Syria  \*Many safe areas for Syrians to return to Syria  \*Lebanon can only be a temporary sanctuary for Syrians who were forced to come to Lebanon.  \*Absolute majority of Syrians need to return to Syria  \*Structured and complete evictions by municipalities is not allowed by Governors office.  \* Bchare has a unique Christian identity  \*The presence of 200-300 Syrian children in the public school ( inaccurate number) threaten the identity of the town and increases fears of changing the demographics  \*Syrians have returned to Mizyara after the crime. Those that return have agricultural work in Mizyara and the host community needs them.  \*Regarding issue of Bchare he will request the Head of Muncipality and the Deputy Head of Muncipality to come to his office on Wed Nov 15 , 2017 to follow up regarding demonstrations in front of the public school.  \*The Government of Lebanon is the only authority responsible for the security of citizens. The implementation of law and safety of citizens and foreigners are the duty of the state.  \*The Governor will **not** allow citizens (local vigilantes) to take the law into their own hands.  \*  **\*Mr. Melhem Melhem ( Governors Advisor for Muncipal affairs )**  \*Due to the *decrease* of funds in 2018 will projects in Akkar be prioritized over North by UN agencies  \*Coordination regarding project implementations where better in 2016 than today  \*Need to prioritize projects in Bchare, Zgharta, Koura, ( areas of tension) to increase acceptance of Syrians  **\*Mr. Alain Chatry ( UNDP)**  \*Any UN project is as per the agreement with the concerned Ministry at national level  \*We work in the 251 most vulnerable Cadastrals  \*Projects in 2018 will be implemented and we do not prioritize Akkar over North  \*Task force with Governors office will be reactiviated  **\*Mr. Macheri ( UNICEF )**  \*We work and support Ministries at National Level who recommend on where to work and implement  \*Municipalities need to advocate with concerned ministries for projects in their areas. | |
|  | **Action Points** |
| 1. Head of Municipality in Bchare and Deputy will be asked to report to Tripoli Saraya for Meeting with Melhem Melhem ( Governor’s advisor for Municipal affairs) to discuss demonstrations in front of public schools and facilitate access of Syrian children to public school 2. Further cooperation needed with Governor’s officer to coordination implementation of projects re activating task force needed 3. Mass structured evictions by municipalities are not allowed 4. Need to involve governor’s office of the process regarding how areas are chosen for implementation of projects. | |