

UN EDUCATION SUB-WORKING GROUP MEETING

MINUTES

Wednesday, 20 January 2021
11:00-12:10

VENUE: Yerevan, ARMENIA (via Microsoft Teams)

Participating organizations:

15 participants from UN agencies, international organizations and international/local NGOs (see – attached Participants list) attended the ninth meeting of the Education Sub-Working Group.

Meeting agenda:

- **Inter-Agency Response Plan-updates**
- **5W template-updates**
- **Updates by agencies**
- **Education SWG organizational issues (co-leadership, meeting schedule)**
- **AOB**

➤ **Inter-Agency Response Plan-updates (Alvard Poghosyan)**

- Welcomed and thanked all participants for their inputs and contribution to the development of education section response plan.
- Presented Inter-agency Humanitarian Response Plan for the period of October 2020- June 2021 for Armenia
 - Highlighting, that the Plan covers the period of October 2020- June 2021;
 - Presented population trends and budget requirements by sections, mentioning that education budget is very modest (1 mln) and the highest needs are observed for shelter-NFIs and food & nutrition.
 - Informed that, the targeted population in need is estimated to be 90,000 and it is anticipated that by end of June 2021 the population displaced from NK and remaining in Armenia will be 35,000;
 - Presented disaggregation of displaced population, from which 35 are children (5-17) and 13,5 are Infants and young children (0-59 months);
 - Presented response activity for education which include:
 - Provision of support to the national education system;
 - Securing access of conflict-affected boys and girls to learning and development opportunities
 - Provision of school and IT supplies to facilitate school and distant learning to the refugee-like children
 - Mine-risk education
 - Capacity building of teachers and education staff on working with girls and boys with special needs (including conflict-affected children).
- Informed that the response plan will be shared with the Government on 20 January for their comments and suggestions.
- Responding to Margaw Wetterwald' question on when the document will be launched, Alvard Poghosyan informed that after receiving Governments comments and the Plan will be launched, probably by the end of January.
- *Grigori Hovhannisyan informed that, during the distribution of hygiene and food supplies he personally identified some case of school dropout (a school aged child had dropped out of school since they moved from NK to Armenia) and also young people are not much*

informed about state support programs for education (he met 2 people who want to study at Emergency academy, but have a funding problem and not aware about state tuition support program), so based on this observation Grigori Hovhannisyan suggested to brainstorm and propose the Ministry to set up some mechanism for raising awareness on State support programs and for identifying dropout cases.

- Highlighting the raised issue Alvard Poghosyan informed that Protection group is planning to conduct monitoring, after which they will provide information on education participation and added, that UNICEF also identified some cases of children with disability and special educational needs, but the Ministry were not able to provide data upon the request. She informed that UNICEF has partner (Source Foundation), which are dealing with children with multiple disabilities, and due to the partner, UNICEF tries to reach them and support, as they even don't have assistive devices e.g. wheelchairs and are in a very bad situation.
- On behalf of the representative from the Ministry of Education Alvard Poghosyan updated that 7500 children are registered in EMIS and are attending school in Armenia, they are mainly from Shushi, Hadrut, Lachin and Qarvachar and, most probably, they will not return to NK.
- The other issue according to the Ministry is related to the provision of early learning services. The Ministry representative informed that they have sent official request to the Ministry of Health asking to permit the operation of kindergartens and preschool institutions, as Covid19 restrictions have been lifted out and requirement for public gathering have been softened, private KG are working while very much needed public KG continue to be closed or operate in an emergency mode supporting few kids. Admission to KGs is also stopped since COVID-19 outbreak.
- Regarding to issue of the acceptance to higher education institutions, Alvard Poghosyan informed, that she will try to invite competent person for this issue to the next meeting from the Ministry of Education.
- Responding Nazeli Kirakosyan's question regarding to the chance of updating the Plan Alvard Poghosyan mentioned that, as they are waiting for the Governments comments and suggestions there is an opportunity to add critical inputs with the requirements of presenting funding source.

➤ **UNICEF information management specialist Allan Amulabu presented 5W template draft**

- Mentioning, that there are not many changes in the updated form in comparison with the previous template, the only addition/change is that indicators have been added for activities to provide some level of accuracy.
- Anahit Galikyan raised an issue concerning to choosing the activity, particularly if an activity conducted was not included in activity list there was no opportunity to insert it manually, besides she proposed to have another column to insert the total number of beneficiaries instead of disaggregated data by gender, as sometimes disaggregated data are not available.
- Responding to Anahit Galikyan's questions Allan informed that they will add section, so other activities also can be insert and in that case indicators for that specific activity should be inserted by the person, who fill the form.
- Also, additional column for the total number of beneficiaries will be added in template.

➤ **Allan Amulabu presented findings related to education from Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA) analysis conducted by "REACH".**

- Responding to Grigori Hovhannisyan question related to "early education facility" meaning, Astghik Martirosyan clarified that the definitions should be given in ToR and the MSNA analysis was not dedicated only to education, so there is limited data on education.
- Responding to Maya Simonyan question regarding the period of data collection, Astghik Martirosyan mentioned that the data collected during the November-December 2020.

- Responding to Iren Sargsyan question regarding sharing MSNA analysis results Alan Amulabu informed that he will upload the document in the Respond portal and will share the link with sub working group members.

➤ Updates from agencies

Iren Sargsyan (Save the Children)

- Informed, that they have 2 fully operational child friendly spaces in Goris and Armavir, providing recreational, first aid psychological and PSS activities for more than 250 children;
- Starting from this week 2 mobile child friendly spaces teams will be operating, visiting to Tegh and Tatev centralized communities.
- In CFS they have positive parenting sessions organized on regular basis.
- Informed, that they have already distributed NFIs (clothing, hygiene and school kits) and distribution of tablets in Goris and Armavir is in the process.
- They have ongoing training for education service providers on education in emergency, protection in emergency, child safeguarding, positive parenting, GBV and PSS.
- Next week Save the children team will visit NK for rapid need assessment mainly focused on child protection, education and shelter issues.

Grigori Hovhannisyan (Action Against Hunger)

- Presented, that currently they are working in Yerevan and near regions. During November-December they provided food and hygiene packages to 733 families, now the number of beneficiaries raised to 1425 families, also they are providing baby kits to 145 children.
- They are also planning to provide educational supplies.

Nazeli Kirakosyan (Armenian red cross society)

- Updated that ARCS has been providing resilience building non-formal activities and the first phase will end in February reaching about 3000 children.
- In Kotayk region, at the end of 2020, about 363 gadgets were distributed to the children to support to their education practices.
- EORE project were started for 2400 people (including 1000 children) in cooperation with UNICEF and currently the TOT for instructors is being held.

Maya Simonyan (UNICEF)

- The establishment of 11 early learning started and is in the process, 3 centres are already established in Sevan and Diligan.
- In cooperation with Source Foundation UNICEF provides continuing care and support services to 25 children with severe and multiple disabilities.
- Around 100 children are participating in different activities for social integration with the host communities.

➤ Education SWG organizational issues (co-leadership, meeting schedule)

- Alvard Poghosyan informed that Save the children expressed willingness to co-lead the Education sub-working group. Globally UNICEF and Save the Children are co-lead of education cluster in emergency situation. As Emergency state was not announced in Armenia, UN coordination mechanism have been activated and Education sub working group established under Protection working group and Protection group ToR gives members opportunity to select co-lead for sub working groups, so Alvard Poghosyan proposed to vote for the proposal of SC co-leadership. The group members fully supported the proposal.

- Margaw Wetterwald also stressed that at global level there is an MoU between SC and UNICEF on Education Cluster co-leadership during emergencies. She presented Save the children role as a co-lead of education SWG in Armenia, mentioning that they will mainly focus on localization and working with local partners, capacity building activities in EiE based on members/partners needs and on improving accountability to children.
- Iren Sargsyan informed, that they have developed their role and responsibilities as a co-lead and shared with UNICEF.
- Alvard Poghosyan proposed to have biweekly meetings, and any request coming from UN Coordination Steering group or any other urgent needs for updates and comments will be reached through email, which fully supported by group members.

What was agreed:

- To share MSNA analysis results link with sub working group members.
- To held biweekly meeting instead of weekly meetings.

UNICEF Armenia
20 January 2020

Participants list

Alvard Poghosyan	Education specialist (UNICEF)
Maya Simonayn	ECD Officer (UNICEF)
Hasmik Araqelyan	CWD Officer (UNICEF)
Ogwal Benson Stanley	Emergency Coordinator (UNICEF),
Allan Amulabu	Information management specialist (UNICEF),
Lidiia Kasianchuk	WHO
Iren Sargsyan	Child Protection/ Education Technical Adviser – NK Response/ MEEE R, Save the Children
Margaw Wetterwald	Programs Development and Quality Manager, Save the Children
Grigori Hovhannisyan	Action Against Hunger (AAH)
Anahit Galikyan	Education program coordinator (OSF),
David Amiryan	Deputy director for programs (OSF),
Marine Tumyan	KASA foundation
Meirgul Alpysbayeva	UNESCO
Anna Barfyan	Youth program coordinator (UNFPA),
Gohar Musaelyan	Urban development and education programs (ADB)
Nazeli Kirakosyan	Head of organizational development (The Armenian red cross society),
Hermine Katvalyan	Program assistant (UNICEF)