

Minutes of the Education Sector Working Group Meeting

The Ministry of Education and Higher Education, 17rd of September 2013 at 10:00 a.m.

Participants:

Amel, AVSI, Balamand University, Blue Mission, British council, Caritas Lebanon Migrant Centre, CCPA, IH Beirut, Iqra', Jusoor, MEHE (minute-taker), NRC, Relief International, SCI, TdH Italy, UNESCO, UNHCR (chair), UNICEF (co-chair), WCH

For the general updates - see attached PowerPoint presentation for details.

	Issue	Action	By Who	When
1	Action points from the last EWG meeting: 1- Legal advice on Syrian employment at the humanitarian agencies 2- List of local NGOs active in the areas of concentration of refugees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NGOs can contract Syrians as consultants. They should do a legal contract or the Syrians should have a work permit. Deduction of 7.5% of taxes • List should be consolidated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All partners 	ASAP
2	Updates and figures: 13932 additional children in school age were registered with UNHCR since the last EWG meeting. The document of the school- age children should follow the same area distribution as MEHE, and should be broken in gender too	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Break the document of school age children into boys and girls and the North area into Tripoli and Akkar, and the South into South and Nabatieh. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN HCR 	Next EWG
3	Media confusion: The media is confusing school age refugee children with number of students, and this is creating lots of pressure on the MEHE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The estimates of school age children should be divided by population categories, showing how the estimates are calculated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN HCR and UNICEF 	Next EWG
4	Maps: The 3 W Matrix has been completed and new maps have been generated out of it: Education Sector Partners Mapping; Education sector activities map	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The matrix to be updated monthly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All partners 	Monthly
5	JENA: Presentation about the preliminary JENA report, done by Rania Zakhia, UNICEF: 44 schools were assessed. The challenges faced were the following: tented settlements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback from MEHE to UNICEF • Second draft including MEHE feedback to be circulated to all the JENA task force participants • Final draft to be circulated to the EWG 	MEHE UNICEF	End Sept 1 st week of oct. Next EWG

	<p>were very few at the time of the assessment so no assessment was done there. Besides access was not possible in some schools because of the security situation (especially in Wadi Khaled)</p> <p>Findings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools are exhausting their capacity to accommodate Syrian students. Some schools are saturated • Language barrier: Syrian students do not know foreign languages • Security barriers: the majority of the Syrian students attend schools in their neighbourhood at an average of 13 minutes by feet • Transportation and tuition fees • Discrimination: prevalent in the schools • Testing children in foreign language proficiency (especially in cycle 3) • School facilities are in poor conditions and Syrian students lack the necessary equipment • Emergency related topics are not addressed at the schools • Corporal punishment is still widespread • School principals remain reluctant to admit Syrian students in the LES • Dues to the policies of the MEHE schools are becoming more accommodating of Syrian students, irrespective of their legal documents • Syrian parents are rarely consulted in the Education of their children • Vocational training for Syrian children is considered desirable by parents and school 		UNICEF	
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	teachers			
6	<p>Education strategy outline presented by Sonia Khoury:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A letter has been sent from the MEHE to the Prime Minister office asking the cabinet what is the ceiling that the MEHE can cover. • We will have a higher number of Lebanese in the public schools this year to the fact that some private schools closed, mainly in Tripoli, and some families cannot afford the private schools anymore due to the economic situation. • Priority is given to Lebanese students as per the law • Registration ends in September 23, but will be extended to October 10th. Children students will be accepted in the first shift till the end of October • The schools will accommodate the numbers that they can in the morning shifts and the remaining students will be moved to second shift. The deadline of registration in second shift has not been decided yet. • Before deciding on opening a second shift children who were not able to enrol in the first shift, will be advised to enrol in a neighbouring school, and when all neighbouring school have no more capacity, a second shift will be opened • Concerning the payment of committee of parents, and as per the law, the student should pay it to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing the ceiling of Syrian students that will be taken in charge by the government (fees and books) with the EWG 	MEHE	ASAP
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MEHE will inform the regional directors that they can prepare 		

9	Steering Committee ToRs: the ToRs were prepared and sent to all EWG partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feedback on the ToRs (do they correspond to the needs, what is missing, etc.) to be sent to Kirsten before the next EWG If an NGOs is not funded by UNICEF and UNHCR and is not listed in the steering committee participants, they should contact UNHCR 	ALL EWG partners Any partner	Before next EWG Before next EWG
10	Contingency plan: document prepared by the steering committee about what the participating organization can do today if 30000 new children are sitting on the border	If there is an NGO who is ready to go or that has additional emergency supplies, they should contact Kirsten	Any partner	ASAP
11	Passing rate of Syrian students	If any NGO is willing to work on analysing the results of the Syrian children who were enrolled in public schools, this will be discussed in the next EWG	Any partner	ASAP
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NEXT MEETING: 1st of October 2013 – 10am
Venue: Ministry of Education, 11th floor.

Participants – Approval of minutes

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