Back to School Workshop

Zahle Bekaa

29 June 2016

**Communication for Development (C4D)**

-School available but not all children coming

-Perhaps people do not know about the education services

-Perhaps people had bad experience with the service

-Back to school initiative “ go to school, stay in school, successfully complete school”

-Conduct a rapid research assessment

-mapping: who is working where & when capture gaps and overlap

-Advocacy, social mobilization, Behavioural change, communication for social development

-Number of front line workers on the ground per each NGO

-Number of Outreach volunteers per NGO; How many areas can they (OV) realistically cover?

-Back to school campaign to reach all children of all nationalities from ages (3-18 confirm age group)

- We need to utilize already establish local community networks such as Boy Scouts, religious leaders, Mokhtars, municipalities,

-Syrians outside Informal Settlements living in garages, unfinished buildings, apartments, are also vulnerable and need support which they are not receiving

-Front line workers on the ground need support and training to conduct H.H visits in buildings ( regular apartments) and garages outside Informal settlements.

-NGO that need extra staff and support to contact H.H visits please clearly mention it.

-Front line workers need training on how to overcome resistance of parents / shawish to send children to public school.

**Challenges for children going to public school and public school retention:**

-Perhaps the whole approach to convincing parents to send their children to public schools could be wrong

-No places for children ages (3-5) in public school. This age group is the largest number of children parents willing to send to school.

-Shawish and parents put condition of (WFP Food, WASH services, and Cash assistance to send their children to school)

-Front liners need training to answer questions / inquiries re: Health, shelter, WFP food Cards, Cash assistance programs from parents and shawish

-Arsal only has three public schools available

-Violence in public schools against Syrian children has affected attendance rate and willingness of parents to send their children

-**Shawish**  is a protection issues in a number of Informal Settlements. Shawish deciding the education destiny of children. He is using children as a bargaining tool. A **deterrence action** is needed against the actions of Shawish who are creating obstacles for children to attend public schools. Shawish demanding an Education tent in the Informal settlement or will not send children to school claiming safety issues. Shawish asking bus drivers and outreach workers ( fixed fees per child per month / day of attendance) .

-MEHE needs to change its perception of NGO working in education. MEHE needs to listen to the experiences of NGO working in Education. MEHE needs to allow NGO working in Education to share their suggestions/ recommendation for education in a regular formal channel.

-Is UNHCR carrying out a research study about reasons for not going to school? When will the results be available? Will the results be publicly shared?

-**Protection of Child identity** when reporting corporal punishments: A number of parents who have reported corporal punishments in schools claimed that the identity of the child became public to teachers and public school administrators. This has backfired against the child and lead to further discrimination against the child. “ A case of a mother who reported violence against her child in a public school. The result is the perpetrator teacher knew that the mother has reported him and continued further punishment of the child. Furthermore the case resulted in father blaming mother on reporting the case without his consent.

-NGO media focal points have also developed their own pic stories leaflets for BTS. NGO focal points also asked to share.

-What is the quality, safety and care for children in public school?

-What is the attention and care given to teachers to students especially in second shift?

- A number of NFE programs have built and gained the trust and confidence of parents especially with direct communication between NFE teachers, administrators and the parents

- UN agencies need to convince MEHE that formal and non formal education need to complement each other and not cancel one another.

-MEHE refused to provide NGO who are supporting transportation of children in second shift from their own funding with signed and stamped attendance sheets. Donors of these NGO will refuse to continue funding.

-MEHE needs to change mind set on cooperation with NGO regarding follow up on attendance and dropouts.

-Teachers need to have a university degree in the subject they are teaching especially Science and **foreign language teachers**. Do teachers have any teaching diploma certificates?

-Access of NGO to public school should be viewed by MEHE to help school retention and not a threat related to publishing mishaps in public schools

-MEHE PMU field staff need to be part of the outreach to communities to see first-hand the actual work implemented by NGO and the challenges faced in the field both in Informal settlements and House Hold visits.

**Mapping Exercise Bekaa:**

Gaps:

-RACHAYA; West Hermel; Hasbaya; North of Balbaak City, ( Ayn area ( Sbouba , RIHA villages )

Suggestions:

Rachaya gap: support to Intersos needed. Perhaps Caritas, SCI and SAWA may expand on condition of management agreement and financial support. In Rachaya World Vision have a Cash Program perhaps we can ask the support of World Vision Cash program with Back to School outreach campaign.

West Hermel gap: perhaps IRC, Beyond, Lost may expand on condition of management agreement and financial support.

North of Balbaak City gap: Ayn area specifically Sbouba riha area. Perhaps LOST , SAWA, IRC through outreach volunteers may expand based on management approval and financial support.

**Questions:**

Who is working on Youth from the partners to involve them in the outreach for B 2 S.

Can DAFI students be included in the outreach (UNHCR / TdH) ?

Can SCI OV in child protection support B2S?

Can Intersos Outreach volunteers support?

How can NGO support expansion of B2S outreach?.

What are the number of field workers on the ground for each NGO?

What are the numbers of Outreach volunteers per NGO. How many hours of work can each Outreach volunteer provide. What are the areas of coverage per outreach volunteer?

Possible Overlap:

City of Zahleh ; West Bekaa ( NRC , Intersos, Caritas , SCI , World Vision)

Questions:

-Who is providing BLN, ECE? Where? When? How to refer what formats?

-What is the detailed work plan for the B2S?

-When are we going to divide the overlap areas geographically?

-Who is going to develop the work plan for each NGO ?

-Can you clarify the financial incentives and training to both UNICEF / UNHCR partners? Non-UNHCR/UNICEF partners willing to be part of the outreach?

-How many full time field worker on the ground per NGO covered? Area of coverage?

-Who is supporting school principals ?