

UN EDUCATION SUB-WORKING GROUP MEETING

MINUTES

Wednesday, 02 December 2020
11:00-12:10

VENUE: Yerevan, ARMENIA (via Zoom)

Participating organizations:

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

Meeting agenda:

- Education Continuity needs- update from the MoESCS;
- Report from Goris Mission-Save the Children;
- Updates from the participants on education continuity issues;
- AOB

Presenting general education issues and needs, Susanna Azatyan mentioned, that

- Highlighted and appreciated the importance of the cooperation and the assistance of partner organization in this very tough period for Artsakh and the Republic of Armenia;
- Reported, that because of the war, in total 24,000 students stayed out of school, moved from Artsakh to Armenia and their right to education was violated;
- Due to the prompt actions of the Ministry, at this moment 11,000 students are registered in Armenian schools, considering this number it has to be kept in mind, that high school is not mandatory in NK and some of the students have already returned to Artsakh;
- Stationery items, school bags and ITC equipment were provided by The MoESCS in cooperation with partner organization (Teach for Armenia, UNICEF) to properly involve Students from Artsakh in the study process;
- Since December 7 face to face learning will be launched in the Republic of Armenia;
- Underlined, that the assistance for educational continuity should be differentiated among the students from Artsakh currently living in Armenia and the students who have already returned to Artsakh. Suggested, that the organizations, which are going to support the students, who went back to Artsakh and can operate in the territory of NK to contact with the Ministry of Education of Artsakh, as the latter is more informed and relevant about the needs of students and the situation in Artsakh.
- Organizations, which are going to aid in RA, better to focus on the actions for the support of face to face learning, as schools in Armenian are turning to face to face learning since December 7.
- Responding to the question raised by ICRC, admitted that disabled students and students under the high risk of COVID-19 infection or students, who have family member of COVID-19 risk group will continue distance learning via Online educational center, if school cannot provide such a services;
- Responding to Maya Simonyan's (UNICEF) question regarding ITC needs, mentioned that there is no data available, but the highest needs are observed in Yerevan and Kotayk regions.
- Addressing to the question raised by UN HCR representative on attendance of students, mentioned that for the students who haven't registered in Armenian schools the Ministry has no information, for those who have registered schools have separate page for attendance in their electronic registration books.

- Reported that, according to their observation, the main issues of low attendance were 1.high level of uncertainty, 2.psycho-social issues, 3.internet availability and 4.the lack of ITC equipment. In this regard, worth to mention, that network operators provided free access to educational platforms for a period of one month, as well as “Tumo Creative center” provided its centers in Yerevan, Gyumri and Dilijan to organize distance education for students from Artsakh.
- Responding to the UNICEF representative’s question on the needs of stationery items and ITC equipment, mentioned that regional administrations are coordinating these activities and organizations which are going to provide such support should cooperate with them.

Report from Goris Mission-Margaw Wetterwald (Save the children)

- Updated, that schools in Syunik marz are no longer used for military purposes, which was observed and reported previously;
- 3 out of 6 kindergartens in Goris are used as shelters and 1 as warehouse for food, so in case of reopening of pre-school institutions only 2 kindergartens can operate properly;
- School textbooks are provided as needed and physical distancing recommendation are followed;
- Lack of COVID-19 protective equipment and stationary items were observed
- The representative of the Ministry added, that in line with the order of Minister of Health all instructions of distancing and protective equipment were provided to the schools.
- If there are additional needs for textbooks, then students should be guided to apply to the Textbook circulating Fund and latter will provide them accordingly.

Grigori Hovhannisyan (International committee of Red cross)

- Informed, that they prepared short reports pertaining ICRC humanitarian assistance provided in Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh in the period of October – November and will share with group members.

Margaw Wetterwald (Save the Children)

- Informed, that they are going to provide school supplies to students from NK located in Armavir and Gegharkunik marzes.

Marine Mkhitarian (UNDP)

- Informed, that they have several development programs, the last one is the development and design of Covid-19 awareness prevention materials and brochures for Secondary schools in cooperation with Health and Labour Inspectorate, which will be shared with the Ministry.
- In cooperation with Secondary vocational education Department of the MoESCS training laboratories for creative industries will be opened in secondary vocational institutions in Lori, Shirak, Kotayk and Gegharkunik marzes (the list of organizations is already approved.)
- Non-formal and civil education was also provided by UNDP.

Anna Bafyan (UNFPA)

- Informed that peer-to-peer learning were initiated by the Network of peer educators for 100 students from Artsakh temporary located in Armavir. In the framework of this initiative mainly non-formal education was provided in an entertaining format and stationary items were also distributed.

Open society foundation Davit Manukyan

- Informed, that in cooperation with “For equal rights” organization a project was launched and different informal education activities are organized in shelters of Syunik marz and Vardenis municipality.
- Currently there is an ongoing negotiation with Armavir Youth centre for organization of different educational and psycho-social activities for children and youth and their families from Artsakh currently living in Armavir.
- Highlighted, that their partners directly working with displaced population, stressed the importance of the organization of New year and Christmas events for the children and displaced families in shelters and host families.

What was agreed:

- To share among group members short reports on ICRC humanitarian assistance provided in Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh in the period of October – November.
- The representative of the Ministry suggested to coordinate the activities in order to avoid overlaps and duplications.

*UNICEF Armenia
02 December 2020*

Participants list

Alvard Poghosyan	Education specialist (UNICEF)
Tigran Tovmasyan	Programme Officer (UNICEF)
Naira Avetisyan	Emergency officer on CP, MHPSS related issues (UNICEF Ukraine)
Maya Simonayn	ECD Officer (UNICEF)
Susanna Azatyan	General education department Ministry of the MoESCS
Margaw Wetterwald	Emergency officer on emergency response (UNICEF Ukraine)
Anna Barfyan	Youth program coordinator (UNFPA),
Anush Shahverdyan	Education programs (World bank),
Anoush Davtyan	Consultant (UNICEF),
Arevik Anapostyan	Development finance and partnership adviser (UN),
Grigori Hovhannisyan	Education programs manager (International committee of Red cross),
Karen Khachatryan	Senior community protection officer (UNHSR)
Nazeli Kirakosyan	Head of organizational development (The Armenian red cross society),
Goharik Tigranyan	Project “Hope”
Nataliya Chevrinska	ACTED organization
Marina Mkhitaryan	Head of innovation lab (UNDP)
Hermine Katvalyan	Program assistant (UNICEF)
Heghinar Sevoyan	Interpreter