

**JORDAN EDUCATION SECTOR WORKING GROUP (ESWG)**  
**TERMS OF REFERENCE**  
**March 2019**

**BACKGROUND**

The Education Sector Working Group (ESWG) was established in 2008 to support the coordination of education interventions following the Iraqi refugee crisis in Jordan. It has continued its coordination mandate throughout the years and in the current Syrian crisis. The ESWG has ensured a link between humanitarian and resilience education programming in line with the Jordan Response Platform (JRP).

In 2019, there is a need to review and refine the roles and objectives of the ESWG in recognition of a multitude of factors. Now in the ninth year of the crisis, Jordan has entered a period of transition from primarily humanitarian and resilience interventions to increasingly more development-oriented interventions that include the needs of refugees, host communities and other vulnerable groups. In 2016, the Government of Jordan launched the Human Resources Development (HRD) Strategy 2016-2025 to guide efforts in the education, higher education, technical and vocational education and training (TVET) and labour and employment sectors. The HRD Strategy includes all levels of education and higher education (pre-primary, primary, secondary, VE/TVET and tertiary). In 2018, the Ministry of Education developed a comprehensive Education Strategic Plan (ESP) 2018-2022 to operationalize the HRD Strategy in the areas of education under its authority (KG2 to grade 12). These plans clearly recognize the need to provide inclusive, equitable and quality education programs for all children, adolescents and youth in Jordan, regardless of nationality.

**OBJECTIVES OF ESWG**

Given the shifting landscape in the sector, one of the ESWG roles going forward is to bridge humanitarian, resilience, and longer-term development efforts to advance inclusive and equitable quality education for all children, adolescents and youth in Jordan and ensure no one is left behind (SDGs 4, 5 and 10).

The main objectives of ESWG are as follows:

- 1. Coordination:** To provide an information-sharing and coordination forum in which all relevant organisations and institutions collaborate to support access and equity for all children, adolescents and youth to relevant education, vocational education/TVET and higher education pathways in current and future development and humanitarian programming. Ensure a cross-sectoral approach to education – i.e. protection, equity, gender equality, GBV, CWD/PWD and provision of strong coordination and collaboration among all sector and cross-sectoral members.
- 2. Planning and Monitoring:** To enhance education system capacity in planning and implementing education, vocational education/TVET and higher education interventions aligned to the extent possible with national plans and priorities, adopting universal standards for addressing the multi-faceted consequences of natural and human disasters, and working in such a way as to strengthen the resilience of national institutions, communities and individuals to cope with and respond to current and future crises.
- 3. Knowledge Management:** To generate relevant data and research evidence and share information in a timely manner in line with international, national and sub-national platforms and frameworks, such as ESP TWGs, JRP, Brussels conferences, etc. Act as a knowledge-sharing platform to reflect member agencies' technical experiences and lesson learnt at local, regional and global levels.

**CORE FUNCTIONS OF ESWG (See Annex 1 for details)**

To achieve these objectives, ESWG members agreed to fulfil the following core functions:

Coordination	Planning and Monitoring	Knowledge Management
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provide a platform to ensure that service delivery and system strengthening is driven by agreed strategic priorities</li><li>• Funding</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Develop mechanisms to ensure complementarity and eliminate duplication of services and resources</li><li>• Monitoring, reporting and accountability of the working group strategy</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Conduct needs assessments and gap analyses which inform prioritisation in consultation with the MOE and MOHE</li><li>• Advocacy to ensure programmes are accessible and adapted to the needs of children, adolescents and youth</li></ul>

## **STRUCTURE OF ESWG**

ESWG is to be chaired by UN and NGO(s) that are elected every twelve months in coordination with the MOE and MOHE. The selection of a co-chair can be regularly reviewed with the objective of periodic rotation. ESWG meets every two months in line with the frequency of ESP technical working group meetings, or more often if appropriate, at the Amman level.

The co-chairs will:

- Prepare the agenda and minutes for every meeting and share them with ESWG members and other relevant actors.
- Organise and co-chair ESWG meetings.
- Ensure ESWG representation in the inter-sectoral coordination meetings and other relevant meetings and provide technical and administrative support to document developments (i.e. sector-level workplans, strategy paper, project budget etc).
- Provide sector updates for situation reports and humanitarian and resilience response updates especially for the JRP task force quarterly meetings and other relevant documents.
- Support each other in their role for effective coordination and response to the queries/questions from members.
- Ensure that agencies participating in ESP TWGs share technical updates and exchange information with the other sector members via the ESWG.
- Work effectively to increase the level of participation and involvement of national and local organizations in ESWG meetings.

Membership is free and open to all international and national organisations involved in education, including UN agencies, international/national NGOs, local authorities and donors. Organisations are encouraged to be represented by technical staff in education or related fields. All members, including the co-chairs, commit to:

- Attending and participating actively in the meetings.
- Following up on action points when required.
- Updating the services advisor tools when requested.
- Sharing relevant information and best practice with ESWG members.

In consultation of a large group, the ESWG co-chairs can form a task force comprising a maximum of 10 education actors and guides the larger ESWG membership with sector strategy development, policy decisions, response and budget planning, and coordination mechanisms. ESWG chair and co-chair(s) may nominate any organization/member to be a part of specific task force based on their expertise and skills.

## **GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

The work of ESWG shall be guided by Agenda 2030, particularly SDG 4, INEE standards, and Jordan's education priorities as outlined in the HRD Strategy 2016-2025, the ESP 2018-2022, and the JRP. In addition, all members of ESWG agree to base their partnership on the globally agreed upon principles of partnership:

- Equality among partners in consultation and decision making
- Transparency among partners
- The primacy of a result-oriented approach to humanitarian and development action
- Responsibility between partners to accomplish undertaken tasks
- Complementarity between the capacity and activities of local and international actors.<sup>1</sup>
- Mutual accountability and the aid effectiveness agenda.

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE TERMS OF REFERENCE**

These terms of reference will periodically be amended, when there are substantial changes in the situation on the ground.

---

<sup>1</sup> 'Principles of Partnership: A Statement of Commitment', endorsed by the Global Humanitarian Platform, 12 July 2007: <http://www.globalhumanitarianplatform.org/pop.html#pop>

### CORE FUNCTIONS OF THE WORKING GROUP

#### 1. Provide a platform to ensure that service delivery and system strengthening is driven by agreed strategic priorities

- Plan and act in accordance with changing national priorities, looking for opportunities to move from service delivery to system strengthening
- Ensure the inclusion and coordination of all the key partners in the education sector.
- Maintain open consultation and collaboration with the MoE and MoHE
- Ensure that sector partners have access to well-founded research and evidence in decision-making
- Link up with relevant authorities and other coordination forums, to serve as a coordinating bodies and dialogue mechanisms
- Encourage and support decentralisation of education coordination to the sub-national level
- Ensure cross-sectoral collaboration in seeking to maximize resources, information sharing and impact

#### 2. Develop mechanisms to ensure complementarity and eliminate duplication of services and resources

- Develop and regularly update a common strategic plan to respond to the identified needs and to fill in the identified gaps
- Maintain focus on realizing the vision of the ESP, and on supporting access for all children, adolescents and youth to relevant and quality education pathways
- Share regular updates on interventions, discuss their appropriateness and explore programme complementarities and/or integration through a regular update of the Services Advisor Tool (4W)
- Promote information sharing among partners and with other working groups (Child Protection, WASH, protection, higher education, livelihood, nutrition etc.) to discuss key cross cutting issues
- The elected partners should participate actively in the technical working groups discussions and feed the Education Working Group
- Promote dialogue on policy implementation, including progress and challenges, so that learning, and adaptation can be promoted

#### 3. Conduct needs assessments and gap analyses which inform prioritisation in consultation with MoE and MoHE

- Develop, use and update tools for the collection, analysis and management of education data
- Conduct assessments to identify the needs of the sector, using appropriate tools
- Promote the implementation of inter-agency and multi-sectoral assessments using commonly agreed indicators
- Support capacity building of educational authorities at national and sub-national level, national and international NGOs and other civil society organisations on needs assessment and response
- Conduct gap analyses to determine the gaps in geographic coverage and the priority education interventions that require additional assistance
- Coordinate a joint analysis of needs assessments and gap analyses to support response planning and prioritisation in the short and medium term based on available resources
- Promote best practices in programme planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation

#### 4. Funding

- Determine funding requirements with partners
- Ensure funding allocation under jointly agreed criteria and prioritisation
- Provide technical review of project proposals and or approvals when requested

- Ensure members provide information on funding in the online Service Advisory tool and share this information with relevant partners
- Contribute to resource mobilisation (financial and capacity) to support educational priorities

#### **5. Advocacy to ensure programmes are accessible and adapted to the needs of children, adolescents and youth**

- Develop and implement a common advocacy strategy for the problems faced in education
- Advocate for the active participation of the government at national and sub-national level, particularly the Ministry of Education, in addition to communities, religious groups, children and youth, women and vulnerable groups in education activities
- Advocate for refugee education and education rights for all children, adolescents and youth
- Advocate for changing / updating structures and legislations of some educational programs/ interventions to be more effective and meet diverse needs
- Robust evidence generation and advocacy to integrate development and humanitarian nexus
- Consider the scope and performance of information systems that are required to ensure that Government and all TWG members have access to accurate and timely data and evidence

#### **6. Monitoring, Reporting and Accountability of the Working Group strategy**

- Monitor the ESWG strategy using tools in accordance with agreed standards and common indicators
- Ensure gender equality and equity analysis is mainstreamed in the ESWG's work
- Map progress against the agreed strategic plan and identify corrections when required
- Produce and share regular reports with all concerned actors on the educational needs and activities
- Advocate for stakeholder commitment to strengthening existing monitoring systems and looking into harmonizing them in the future
- Advocate for reaching out unified quality and quantity indicators for different educational services.
- Continue reporting on JRP and ESP TWG
- Review and strengthen monitoring systems and capacities of associated RGC ministries and agencies
- Promote integration with cross-sectoral sharing and learning to improve quality of education in the country