

Education Working Group Meeting- Minutes

Meeting			
Name	Education Working Group Meeting	Meeting Date	Oct 22, 2013
Meeting Location	Zahle - Bekaa	Meeting Time	11.30 am
Meeting Duration	1.5 hours		
Organizations Attending	UNICEF, SCI, IQRA, AMEL, NRC, TDH, Caritas, WVI, OTI, IRC, ALLC		
Minutes Prepared by	Cesar Al Fakih		
Purpose of Meeting	Coordination Meeting with NGO's implementing education projects in the Bekaa Area		

Summary of discussions and action points

1.	General Sector Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNICEF updated and shared with all NGO's the latest ministry circular that has been issued and that mainly highlights 2 important points which states that a committee headed by the Education Regional Director will be formed to follow all the issues of the Syrian Students; in addition to the fact that all old Syrian Students will be kept in school in the first shift while newly enrolled Syrian Students will have their names registered in order for them to be placed in a second shift. • For the Back to School program AMEL and SCI haven't yet covered the tuition fees and didn't start distributing the stationery for kids where they were still waiting for a final decision from MEHE on Enrollment Issues. • Caritas have enrolled till now 6500 Syrian Students in the Bekaa and distributed stationery kits for 500 students; even though newly enrolled Syrian Students constitute a major part of these beneficiaries • The permit for the ALP programs from the ministry for the NGO's to go into the schools has been signed by the DG of MEHE and will be shared by SCI. • The group requested that Mr. Yousef Braidy should start attending the EWG since he is a key figure for the Ministry here in the Bekaa. • SCI updated everyone present on the possibility of giving out Certificates for the completion of the ALP programs, and has ensured that MEHE won't sign on any certificate but each NGO can put their signature along with their donor and give it out for attendees. • OTI updated everyone present on the rapid assessment that they have conducted for the 100 schools that were previously rehabilitated by Derasati Program in order for them to identify what are the main requirements and needs for those schools to increase their capacity and be able to accept additional number of students but they have put on hold any further action due to the decision of the ministry in moving all newly enrolled Syrian Students to Second Shifts. • OTI also updated the group on their capability to cover all none-profit schools that are taking in Syrian Students.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNICEF updated the group on the fuel distribution process that will start within next month; where we are still finalizing these lists and when finalized UNICEF will share with the group this list since SCI has planned for fuel distribution as well. Next education meeting will be held on Tuesday 29/10/2013 at 11:30 AM 			
2.	Identified Gaps or Issues			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All NGO's expressed their concern on the capacity of the schools where no one thinks that schools will be capable to take all the huge numbers of Newly enrolled Syrian Refugees in second shifts; knowing that UNHCR are only funding 20 schools in the Bekaa for second shift. And taking into consideration that schools haven't yet reached half their capacity in first shift. The issue of child labor was also highlighted where all NGO's present believe that taking all these students out of the first shift and enrolling them in an afternoon shift will highly encourage child labor. NRC raised the issue of the different packages being provided by NGO's implementing None formal education which made school principals wait for the best offer to come in order to accept the NGO to work in that school. In addition to refusing to work with one NGO since the other one is providing a better package. 			
3.	Agreed Action Points :			
	Issue	Deadline	Responsible	Comment
	NRC to share list of schools where they will be implementing their Remedial classes.	17 Oct	WV/UNICEF/ IQRAA	
	NRC and MS to conduct a coordination meeting to solve the issue of a possible overlap in their program being implemented in Houch Omara public School.	17 Oct	UNICEF	
	OTI to share list of schools in the Bekaa with all the updated numbers of registered children and capacity in schools.	22 Oct	UNHCR	
	UNICEF to share the list of ITS's in the Bekaa	22 Oct	EWG	