

K-19 Task Force

Minutes of Meeting, 11:00, November 28, 2022

Online via Teams

Agenda

Workshop with Stakeholders
Format of sessions
Program
Guest list

Attending

Abdulqader Kakasur, UNICEF
Shelan Khalil, Ministry of Education
Vida Hanna, Catholic University of Erbil
Behar Ali, EMMA
Dr. Mohammad Ahmed, Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research
Dr. Naznaz Muhamad, formerly Education Committee, Parliament
Kristin Crawford, University of Kurdistan Hewler
Dr. Soran Saeed, Sulaimani Polytechnic
Dr. Galawezh Obaid Osman, MP, Education Committee
Dr. Honar Issa, American University of Kurdistan
Dr. Randall Rhodes, American University of Kurdistan

Meeting was called to order at 11:05

The discussion opened with the outline of the previous vision for the event – four concurrent sessions focused on Early Childhood, K-12 Curriculum Design, TVET, and University Admissions. Each session would have 15-25 participants who would be introduced to the research and vision of the respective K-19 work group and any proposals/recommendations that were developed. A SWOT analysis would be conducted to solicit feedback including the challenges of the status quo, weaknesses in the current system, and opportunities for reform.

In the course of the conversation, the original vision evolved into a more complex program that served two functions: 1) to solicit feedback from stakeholders, and 2) to involve high-level stakeholders in the program to further support the Task Force's efforts. It was also evident that it will take time to formulate the proper guest list, and if the event grows into a wider, national forum, then key players from Baghdad should be invited as well.

Points discussed

Date for event:

- It was agreed that the originally forecasted date of December 4, was not feasible.

- Due to the upcoming holiday season, scheduling in December is not realistic; key stakeholders will probably begin departing for their vacations by mid-month.
- The date should depend on the availability of the key ministers who have stakes in the outcome of these discussions – the Minister of Education, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, the Minister of Labor and Social Affairs, the Minister of Planning.
- As the program becomes more complicated, more time is needed to properly plan; therefore, the more realistic timeframe would be the first or second full weeks of February.

Guest list:

- As stated above, the Ministers with stakes in the outcomes would all be invited.
- Leaders in government, universities, and NGOs would be invited; invitations would go out to these entities; they would identify those to attend.
- As TVET has strong support from the TVET Steering Committee and Council of Ministers in Baghdad, it is very important that they also be invited.
- Regarding discussions of the University Admissions, stakeholders such as high school teachers/administrators, representatives of Ministries, parents, university alumni be invited.
- This should be a national event, and many of the country heads of the NGOs working in the educational sector should be invited.
- People may be participating online; therefore, there must be appropriate technologies available.
- Since leading business people/employers are focused on TVET, they should attend as well.

Agenda for program:

- The original vision was to have four concurrent sessions, one room/session per TF workgroup; if two concurrent rooms/sessions, then one room would have Early Childhood in the morning and K-12 Curriculum in the afternoon, and the other would have TVET in the morning and University Admissions in the afternoon.
- A couple of scenarios were discussed including having just one room – all participants listening to panel discussions with question and answer sessions to allow everyone to hear the breadth of topics. Question was raised as to whether this format would provide sufficient opportunity for feedback from the audience.
- If VIPs attend, especially the Ministers, then they should have the opportunity for plenary speeches to discuss gaps in the current system and the need for reform.
- Members agreed that it is important to give participants in the sessions sufficient time to discuss and provide input.

Decision on Program Agenda:

- Day 1
 - Arrival and Registration
 - Introductory Speech
 - Plenary Speeches by Minister of Education, Minister of Higher Education, and others as appropriate
 - Coffee Break
 - Breakout Session IA – ECE and K-12 Curriculum Design
 - Breakout Session IB – TVET and University Admissions
 - Lunch
 - Breakout Session 2A – ECE and K-12 Curriculum Design
 - Breakout Session 2B – TVET and University Admissions
 - Coffee Break
 - Breakout Session 3A – Identification of recommendations/actions
 - Breakout Session 3B - Identification of recommendations/actions
- Day 2
 - One session - Reporting out from Breakout Sessions with presentation of findings/recommendations/action plans for ECE and K-12 Curriculum Design
 - Coffee Break
 - Continued reporting out for TVET and University Admissions

Action Items:

1. Contact Ministries to identify dates in February when the Ministers are available to attend.
2. Each member of the TF will develop a list of prospective guests, again to include the span of educational stakeholders, Ministries, NGOs, Kurdistan and beyond.
3. Once the date for the forum is established, begin the process of inviting international and out-of-town guests (save the date). This would also include soliciting participation from people out-of-country who would be willing to participate via distance technologies.
4. Once the date for the forum is established, reserve the venue and establish a team to handle the logistics.
5. Refine the program for the event.
6. Write a one page narrative with agenda; distribute this document along with the invitation to inform invitees of the objectives and program of the event.

Members were asked to review the Minutes to ensure that the information accurately reflects the consensus. It is important that everyone be in agreement on the vision for the event as we move forward.

Meeting adjourned at 12:05