**K-19 Task Force**

**Minutes of Meeting, October 26, 2023**

**Via Microsoft Teams**

**Agenda:**

**Discussion of documents to be revised and compiled into a marketing package for the Task Force**

**Called to Order: 09:35**

**Attending:**

Vida Hanna (CUE)

Dr. Mohammad Ahmed (MoHESR)

Dr. Naznaz Muhamad (Former MP)

Kirstin Crawford (UKH)

Zana Ibrahim (UKH)

Dr. Galawezh Obaid Osman (MP, Education Committee)

Dr. Randall Rhodes (AUK)

**Guest:**

Karzan Karim (KRG Prime Minister's Senior Advisor on Education)

The meeting began with a discussion of documents dropped into a shared Google Folder. The TOR was drafted as per discussion at the last meeting of the TF. The documents outlining areas of research/concern were also shared.

It was noted that the latter documents on University Admissions, Early Childhood Education, and K-12 Curriculum were written approximately a year earlier and surely need updating. Documents also need to be included on the topics of TVET and teacher capacity-building; the latter may be incorporated into the narrative on curriculum development or be presented separately.

The earlier documents were written for an informed (and largely governmental) audience; however, the new marketing materials need to be written for a general audience that may not have prior knowledge of the current state of education in Kurdistan. Additionally, since the marketing package will be shared with a variety of stakeholders in Baghdad and abroad, locals and internationals, it should be presented in three languages. The CUE volunteered to handle the Arabic translation; the UKH volunteered to handle the Kurdish translation.

Another possible addition to the package may be an annotated bibliography with online links to seminal studies and researches by the Ministries, UNESCO, Rwanga, etc. It would also be beneficial to review the Iraq Vision 2030 for its statements on education and draw parallels.

Other points to consider include the addition of a narrative on the SDG #4 demonstrating the alignment of the TF’s focus with that of the Sustainable Development Goal on Education. Conducting a survey and including data and its analysis may provide more credibility to the TF’s recommendations.

There was discussion as to whether the TF should have a website, and if this would lend more credibility to the initiative. What type of content would be posted? Obviously, the marketing package and minutes from meetings can be posted. Would the website serve as a forum for public comments and contributions?

Again, it was agreed that it would be beneficial if the Council of Ministers provided a letter of support sanctioning the status of the TF. It should reference the public impact of the TF in the KRG’s vision for educational reform. This would also be included in the marketing package. The “legality” of the TF and its sustainability should also be addressed.

The guest, Karzan Karim, stated that he is charged by the Prime Minister to assess the progress of the TF as the KRG begins to draft a national vision for education.

**Action Items (to be added to the shared folder prior to November 8)**:

* **Mohammed** – update the narrative on University Admissions with references to recent conversations within the MoHESR.
* **Shelan** – update the narrative on K-12 Curriculum
* **Shelan** – draft a preliminary narrative on Teacher-Capacity Building; Randall can assist in its development in a document
* **Behar** and **Naz Naz** – update the narrative on Early Childhood Development and Education
* **Randall** – work with Soran to develop the narrative on TVET.
* **Randall** – review the Iraqi Vision 2030’s section on education and write a narrative outlining the alignment.
* **Bashdar** – identify research, data sets, and other publications by the MoE and other international organizations that should be linked within the Annotated Bibliography.
* **Mohammed** – identify research, data sets, and other publications by the MoHESR and other international organizations that should be linked within the Annotated Bibliography
* **Salam** – identify Rwanga’s research, data sets, and reports that should be linked within the Annotated Bibliography.
* **Kirstin** and **Zana** – review the SDG #4 and develop a short (1 page) narrative aligning the international vision with the needed reforms and critical issues within Kurdistan.
* **Vida and Salam** – write a short (1 page) narrative on the importance of K-19 education for youth’s workforce preparedness, including the role of curriculum reform and various mechanisms that can be introduced (like the online internship/employment platform).
* **Honar** – get an official letter from the Council of Ministers sanctioning the TF and its role in contributing to the advancement of education in Kurdistan.
* **Galawezh** – conceptualize surveys and other instruments for the purpose of gathering data from various stakeholder groups.

The next meeting will be in-person and focus on finalizing the marketing package. The date was set as November 8. Location will be UKH.

**Adjourned: 10:15**