

DRAFT
Greece Education Sector Working Group
National level
Terms of Reference
August 2016

Background:

Refugee and migrants were moving quickly from the Greek islands to the mainland, transiting through Athens in their move towards northern Europe. Since the Turkey-EU cooperation agreement in March 2016, the number of entries into Greece has slowed down, and all the borders to other European countries have closed. There are reportedly some 57,000 refugees in Greece as of July 2016¹.

The Education Sector Working Group (ESWG) is working to support the coordination of the education response in Greece in order to better address the educational needs of refugees and migrants in the country. The ESWG aims to ensure a link between the short-term educational needs of refugees and migrants and the medium and longer term goal of inclusion of refugee children into the Greek national school system.

Objective:

The Education Sector Working Group provides technical guidance and oversight to ensure the response is in line with the Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan (PPRRP), effective, coherent and predictable, in support of the Greek Government.

The main objectives of the ESWG are:

1. To provide a **coordination forum** in which national level organisations, the Ministry of Education (MoE) and the Ministry of Migration (MoMPo) collaborate with the aim to provide coherent, effective and quality education activities for all refugee and migrant children.
2. To establish a **response strategy based on the government and inter-sectoral priorities and plans**: applying norms and standards²; including planning and monitoring access to quality education in a safe and protective environment for all refugee and migrant children, including vulnerable children, unaccompanied minors and children with disabilities.
3. To **monitor and analyze** the overall progress in the implementation of the response strategy, as well as to address the gap in response, both in the camp settings and in schools following the integration process.
4. To support **advocacy and sensitization** of critical educational and operational issues on behalf of the government actors, beneficiary population and education actors
5. To provide guidance and build capacity for organizations which support the education for the refugee and migrant children.

Principles and definitions:

The ESWG operates in line with the Government's principles, the INEE Minimum Standards and the guiding principles of the Education Cluster coordination.

Geographical Coverage

¹ UNHCR database, Refugees/Migrants Emergency Response, Site locations in Greece 4 August 2016, <http://data.unhcr.org/mediterranean/country.php?id=83>

² Overall, the work of the ESWG will be guided by the Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies INEE Minimum Standards for Education: Preparedness, Response, Recovery - A Commitment to Access, Quality and Accountability

National group – national, country-wide coverage providing strategic direction and guidance. Additionally, subnational working groups will be established as necessary to better support and coordinate the response at the context specific, field level.

Sector tasks and responsibilities:

- Coordination
 - Ensure alignment of interventions with government policies and strategies
 - Ensure coordination mechanisms between key education partners working for the response, by providing effective discussion forums and links, communication and information management, as well as technical working groups and coordination platforms
 - Ensure inter-sectoral coordination within the framework of the inter-sector working group and the government-led coordination platform, and provide information feed-back to the education actors
- Information management
 - Maintain the contact list, meeting minutes and other information sharing through e-mails, information bulletins, and the web-based platform “Activity Info”
 - Facilitate sectoral needs assessments
 - Collect information on who does what, where through *Activity Info*
 - Provide analysis on the overall needs, progress and gap to the education actors and other relevant partners including donors, and media
 - Establish common monitoring indicators to monitor progress
 - Fulfill reporting obligations as required by the government, inter-agency and inter-sector working groups
 - Ensure data collection and analysis take into account cross-cutting issues such as gender, age, nationalities and disabilities
 - Share good practices among the education actors to facilitate effective implementation
- Strategic planning, standards and guidelines
 - In collaboration with the government, develop and revise short and medium-term sectoral strategies based on the needs assessments, government priorities and evidence
- Application of standards, guidelines
 - In collaboration with the government, develop strategies, standards and guidelines on thematic issues such as curriculum, teacher training, early childhood development (ECD), psychosocial support, life skills education, etc.
 - Disseminate and adhere to the INEE minimum standards and promote its application (if possible in a contextualized form)
 - Disseminate good practices in line with the standards and guidelines
- Emergency preparedness
 - In line with the government and inter-sector contingency plans and initiatives, ensure contingency planning and promote preparedness for probable scenarios
 - Encourage the education actors to adopt the education related emergency preparedness measures
- Capacity building
 - Organize trainings and sensitization sessions
 - Share technical documents
- Advocacy
 - On behalf of the government, the beneficiaries and the education actors, advocate key issues in policies, strategies and practices in order to ensure the effective and coordinated education response for the refugee and migrant children
- Accountability
 - Ensure accountability to the government and donors

- Ensure that the affected populations and host communities are provided with necessary information, including through the inter-sectoral framework of the Communication with Communities (CwC).

Membership & member responsibilities

National Level:

- Commitment to Humanitarian Principles, the Principles of Partnership, and sector specific guidance.
- Readiness to participate in actions that specifically improve accountability to affected people
- A demonstrated understanding of the responsibilities of ESWG members, as defined by these ToR
- A commitment to actively and consistently engage in the ESWG's collective work.
- Capacity and willingness to contribute to the ESWG's strategic response plan and activities.
- Readiness to participate in joint humanitarian assessments
- Commitment to mainstream key programmatic cross-cutting issues (incl. age, gender, protection).
- Commitment by a Senior Technical Staff with national level decision-making authority and resources to participate in strategic development and to work consistently with the ESWG to fulfil its mission.
- Commitment to work cooperatively with other sectoral partners to ensure an optimal and strategic use of available resources, and share information on organizational resources.
- Willingness to take on leadership responsibilities in sub-national or working groups as needed, subject to capacity and mandate.
- Undertake advocacy with affected communities, donors and other relevant audiences using advocacy messages agreed upon by the ESWG.

Coordinator and co-coordinator Arrangement & responsibilities

Co-leadership between UNHCR, UNICEF and Save the Children

Responsibilities to be developed

- The ESWG Co-Leads are responsible for the efficient management and functioning of the Education Working Group, in collaboration with the MoE and the MoMPO
- Strengthen pre-existing sectoral coordination through increased predictability and accountability
- Build complementarity of partner actions: avoiding duplication and gaps
- Ensure adequate resources are mobilized and are equitably allocated for the effective functioning of the ESWG and its response
- Effective and comprehensive integration of relevant cross-cutting issues, including age, gender, environment and HIV/AIDS
- Maintain flexibility within the ESWG to respond to changes in the operating environment, evolving requirements, capacities and participation
- Effectively use and transfer information to, from and between cluster participants and other stakeholders
- Interact with other working groups (including through inter-sector coordination fora), humanitarian actors, government counterparts, and relevant authorities for operational planning, engagement and active contribution of operational partners
- Be accountable to the affected population through effective and inclusive consultative and feedback mechanisms