

Second Civic Values and Life Skills Steering Committee Coordination Meeting 8-9 December 2010



ESCWA, UNESCO, UNFPA and UNAMI Human Rights Office (UNAMI-HRO) convened on 8-9 December 2010 for the second coordination meeting of the Civic Values and Life Skills Steering Committee, as part of their joint project entitled "Promoting Civic Values and Life Skills for Adolescents through Education". The meeting was conducted in the UN-House in Beirut, and gathered representatives of all concerned and partnering ministries from the central and regional Kurdistan governments, namely the Ministry of Education, Labor and Social Affairs, Youth and Sports, and Human Rights from Baghdad and the Kurdish Regional Government Ministries of Education, Culture and Youth, Labor and Social Affairs, along side representatives from the UN agencies and their identified executing partners.

The second coordination meeting succeeded in presenting and initiating discussion and feedback on the proposed implementation methodologies of upcoming activities. UN agencies and their executing partners presented a forecast of activities for the upcoming quarter and submitted their prospected methodologies and approaches for validation. The presentation of methodologies initiated discussions and feedback among all involved stakeholders, and yielded endorsement and validation of projected plans as well as a clear emphasis on the need to ensure the contextualization and relevance of the outcomes through national assessment and evaluation fora.

The proceedings of the meeting also comprised the clarification and re-confirmation of the Committee's roles and responsibilities, which led to the reformulation of the previously agreed upon Terms of Reference and to the alteration of the name of this forum from "Project Task Force" to "Steering Committee" in order to emphasize even further its advisory and guiding role. It is noteworthy in this regard to highlight that, while its institutional composition remained the same, the second meeting witnessed a change in the representation of some ministries based on the guidance of the Central Advisory Commission mandated to oversee and manage all aid and development projects in Iraq. This change equated to higher grade representation and to an accrued relevance of the representatives to the tackled topics, both elements benefiting directly the project.

The Second Coordination meeting yielded yet another positive outcome for the implementation of prospected activities since it laid the foundation of a constructive work synergy among all involved partners through interactions and linkages for future coordination on specific substantive components. It also allowed all stakeholders to reaffirm the advisory and guidance role of the Committee and to highlight

the importance of their guidance and institutional support in ensuring the implementation of agreed upon activities.

The representatives from all concerned ministries also reaffirmed their commitment to supporting civic values and life skills as means of inducing peaceful co-existence among the targeted populations and ultimately as nation-building and citizenship consecration tools. They also reconfirmed their role as entry points to their ministries and as facilitators to information access and advocates for the promotion of citizenship and tolerance, all of which represent crucial elements for the success, national ownership and sustainability of the project.