

# UNRWA- LEBANON

## EU EDUCATION PROJECT

### DROP OUT/VET Study and Assessment

#### Terms of Reference

##### **Background:**

Gathering and screening of available data on dropout students in the Palestinian community revealed that there is a lack of reliable data on dropping out from schools and VET conditions and discrepancies among different sources.

There are many discrepancies among UNRWA and other sources on dropout rates. UNRWA figures indicate that the dropout rate for the elementary and preparatory levels are 2.05 % and 3.9 % respectively. UNRWA calculation of the rate is confined to the number of the students registered and leave within the annual scholastic year (Oct – June), while other sources (studies/surveys) revealed that the dropout rate is much higher than the figures provided by UNRWA.

For example, according to FAFO Study, published in 2003, 18% of Palestinian refugee aged 10 years or older in the Palestinian camps and gatherings are no longer in school and has not completed any education, 13 % of the population have never attended school at all and another 18 % dropped out of school before completing elementary education. Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) survey in 1998 revealed that the drop out rate among Palestinian children in Lebanon reached 29.2% at the preparatory level and 18.9 % at the elementary level.

Hence, a comprehensive educational study based on random sample of a minimum of 3,000 families deemed important and necessary to identify the magnitude of the dropout problem and VET conditions. Data on dropouts, repetition, availability and assessment of VT services will be available after completion of the study.

##### **Aims:**

- Provide reliable quantitative and qualitative information on the dropping out problem for Palestinians in Lebanon. (Net and Gross Enrollment rates, Repetition rate, Dropout rate segregated by gender, grade, area...etc).
- Provide comprehensive information on the availability of VT services provided to Palestinians in Lebanon.
- Asses the needs for VT services for Palestinians in Lebanon in terms of availability, access, constraints, market need, challenges, curriculum...etc.
- Provide recommendations of intervention plans at short term, medium term and long term Strategic Plans.

##### **Target Group:**

Families will include:

- Parents
- Students
- Dropout students
- VET service providers in each area

### **Expected Outcomes:**

- Quantitative data on dropout, repetition and enrollment are available.
- Qualitative data on reasons of dropout and repetition are available.
- Quantitative data on VET service providers in each area are available.
- Qualitative data on VET service providers includes: Courses, duration, availability, employability of the graduates, staff, tuition, equipment, and accessibility are available.
- Report in Arabic and English completed.
- All data are segregated by gender, area, location, and grade.
- Provide input for the Strategic Action Plan for future intervention.

### **Stakeholders:**

- UNRWA educational and VT project staff.
- Palestinian refugee community.
- Palestinian VET service providers.

### **Activities and Tasks:**

- Design of the questionnaire and selection of sample.
- Carry out questionnaires pre-testing.
- Data entry and analysis.
- Verification of data.
- Preparation of reports in Arabic and English.
- List of VET service providers to be visited and assessed.
- Approval of report (Arabic and English).

### **Qualifications of the Consultant:**

1. Possess a Graduate Degree (Masters or higher) in Education or Community and Social Development.
2. Experienced in conducting Needs Assessments, data collection and analysis.
3. Proven reporting qualifications.
4. Good communication skills especially with dropout and VET service providers in Palestinian community.
5. Proven knowledge of the Palestinian community in Lebanon.
6. Minimum 4 years of professional experience in the Educational and Development field.
7. Have access to all Palestinian camps.
8. Excellent spoken and written English and Arabic.

### **Duration:**

2-3 months effective April 30, 2008.

### **Payment:**

In two installments:

**25 %** of the amount to be paid at the beginning of the work and the remaining amount after submitting and approval of the English and Arabic report of the study by UNRWA..

## **VET SECTOR PLANNING AND STRATEGY**

The Consultant will be a recognized expert in Education sector planning and strategy, as well as such issues as VET and Dropouts. The Consultant will be expected to undertake these tasks.

Be responsible for preparing a comprehensive report on Palestinian Drop Outs and VET reform and development plans over the medium and long term, clearly spelling out the overall policy framework for VET and drop outs development, identifying goals and targets, and resources and other constraints on reaching the goals in the Palestinian context.

Be responsible for ensuring that all VET work to be implemented in the Palestinian areas will be consistent with UNRWA and host government policies, goals and targets of the EU Education Project, and providing expert opinion and expertise on VET work with Palestinian ramifications.

The report should include several components, including assessing progress already made. Indicate a shift from classroom teaching to one on practical knowledge and hands on experience, assessing existing mechanisms used in promoting such practices with respect to their impact, and the potential for wider applications; identifying key constraints both to teaching (curriculum, course setting, and contents) and to cooperation between school and enterprise, which hinder further progress in shifting focus to imparting market-needed skills to students and making recommendations on improvement.

Be responsible for assessing training needs for drop outs, Assess best practice for providing skills training for Palestinian drop out students. Recommend ways and mechanisms for active participation of Palestinian youths in VET.

Prepare an assessment of the labour market information system in collaboration with the placement office in UNRWA with special attention to (a) job market information flow to schools and how it affects Palestinians, (b) coordination of labour market information flows among different partners supporting VET and Palestinians in the Palestinian areas. Identify systemic, administrative, and other constraints to labour market information flows.

Assist the coordinator in designing and conducting surveys needed to collect data basic for constructing Strategic Action Plan.

In addition, the study needs to consider:

1. Assist the EU teams VET Coordinator prepare a strategy for Drop outs, including an assessment of the situation in the Palestinian Areas, prepare a Strategic Plan, including all deliverables and outputs including adequate consultation with stakeholders.
2. Be responsible for preparing a comprehensive assessment of the policy, institutional, administrative, and financial aspects of the VET in UNRWA areas in Lebanon as necessary background for the Strategic Plan and various

reports. The assessment should pay special attention to the policy environment in Lebanon for private sector participation in VET and the major constraints faced by Palestinians in Lebanon.

3. Be prepared to provide a comprehensive assessment of the impact of the EU project on the VET system in the Palestinian areas, in the broader social, cultural, and economic fabric. The analysis should take a broad macro and sectoral perspective, but needs to give special attention to drop outs and expand from the Drop out study done in UNRWA to advise and provide recommendations on implementation and actions.
4. Be responsible for any fieldwork and survey necessary for the analysis above, including its design and conduct.
5. Coordinate closely with those conducting studies in this area as stated by the EU Education Project VET Coordinator in his Action Plan.
6. Ensure that community awareness and gender equity considerations are properly accounted for, especially in work relating to curriculum, and drop outs.

#### Contacts

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