

Dialogue and Roundtable Meeting Report

International Standards for Education in Emergencies

Date: Friday, 14 November 2025

Location: UNESCO Regional Office, Beirut

Organized by: The Arab Network for Popular Education / Lebanese Coalition for Education, in collaboration with the Inter-agency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE) and the UNESCO Regional Office in Beirut

Project Framework: Education Out Loud (EOL), funded by the Global Partnership for Education (GPE)

1. Introduction

This report summarizes the objectives, proceedings, and outcomes of the dialogue and roundtable meeting held on 14 November 2025 at the UNESCO Regional Office in Beirut, corresponding to **Output 1.1.2** in the IMR.

The meeting, titled “**INEE Minimum Standards for Education – The Lebanese Context,**” aimed to enhance knowledge, facilitate dialogue, and strengthen collaboration around the application of the INEE Minimum Standards within Lebanon's current crisis and emergency conditions.

The event brought together national, regional, and international education actors to discuss sector wide challenges, exchange perspectives, and propose actionable recommendations for improving education quality and access during emergencies.

2. Context and Objectives

The dialogue and roundtable meeting served as a platform to:

- Promote understanding of the INEE Minimum Standards and their relevance to Lebanon.
- Encourage participatory discussion among key education stakeholders.
- Identify challenges, opportunities, and recommendations for adapting and applying the standards.
- Strengthen coordination and engagement across ministries, civil society organizations, INGOs, academic institutions, and international agencies.
- Support the Arab Network for Popular Education / Lebanese Coalition for Education as a hub for continuous dialogue and collaboration.

3. Participants

Approximately **70 participants** attended the meeting, representing:

- Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE)
- Center for Educational Research and Development (CERD)
- UN agencies (UNESCO, UNICEF)
- International NGOs (IRC, AVSI, TDH Italy, among others)
- Research centers and universities

- Lebanese civil society organizations active in the education sector
 - Members of the Lebanese Coalition for Education, the Global Campaign for Education, and the Arab Campaign for Education
 - Independent researchers, education policy practitioners, and teachers
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4. Opening Remarks and First Phase

The meeting began with opening speeches delivered by:

- **Dr. Hanaa Al-Ghali**, UNESCO Regional Office in Beirut
- **Ms. Elsy Wakil**, Arab Network for Popular Education / Lebanese Coalition for Education

The first phase, facilitated by **Mr. Jean Hajjar**, included keynote statements and a roundtable discussion featuring:

- Statement by INEE – *Ms. Faiza Hassan*
- Statement by the Arab Campaign for Education – *Dr. Zahi Azar*
- Statement by the Education Out Loud project – *Ms. Elsy Wakil*
- Statement by UNESCO – *Dr. Hanaa Al-Ghali*
- Statement by the Global Campaign for Education – *Dr. Refaat Sabbah*
- Statement by the Director General of MEHE – His excellency *Mr. Fadi Yarak*

Presentations

- **Overview of the EOL Project in Lebanon and objectives of the dialogue and roundtable meetings** – *Mr. Jean Hajjar*

- **International Standards for Education in Emergencies and updates in the Lebanese context** – *Mr. Ayman Quwaider, INEE*
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5. Group Work Sessions

During the second phase, participants joined five thematic working groups. Each group responded to guiding questions aimed at generating concrete recommendations and strengthening participatory dialogue.

Thematic Groups

1. General Analysis of the Educational Situation in Lebanon

Facilitated by *Mr. Mahmoud Bouari (UNICEF)*

2. Social, Cultural, and Geographic Diversity in the Lebanese Context

Facilitated by *Ms. Oumiya Al-Hajj (SHIFT)*

3. Gender and the Application of Quality Education Standards During Crises

Facilitated by *Ms. Jana Makhoul (I'MPOSSIBLE / Lebanese Coalition)*

4. Inclusive Education and the Application of Quality Standards in Emergencies

Facilitated by *Ms. Nada Azeer (Union of Physically Disabled in Lebanon)* and *Ms. Myriam Jaafar (International Consultant from INEE)*

5. Civic Education, Human Rights, and the Application of Quality Education Standards During Crises

Facilitated by *Dr. Aida Al-Khatib (T.H.A.N.K.S Group / Lebanese Coalition)*

Purpose of the Group Work

The guiding questions encouraged participants to:

- Enrich dialogue and collective reflection.
- Identify outputs and priority recommendations.
- Strengthen collaboration across educational institutions.
- Support the Arab Network for Popular Education / Lebanese Coalition for Education as a platform linking civil society, government institutions, and international partners.

Discussions in each group highlighted achievements, key challenges, and proposed strategies to improve the application of INEE Minimum Standards in Lebanon.

6. Key Findings and Outcomes

Across all discussions, several cross-cutting themes emerged:

- Need for improved coordination across MEHE, CERD, UN agencies, and civil society.
 - Importance of inclusive and gender-sensitive education approaches.
 - Necessity of addressing regional disparities and ensuring equitable access to education.
 - Emphasis on capacity-building for educators and institutions.
 - Recommendations for strengthening data, research, and evidence-based planning.
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7. Closing Remarks

The meeting concluded with remarks by **Dr. Hiyam Ishaq**, President of CERD, who praised the initiative and emphasized the need for sustained national, regional, and international collaboration to safeguard the right to education for all learners, particularly in times of crisis.

8. Next Steps

- Consolidation of recommendations from all five working groups.
 - Preparation of follow-up thematic briefs.
 - Continued engagement with stakeholders to support the implementation of INEE Minimum Standards.
 - Integration of findings into ongoing EOL project activities and IMR reporting.
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9. Annexes (Optional)

- Agenda of the meeting
- List of participants
- Group work guiding questions
- Presentation slides

Conclusion

The dialogue and roundtable meeting successfully fostered a shared understanding of the INEE Minimum Standards and their relevance for Lebanon's crisis-affected education sector. The participatory discussions generated valuable insights to inform ongoing advocacy, strengthen systems, and support the Education Out Loud project's objectives under Output 1.1.2.

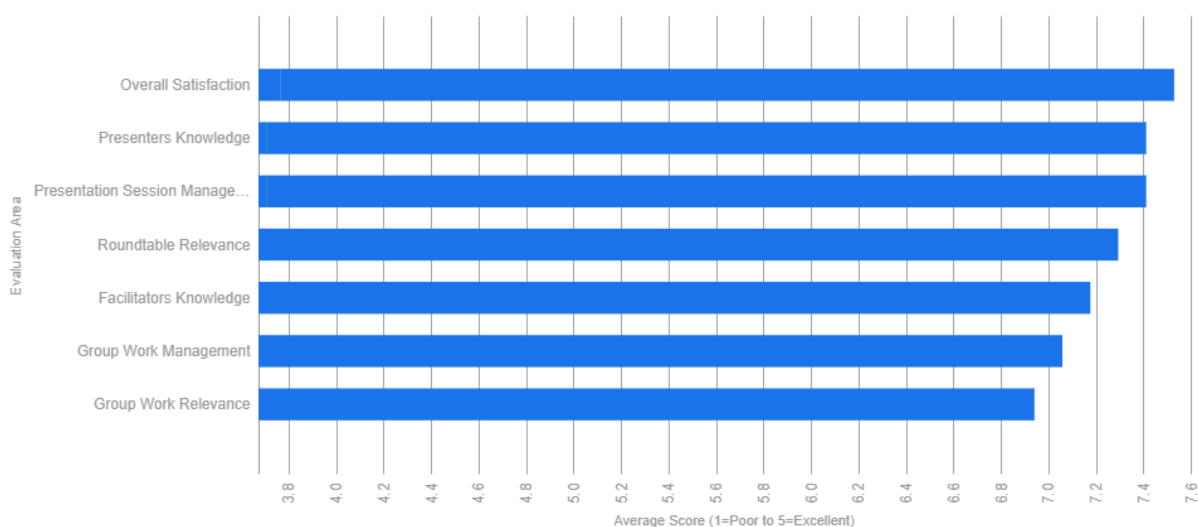
The Arab Network for Popular Education / Lebanese Coalition for Education reaffirms its commitment to promoting inclusive, equitable, and quality education for all learners in Lebanon through strategic partnerships, research, and collaborative action.

Evaluation Summary:

Out of 40+ attendees, 17 participants completed the evaluation form. Two versions were provided to accommodate English and Arabic speakers. Based on the feedback and survey results, the activity was successful.

Lesson Learned: For future activities, participants should complete evaluation forms on site either digitally or via printed forms to ensure more comprehensive responses.

Average Evaluation Scores of the Roundtable/Group Work Session (Combined)



This report summarizes the feedback from the evaluation survey conducted for the recent Roundtable and Group Work Session, combining responses from both English and Arabic participants.

Executive Summary

Overall participant satisfaction with the session was **high (3.76 out of 5.00)**. Key strengths were the **knowledge of the presenters** and the **organization of the presentation sessions**. The primary area identified for improvement, confirmed by both quantitative and qualitative data, is the **management of time**, specifically the **time allocated for group work and discussion/Q&A**, which was consistently rated as the least satisfactory aspect.

1. Quantitative Evaluation Analysis

The analysis is based on 17 combined responses, scored on a scale of 1 (Poor) to 5 (Excellent) for all rating questions.

Average Evaluation Scores

The chart below illustrates the average scores across the key evaluation areas:

Question Average Score (5.00 Max)

Overall Satisfaction 3.76

Presenters Knowledge 3.71

Presentation Session Management 3.71

Roundtable Relevance 3.65

Facilitators Knowledge 3.59

Group Work Management 3.53

Group Work Relevance 3.47

Key Findings

1. **Strengths:** The highest scores were for **Overall Satisfaction (3.76)** and the **Knowledge of the Presenters (3.71)**. The organization of the Presentation Session was also rated highly (3.71). This suggests the content and technical expertise delivered during the Roundtable met participant expectations.
2. **Areas for Improvement:** The lowest scores were observed in areas related to group activity: **Group Work Relevance (3.47)** and **Group Work Management (3.53)**. This indicates that while the concept of group work is valuable, its execution and its connection to participant needs could be improved.

3. 2. Qualitative Feedback Analysis

The open-ended responses for "What did you find most challenging or least satisfactory about the session?" and "What can be improved in the future?" strongly reinforce the quantitative findings, identifying a single, critical issue: **Time Management**.

Top Challenges and Areas for Improvement:

Theme: Specific Feedback (English translation of common Arabic responses)

Time Constraint: "Time was not sufficient for group work." "The time was too long (overall)."
"Need to increase the time."

Discussion & Q&A: "No opening for questions and discussion during presentations." "Need to allocate more time for debate and questions, especially to the educational center president."

Group Work Quality: "The time was not sufficient to fully discuss the presentations."

Conclusion on Qualitative Feedback

Participants clearly felt a disconnect between the valuable content presented and the limited opportunity they had to digest, discuss, and apply it. The demand is not for less content, but for **more time** dedicated to interactive elements: **group deliberation** and **direct Q&A/discussion** with speakers.

3. Recommendations for Future Sessions

Based on the quantitative and qualitative data, the following improvements are recommended to enhance future sessions:

1. Improve Time Allocation and Management:

- **Reduce Presentation Slots:** Consider slightly shortening individual presentation slots to create more dedicated time for engagement.
- **Allocate Specific Q&A Blocks:** Introduce formal, protected time slots for Questions and Answers after each major presentation or panel, rather than leaving Q&A to the end.
- **Increase Group Work Time:** Explicitly increase the time allocated for group work to allow participants to fully process and produce higher-quality outputs, thereby increasing its perceived "relevance" (score 3.47).

2. Enhance Group Work Facilitation:

- Since Group Work Management scored low (3.53), ensure facilitators receive specific guidance on **strict timekeeping** and on how to **link the group task back to the overall session objectives** to boost its perceived relevance.

