

Strategic Priorities in Practice 5—Child protection and education integration

Find the Live Recording of this session by clicking the links below:

- [English](#)
- [Spanish](#)
- [French](#)
- [Arabic](#)

On June 21, the Alliance 2022 Annual Meeting for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action held a Strategic Priorities in Practice session on ‘Child protection and education integration’. During this interaction, participants heard presentations from **Abjad Initiative for Education on *Educational indicators in Abjad, Syria, and their impact on child protection***, **The National Foundation for Development and Humanitarian Response (NFDHR) on *Integrating of education with child protection and how each contributes to the success of the other*** and **International Rescue Committee (IRC) on *The added value of integrating education and child protection programming, lessons learnt*** and shared the positive impacts education integration could have on child protection, and how to better education for children in humanitarian crises through development action.

EDUCATIONAL INDICATORS IN ABJAD, SYRIA, AND THEIR IMPACT ON CHILD PROTECTION

“Our mission is to enhance the educational skills and values of Syrian youth.”—Abjad initiative Mission¹

As education is much needed by children in humanitarian settings, Sundus Badwi, education supervisor from Abjad initiative, Syria, shared three educational indicators and explained their relationship to CP by using examples children living in the Al-Iman Camp.

The first indicator is commitment indicator. This indicator monitors students' attendance to school and involves daily follow-up by teachers. Next is the behavior indicator, which evaluates students' general behavior at school through set criteria such as cleanliness, cooperation with teachers, attitudes towards school equipment, etc. Finally comes the one-minute test indicator. This indicator helps to suggest how well the students are learning at school and involves weekly follow-up by class teachers.

Through flexible applications of those indicators, Sundus and her colleagues have observed that child labor and domestic violence are among the most crucial factors in resulting in children's school performance in the Al-Iman Camp, and therefore adapted their programme accordingly to better suit the needs of local education.

Sundus concluded her presentation by asserting that the mentioned educational indicators reveal the interconnection between children's school performance and their home and living conditions and stressed the importance of greater collaboration to better protect children.

INTEGRATING OF EDUCATION WITH CHILD PROTECTION AND HOW EACH CONTRIBUTES TO THE SUCCESS OF THE OTHER

“To empower individuals and communities to have equal access to basic needs and rights”—NFDHR Mission²

Ahlam Ahmed, education program manager from NFDHR, introduced the education project her team currently works on in Yemen, and highlighted the importance of education for children's future development. By carrying out their one-year education program, the program aims to provide non-formal education opportunities for displaced and host communities children in Ma'rib, Yemen to support those needy children in their future successful transition back to the formal education system. “The key result of this integrated project will help 14,000 school-age-children to overcome the threats of war and conflicts and be likely to go to school”, Ahlam said hopefully.

In the way ahead, NFDHR will focus part of its attention on promoting the coordination with local authorities and communities, and continuing to advocate for the education integration in CP.

THE ADDED VALUE OF INTEGRATING EDUCATION AND CHILD PROTECTION PROGRAMMING, LESSONS LEARNT

“The mission of the IRC is to help people whose lives and livelihood are shattered by conflict and disaster, including the climate crisis, to survive, recover and gain control over their future.”—IRC Mission³

The PEACE project was presented by Paul Bagambe, a senior integrated education and CP manager at the International Rescue Committee. Standing for Protective and Adaptive Education Approaches for Children in Emergencies, PEACE takes a collaborative approach bringing education and CP together and has been carried out in Nigeria, Niger and Cameroon, where numerous school-aged children have been heavily affected by humanitarian crises. Paul emphasized that by absorbing material and psychological support from parents, community, caregivers and CP professionals, PEACE seeks to broaden the access to education and CP services in local communities and tries to enhance teachers’ professional skills through capacity building and creation of safe learning environments.

While highlighting other expectations of PEACE, such as to improve integration across formal schools, tutoring classes and healing spaces, Koundja Mayoubila, CP coordinator at IRC, also addressed the need for cross-sector collaboration and investment in CP. “It is important to remember that child protection dimensions is a deep one, and it requires us a lot of funding...on child protection activities,” he concluded.

SOME KEY TAKE HOME MESSAGES

Sara Mabger: “We need to adapt education and protection approaches for different cohorts of children, so integration will look different in formal schools, ..., versus for children who are out of school... Both have value.”

Ahlam Ahmed: “Advocating and encouraging the integration of child protection activities with education activities to create more results, as education is not complete without child protection, and education is one of the most important sides of a child...and a kid’s future.”

Paul Bagambe: “We are working in different settings and we’re working with children who are the most vulnerable and facing severe challenges that anyone can imagine. So I’d like to encourage all of us that whatever in dimension that we do, it makes a difference.”

SOURCES

1. [Abjad Initiative for Education](#)
2. [The National Foundation for Development and Humanitarian Response](#)
3. [International Rescue Committee](#)