

EDUCATION- CHILD PROTECTION WORKING GROUP MEETING

DATE: NOVEMBER 23, 2017

PARTICIPANTS: MINISTRY OF SOCIAL SERVICES, ANTILLEAN ASSOCIATION, ISRAID AND UNICEF

ACTION POINTS

The Education-Child Protection working group have been established with UNICEF as a focal point from the International Organizations and with two focal points from the Government:

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Agenda:

- Updates and challenges from the Protection Sector
- Updates and challenges from the Education Sector
- Reconstruction and cleaning of schools

CHILD PROTECTION UPDATES AND CHALLENGES

- Northeast communities started activities in Child Friendly Spaces this week therefore 2 more child friendly spaces have been opened.
- A total of 6 child friendly spaces are active under the UNICEF/IsraAID partnership.
- Is still challenging to find safe locations and even more in disperse communities.
- Cleaning days involving communities should be promoted.
- Another challenge identified with the reopening of schools is the shift system in place and the distance from schools and the child friendly spaces.

- We reached so far 5511 children in total with the Return to Happiness in schools and the recreational and psychosocial support activities in communities and child friendly spaces.
- The Ministry of Social Services agreed that in the next Sectorial Meeting representatives from Local NGOs can participate and a joint meeting can be held from now onwards.

EDUCATION SECTOR UPDATE AND CHALLENGES

- 58 schools out of 90 reopened so far but still obtaining a clear picture of the attendance rate is a challenge.
- District Officers should provide and monitor weekly attendance to understand how many children migrated to other countries and how many children are effectively getting access to education.
- The Education comprehensive Assessment has been finalized.
- We have figures of at least 200 children in Barbados at the moment and reports of Dominican children in St. Lucia and Bahamas.
- UNDP has the possibility to involve through the cash programme communities for school cleaning.
- UNICEF will not be working on school reconstruction but Samaritan's Purse and IsraAID can support on WASH and toilets rehabilitation.
- In partnership with the Government UNICEF will work on school standards and review of the system materials. Engineers without border and Architects sans frontiers can support on this issue.

