The First Education Partners Meeting in 2019
Approval of ESSP Package

Date & Time: Monday 7th January 2019 @ 12:00 pm – 02:30pm
Venue: UNICEF premises – Room C
Time: 12:00 pm-02:30 pm
Meeting Chaired by: Dr. Mohamed Salim
Participants:

1. Abdalluh El Sier – Al Masar
2. Ensaf Abdalla - (SCEFA)
3. Salwa Marhoum – CAFOD
4. Al Abbas Mohamed – Al Masar
5. Linda Akach – UNHCR
6. Eiman Fathalaleam – ADRA
7. Lemia Ahmed – AMAL
8. Aida Gaafar – PBA
9. Hanan Sati – PBA
10. Walaa El Amin Ahmed – FMoE
11. Mihd Omer - (SCEFA)
12. Omer El Saeed – TTL World Bank
13. Hashim Hamza – BERP Project Manager
14. Yassir Hassan – British Council
15. Anwar MUHIDEEN – WPF Sudan
16. Mustafa Yassin – UNICEF

A. Opening remarks and review of the agenda:

Dr. Mohamed Salim opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. The Director of Planning briefed the meeting participants about the government's efforts in endorsing the ESSP by the Minister and the Council of Ministers.

B. The meeting agenda:

Meeting Agenda	Discussions and Feedback
1. Presentation of the appraisal report response that provides a brief summary of how the recommendations from the appraisal report have been addressed in the final ESSP (Presenter: The World Bank)	- Omer Nasir, the World Bank Representative provided a quick summary on the response prepared by the Government to independent appraisal Report. - It was noted that the response didn't cover the recommendations concerning the ESSP's coverage of Higher Education. The Ministry responded by indicating that the appraisal comments are well noted and the process of integrating higher education into ESSP has been initiated and all the relevant requirements will be incorporated in ESSP midterm review. - Concerning partners contribution to the plan, it was explained that the partners contribution was shared with WB team and it will be integrated accordingly. - The Ministry notified the meeting that The Action Plan has been reviewed and the time

	lines aligned including roles and responsibilities. - UNHCR representative stated that she will review the ESSP and revert with an approving email. - The WFP Representative notified the meeting that the school feeding figures for basic education are consistent with their contribution and clear reference should be made to the school feeding in the retention activities. **Action Point:** The meeting agreed that the figures should be modified and the activities should be revisited. WFP representative will share the figures to be incorporated in ESSP.
2. Presentation of the Government Approvals including the Ministry of Education Decision and the council of Ministers endorsement of increased education financing. "Presenter: The Ministry of Education "	- The Director of Planning informed the meeting that a decision of endorsement of ESSP has been issued by the Ministry on 24th December 2018. Dr. Salim also referred to the Ministry's efforts in establishing an Education Fund that will include all the partners contribution and will be arranged through the Ministry of Education Project Management unit. The Director Also referred to the Ministry's efforts to have a formal coordination forum for the partners to align and harmonize the sector activities as per ESSP. - Dr. Salim presented the Council of Ministers approval of ESSP and the commitment of increasing public expenditure on education by 0.5% annually. Accordingly, the share of education in 2019 will be 10.2% of public expenditure. **Action Point:** The meeting agreed that the Ministry will issue a cover note for ESSP package submission detailing the government plans to increase education financing and enhancing sector coordination.
3. Endorsement of the EPG of the Memo and the revised ESSP including recommendations for the heads of agencies approval. "Presenter: UNICEF"	- UNICEF representative notified the meeting that the next step will include the heads of agencies approval of ESSP with and issuance of the approval letter in a meeting that will take place on 8th January 2019.
ESSP 2019-2023 EPG Endorsement: - **The Education Partners Group unanimously approved the ESSP package including the response the Memo and the revised ESSP. The meeting recommended that the heads of agencies should issue the approval letter as required.**	

C. Concluding remarks

- The meeting was concluded with remarks from UNESCO concerning the teachers' subgroup meeting and need to activate TVET subgroup.