INEE Education in Emergencies Training: King Salman Humanitarian Aid & Relief Centre, Saudi Arabia, October 27-29th, 2019

Osman Consulting conducted an INEE EiE training course in late October, hosted by the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre, a Saudi organisation carrying out humanitarian work across the world, and organised and facilitated by UNESCO in Beirut. Osman Consulting founder and director Moustafa Osman was the sole trainer for the three-day course. Moustafa has been conducting trainings on Education in Emergencies, humanitarian principles and standards, disaster management and a wide array of other areas of humanitarian expertise for over 20 years. He was very pleased with the experience, feeling that the training was successful and constructive, and that the participants were very engaged.

The participants were 14 members of staff from the King Salman centre, representing the operational departments and country offices. There were 11 males and three females. The high level of interest and involvedness of the participants made a great impact, contributing to a beneficial course and a vibrant learning environment. The training saw all participants build their skills, integrate new lessons and understandings and develop their competencies, making the experience incredibly useful for feeding into and expanding possibilities and capabilities in their work. In the future it would be ideal to aim for greater gender balance among participants.

The aims of the workshop were to introduce those attending to the field of education in emergencies, discuss why such interventions are life-saving and life-sustaining and a necessary
element of humanitarian response, introduce the INEE minimum standards for education in emergencies and how to apply them, and go over how to deliver safe and quality educational interventions in emergency contexts, as well as raise the key issues at stake in EiE.

The training covered details of the INEE Education in Emergencies minimum standards, as well as how to put them into practice using project management cycle methodologies, including integrating them into the assessment, design, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of a project. A workbook was provided to the participants, developed by Osman Consulting based on INEE materials and modified to be contextually most useful. This contained exercises, handouts and other useful material, in addition to course materials provided on a flash drive for all participants.

The overall objective of the training was therefore to increase the King Salman Centre's ability and capacity to program projects which respond to educational needs in emergency and post-conflict situations in the countries where they work. The training supports the centre’s efforts to strengthen their crisis response and ensure the integration, design and management of educational interventions that are context-sensitive and in line with international standards.

Feedback taken from participants across the sessions and at the end indicated that they found the training very valuable and engaging. The trainer’s ability to explain concepts was rated very highly, as was the amount that was learnt and the interest that the sessions held for those involved. At the end, 81.82% of respondants rated the relevance of the content to their activities as ‘excellent,’ showing that the training was well-timed and carefully tailored for meeting the needs of the King Salman Centre.