K-19 Task Force
Minutes of Meeting, April 24, 2022
Ministry of Education, Parliament
Agenda:
10:30: Visit with Minister of Education, Alan Hama Saeed Salih
12:00: Visit with the Kurdistan Parliament Deputy Speaker Dr. Hemin Hawrami
1:00: Visit with Education Committee of Parliament
Attending:
Bashdar Sarbaz (ME)
Abdulqader Kakasur (UNICEF)

In respect to the draft law, the TF expressed its willingness to consult with the Ministry in
the evaluation and revision of the document to ensure that it meets the current and future
needs of Kurdistan. The TF has held meetings to review the draft law and wanted to
express its concerns. Clearly, the purpose of the law is to reform the educational system in
the KRG and make it internationally competitive, which it is currently not. Question was
raised as to the support for the implementation of the new regulations, teacher trainings,
addressing shifts in the paradigm, and an operational plan with targets/benchmarks and
timelines for implementation. The TF acknowledged the focus on student-centered
learning, national values, and experiential pedagogies.
Regarding the university admission exam, the Minister agreed to clarify the respective
purviews of the two ministries and leave the design and adoption of a university entrance
exam to the Ministry of Higher Education. There was discussion on students’ exam fatigue
and the level of stress students experience as they prepare for multiple, high-pressure
exams. The MoE would focus on year-end exams for grades 10, 11, and 12 to ensure
students’ satisfaction of the student learning objectives for those years and the student’s
eligibility for the graduation verification. The MoE would determine how to define
graduation verification and the relative weighting of year-end exams for a more
comprehensive review of the student’s achievements. The Minister agreed that the
curriculum of K-12 needed a reassessment to ensure the alignment of the
knowledge/content taught/gained with appropriate assessment mechanisms. Then etC3
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appropriate for the progress of education and ensure international standards and best
practices.
Other points covered included: x Mandatory kindergarten x Promotion of