Beirut, March 2010



Ministry of Education and Higher Education

Quality Education for Growth

National Education Strategy Framework

Education Sector Development Plan (General Education): 2010-2015

Document Content

- The General Education Sector: Facts and Figures
- National Education Strategy Framework
- Priorities and Suggested Programs
- Working Mechanism and Working Groups
- Suggested Sources of Funding

Required Decisions

- The endorsement of the general framework of the National Education Strategy
- The endorsement of the Education Sector Development Plan and taking the required initiatives for the improvement of the public education sector
- The establishment and amendment of laws and decrees necessary for the implementation of the Education Sector Development Plan (ESDP)

The General Education Sector: Facts and Figures

National Education Strategy Framework

Priorities and Suggested Programs

Working Mechanism and Working Groups

Suggested Sources of Funding

Index: Some Statistics of the General Education Sector

The education system in Lebanon faces a number of challenges:

Importance of Education in Lebanon

 There are more than 1000,000 students enrolled in schools in Lebanon, hence each Lebanese is affected by this sector in one way or another.



Current Situation of Public Education in Lebanon

- Achievement levels of students in Lebanon are lower in comparison to those of their peers in other countries.
- Enrollment rates in public schools are decreasing steeply due to the widening of the achievement gap between public and private schools. Low achievement in public schools is mainly due to:
 - low qualifications of the teaching and administrative staff in schools, and the lack of coherence between the teachers' specializations and the needed requirements.
 - absence of a suitable learning and teaching environment (infrastructure: buildings and equipment)
 - lack of laws and regulations which are necessary for increasing the possibility for improvement.

Lebanese students rank low on international assessment tests TIMSS

Results of TIMSS 2007 in Science for Grade 8			
Country (Average)	Rank		
Singapore (567)	I		
Chinese Taipei (561)	2		
Japan (554)	3		
Korea, Rep. of (553)	4		
Armenia (488)	17		
Norway (487)	18		
Ukraine (485)	19		
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Results of TIMSS 2007 in Mathematics for Grade 8			
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Bosnia and Herzegovina (456)	27		
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Egypt (391)	38		
Algeria (387)	39		
Oman (372)	41		

TIMSS description and results

- The TIMSS focuses on policies and educational systems through the assessment of academic achievement, hence provides input to help improve teaching and learning of mathematics and science.
- The test is carried out every four years under the auspices of the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA).
- Lebanon is ranked 28th in the classification of the results of Mathematics (2007) for grade 8, and is ranked 40th in the results of Science, which is below the international average for both subjects.
- The public sector students' levels are 10% less than those of their counterparts in the private sector

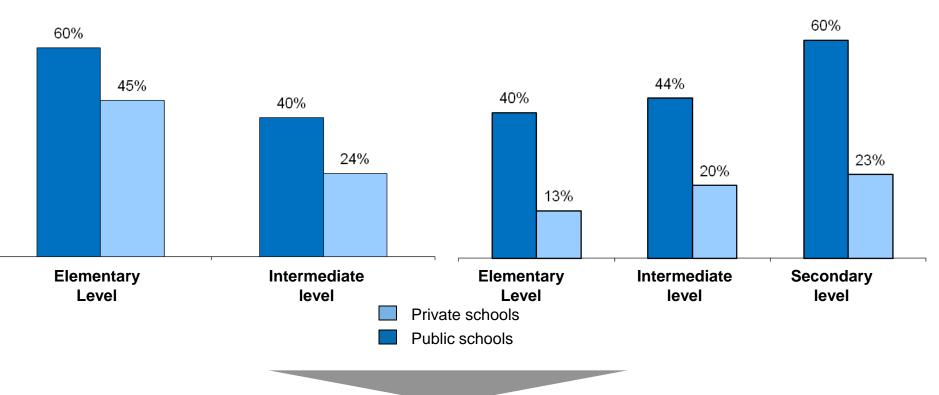


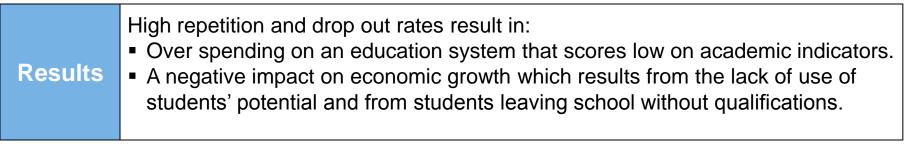
Note: classification is based on 48 participating countries International achievement average: 500

Source: TIMSS 2007

Student repetition rates 2008-2007

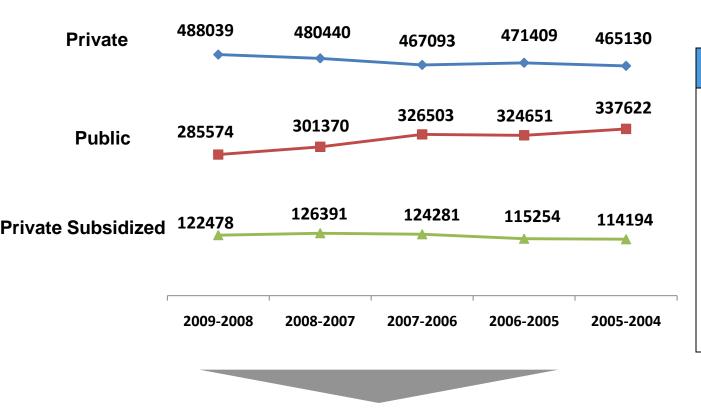
Over-age student rates 2008-2007





Source: ECRD Statistics 2007-2008

Number of Students in Schools 2004-2009



Comments

- Some of the reasons for the decrease in the number of students in public schools are:
- Low achievement rates in public sector
- A relative weakness in foreign languages
- The absence of extracurricular activities

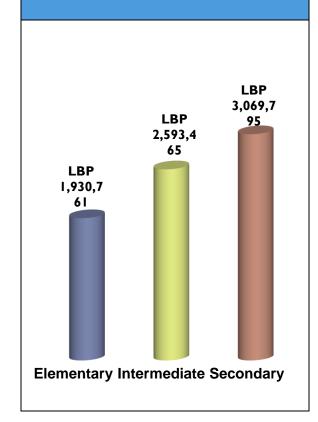
An increase in the number of students in the private and private subsidized sectors, compared to a decrease in the number of students in the public sector

Source: ECRD Statistics 2007-2008

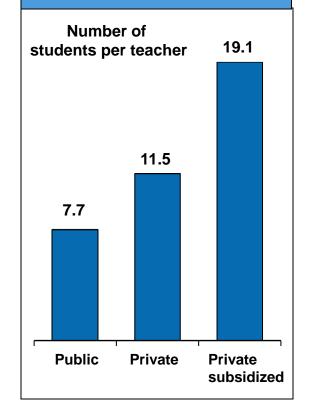
Comments

- Spending on public education sector is relatively inefficient due to inefficient resource distribution and a high number of teachers.
- Education sector administrative laws were issued in 1959
- The absence of an efficient system for resource distribution and planning
- The absence of efficient IT systems and trustworthy sources of information
- Discrepancies among educational data provided by different sources.

Annual cost/student in the public sector



Excess in the quantity of under qualified teachers

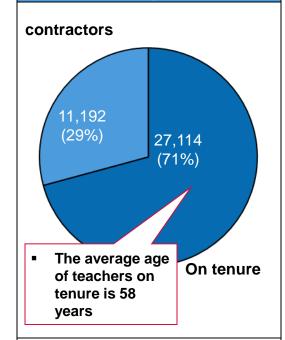


Under qualified teaching workforce

 Despite the relatively high number of teachers, there is a significant shortage in the number of teachers in specific subjects and certain regions

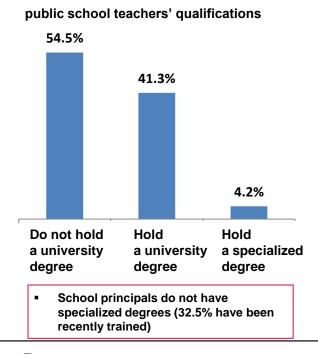


The absence of an incentives system based on performance
The absence of an effective system for evaluating the performance of the teaching staff An Increase in the percentage of contracting teachers



 Reasons:
 Absence of laws and regulatory frameworks and mechanisms that govern the contracting process

The shortage of teachers in certain subjects and regions



Reasons:

-The absence of the necessary laws to ensure the recruitment of qualified teachers

Lack of Mechanisms for Curriculum Development

The absence of periodical revision mechanisms of the curricula.

The absence of clear standards for writing, producing, and assessing school textbooks.

The absence of a unified curriculum which allows for the use of IT as an educational tool, despite the fact that 12 initiatives have been implemented in this field in about 450 public schools.

School Buildings/ School Conditions



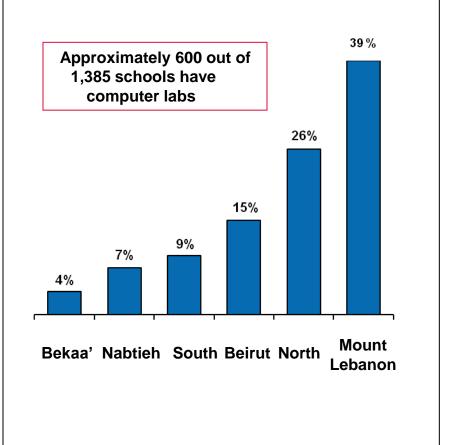
 There is a remarkable discrepancy among school buildings



 There is an unequal distribution of students:

> 153 schools of a total of 1107 schools contain less than 50 students

The percentage of schools connected to the internet



The Basic Foundations for the Strategic Orientations of Education in Lebanon

The National Education Strategy in Lebanon is based on the fundamental principles cherished in the Lebanese Constitution and the National Accord Convention as well as on the laws and regulations governing educational matters which emphasize freedom of and right to education and ensuring the accessibility and equality in opportunities and requirements of education to all. Those principles have also been emphasized in international convention that Lebanon abides by; the most of these are: Declaration of Human rights; the International Convention of economic, social, and cultural rights; and the International Agreement on the Rights of the Child.

This strategy derives its orientation from the agreed-upon fundamental educational principles, especially the humanistic approaches to education that Arab and International educational conventions build on to direct the child towards the comprehensive development of the individual; the reinforcement of respect for human beings and their basic freedom; the development of the ability to actively participate in a free society; the development of a sense of responsibility in a spirit of understanding, peace, and friendship; and the commitment of wide social partnership among those concerned with education in order to ensure meeting the human need for education and for building a knowledge society.

The strategy derives its basic foundation from the educational realities in Lebanon with its particular traditions, especially the closer partnership between public and private sectors in the provision of educational services and in the unique place of Lebanon in the Arab world and internationally which resides in Lebanon's human capital and in its creative and technical power. It also resides in Lebanon's efforts to reform public and higher education, developing and strengthening vocational and technical education to meet the country's development and construction needs, and revising and developing curricula to reinforce national identity and integration as well as spiritual and cultural openness.

I: Education Available on the Basis of Equal Opportunity

- 1: Education available to children aged 3-5; public education accessible to this age group.
 - Expanding children's opportunities for enrollment in pre-school
 - Making public education available for 3- to 5-year-old children and raising enrollment rate for 3-years old to be equal to that of 4-years old

2: Compulsory Basic Education until the age of 15; the state should give access to public education for all, based on the right of every individual to quality education. Education should give everyone, including learners with special needs, equal opportunity for enrollment, for educational continuation and for success.

- Making public education available to all
 - Increasing the level of net enrollment in elementary education to 98% and in intermediate education to 90%
 - Decreasing rates of repetition
 - Increasing the rate of mastery of public school students of the needed competencies for passing official examinations
- Caring for learners with special needs (gifted and retarded) in formal education in basic education
 - Providing all that is needed for caring for learners with special needs in basic education

3: Secondary Education (general, vocational and technical) available equally: in enrollment, educational continuation, and success. Students would be given the chance to choose among academic and technical education specializations and the opportunity to choose elective courses in order to reinforce their autonomy and to help them improve their educational and career choices.

- Expanding opportunities of enrollment in secondary education
 - Increasing the net enrollment level to 65% in secondary education
- Providing equal opportunities between the public and the private sectors for success in official examinations

- Increasing the level of acquisition of students in public secondary schools of the required competencies for passing school and official examinations
- Developing one system for secondary education
 - Developing frameworks and systems for opening pathways among the various tracks of secondary education, both general and vocational, and providing opportunities for choice among courses

4: Higher Education (including technical education), available equally and organized in a manner that allows for academic mobility among its various sectors and institutions, provides support for students, and adapts to new trends and student needs.

- Improving opportunities for enrollment and continuation in higher education (including technical education)
 - Increasing the percentage of students enrolled in higher education so that it approximates similar percentages in developed countries
 - Improving effectiveness in the Lebanese University
 - Improving educational services in higher education
- Developing one system for higher education
 - Increasing academic mobility in higher education

II: Quality Education that Contributes to Building A Knowledge Society

5: Education characterized by the high quality of its curricula, institutions, and outcomes; an education that is aligned with national and international standards.

- Improving the quality of education in pre-school
 - Developing quality components in pre-school
- Continuous improvement of the quality of curricula in general education
 - Developing a system for the continuous development, implementation, and evaluation of curricula and for the benefit by MEHE from evaluation studies and innovative experiments

- Revising the current curricula in general education
- Producing a school textbook of high quality
- Professional development of teaching staff and professionalization of teaching in general education
 - Securing professionally well-prepared teaching staff for basic and secondary education
- Improving the quality of the teaching/ learning environment in general education
 - Providing public schools that are properly equipped and have the human resources needed for achieving the targeted educational goals
 - Providing a healthy and active school climate
 - Providing the human resources needed for achieving educational goals
- Professional development of the administrative staff in schools in general education
 - Providing school administrative staff who are qualified both educationally and administratively
- Improving the quality of learning outcomes in general education
 - Reaching an achievement level of learning outcomes that is satisfactory according to international standards and in line with national standards
- Improving the quality of vocational and technical education
 - Providing quality secondary vocational and technical education
 - Providing quality higher technical education
- Improving the quality of higher education
 - Providing quality higher education

6: Education oriented towards the development of knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed for handling information and the intensive use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

- Orienting education towards building a knowledge society
 - Developing the curricula, personnel, and structures needed for the intensive use of information technology and communication in teaching and learning in pre-university education

7: Education that develops the general education of individuals and provides them with critical thinking skills and moral reasoning, enabling them to live and work in a modern, changing society and to become lifelong learners.

- Preparing students for lifelong learning
 - Develop general education curricula and personnel to enhance the development of thinking and moral reasoning abilities
 - Develop general education curricula and personnel to enhance the development of the individual's general education

III: Education that Contributes to Social Integration

8: Education that develops citizenship in its three dimensions: National identity, civic participation, and human partnership.

- Strengthening the role of education in developing national identity
 - Forming students who think and behave on the basis of the principle that national identity represents the main and first identity that precedes any other identity
- Strengthening the role of education in developing civic participation
 - Forming students who are capable of civic participation
- Strengthening the role of education in human partnership
 - Forming students capable of practicing human partnership

9: Education that contributes to social cohesion and provides learners with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed for living together in a diverse society.

- Increasing the contribution of education to social cohesion
 - Increasing spaces for social mix in education
 - Increasing opportunities of communication and interaction among institutions, teachers, and students
 - Forming students equipped with knowledge, values, and skills for living together in a diverse society

10: Education that contributes to social mobility: horizontally, among geographical locations, and vertically, among social strata.

- Strengthening the role of education in horizontal social mobility
 - Increasing opportunities for academic mobility among geographical locations
- Strengthening the role of education in vertical social mobility
 - Graduating university students with degrees that have competitive value

11: Education that contributes to the social inclusion of dropouts and individuals marginalized inside the school as well as to the prevention of social marginalization.

- Strengthening the role of education in social inclusion
 - Providing frameworks for supporting marginalized students and for protection against marginalization

IV: Education that Contributes to Economic Development

12: Education that contributes to the development of human capital.

- Availing study opportunities for those who haven't had any formal education and for those wishing to continue their education
 - Providing educational services to those who haven't had any formal education and for those wishing to continue their education
- Improving the economic investment of the educational repertoire of the people
 - Improving the professional dimensions of education

13: Education that provides quantitatively and qualitatively competent work force to meet the needs of the Lebanese market and that can compete in free job markets.

- Increasing the rate of employment among graduates
 - Improving the connection between the higher education supply and development demands

- Higher education to keep up with the globalized job market
 - Providing a workforce with higher education degrees that is capable of competing internationally

V: Governance of Education

- Shifting towards strategic administration at the Ministry
 - Developing documents, systems and mechanisms necessary for drawing a framework for looking after the public concern in education
 - Enabling MEHE to undertake the task of drawing an educational
- Investing social capacities in developing educational policies at the national level
 - Developing frameworks for involving civic and educational organizations in public decision- making
- Modernizing the educational administration
 - Restructuring the MEHE
 - Automation of the administration in MEHE
- Improving efficiency in the public schools
 - Gradual movement towards an autonomous administration in public school
- Improving efficiency in managing public education
 - Increasing the efficiency of the MEHE in the management of its material, financial and human resources
- Building the capacities of the MEHE
 - Upgrading and developing human resources in the MEHE and attracting new qualified human resources
- Modernizing the Lebanese University management
 - Reorganizing and modernizing the Lebanese University administration
 Increasing the efficiency of managing the Lebanese University
- Looking after the public concern (interest) in private education
 - Establishing systems for looking after the public concern (interest) in private education on a partnership basis

The General Education Sector: Facts and Figures

National Education Strategy Framework

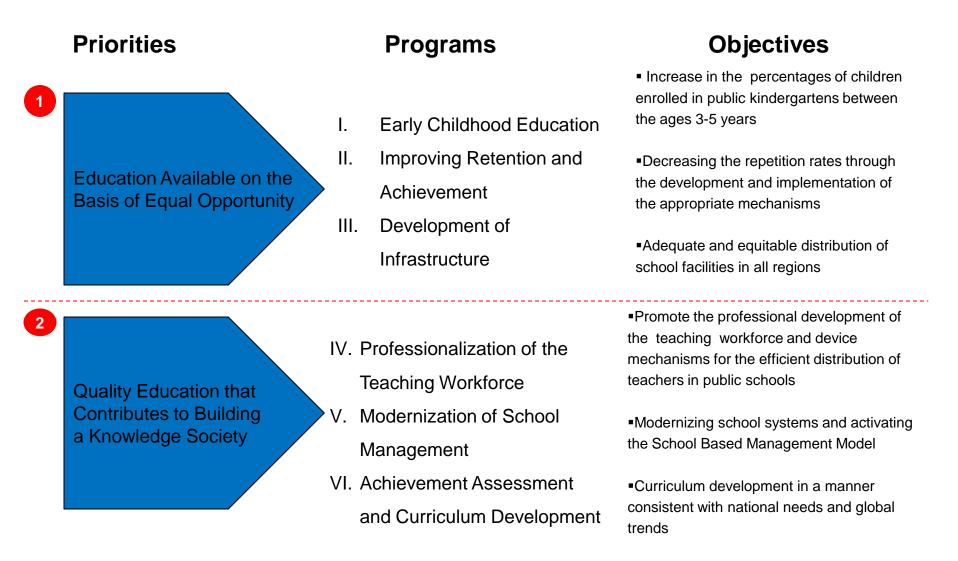
Priorities and Suggested Programs

Working Mechanism and Working Groups

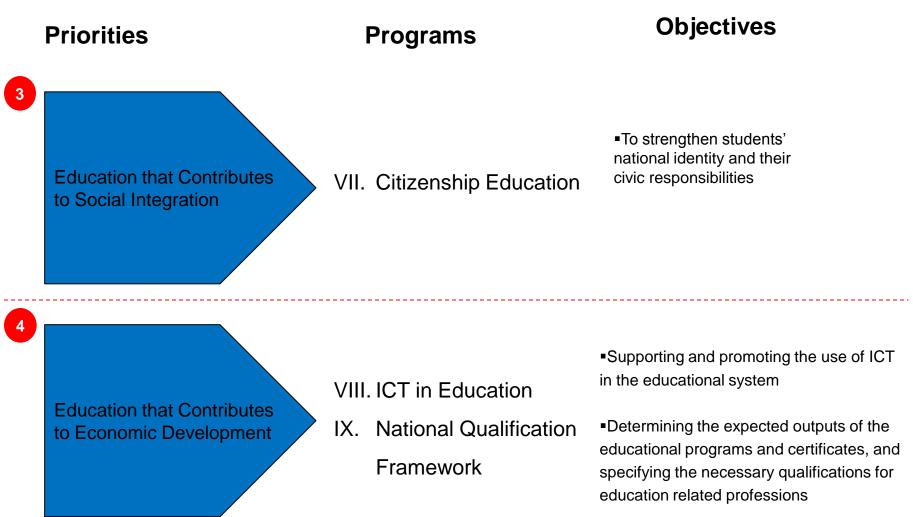
Suggested Sources of Funding

Index: Some Statistics of the General Education Sector

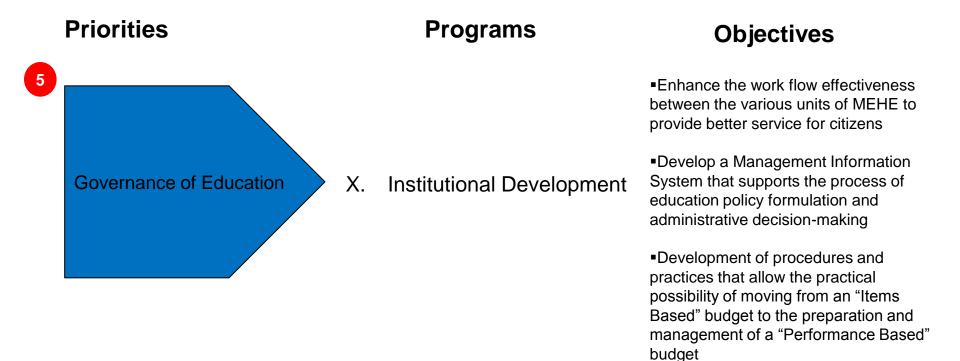
MEHE's Education Sector Development Plan is based on the 5 priorities identified in the National Education Strategy



MEHE's Education Sector Development Plan is based on the 5 priorities identified in the National Education Strategy (Cont'd)



MEHE's Education Sector Development Plan is based on the 5 priorities identified in the National Education Strategy (Cont'd)



Assessing the effectiveness of sector

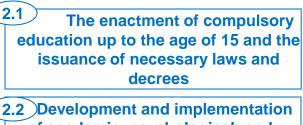
development programs through indicators and specific data

Early Childhood Education

Projects	Expected time duration				F	Performance Indicators	
1.1 Issuing the necessary relevant laws and regulations 1.2 The establishment of new kindergartens 1.3 Restoration and rehabilitation of already existing kindergartens, according to national criteria 1.4 Implementation of the new kindergarten curriculum prepared by the ECRD. 1.5	E	-	d time c	2013	2014	E 2015	 Kindergartens are available in disadvantaged areas Increase in the enrollment rates of public kindergartens Early Screening Scheme is implemented Family awareness program is implemented
Development and implementation of an Early Screening Scheme and a family awareness program							

II Improving Retention and Achievement

Projects



- of academic, psychological, and social support programs for at-risk students
- 2.3

Development of the capacity of teachers and counselors to address the difficulties of at-risk students

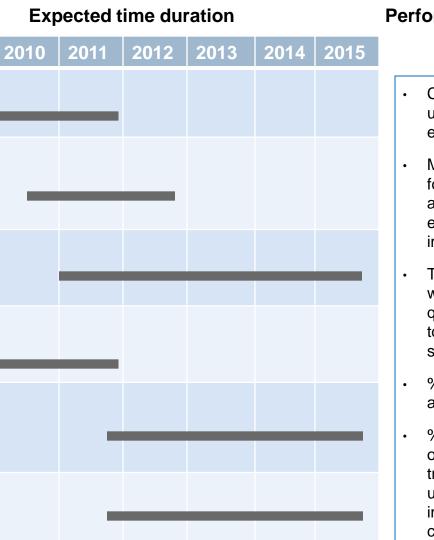
2.4 Preparation of required manuals (for teachers, counselors, etc ...) to implement the support programs

2.5

2.6

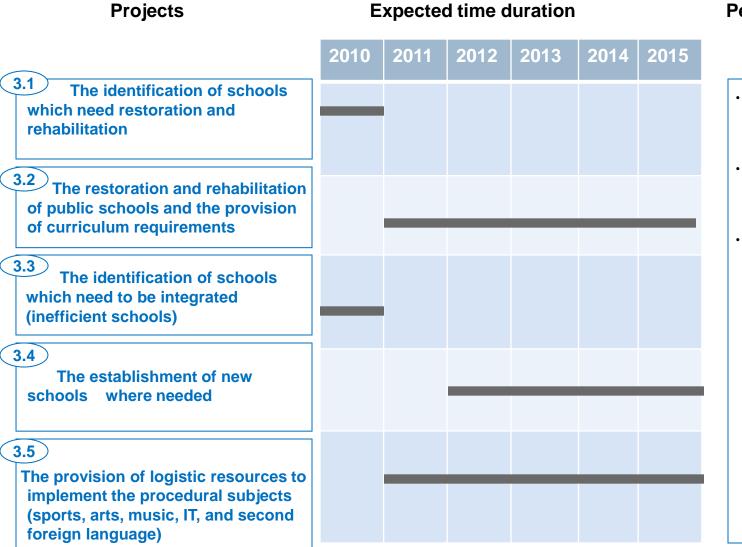
Development and implementation of portfolios for at-risk students

Devising mechanisms for cyclical review of student achievement



- Compulsory education up to the age of 15 is enacted
- Mechanisms and tools for monitoring student achievement are established and implemented
- The teaching workforce is qualified and trained to support at-risk students
- % Increase in student achievement
- % Decrease in drop out rates in the transitional phases until the implementation of compulsory education.

III Development of Infrastructure



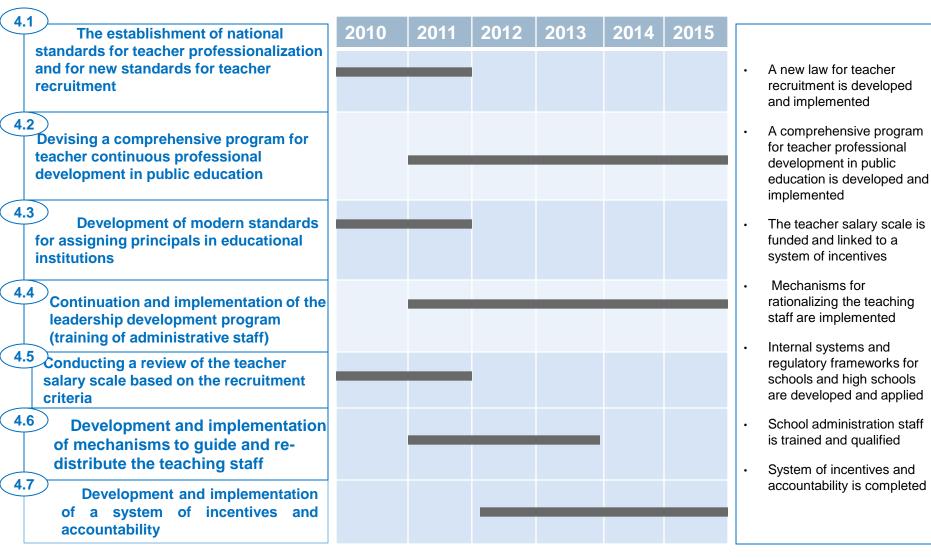
- % increase of schools which meet the national standards.
- % of inefficient schools that have been consolidated
- Human and logistic resources are provided for the implementation of procedural subjects

Professionalization of the Teaching Workforce

Projects

IV)

Expected Time Duration



Modernization of School Management

Projects	Projects Expected Time Duration					Projects Expected Time Duration			Expected Time Duration			Expected Time Duration			
_	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015									
5.1 Revision, amendment, and updating of the existing regulatory frameworks for public schools							Inter scho								
5.2 Modification of the internal regulations of schools	_						and • The scho								
5.3 Reinforcement of the role of Parent Councils and the modification of related regulations						-	ador the r tean deci								
5.4 Enhancing the interaction between the school and the community		_					 % of adop Base Mod 								
5.5 The activation of extracurricular activities and encouraging the establishment of school clubs															
5.6 Piloting the School Based Management Model which is based on planning, development, and implementation					-										

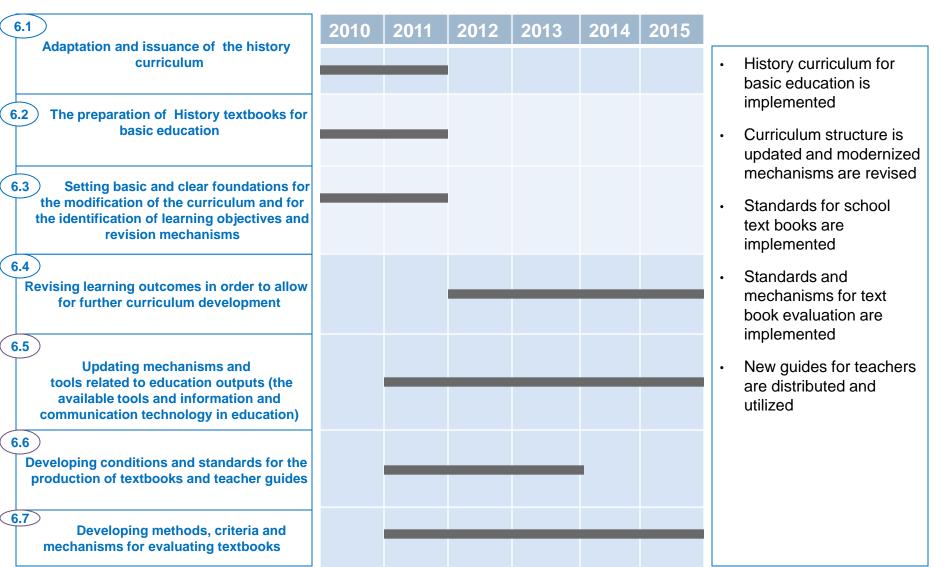
V

- Internal regulations of schools are modified and implemented
- The number of public schools which have adopted mechanisms for the promotion of teamwork in the decision-making process
- % of public schools adopting the School Based Management Model

VI Education Assessment and Curriculum Development

Projects

Expected Time Duration

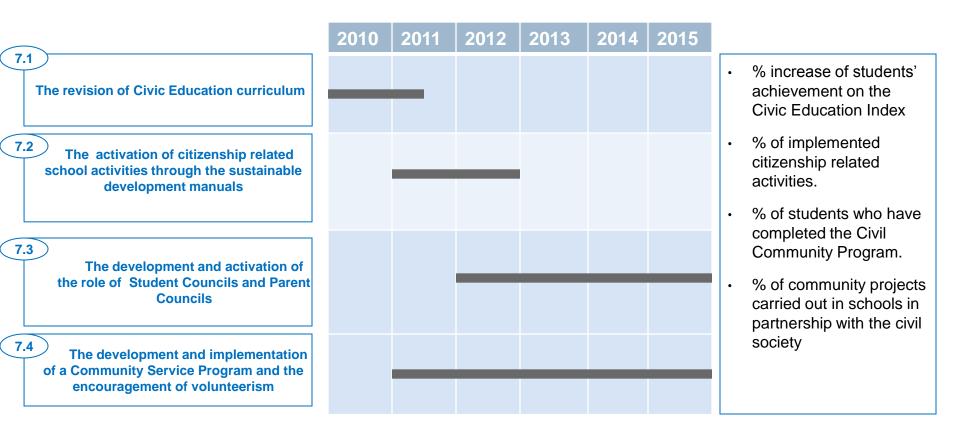


Citizenship Education

Projects

VII

Expected Time Duration



ICT in Education

Projects

VIII

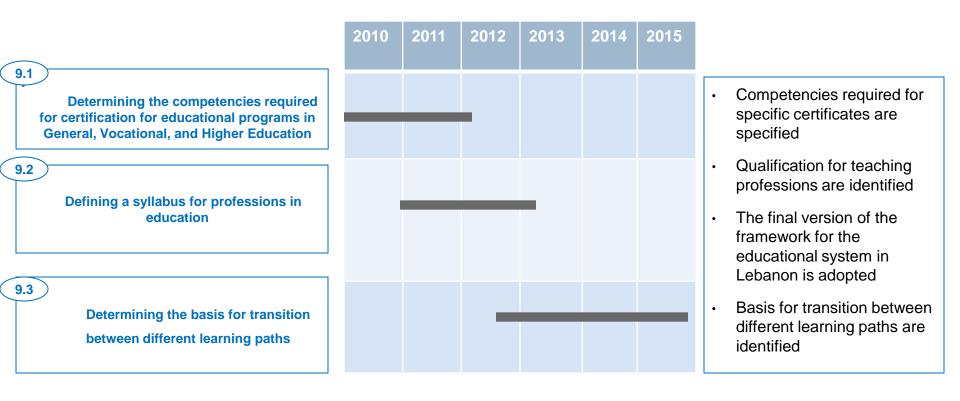
Expected Time Duration

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	
8.1 The establishment of national standards for ICT in education for students, teachers and administrators	-		I				 Increase in the % of teachers and
8.2 The adoption of national standards for ICT in education, and the identification of their related infrastructure specifications			_	_			 administrators who meet the ICT national standards. Increase in the number of hours of the students' use of computers and ICT
8.3 Devising mechanisms for higher rate of ICT integration in the teaching and learning process							Increase in the number of schools connected to the Internet and the national communication network
8.4 The setting and implementation of a plan for the development of education administrators' ICT skills							



Projects

Expected Time Duration



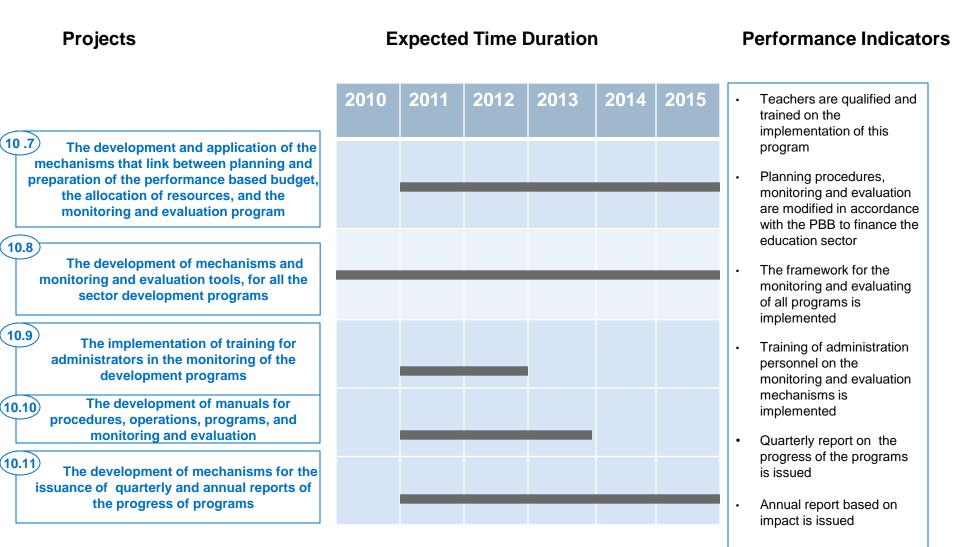
Institutional Development

X



Institutional Development (continued)

Χ



The General Education Sector: Facts and Figures

National Education Strategy Framework

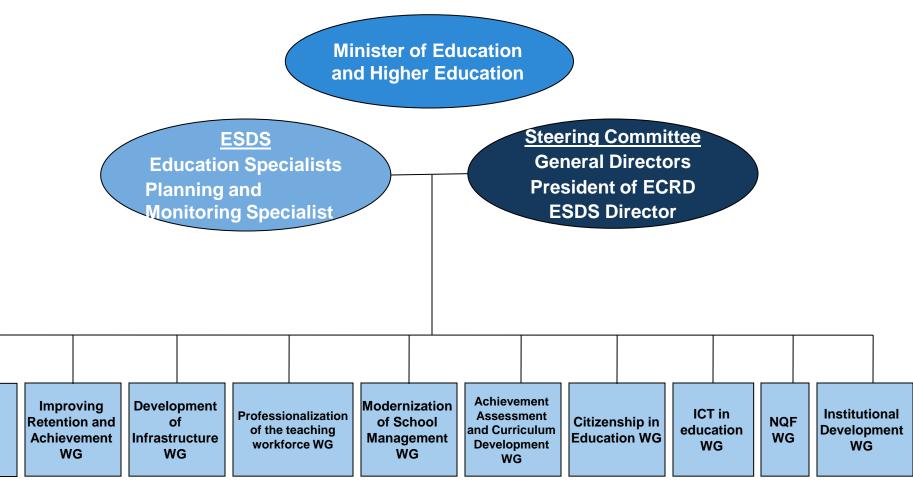
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The programs will be implemented through working groups made up of education specialists and personnel from concerned administrations



Implementation through working groups for the programs, which include: education experts and personnel from concerned administrations

ECE

WG

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National Education Strategy Framework

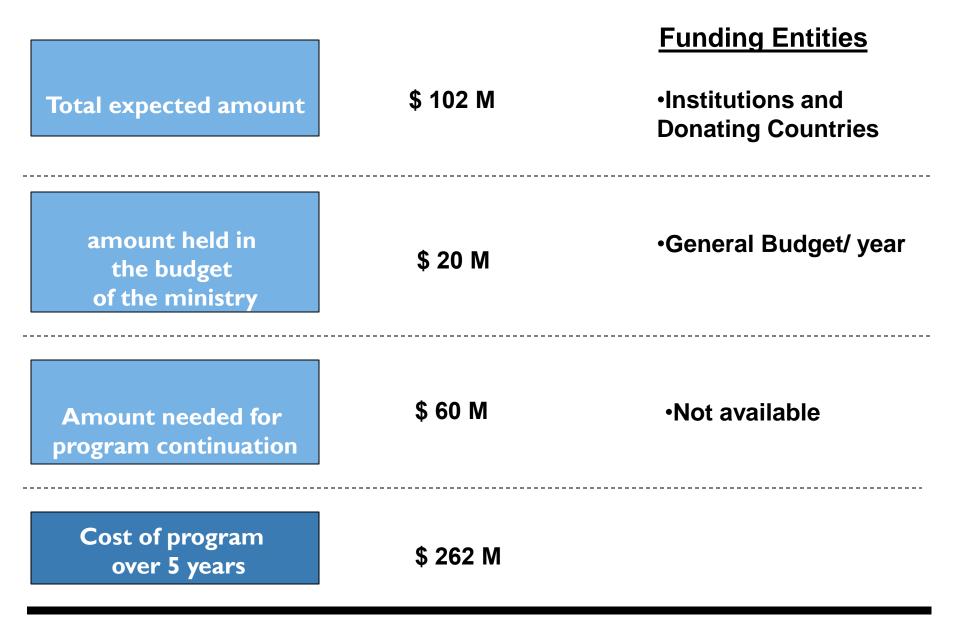
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Funding of the General Education Development Programs



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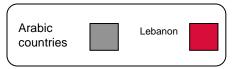
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TIMSS 2007 Results in Mathematics for Grade 8

Country (Average)	Rank
Georgia (410)	33
Iran, Islamic Rep. of (403)	34
Bahrain (398)	35
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Japan (570)	5
Hungary (517)	6
England (513)	7
Russian Federation (512)	8
United States (508)	9
Lithuania (506)	10
Czech Republic (504)	11
Slovenia (501)	12
Armenia (499)	13
Australia (496)	14
Sweden (491)	15
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Note: classification is based on 48 participating countries International achievement average: 500 Source: TIMSS 2007

TIMSS 2007 Results in Science for Grade 8

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Russian Federation (530)	10
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Australia (515)	13
Sweden (511)	14
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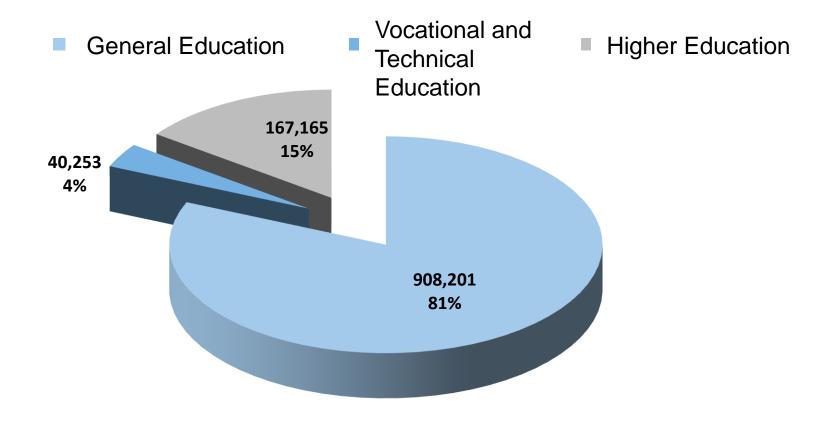
Arabic countries	Lebanon	

Note: classification is based on 48 participating countries International achievement average: 500 Source: TIMSS 2007

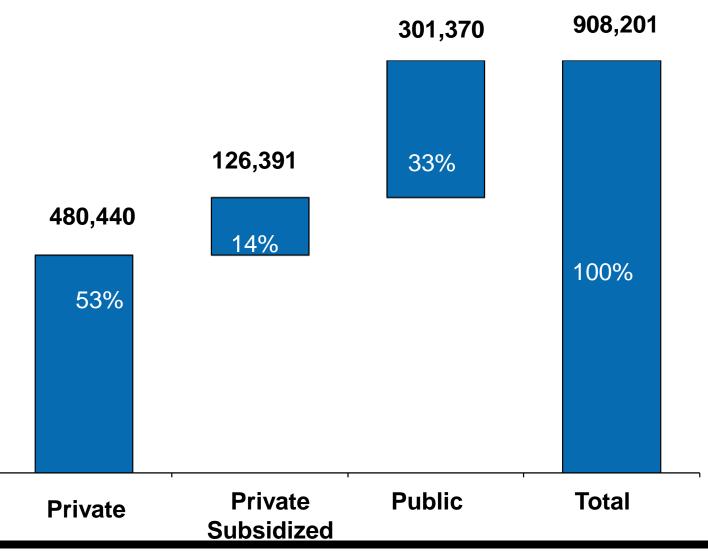
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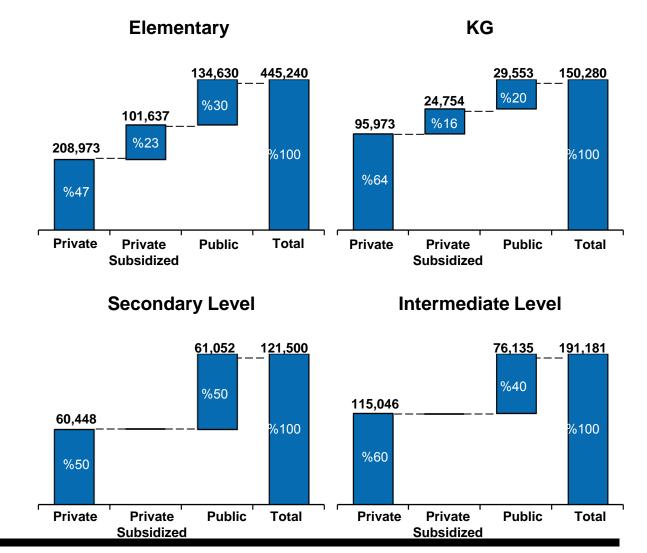
Total Number of Students According to Education Sectors 2007-2008



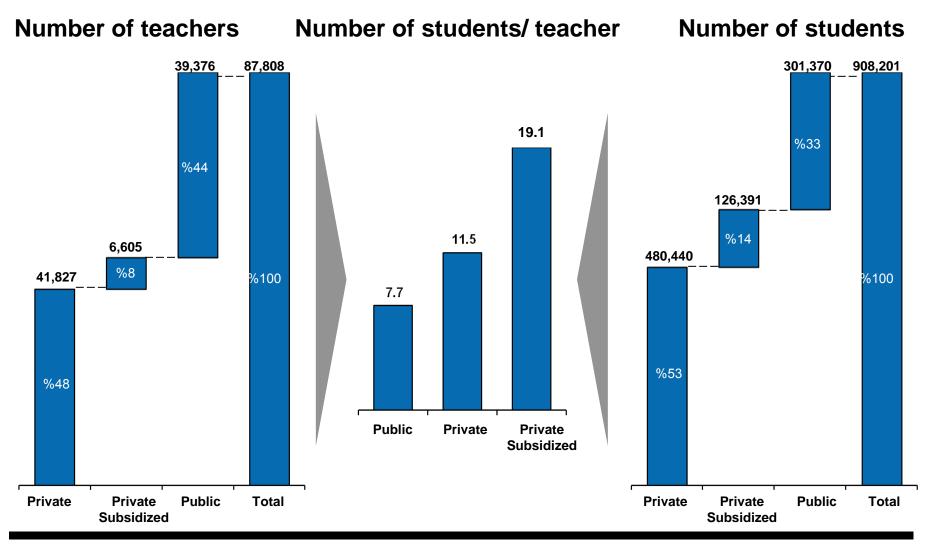
Student Distribution for the Academic Year 2007-2008



Student Distribution for the Academic Year 2007-2008



Number of teachers and Students in General Education 2007-2008



Number of Public School Buildings 2007-2008

