Transcript: Ghassan Issa, General Coordinator, Arab Resource Collective (ARC); Director, Arab Network for Early Childhood Care and Development (ANECD)

Ghassan Issa discussed the suffering refugees endure and how families cope and protect their children. Dr. Issa first noted that 25% of the Lebanese population is composed of Syrian refugees. He then went on to describe the suffering of refugees, “The suffering starts when they take the decision to leave their homes and their families.” He states that 89% of refugees say separation from home and family is what they suffer from in addition to other factors. In the camps themselves, refugees face poverty, unemployment, and overcrowding. He said he admired the resilience and hope refugees have that they will return to their home countries. He noted that the family is a very important unit of protection and the ability of a parent to protect their children is based on what resources are available. With social systems cracking, such as the educational system in Lebanon trying to cope with the refugee population, Dr. Issa said that we must think out of the box to adapt and invest in the family as a unit of protection.