

Minute of Education Cluster Meeting

20 June 2008 at 2.00pm

Venue: Room to Read, 14, 36th Lane, Colombo 6

Present: Jamie Williams, SCiSL, A.Sriskandarajah (UNICEF), Philippa Ramsden (SCiSL), Malaravan Sivalingam (SCiSL) Harini D B, (IRD), Rohan Senarath (CED), Glen de Mel, (Room to Read), S.I.M. Riyas (Room to Read), Ravi Anandarajah (WFP), Anneliese, ZOA, CHA

Apologies: UNOCHA and Ita Sheehy, UNICEF

New members WFP and CHA were welcomed by the chair

UNOCHA – IM support to the Education cluster

UNOCHA web page development – the web page will consist of background information on the Education Cluster, contact list, minutes. There was a question about the type of audience interested on the minutes. It was suggested that is advised a short note may be sufficient rather than the full minutes. The web page requires regular updates of information and could use the data on Who, What Where (3Ws) information system. There was also a question of including organisations' logos.

The 3W Mapping of activities at district level was also discussed. Regular completion of formats issued by UNOCHA feeds into the 3Ws database. There is a challenge also in updating regularly as organisational capacity is often limited.

CCHA sub-committee update (working group on teacher deployment and children whose education is affected by the conflict)

Cluster members were updated on two key issues raised at the CCHA education sub-committee. Firstly disruption of children's education due to the conflict and secondly that of teacher shortage in the conflict affected areas. The subcommittee appointed a task group to study and report back on ways of addressing these issues. In order to analyse the issue and identify solutions, a workshop was organised with the education officials from Northern province in May and a workshop planned for the Eastern Province in July. The Report of this workshop has been completed and will be submitted to the CCHA subcommittee (education). There was some discussion around multi grade teaching as an approach to resolve the issue of teacher shortages and deployment challenges.

- *Action: UNICEF to share the workshop report with the cluster members after the report has been submitted in the CCHA education subcommittee*

District clusters - Updates and Information flow

The subject of ensuring regular district updates was discussed and CHA informed the meeting that they undertake regular mappings through their district information centre updates. This can be connected with cluster at the district level.

- *Action: UNICEF/SCiSL to discuss possible information sharing with CHA .*

Regular district cluster updates and key issues are shared with national cluster but this could benefit from being more systematic. It is therefore important to strengthen existing systems so that information flow between national and district clusters is optimised and response and activities are well coordinated.

INEE Standards and Training

It is important to identify two groups of trainees. One group for training on how to use and implement the INEE MSEE, and the other group who will be trained as INEE trainers. There was also discussion about the training materials being translated into Sinhala and Tamil. The Sinhala version is now finalised and the Tamil one is at the proofreading stage.

- *Action: UNICEF to ensure that the Tamil version is completed as soon as possible.*

Education Cluster ToR

SCiSL circulated national cluster TOR and requested cluster members to revise and input their final comments by COB 11.07.08. If no further comments are received then it will be approved at the next meeting.

CCHA Education Sub committee Meeting – items to be tabled at the next meeting

It was proposed that the new procedure instructed by the government, for clearance of supply items sent to the Vanni should be tabled at the next CCHA education sub committee meeting.

A.O.B.

SCiSL and UNICEF have been requested by MoE and DRR to assist in the response for flood affected children. SCiSL will identify their response once clarification is in place about coordination of response. UNICEF is identifying the number of stationery kits to be issued to MoE and DRR.

Date of next meeting

Next meeting was scheduled for 25 July 2008 at SCiSL, 58A Horton Place.