

National Emergency Education Cluster Meeting

Date: **22 April 2008** Time: **2.30pm – 4.00pm**

Venue: Save the Children in Sri Lanka (SCiSL), 58a Horton Place, Colombo 7

Chair: A.Sriskandarajah (UNICEF)

Attendees: Ita Sheehy (UNICEF), Jamie Williams (SCiSL), Philippa Ramsden (SCiSL), Suraj Fernando (CCF), Rohan Senarath (CED), C S Nachinarkinian, (IRD), Harini D B, (IRD) S.I.M. Riyas (Room to Read),

Apologies: CARE, OXFAM

At the outset of the meeting, Ita distributed background materials and references on the Cluster mechanism from INEE and encouraged all present to make good use of the resources and information available on the website. (<http://www.ineesite.org/>)

1. Matters Arising – see minutes of the meeting 18/3/08

It was noted that all matters from the previous minutes would be covered in the agenda for the meeting. Additionally, it was agreed that the updates in the north (item 4) could also incorporate updates from the east.

2. CCHA sub-committee meeting update (held on 27.03.08)

Ita provided a briefing on the sub committee meeting. These notes supplement the details in the circulated minute of the meeting. It was noted that the CCHA would next meet on Tuesday 29 April.

Uniforms

With regard to uniforms, there is also a need to have a contingency of uniform material to be prepared for upcoming displacements as there are no contingency stocks. It was clarified that the MoE is committed to provide uniforms (in the form of material for stitching) and text books. There is also an issue around the costs of stitching.

Textbooks

This is an ongoing issue with considerable pressure to deliver. The MoE is responsible for distribution of the text books, including transportation costs so there should be no requests for transportation. There are also issues of fuel availability, particularly in the Vanni.

Displacement in Mannar

The situation is changing and evolving, particularly in the Maddu area and people are moving. A rapid assessment is scheduled to be carried out on Wednesday. ACTION: Sri will circulate the assessment form as it is important to ensure that all pertinent questions are addressed. The assessment process, timing and analysis will depend on local conditions.

At this point the issues of Kalimodдай Camp (Agenda item 5) were discussed. There is an issue of a number of children (32) being pressurised to attend a particular school and the children not attending. Reluctance comes from the parents who appear unwilling to settle their children in school as they consider that this will bring some permanence to their situation and they are anxious to return to their original community. Additionally there is no choice over school and the parents are prepared to send their children to another school. There are key questions which need to be raised at the next CCHA Education sub group meeting, particularly why only that school and who is insisting on that school. This also raised the importance of community mobilisation in terms of programming.

Teacher shortages

This subject will be discussed at a specific CCHA education task group taking place on 23 April. .

A new trend has been noted in repetitions due to children missing education through displacement. In some schools up to 60% of children have had to repeat a year and some children are 2 – 4 years over the age of their school year. The sub groups at provincial and zonal level need to analyse this. The situation also differs from area to area.

There was discussion around alternative learning methods such as Child Friendly Spaces, Radio Lessons/Distance Learning. The latter is in place and programmes are good, however they are not always used or accessed.

3. INEE Standards and Training – Follow up

SCiSL & UNICEF jointly hosted this training held in Trincomalee on 7th – 9th April on the INEE standards in Emergencies for 25 participants. It is intended that a cadre of trained people will be able to use the standards and train others. A workbook was provided for participants and ACTION: Philippa will provide this for cluster members who were not at the training and Sri will circulate the INEE overview (handbook) to the group. Feedback and evaluation brought certain learning which will be valuable for future training. The main issue was one of language, and it was noted that additional time was needed to ensure that all participants could fully engage in the training. In future the materials will be available in the local language and training will be carried out in local language as far as possible. The materials were adapted for the Sri Lankan context, particularly the scenarios and this was particularly effective.

Due to security constraints in travel, four participants from Kilinochchi were unable to travel to Trinco and the Jaffna participant was also unable to attend. A follow up training is planned for May and a training of trainers on a regional basis for September/October. In order to reach the Vanni, it is suggested that the Kilinochchi participants be called to Vavuniya. At the end of the series of trainings a list of core trainers will be developed by SCiSL (Philippa).

4. Situation in the North - updates

Discussed under item 2

5. Access to school – IDP children in Kalimoddai Camp

Discussed under item 2

6. Links between Education Cluster and MOE

Links between MoE and the Cluster and its meetings was discussed. The main purpose would be to ensure that there is a smooth running mechanism to feed in the points from the Cluster meetings. A clear ToR will guide and clarify the operation of the Cluster (see AOB).

7. CCHA Education Subcommittee Meeting – issues that need to be raised

ACTION: The following issues should be brought to the next CCHA Education Subcommittee meeting by the

- The issue of school choice in Kalimoddai Camp, as discussed earlier
- Streamlining of funding for emergency education (fast tracking through MoE and Treasure and smooth passing through to Zonal level).

8. A.O.B.

Cluster ToR

A small task group should work to prepare a ToR for the group. ACTION: Initially Philippa and Ita will work together on this but a representative from another member organisation would be welcomed to join this task group.

UNOCHA Website

The Education Cluster details are still not included on the OCHA website. ACTION: Sri will follow up on this.

INEE

It was suggested that the Cluster report on progress of Cluster formation and INEE training to INEE. ACTION: Philippa and Ita will jointly do this.

Date of next meeting

The Cluster will meet on Wednesday 21 May at 2.30pm at the UNICEF Office, 5 Githanjali Place, Galle Road Col-3