

## Education Cluster Meeting

Date: **23 May 2008** Time: **2.30pm – 4.00pm**

Venue: UNICEF, 5 Gitanjali Place, Colombo 3

**Present:** Ita Sheehy (UNICEF), A.Sriskandarajah (UNICEF), Philippa Ramsden (SCiSL), Malaravan Sivalingam (SCiSL) Harini D B, (IRD), Glen de Mel, (Room to Read), S.I.M. Riyas (Room to Read), Dulani Sirisena (UNOCHA)

**Apologies:** Rohan Senarath (CED), Maarten Van Briemen, (ZOA)

### 1. **Matters Arising – see minutes of the meeting 22 April 2008**

- Update on Changes in MOE - New additional secretary for supply has been appointed and two other officers appointed to take care of Text Book and uniform distributions.
- UNICEF has been requested to provide 12 Temporary Learning Spaces in Mannar district

### 2. **UNOCHA – IM support to the Education cluster** (Briefing from UNOCHA and discussion about the Education Cluster input on the OCHA website)

- UNOCHA presented the proposed education webpage and requested the respective organisations to provide the required information. This will help to share the experiences, good practices and learning. **Action:** Organisations to provide contact details and a small brief on their work in education. UNICEF and SCiSL to prepare meeting minutes, reference documents etc.
- **Action:** Contact list of organisations active in education will be prepared by Sri.
- It was recommended that those organisations which are particularly active in the districts should be represented at national level. **Action:** Philippa will meet with other organisations which are active in education.

### 3. **CCHA sub-committee update (working group on teacher deployment and children whose education)**

Ita (UNICEF) briefed the meeting on the recent work of the CCHA sub-committee (on education). The sub group has formed a “Task group” to work on identifying strategies to address children whose education is disrupted by the conflict and teacher deployment. In order to explore these issues in more detail and identify solutions and recommendations, it was agreed to hold a workshop with North and East Provinces. Due to the large numbers of proposed participants, it was decided to hold a first workshop with the Northern Province and follow up with a

second workshop for the Eastern Province. The Northern workshop was held on 21 and 22 May and participants included the Northern District and Zonal Directors of Education, Emergency Focal points, North and Eastern Provincial representative, NFE and NIE. The workshop was facilitated by the MoE Emergency Focal personnel, UNICEF and SciSL. The workshop was inaugurated by Mr.W. Dharmadasa - Additional Secretary, Education Quality Development, MoE and Ms. Desiree Jongsma – Deputy Representative, UNICEF.

The first day of the workshop focused on children whose education is disrupted by the conflict and groups worked to analyse the issues and initiate action plans. The second day focused on the issue of teacher deployment and the participants developed recommendations from the discussion to take to the CCHA sub committee on education. A full report of the workshop is available.

#### **4. District clusters**

- The issue of text books is still being raised in the districts. This is being addressed by MoE.
- A mechanism for reporting and information flow between district and national cluster needs to be established.

#### **5. INEE Standards and Training**

Tamil translation will be ready by mid of June, Sinhala version is already done. UNICEF is organising an Emergency Preparedness training in Vavuniya. A plan for the next stages of INEE training needs to be developed and a core list of trainers identified.

#### **6. CCHA Education Subcommittee Meeting**

The issues from the previous meeting and the progress of the task group should be taken to the next CCHA Education Sub committee meeting. This should be held as soon as possible.

#### **7. Education Cluster ToR**

Philippa circulated the draft copies of cluster TOR, feedback is expected before 1<sup>st</sup> of June. **Action:** all members to give any feedback to Philippa as soon as possible.

#### **8. A.O.B.**

Next Meeting: 20<sup>th</sup> June, 2.00 pm at 'Room to Read' office, 36<sup>th</sup> Lane Wellawatte, Colombo -06.