

Minutes of the Emergency Education Cluster meeting at the Somalia Support Services centre (SSS), Kalson Towers on 24th January 2008

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Minutes of the meeting:

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Brief Update on current Emergency situation in Somalia 2. Brief Update on NGO's education response to the current emergencies 3. Round-table discussion on improving the effectiveness of the education cluster response (priorities, strategies, approaches, fund-raising etc) 4. Discussion on structuring of the cluster 5. update on the CAP response 6. AOB |
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Key Discussions:

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Brief Update on current Emergency situation throughout the country <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Members discussed the deterioration of security situation in Mogadish. It was earlier reported that 144 schools in six districts (Hawl-Wadaag, Hodan, Huriwaa, Wardhigley, Yaqshid and parts of Bandere) serving approximately 50,000 pupils had been completely closed since the beginning of the fighting between the TFG/Ethiopian troops and Islamic insurgence. Cluster members also raised concern of lack access in Mogadishu despite the deterioration in education services. ▪ The meeting was also briefed of recently published FSAU and FEWS NET post Deyr 2007/08 analysis which indicated worsening humanitarian situation in south and central Somalia. FSAU reported that the number of Somalis that are in need of |
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humanitarian assistance and livelihood support (for at least the next six months) have increased from 1.5 million in June 2007 to about 2 million. Subsequently the number of the displaced people has increased from nearly 700,000 to about 1 million people. The analysis further indicates worsening food security and nutrition situation following two seasons of poor rainfall that had resulted crop failure and general decline of overall economic condition. There is high Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rate among the children in most parts of SCZ Somalia. This economic decline is likely to affect the already weak education system in the south as parents' ability to support education will be weakened.

- The ongoing conflict and the heightened tension in Las-anod district has also negatively impacted on education. Many schools were reported to have been closed. Efforts by education actors in Somaliland and Puntland to respond were hampered by lack of access as the district is still considered not safe.

2. Brief Update on NGO's education response to the current emergencies

Afgoye-Mogadishu IDPs emergency education response;

- IAS reported of significant emergency education response along the Mogadishu-Afgoye corridors. They have reported to have established 10 tented emergency schools serving 2116 displaced pupils in 10 IDP camps in partnership with UNICEF. They were overwhelmed by the number of children asking to be enrolled due to lack of adequate learning spaces forcing to keep many children in the waiting list. Apparently in some schools, there are more girls than the boys,
- IAS reported lessons learned from this emergency education response. Some of the tents provided by UNICEF were found to be humid and hot inside making it difficult for children to learn. Children uncomfortably sit on the floor with mats as there was no furniture provided. Short-term hunger was also seen as key challenges facing children as most of them come to school with no breakfast from their homes. Sanitation in and around school compound is poor and there are no adequate latrines, which could be a serious health hazard to the children, given the fear of renewed water diarrhoea.
- IAS had also trained teachers and community education committees on the importance of emergency education, emergency education management, classroom management and best approaches on teaching displaced children, issues of corporal punishment, use of textbooks, general teaching methodology among other issue.
- IAS developed partnership agreement with EDC on radio education programme supported by the USAID. They will train all teachers in the emergency education programme and the radio education programme will be extended to other schools supported by IR and SAACID.
- Islamic Relief (IR) is also supporting 10 tented emergency schools serving 2700 pupils along the Afgoye-Mogadishu IDP corridor in partnership with UNICEF. Their schools are from grade one to grade four. In addition to the challenges reported by IAS, which they share with them, IR reported of poor funding for emergency education. They plan to increase their coverage to up to grade eight, but they need additional learning spaces. IR reported that most of the settlements are

clan-based, creating tension between camps and making it very difficult for NGO to establish cluster schools serving different camps. They also reported that the fact that the land in which camps are staying is privately owned by individuals, it is not possible to put any permanent or semi-permanent structures. IR is also facing similar challenges in their other programmes i.e the water trucking.

- NCA who had, in the past, implemented tented schools in Gedo added their concern of the humid conditions of the tented classrooms and suggested for alternative and cost-effective emergency education infrastructure suitable to the conditions in Somalia.
- Both IR and IAS reported of the need for NFE emergency education programmes in Mog-Afgoye IDP camps. There is high demand for adult and youth education programmes in the IDP settlements.
- In Mogadishu, NRC is planning to conduct assessment to start the implementation of ABE programme. The assessment that would have started early January this year was postponed several times due to lack of access in Mogadishu. However, it is hoped that this assessment will start this week.
- HISAN reported that all disabled schools were closed in Mogadishu leaving the disable poor children with no education.

Action Point:

- IAS and IR to explore alternative learning space infrastructure that is cost-effective and can be easily developed. UNICEF will also request their engineers to explore appropriate infrastructure design.
- UNICEF to solicit more tents to accommodate the children that are on the waiting list.
- Education cluster to approach WFP for emergency school feeding programme for the IDP schools
- NRC to share the assessment report with the cluster members
- Education cluster to request NFE members extend their expertise and programming support to the IDP camps

2.2 Galgaduud and Hiran

- CARE in partnership with Save the Children and BBC plans to implement basic education programme in Hiran and Galgaduud regions.
- CARE will specifically focus on Galgadud and South Mudug hoping to identify, rehabilitate and construct 30 schools reaching up to 20,000 pupils for the next three years up to 2010. They plan to develop radio programmes suitable to the basic education in Somalia. The main objective of their programme is to improve access to primary basic education. Other components of the programme include capacity development for the CECs, train teachers and develop teacher education programmes, health education as cross-cutting issue. CARE plans to conduct baseline survey in Galgadud next week and will report the out come of the

assessment to the cluster members. In the case that there are no many operational schools in Galgadud and south Mudug, CARE is prepared to establish new schools. CARE also has plans to extend this programme to parts of Lower Shabelle, but Galgaduud is their first priority at the moment.

Discussions;

- A question was asked to CARE if there are specific districts in Galgadud region which they plan to cover, but they said to wait until the baseline survey is conducted. HIRDA explained to have established two schools in Abudwak and Balanbal districts and urged CARE to consider Abudwak district as one of their target districts in Galgadud.
- The issue of teacher incentive and CARE's approach to this critical issue was discussed.
- NCA discussed their experience in education in Gedo for the last 16 years and reported teacher incentive as one of the main reasons for their existence. They expressed the need for CARE/SC to think of teacher incentive critically as most parents, in emergency situation, are unable to pay school fees. NCA also urged them to think of emergency response with long term thinking as lessons from past experiences of emergency education response showed disaster as most schools will likely close down when the emergency fund runs out.
- UNSECO suggested the need for guidelines on teacher incentives in emergency education i.e. NGOs to agree on a range for teacher incentive. Cluster members recommend range of \$50 - 60 as most appropriate figure for emergency education response.
- NRC also highlighted the need to involve education authorities in setting the limit for teacher incentives. They reported of their experience in consultation with Puntland MOE. NRC suggested that any incentive paid to teachers has to be realistic and can be taken over by MOE in future.
- HISAN also highlighted the importance of some incentive to teachers. They expressed concern in investing on teacher training as many of their highly trained teachers went to other privately schools where they are well paid.

Action points:

- CARE to share their baseline survey to the cluster members as soon as it is ready
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3. Round-table discussion on improving the effectiveness of the education cluster response (priorities, strategies, approaches, fund-raising etc)
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- Since this agenda item was found to be very heavy and requires more time for discussion, the chair was asked to formulate simple questionnaire and distribute to cluster members for further comments and discussion.

Action Point;

- Cluster chair to develop simple structure and distribute to cluster members for discussion. It is good to critically look back 2007 and focus on improvements for 2008.

4. Discussion on structuring of the cluster

- Members highlighted the importance of the cluster meeting. However, they noted the need for restructuring the cluster meeting. The meeting is time consuming and it was also noted the need for secretariat support. For the chair to both chair the meeting and take minutes is difficult task.
- Members agreed to limit the meeting time for one hour
- Members also agreed to establish co-chair function to support the chair. The issue of rotational chairmanship was agreed to be discussed on next meeting.

Action Point;

- The chair to ask SSS for secretariat support for the cluster meetings
- The discussion on the selection of the co-chair and perhaps the rotational chairmanship to be discussed in the next cluster meeting.

5. Update on the CAP funding response

- Members shared their frustration of poor education funding in Somalia, despite the dire need for emergency education in Somalia.
- Members recommended to involve OCHA in contacting donors and to alert them the serious situation facing education in Somalia and the need for their commitment.
- Actors also need to develop new approaches in responding to emergency education i.e. forming regional consortium and developing single strategies which could attract donor interests.

Action Point:

- Education cluster to consolidate assessments reports, funding gaps, and come up with clear strategy before alerting the donor.

AOB;

Next meeting is on Monday 11th Feb 2008.