

**Minutes of the Emergency Education Cluster meeting at the UN-OCHA, Kalson
Towers on 7th April 2008**

DRAFT

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Minutes of the meeting:

1. Issues arising from last action points
2. Brief Update on current Emergency situation in Somalia
3. Brief Update on agencies response
4. Update on CAP funding
5. AOB

Key Discussions:

1. Issues arising from the last cluster coordination meeting

- Members reviewed the minutes of the previous the meeting and adopted it as true reflection of the meeting

2. Brief Update on current Emergency situation throughout the country

- The meeting was briefed of the deteriorating security and humanitarian conditions in the country. The worsening drought situation and prediction that the upcoming Gu' season could be below normal was of particular concern to education cluster members. There are reports of schools (in rural Togdheer, Sool, Sanaag and Gedo regions) closing down as villages were abandoned and residents left in search of water and pastures. FSAU/FEWS 2007/08 analysis predicted of worsening humanitarian and livelihood trend in south and central Somalia as the result of combined insecurity, drought and high inflation.
- The meeting discussed and raised concerns on the effects of likely complex scenario (deterioration of food security and worsening security situation thereby limiting access) to education in Somalia. The need for holistic approach in addressing critical issues to mitigating the effects of the looming drought to education has been discussed.
- **Action Point:** the cluster to address the likely effects of the drought and insecurity to the sector meeting on 8th April.

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

- NCA reported of several schools been closed in Gedo due to prevailing drought in the region. NCA is concern with FSAU's reports highlighting Gedo as one of the regions that are relatively food secure. To the contrary, the region has been affected by drought and poor Gu 2007/08 rainfall. There are reports of people raiding schools and taking food intended for school children (WFP school feeding). This only happens when there is food shortage in the villages. NCA is taking FSAU report seriously and plans to conduct food security assessment in Garbaharrey and Burdubo districts of Gedo region.
- UNICEF continues to provide kits and supplies (including temporary learning spaces) to emergency affected schools in south and central Somalia. UNICEF is currently supporting 30 schools along the Afgoye Mogadishu road in partnership with IAS, SAACID and Islamic Relief. Efforts to support additional schools along the Mogadishu-Afgoye road are also currently underway. UNICEF is equally concern with the worsening humanitarian situation in Somalia and the impact that this could have to education.
- UNESCO is currently undergoing organizational restructuring. They are trying to realign their intervention strategies and operational modalities. They are tying to raise funds to be able to respond to emergencies education needs i.e. education supplies and materials and make sure UNESCO is an active partner in emergency education sub-sector. Strategy reconstructions will reflect mandates of the organization. They are pushing the HQ to support the idea and make sure they are on board.
- Muslim Aid reported that they are working in Sool region and Dangorayo district of Nugal doing multi-sectoral intervention including education, health and water trucking. Muslim aid plans to respond to the education needs in Sool region. They are concerned with the deteriorated food security situation and recently sent medicine worth \$2 million to Somalia.
- UNDP reported that recent conflict in Mogadishu and other recurrent emergencies in the country had negatively impacted on their tertiary urban education programmes. UNDP supports 7 universities throughout the country. In Mogadishu, universities are operational but with lots of difficulties. Access is becoming very difficult due to movement restrictions in Mogadishu. Some of the universities had to cluster students in groups and teach them in convenient houses.
- UNDP provides ICT support to 7 universities in Somalia making online distance learning (ODL) possible via VSAT and multi-media labs with full facilities. 4,000 Somali students have graduated from the ODL creating pool of human resource capacities. UNDP is concern that the deterioration of security situation and economic decline may seriously undermine tertiary education efforts in the country.

4. Discussion on CAP funding

- Members of the meeting reported of no CAP funding in education to their individual organizations. Lack of funding through the CAP is frustrating most of the NGOs involved in emergency education.
- Members discussed the need to address the issue of lack funding to the education sector through ESC. The need to aggressively approach the donors and understand their position in emergency education has been strongly highlighted.
- **Action point:** The chair to arrange another meeting to exclusively discuss the emergency education funding issues.

AOB:

Next meeting to be held on 7th of May 2008