

**Minutes of the Emergency Education Cluster meeting at the UN-OCHA, Kalson
Towers on 12th May 2008**

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NAME	ORGANIZATION	EMAIL ADDRESS
Maulid Warfa	UNICEF	mwarfa@unicef.org
Miresi Busana	CISP	education@cisp-nairobi.org
Rosaia Ruberto	INTERSOS	Education.somalia@intersos.org
Mohamed Arush	SC-UK	Arush_moh@yahoo.com
Nasra Ali	Relief International	Nasra.ali@ri.org
Ahmed Abdullahi	CARE Somalia	aabdullahi@ci.or.ke
Duncun Maina	SC-UK	duncunmmaina@yahoo.com
Mohamed Wardere	Mercy Corps	mwardere@so.mercycorps.org
Mohamed Aliow	Islamic Relief	m.aliow@islamic.or.ke
Achoka Luduba	OCHA Somalia	luduba@un.org
Douglas Mwiti	IAS	Douglas.mwiti@ias.nu
Dediako Buahene	OCHA Somalia	buahene@un.org
SungDuck Cho	HISAN	hisan@maf.or.ke
Mukhtar Isse	WFP	Mukhtar.isse@wfp.org
Hussein Mukhtar	Muslim Aid - UK	Husmi07@hotmail.com
Abdi Hussein	AMA	ahusein@yahoo.com
Christopher Mononye	UNESCO	chirstophe.mononye@unesco.unon.org
Berhane WoldeMicheal - Chair	NCA	berhanewm@ncakenya.org

Draft Minutes of the meeting:

1. Issues arising from last action points
2. Update on security and humanitarian conditions and its effect to education.
3. Discussion cluster response and plans to the current emergencies
4. Cluster response strategy
5. A O B

Key Discussions:

1. Issues arising from the last cluster coordination meeting

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

2. Brief Update on security and humanitarian conditions and its effect to education

- The meeting was briefed of the deteriorating security and humanitarian conditions in the country. The worsening drought situation and prediction that the current Gu' season could be below normal was of particular concern to education cluster members. It was reported that many schools were affected by the drought and there

is fear that, if the situation deteriorates further, these schools may not reopen in time for the next school year around August/September.

- Members also were concerned with the increased attacks on humanitarian aid workers forcing education partners to pull out of their senior staff from Somalia, a move that could have lasting consequences in the education sector in Somalia.
- **Action Point:** the cluster to address the likely effects of the drought and insecurity to education in the next education sector meeting.

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

- **NCA;** raised of unreported deterioration in food security situation in Gedo region. Food security assessment by NCA highlighted serious food shortage and visible indication of malnutrition signs among children. Several schools were closed and some schools were raided by hungry mobs taking the food intended for school children (WFP school feeding). There are worrying signals of devastation. For instance due to lack of pasture, Donkeys were seen eating dead animal carcasses. This is very unusual, but is an indication of looming disaster.
- **Mercy Corp;** is new partner to education. Their main focus is infrastructure development, targeting IDP communities. They are currently building 10 schools for Kismayo IDPs but hope to expand their coverage to lower Shabelle and Lower Juba and Baddhedhe district. Their education programme is combined with water. Mercy is worried of increased food prices in Somalia which could directly affect education as parents had to struggle to feed their children.
- **Save the Children -UK;** SC-UK is implementing three programmes in Hiran namely; DFID funded primary education, EC funded consortium of CARE/SC/BBC education programme and the SCOTT programme. Under consortium education programme, SC-UK will implement 15 formal primary schools and 10 Alternative Basic Education (ABE) schools. They signed an MOU with the Hiran Regional Education Officer (REO). SC-UK is concern with the fast deterioration of political and security situation in south and central Somalia. Beletwien district has been particularly affected by several incidents including many attacks by the Al-Shabab groups and killing of four school teachers. International and senior national staff of SC-UK had to be evacuated as they were to start the implementation of the programme. The deterioration of political and security situation is coupled with drought which together could last consequences to education in Hiran region.
- **CARE Somalia;** has conducted baseline survey in Galgadud region for the implementation of their education programme and the report will be ready before the next education cluster meeting. CARE is concerned that the deteriorating security situation and reactions by local communities of the recent bombardment could have negative impact on their education programme. However, CARE is will empower national staff to implement the programme effectively. CARE has so far signed an MOU with the Galgadud REO for the implementation of 30 schools in the region, identified 500 teachers for training and hired a project manager and two project officers. CARE has made clear that they are not mandated for school feeding implementation in Somalia despite knowing importance of school feeding in Somalia. CARE is also willing to work with local NGOs and local communities to ensure successful implementation of the programme. The meeting was

overwhelmed by discussions on Galgadud and school feeding issue. Members agreed the need to address the issue of food security in education in Somalia and the education response issue in Galgadud.

- **UNESCO;** is trying to realign their intervention strategies and operational modalities. They are trying to raise funds to be able to respond to emergency education needs and ensure UNESCO actively involves emergency education sub-sector.
- **HISAN;** reported that disabled children are losing opportunities for education due to the worsening humanitarian conditions in Somalia. They reported of disabled children leaving schools to begging on streets of main towns. Further evidence of discrimination against disabled-children in education has been also reported. HISAN is urging for strategic approach in ensuring disabled children's right to education in Somalia. All HISAN can do is provide textbooks and technical expertise in this field, but has no funding to support on special education needs.
- **INTERSOS;** is currently implementing emergency education activities in Middle Shabelle and wish to start new programme in Baidoa district, and Mogadishu-Afgoye road. INTERSOS is concerned with the deteriorated security situation in southern Somalia. They are working with 3 local NGOs to ensure implementation of their emergency education programmes. INTERSOS considers education as a community focal point and allows maximum participation. Their programme also addresses protection issues and provides psychosocial support to pupils and children affected by emergencies.
- **CISP;** reported of serious drought and water shortage in Galgadud causing diarrhoea and other illnesses to school children. They raised a concern of access and travel restriction in their areas of operation (Eldere and Harardhere districts) due to insecurity. CISP has started a new emergency education programme in partnership with UNICEF but the high insecurity in the area delayed the implementation of the programme. Due to increased commodity prices and shortage of food in the area, CISP sees school feeding as an important contribution to keep children in school.
- **IAS;** is working along the Mogadishu-Afgoye road, providing emergency education to the displaced children. They are currently running 10 schools in ten different camps along the corridor serving 2400 pupils. Many more school-age children are in need of education but have no access to education. IAS could not support them due to funding shortages. There are not many NGOs doing education in Afgoye-Mog corridor and the need for education increases continuously. IAS also plans to expand their emergency education coverage to open new schools in Jamame and Afmado, partnering with communities in the districts. They also highlighted that the situation of IDPs in Mogadishu is deteriorating as all NGOs focus on the Mogadishu-Afgoye corridor and other places in the south. They are also worried that the current escalation could hamper the on-going emergency education activities along the Afgoye-Mog road. IAS reported that they were attacked by Al-Shabab militia who took their rented cars, mobile phones, and other equipments.
- **Relief International;** is a new organization based in Galkayo. They recently got involved in education and are willing to develop education activities in IDP camps in Galkayo. The IDP camps in Galkayo are well-established, but have education services despite the large number of school-age children in the camps.

4. Discussion on emergency response strategy

Members discussed the geographic and programmatic approaches and priorities in emergency education sub-sector in Somalia as follows:

- **Geographic target;** Afgoye-Mogadishu corridor, Mogadishu IDPs, L/M Juba, Hiran and Galgadud were said to be of the highest priority geographically.
- **Approach;** addressing both the IDPs and host communities to avoid conflict and create harmonization, support existing schools to enhance their absorption capacity, and support to Quranic and other alternative pathways to education delivery were agreed to be used as most practical approach. Members also suggested holistic approach and addressing education activities through other clusters i.e. nutrition, WASH and protection.
- **Strategy;** capacity development for local communities and local NGOs, establishment of temporary learning spaces, distribution of education supplies/materials/textbooks, teacher training and teacher incentive and expansion of emergency school feeding were also suggested to be the most appropriate strategies for emergency education given the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Somalia. The need for innovative approach in financing emergency education provision was also discussed.

Action Points;

- **WFP, CARE and ICRC to discuss on food aid through education and geographic coverage;**
- **Organize another meeting for school feeding programme and Galgadud education response.**

AOB:

Next meeting to be held on 6 days before Education Sector Coordination Meeting in June.