

Minutes of the Emergency Education Cluster meeting at UNICEF Somalia main conference room, on 3rd July 2008

DRAFT

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AGENDA

1. Review/adoption of the minutes of the last cluster coordination meeting
2. Brief update on security and humanitarian conditions and education response plans.
3. Presentation on Galgadud baseline study by CARE
4. Presentation on OIASIS (information management and coordination tool) by Craig von Hagen of iMMAP
5. Update on school feeding and teacher incentive appeal letter
6. Election of the next cluster chair/co-chair
7. A O B

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 security and humanitarian conditions and it is effect to education

- The meeting was briefed of the deteriorating security and humanitarian conditions in the country. The deepening drought and prediction that the current Gu' season could be below normal was of particular concern to education cluster members. It was also reported that many schools were affected by the drought and there is fear that, if the trend continue unabated, these schools may not reopen for the next school year around August/September.
- Members of the meeting were frustrated by increased attack on humanitarian aid workers. It was reported that 19 aid workers were killed since Jan and another 17 abducted of which 13 of them are still under captivity, marking a record high of attacks on aid workers post-war Somalia. Majority of education partners have thus pulled their staff out of south-central Somalia, a move that could seriously affect their education programmes in the zone.
- **CARE** reported of planning to suspend all activities, including their education programmes, in Galgadud region after two of their senior national officers were abducted. They wrote to EC for the suspension, but not yet decided. Increased security incidents are overshadowing the humanitarian interventions, and there is fear that this could undermine the gains of the education partners in Galgadud region.
- **Actigon Point:** cluster chair to emphasize this issue in the next education sector meeting.

Discussions of issues/analysis;

The meeting discussed the impact of shrinking humanitarian space and deepening humanitarian condition to education. Members analyzed the security situation in southern Somalia, its effects on education and explored alternative strategies in case this insecurity results complete pullout of education partners in one particular region or zone. Members recognized the existence of real threat against aid workers in SCZ and, in Puntland to some extent. The attack against aid agencies were thought to be one of three reasons. Firstly, there seems to be an ongoing campaign of political, ideological and security in most parts of the southern Somalia and aid agencies could become victim of these campaigns. Secondly, the increased escalation since the beginning of June could be frustration of one group which is feeling unrepresented in the countries political process and targeting aid agencies as proxy and soft target for the other groups. Thirdly, the aid agencies could be attacked and kidnapped for profit making and this is mostly the case in Puntland.

The meeting also recognized that these threats are affecting humanitarian activities in south and central Somalia. It has become extremely difficult for aid

agencies to operate in south and central Somalia. Two agencies reported that their staff in Mogadishu received threat letters/messages. UNESCO also reported of relocating their national staff from Mogadishu. UNICEF also plans to relocate their national staff from Mogadishu to safer locations. It was also reported that UNDESS has temporarily suspended all road travels in the south.

Suggestions/Recommendations;

- Members acknowledged importance of continuation of education activities despite these security threats.
- The significance of engaging regional education authorities and local NGOs in areas where international NGOs and UN agencies are unable to reach were suggested.
- Other innovative approaches were also looked into. Suggestions were forwarded of implementation modalities similar to those in Iraq. For instance, there is more violence in Iraq than Somalia and education activities continue uninterrupted. The distance monitoring and implementation was said to be one of the most appropriate methods.
- The need to reinforced/empowered local education NGOs and regional education authorities and giving them responsibilities for implementing education programmes with distance monitoring and technical support from the international NGOs were also strongly emphasized. Acknowledgement that if we had started empowering of the local education authorities and local education partners the situation would have been better was also raised.
- Members highlighted the need to identify red-spots and develop appropriate strategies and counter-strategies.
- NGOs were also advised to redesign there education programmes. The significance of involving individual donor agencies in redesigning these programmes was underlined. NGOs raised the concern of accountability if they hand in activities to local NGOs. There is stringent quality assurance required by donors and there is need for balance between the need for continuation of education and assuring of quality.
- The need for donor flexibility to allow the resign of programmes was also strongly recommended. The chair strongly emphasized that the situation in Southern Somalia getting bad by the day and aid communities including donors need not to victimize children. Both donors and NGOs need to take extra steps in making sure continuation of education programmes in the midst of all problems. Communities some time see schools as own by NGOs, but partnering with them could help change these wrong perceptions.
- It was reported that NGO consortium will meet soon to discuss the way forward and some of these issues will be further discussed.

- Meeting also recommended that UNICEF to make an international call on behalf of NGOs and education cluster to talk of the impact in which targeting aid workers could have the Somalia children.

3. Presentation on Galgadud baseline study by CARE

CARE presented the findings of baseline survey of Integrated Support for Primary and Alternative Basic Education (ISPABE) Programme in Central-South Somalia. Power point presentation is attached.

4. Presentation on OIASIS (information management and coordination tool) by Craig von Hagen of iMMAP

Information Management and Mine Action Programme (iMMAP), developed an information management and coordination tool called OASIS and gave a demonstration of how the system works and how it can be used as a tool to enhance both cluster and inter-cluster coordination. Attached, please find background information regarding iMMAP and the OASIS system.

Action Points: iMMAP to send concept note on how the OASIS works and what it will mean, in monetary terms, if the education cluster wants to use it as coordination tool.

Update on school feeding and teacher incentive appeal letter

The meeting was briefed on the status of the school feeding and teacher incentives appeal letter. It was reported that the appeal letter was sent to OCHA for onward submission to the RC/HC.

Action points: Education Cluster Coordinator to follow-up this letter with OCHA and update the education cluster.

Election of the next cluster chair/co-chair

The meeting selected UNESCO as the chair of the education cluster for the next three months starting August 2008. The meeting also acknowledged and appreciated the leadership of the outgoing cluster chair.

AOB

Next education cluster coordination meeting will be held on Monday 11th August 2008.