

Emergency Education Cluster – Somalia
Meeting Minutes
January 16, 2009

In attendance:

Abdullah Khalif, WFP (Chair)
Matthew Olins, UNICEF
Mera Thompson, Save the Children Denmark
Maulid Warfa, UNICEF
Kaite Moses, ADRA
Amina Abdirashid, BBC WST
Aden Sadiq, ADA
Qurat Sadozai, Norwegian Refugee Council
Walter Matoke, UNESCO

Draft minutes of the meeting:

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Introduction of new education cluster coordinator2. Review/adoption of minutes from last EEC meeting3. Brief update on security and humanitarian conditions and agencies' responses4. Update on CAP funding5. A O B |
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Key Discussions:

1. Introduction of new education cluster coordinator

- The new education cluster co-coordinator from Save the Children-Denmark, Ms. Mera Thompson, was introduced to the cluster members. The co-coordinator from UNICEF is still being recruited. Mera is now the primary point of contact for cluster members, and will be located at the UNICEF Somalia office from February 1st. Her temporary contact email is: wheresmera@gmail.com.

Action Point:

- Cluster lead to contact cluster member agencies to request individual introductory meetings in late Jan/early Feb.

2. Review/adoption of minutes from last EEC meeting
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- Minutes were not circulated after the last EEC meeting. Apologies from Maulid.

3. Brief update on security and humanitarian conditions and agencies' responses
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- The escalation of conflict between Al-Shabab and Ahlu-Sunna in Galguduud has resulted in high levels of displacement: it was reported that Guriel had been completely emptied, while the population of Dusamareb had gradually returned after fleeing the area following the initial fighting. Estimates on the number of displaced range from 50,000 to 120,000.
- Developing a consolidated response to the emerging crisis has been extremely difficult as agencies have not been able to effectively track the displaced who have disbursed in small numbers to numerous areas.
- Following the most recent round of fighting in the region, a planning meeting in Beletweyne had to be cancelled due to severely restricted access to the area.
- Two WFP staff were killed in separate incidents in Garbaharey and Mogadishu. In the first, Al-Shabab claimed responsibility for the ‘accidental’ killing and apologized. In the second case, Al-Shabab is also suspected. The WFP has lost four staff in the past five months in Somalia and staff movement has now been reduced.
- In Merka, equipment and money have been looted from the WFP office by Al-Shabab, which had made pledges to return the stolen items. No action on the return of these items has been witnessed thus far. In Kismayo as well, NGO offices have been raided and equipment taken away and not returned.
- With the deteriorating security situation and curtailed access, cluster members expressed concern as to how field activities could be effectively monitored.
- It was also reported that a stray shell had hit a Qu’ranic school outside of Mogadishu on January 13th, killing four or five civilians and three students. No statement on this particular incident was issued by the cluster – however, the cluster coordinator will keep a file of such school-based/related incidents to compile into a quarterly/annual report of education-related killings in Somalia.

4. Update on CAP funding

- The previous cluster coordinator reported that he had sent a final prioritization of programs to OCHA before the Christmas holidays. In total, 23 proposals had been submitted. Cluster members had yet to hear back on possible funding. The cluster coordinator will update the funding matrix.
- It was reported that ECHO has expressed a willingness to consider funding for emergency education programs as part of broader education activities.
- WFP stated that it would accept proposals from organizations working in central Somalia interested in funding for feeding programs. Proposals can be sent to Abdullah Khalif.
- UNICEF has received a 1.8 million dollar grant from the Dutch government for emergency education work in Puntland and Somaliland. The work will concentrate on the provision of text books, school supplies and training. The money may also be used to fund a international education specialist to be based in Hargeysa.

Action Point:

- Cluster lead to follow up with OCHA to receive an update on CAP funding and update – as necessary – the funding matrix.

5. AOB

- UNESCO will be hosting an emergency education training in Paris in March, and is seeking nominations for Ministry of Education officials – particularly women – from Somalia. The nominees should be able to attend a workshop in English without the aid of a translator. Nominations can be sent to Matthew Olins at UNICEF.
- A plan to translate the INEE standards into Somali has been approved.