

**Emergency Education Cluster - Somalia**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**February 16, 2009**

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*In attendance:*

Mera Thompson, Education Cluster Coordinator (Chair)  
Matthew Olins, UNICEF  
Kaite Moses, ADRA  
Qurat Sadozai, Norwegian Refugee Council  
Christophe Mononye, UNESCO  
Rosaia Ruberto, CISP  
Mohamed Wardere, Mercy Corps  
Hussein Noor, Mercy Corps  
Engwarfa Baiow, SWRDA  
Abbas Ali Mohamed, COSV  
Alexina M. Rusere, OCHA  
Joseph Mungai, AET  
Jackie Kaavi, AET

**Agenda**

1. Adoption of minutes from the last Education Cluster meeting
2. Discussion and feedback on cluster structure and functionality
3. Development of 2009 work plan
4. Update on CAP 2009
5. Working groups
6. Admin issues
7. Security and humanitarian situation update (month of January) with analysis of implications for education
8. A O B

**Key Discussion**

**1. Adoption of minutes from the last Education Cluster meeting**

The chair noted that the new education cluster coordinator had noted her personal rather than official email address in last month's minutes. All future correspondence should now be sent to: [m.thompson@scuk.or.ke](mailto:m.thompson@scuk.or.ke)

Both action points for the cluster coordinator noted in the minutes have been completed: the coordinator has contacted cluster members for individual meetings (and will continue to do so this month); and the coordinator has met with OCHA to receive an update on CAP funding (discussed below).

The minutes were approved and adopted.

## **2. Discussion and feedback on cluster structure and functionality**

The group came to a consensus on having the cluster coordinator(s) serve as the fixed chair for the cluster meetings. Emphasis was placed on continuing a participatory approach to the meetings, and for promoting members' leadership to the extent possible.

The Draft ToRs for the Education Cluster Somalia will be circulated for comments and feedback and should be finalized at next month's cluster meeting.

Members opened a discussion on the convergence of the education cluster and education sector monthly meetings. Having a single cluster/sector meeting would be time effective and would likely strengthen coordination and strategic planning. However members expressed concern about diluting the particular interests of the cluster (technical, quick response, etc) with broader sector issues. Another option would be to have a single cluster/sector meeting as well as defined working groups to address issues unique to the cluster. It was decided that the issue should be put to the entire cluster membership (via email) for deliberation, with a consensus decision expected at next month's cluster meeting.

The group discussed the best ways to share, analyze and develop a course of action regarding humanitarian and security updates/issues. Information on the general security situation in Somalia shared at the cluster meetings tends to be duplicated at other meetings throughout the month, suggesting a need for more strategic framing of issues and courses of action. At the same time, the cluster should remain an open forum where members can share their programmatic challenges and concerns. The cluster will make a concerted effort to be action-oriented when discussing arising humanitarian challenges. It was suggested that at the next meeting, each cluster member be given five minutes to update the group on their programs and key challenges after which the floor will be open to a general discussion on responses to these challenges and the necessary resource mobilization.

The chair will also circulate the Generic Terms of Reference for Cluster Leads so that all member agencies are clear on what they can expect from cluster coordinators. There is an open invitation to contact the coordinator to discuss areas where the coordinator could strengthen their involvement and support.

The reactivation of sub-cluster groups in the field was considered a priority for the cluster. It was suggested that first priority be given to reactivating several of the five umbrella groups that had previously been formed in South Central. The coordinator will contact her predecessor to find the contact information for the relevant lead agencies.

There are also sub-cluster groups formed in Hargeisa and Garowe, although it is unclear how active these groups remain. The coordinator will work on a draft structure that would lay out the relationship between the cluster and the sub-clusters, including modalities for information sharing, decision making and advocacy.

The cluster also felt that it was time to re-map programmatic coverage in Somalia (particularly in SCZ) which would also feed into membership for the sub-clusters. The coordinator will contact OCHA to find out when the most recent mapping exercise occurred.

**Action Points:**

- Cluster lead to circulate cluster ToRs for comments, members to submit comments/amendments to ToRs prior to next meeting. ToRs to be finalized next month.
- Cluster lead to circulate education sector committee ToRs for reference.
- Cluster lead to circulate Generic Terms of Reference for Cluster Leads for information purposes.
- Cluster lead to put forth issue of merging of cluster/sector meetings to the entire cluster membership (via email) for discussion and debate. Decision at next month's cluster meeting.
- Cluster lead to find contacts for lead agencies for sub-clusters in SCZ; draft a structural model for the sub-clusters; and to contact OCHA regarding a mapping update.

### **3. Development of 2009 work plan and strategy**

The 2009 cluster work plan has yet to be drafted, and should be considered an urgent priority. The coordinator circulated the 2008 work plan for reference and suggested several items that should be prioritized in the 2009 work plan, including: updating the emergency preparedness plans for Somaliland and Puntland and drafting a plan for SCZ; updating the advocacy plan; drafting the 2009 cluster strategy (the 2008 strategy paper was circulated for reference); developing a capacity building plan; operationalizing common indicators included in the 2009 CAP; building capacity for proposal writing; developing a realistic timeline for preparation for the 2010 CAP. The coordinator will draft a work plan and circulate for discussion before the next meeting. The coordinator will also begin compiling possible new strategic directions for the cluster strategy, which will be presented at next month's meeting.

**Action Points:**

- Cluster lead to draft and circulate 2009 cluster work plan for comments before next meeting.
- Cluster lead to begin soliciting input for the 2009 cluster strategy. Potential new strategic directions to be discussion at next month's meeting.

### **4. Update on CAP funding**

The education cluster's list of prioritized projects for the 2009 CAP was not received by OCHA and has not been included on the list of prioritized clusters/projects presented to the IASC. There will be an opportunity to have the cluster's prioritized projects considered during the second round of prioritization this summer. The cluster was reminded that the IASC is the decision making body on CAP prioritization and any issues regarding inclusion of education cluster activities should be addressed at the IASC (and not through OCHA).

To date none of the cluster members have received feedback on their CAP proposals from donors. Interested donors will contact NGOs directly (not through OCHA) although NGOs are encouraged and expected to follow up with their relevant donors independently. It is requested that any new

funding received be reported to the cluster coordinator. The February 16<sup>th</sup> update of the Financial Tracking System (available at [www.reliefweb.int/fts](http://www.reliefweb.int/fts)) did not reflect any humanitarian funding designated to the education cluster. UNICEF has received approximately \$1.8 million from the Dutch government for emergency education as well as roll over funds, some of which may be put towards emergency education.

Three cluster members have submitted HRF proposals: Trocaire has received funding for a school feeding program in Gedo last October; Intersos has been in discussion with OCHA for funding of their proposal; and the status of the ADRA proposal is unknown at this point. Several members were unclear on OCHA's criteria for HRF funding – the coordinator will circulate this. A reminder was made that it is the job of the cluster to make technical recommendations to OCHA on proposals for funding under the HRF.

**Action Point:**

- Cluster lead to circulate memo on criteria for HRF proposals.

## **5. Working Groups**

A working group on emergency school feeding was formed in 2008 and had been successful in drafting a position paper on behalf of the cluster. The working group had met with WFP to gauge the level of available resources and support. As a next step forward, the development of a joint proposal from cluster members interested in supporting school feeding activities is envisaged. The cluster will conduct an internal mapping of capacity amongst interested members, including where agencies are currently working and how many schools/children each agency would be able to reach. The coordinator will arrange (through the WFP representative to the cluster) a meeting with the WFP Head of Operations to re-gauge WFP's openness to a joint proposal. It was suggested also that the cluster raise the issue of inclusion of Puntland in the WFP's school feeding program.

The coordinator will work on updating/ revising the advocacy plan drafted in 2008 to include more strategic communication towards donors and to promote cross-cutting work with other clusters.

**Action Point:**

- Cluster lead to request meeting with WFP Head of Operations; pending outcome of this meeting, a joint mapping and proposal exercise may be initiated.
- Cluster lead to revise advocacy plan – for discussion at next month's meeting.

## **6. Other Administrative Issues**

The coordinator is in the process of updating the cluster contact list.

## **7. Security and Humanitarian Updates**

Access to many areas in South Central continues to be a huge challenge to implementation. The lack of a single unified channel for communication with local armed groups has also impeded implementation. Cluster members felt that the 'remote control' issue of developing/managing activities from an external location desperately needed to be addressed in 2009.

## 8. AOB

The CERF Secretariat has allocated \$10 million to Somalia – CERF funding is allocated to countries which have been slow to receive CAP funding and these funds must be granted to a UN agency. Of the \$10 million allocated for Somalia, UNICEF expects to receive \$5-6 million which will be divided between WASH and nutrition activities. Decisions on which sectors are to receive CERF funding are taken by the IASC. It is possible that education could receive funds through UNICEF in the second round in July, although this should not be expected.

UNICEF has completed construction of a 22-classroom school in the Hamar Jab Jab neighborhood on Mogadishu and is looking a partner (INGO or NGO) to manage the school as soon as possible. The management would include supporting the establishment of a Community Education Committee, provision of in-service teacher training, equipping the schools resource center and overseeing critical decisions on issues such as the levying of school fees and the payment of teacher salaries. Organizations interesting in this program – or individuals who would like to recommend an organization for consideration – should contact Matthew Olins, Education Chief – UNICEF Somalia at: [molins@unicef.org](mailto:molins@unicef.org)