

Emergency Education Cluster – Somalia
Meeting Minutes
April 6, 2009

In attendance:

Mera Thompson, Education Cluster Coordinator (Chair)
Matthew Olins, UNICEF
Dorothy Angura, Somali Support Secretariat
Joerg Stahlhut, BBC WST
Osman Mohamud, BBC WST
Mohamed Wardere, Mercy Corps
Abdigani Jama, Relief International
Christelle Fontana, CESVI
Joseph Mungai, AET
Emma Gremley, AET
Engwarfa Baiuw, SWRDA
Amilu Chrlinguli, UNICEF
Amon Njogu, World Vision
Abbas Ali Mohamed, COSV

Agenda

1. Adoption of minutes from the last Education Cluster meeting
2. Programmatic updates (5 minutes per member) and discussion on implementation needs and challenges/development of collective responses
3. Report out on action points
4. Presentation on distance learning program by BBC WST/CARE/AET
5. Update on CAP 2009
6. Monitoring and evaluation
7. A O B

Key Discussion

1. Adoption of minutes from the last Education Cluster meeting

The minutes were adopted as circulated.

2. Programmatic updates (5 minutes per member)

AET: Secondary education program ongoing, FABE (flexible approaches to basic education) program, funded by UNICEF through the Strategic Partnership, for nomadic pastoralist was launched in all three zones in March.

BBC WST: Training for radio-learning teachers has just been completed, classes to be run by CARE; BBC Somali Service expected to begin broadcasting the radio learning package this month. BBC also asked the cluster if other members had been approached by Al-Shabaab requesting that NGOs register activities and donors.

Mercy Corps: Currently mobilizing support in Juba for 4 schools, and 6 schools in Somaliland. In final negotiations with UNICEF for the management of Hamar Jab Jab school in Mogadishu.

Relief International: Not active in education yet, looking at a proposal to the EC.

UNICEF: Phase II of teacher training in Bay and Bakool will close next week, benefiting 381 teachers. Education services for children in Afgooye are continuing at the same levels, but implementing partners will remain flexible if needs in Mogadishu increase; chief barrier to provision of more services in both Afgooye and Mogadishu is a lack of CAP funding so far in 2009.

ESC: The ESC Strategy has been finalized; once formally approved the document will be circulated to the cluster.

COSV: Experiencing a gap in implementation since December as new round of UNICEF funding has yet to come through. WFP has also suspended distribution in Lower Shabelle, affecting the school feeding program in Merka.

CESVI and World Vision International representatives joined the cluster for the first time. More detailed briefings to follow at next month's meeting.

Action point:

- Cluster coordinator to follow-up with Inter-cluster working group and OCHA for more information on any similar requests for NGO registration from Al-Shabaab.

3. Presentation on distance learning program by BBC WST/CARE/AET

Please see the attached power point presentation.

4. Report out on action points

The strategy working group met to draft the cluster's 2009 strategy. A preliminary version was circulated for comments and a revised version was presented to the cluster for approval. UNICEF requested that linkages to the CAP be highlighted, and Mercy Corps suggested that some mention of the Minimum Standards for Education in Emergencies (MSEE) be included in the document as well. A final version will be circulated by the cluster chair.

With no further comments on the 2009 work plan, the plan is approved in its current form. The chair reminded the cluster that the work plan is a living document and will be updated throughout the year.

The ESC coordinator has provided the cluster chair with updated mapping information for the education sector. This data will be combined with the cluster data to create a joint map highlighting all educational activities in Somalia. Cluster chair to submit this data to OCHA for mapping.