

Emergency Education Cluster – Somalia
Meeting Minutes
March 9, 2009

In attendance:

Mera Thompson, Education Cluster Coordinator (Chair)
Matthew Olins, UNICEF
Qurat Sadozai, Norwegian Refugee Council
Rosaia Ruberto, CISP
Douglas Mwiti, IAS
Hannah Ndungu, ADRA
Dorothy Angura, Somali Support Secretariat
Joerg Stahlhut, BBC WST
Osman Mohamud, BBC WST
Abdullahi Anshur, SADO
Abdigargaar Hashi, Access Aid
Mohamed Wardere, Mercy Corps
Maulid Warfa, UNICEF
Abdigani Jama, Relief International
Michael Comerford, Trocaire
George Kadiri, Islamic Relief
Njoki Maina, Islamic Relief
Sundus Abdi, Muslim Aid
Jackie Kaavi, AET

Agenda

1. Adoption of minutes from the last Education Cluster meeting
2. Programmatic updates (5 minutes per member)
3. Discussion on implementation needs and challenges, and development of collective responses
4. Report out on action points
5. Presentation on distance learning program by BBC WST/CARE/AET
6. Update on CAP 2009
7. Monitoring and evaluation
8. 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)

BBC WST: As part of the ongoing distance learning program, have identified 100 teachers and learning centers in Somaliland (72 in Hargeisa, 8 in Sool and 20 in Sanaag). Training will begin next week for face-to-face classes, with training implemented by AET. The BBC WST's secondary program (focusing on production of audio materials) is ongoing.

Education Sector Committee (ESC): Work continues on the development of a sector strategy, with an external consultant beginning work from last week. Still at the document review stage.

UNICEF: There was significant interest in a partnership to manage the Hamar Jab Jab school in Mogadishu, with one full proposal received. The TFG's new Minister of Education is in place although it is unclear if technical staff will be reshuffled through the Ministry. The 2006-07 Primary Education Survey is still being finalized, UNICEF will make a summary presentation on the survey to the cluster at a future meeting.

IAS: Activities are ongoing at 16 schools in Afgoye, including work on teacher mentoring and refresher training, payment of incentives, training CECs and dissemination of child protection information. In Juba, 10 schools have been renovated free of charge and IAS has asked those schools to in turn enroll IDP children free of charge. Work has also been done to increase girls' attendance in Afgoye – the ratio is currently around 49-50%. UNICEF added that girls' attendance often drops as the economic situation worsens, and UNICEF is exploring the use of different incentives to keep girls in school.

ADRA: Continuing implementation of WASH activities at schools, school feeding programs and training of CECs, including work with the District Board in Beletweyne. In Mudug and Garowe, 21 schools are receiving support for teacher training, CEC capacity building, construction of WASH facilities and school renovation.

CISP: In the final phase of a program in Galgadud and Southern Mudug, now completing renovation of schools and construction of early childhood learning centers. Now planning a new intervention in radio training and literacy/vocational education – this will be funded from an earlier CAP appeal (2007 or 2008). Also working on the participatory development of Go To School campaign, particularly looking at girls' enrollment, will work with multiple stakeholders to address gender imbalance amongst students, CECs, teachers.

Islamic Relief: A secondary school program will be implemented in Garowe from this month including teacher training, provision of computers and training for CECs. CAP funding has just been secured to support 24 IDP schools in Afgoye, Galcayo and Garowe – this will also include a WASH component. Support will continue for 20 IDP schools in Afgoye which had previously been supported through UNICEF funding.

SADO: An ongoing education program in Balanbale started in 2008 (and expanded to Bardera) including teacher incentives and school construction is benefiting more than 500 children.

Mercy Corps: USAID-funded program "SEEDS" is rolling out in Puntland (16 schools) and Somaliland (17 schools) with support for teacher training, CECs, construction, learning materials and capacity building for education officials. Also working on education sector strategy development with partner agency CFBT in support to the Somali Support Secretariat.

Relief International: Looking to launch education activities in Somalia, to date have focused on WASH activities (including handwashing stations at four schools in Galcayo). Currently working in Puntland, looking to expand in Somaliland and SCZ.

Trocaire: Continuing support to 15 schools serving more than 3,000 students (38% girls) in Gedo region. Received HRF funding in Oct 2008 for a six month school feeding program which will likely be extended through to the end of the school year due to decreases in prices. Implementation challenges include finding a reliable mechanism for payment of teachers'

incentives and tendering for food and fuel at the local level. The Government of Ireland may fund Trocaire's 2009 CAP appeal – to be confirmed.

NRC: Ongoing programs in IDP education are reaching 4,800 students in Puntland, 4,200 in Somaliland and 400 in Mogadishu. Also offering a youth education package to 364 youth focusing on vocational training and literacy, with follow up integration into livelihood opportunities.

Action point:

- UNICEF to present Primary Education Survey findings. Date TBD.

3. Discussion on implementation needs and challenges, and development of collective responses

It was agreed that the lack of standards for teacher training, primary/secondary curricula and non-formal learning packages (including adult literacy and distance learning) was a key problem to the coherent implementation of programs in Somaliland, Puntland and SCZ. Working with three separate ministries, institutional weaknesses, constant staff turnover and the large number of NGOs (receiving funds from a number of different donors) working in the field have all fed into the problem. It was suggested that the cluster coordinator map out which NGOs are doing what where and identify key ministry contact points as a first step towards agreed upon standards. It was pointed out that the ESC had previously formed a task force for ministry of education capacity building, and UNESCO had also worked on curricula standardization. There was a consensus that the cluster should look into standards in adult literacy and distance learning – the cluster lead will work with the ESC coordinator and other key players (EDC, BBC, AET, CARE) to identify ongoing programs and contact points.

4. Report out on action points

- a. Finalization of Education Cluster ToRs: it was suggested that an additional section on 'Linkages with the Education Sector' be added in. The coordinator will make this revision and then re-circulate the ToRs as the finalized version.
- b. Decision on education cluster-sector meetings: after a renewed discussion on the advantages and disadvantages of separate cluster and sector meetings, it was decided that on a one-month trial basis (in April) the cluster would hold an abbreviated and emergency focused one-hour meeting prior to the sector meeting. The ESC chair also pledged to expand the time allotted at ESC meetings for cluster issues to half an hour. The first 'combined' meeting will be held on April 14th (details to follow).
- c. Update on mapping exercise: The majority of cluster members have submitted their 3Ws data. It was decided that a joint mapping exercise which includes education sector activities would be most useful. Cluster lead to work with ESC and OCHA on development of joint map.
- d. 2009 Cluster Work Plan: The cluster's 2009 work plan will be re-circulated for feedback on any key issues for the cluster not currently represented in the plan. The work plan is a living document and can be amended at any time.
- e. 2009 Cluster Strategy: a strategy working group has been formed to work on the development of the 2009 strategy. The working group will meet this week and will have a draft ready to present to the cluster before next month's meeting.
- f. Update on school feeding: the cluster coordinator had a meeting with a senior operations official at the WFP, and the feedback received was not encouraging. WFP has concerns with the high cost (in terms of provision of NFIs and human

resources required for monitoring) and relatively low reach (when compared to general food distribution) of school feeding. The cluster lead will however support any organizations wishing to proceed with school feeding proposals.

- g. Advocacy planning: an advocacy plan will be developed as part of the 2009 Cluster Strategy, not as a separate document.

Action points:

- Cluster coordinator to revise/circulate ToRs
- Coordinator to meet with ESC coordinator to develop joint mapping exercise
- Coordinator to re-circulate 2009 work plan
- Strategy development working group to draft 2009 strategy, coordinator to circulate for comments

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

Due to time over runs, and with sincere apologies from the cluster chair, this presentation had to be delayed until next month's cluster meeting.

6. Update on CAP 2009

- a. Prioritization process: a task force has been formed to revise the CAP prioritization process and will make recommendations to the inter-cluster working group this week. It is likely that the prioritization process will occur quarterly, and the education cluster will need to form a committee to review proposals within the next month. Details to follow once this plan is approved by the IASC.
- b. Feedback received: Islamic Relief and Trocaire are both in discussions with interested donors on the funding of their respective CAP appeals.

7. Monitoring and evaluation

Due to time over runs, this will be taken up at next month's cluster meeting.

8. A O B

The representative from SADO drew attention to the deteriorating situation in North Galgaduud, and to critical gap in relief operations in the area. Official estimates have put the number of IDPs in the area at 7,500 however SADO's own recent assessment would put the number at closer to 12,800 (approximately 75% of which are women and children). This number is also increasing due to drought and fighting. SADO also underscored the need for increased monitoring in the Northern Gedo/El Wak area where the food/water situation continues to worsen.