

Emergency Education Cluster – Somalia
Meeting Minutes
September 14, 2009

Present

- 1) Mera Thompson, Education Cluster Coordinator (Chair)
- 2) Said Muse Aden, Focus on Africa Development Inc
- 3) Marla Stone, Education Sector Coordinator
- 4) Emily Fereday, Save the Children UK
- 5) Christophe Mononye, UNESCO Peer
- 6) Berhane Wolde Michael, Norwegian Church Aid
- 7) Fredrick Mboka, GREDO
- 8) Abdikani Dahir, HADO
- 9) Eng. Warfa Baiow, SWRDA
- 10) Qurat Sadozai, NRC
- 11) Rosaia Ruberto, CISP
- 12) Moses Kaibe, ADRA Somalia
- 13) Hassan Abdi Xirsi, SDARO
- 14) Simon Owino, SHARDO
- 15) Clasir Shiikh, SHARDO
- 16) Jeremiah Kibanya, WVI
- 17) Enock Mambili, WVI
- 18) Massimiliano Palma, Intersos
- 19) Jane Wesonga, CESVI
- 20) Abdikadir U. Ali, Dialog Forening
- 21) Mohamed Ali Hassan, Dialog Forening
- 22) Amilu Chilingulo, UNICEF Somalia
- 23) Alleh Balah, SYPD
- 24) Faisal Ahmed, SAF
- 25) Mohamed Mohamed Ali, SAF
- 26) Elizabeth Kigen, Cluster Support Officer

Distributed

1. Agenda
2. Meeting Minutes, August 17, 2009
3. Somalia CAP 2010: Cluster Response Plan Template
4. Strategic Priorities for the Education Cluster (Scoring Criteria)
5. Strengthening Inclusive Education in the 2010 INEE Minimum Standards Handbook
6. Summary of Marla's discussion with Puntland Minister of Education

Agenda

1. Adoption of minutes from the last Education Cluster meeting
2. Security and humanitarian situation update with analysis of implications for education
3. 2010 CAP – update on timeline, review of Education Cluster scoring criteria (inc geographic foci), CAP objectives/activities/indicators
4. Working group to update INEE Minimum Standards (inclusive education) – presentation by Emily Fereday, Save the Children - UK
5. A O B

Minutes

1. Adoption of minutes from the last Education Cluster meeting

The minutes from August 17, 2009 meeting were adopted without modification.

Review of Action Points from the last Minutes

Action 1: Mera to coordinate with the ESC and UNICEF and write to the Puntland Government seeking clarification on policy and request a meeting with education partners in Puntland to discuss the issue: Done: letter written; Marla met with the Puntland Minister of Education and discussed payment of teachers incentives through the ministry.

Action 2: All to send Mera information on how the suspension of school feeding programmes in several schools has affected enrollment rates: Trocaire and ADRA responded to the mail on the impact of the school feeding programme on the enrolment; ADRA gave a detailed report on the impact of the programme on school enrolment

Action 3: Mera to circulate the Education in Emergencies training report: Not done, Mera to circulate the report.

Action 4: Mera to draft the cluster objectives and indicators and circulate for comments: Done

Action 5: Mera to circulate the 2010 CAP website and the adjusted Timeline; and request for volunteers to go through the projects: Done; timeline and CAP documents circulated; Mera to circulate mail requesting for volunteers to vet the project sheets

2. Security and humanitarian situation update with analysis of implications for education

NCA: Education programs in Gedo region; the tensions in August hampered the activities that have now resumed. NCA is concerned that the WFP suspension of the school feeding programme may affect enrolment. There has been an increase in the number of IDPs in SCZ; hence the need for education activities in the region.

UNESCO: Developing databank for SCZ; identified 34 teachers and exam writers to be trained in November in Puntland; marking of exams and pre-testing concluded; TEVT Manager recruited. A consultant was hired to assess technical/vocational education needs in Puntland and Somaliland; the findings of the assessment would be presented during the Education Sector meeting of September 15. UNESCO office in SCZ was closed due to insecurity; UNESCO is negotiating with TFG on how to intervene in the SCZ.

SC UK: Emergency programs in Hiraan; the new school year enrollment is lower than last year, most likely due to Ramadan; security concern over Al Shabaab taking control of Belet Weyne, may affect the ongoing education activities. The current school feeding programme will end in November; SC UK may scale down cereals as the local authority have raised concern over the programme distorting the local market due to the current harvest season in SCZ.

Action 1: Mera to enquire from WFP the impact of the harvest season on the school feeding programmes in SCZ

Education Sector Coordinator: Marla visited Puntland and met the Minister of Education to discuss payment of teachers' incentives. The Ministry wants the NGOs to pay the teachers incentives through the Ministry. Marla's discussion with the Minister was summarized in the Q & A format and circulated.

The Ministry feels that the teachers are loyal to the NGOs that pay them, and not the Ministry. The Ministry is also concerned about retention of teachers. There is lack of human resource for the trained teachers as they often opt for smaller business with more income.

Marla agreed with the Minister that the NGOs can earmark the funding for specific schools and teachers; payments can be made either through cheques or bank transfers; the Ministry would incur the bank charges and recover costs, so that the teachers get full payments. The Ministry is working on a database for teachers in Puntland.

Marla informed that the DG showed finances of how the Ministry handles payment, which is positive. Marla noted that she was confident after the meeting with the Minister. There was consensus to begin piloting payment of teachers' incentives through the government gradually. The cluster members proposed capacity building for the staff, which would include ethical issues.

Focus on Africa Development: Assessment in different schools within Middle Juba in June; the assessment found 23 schools functioning, 10 not operating and 14 destroyed and in need rehabilitation. FAD is a local NGO based in Mogadishu that focuses on health promotion. FAD is looking for partners to work together; discussed with Puntland Minister of Education on the same recently.

Action 2: Mera to forward FAD the contacts of the Education sub cluster in Mogadishu

Action 3: FAD to send Mera the assessment report in Middle Juba

Dialog Forening: Programs in Gedo, in partnership with NCA on anti FGM; DF participates in Education sub cluster meetings in Gedo.

CESVI: Partnership with Gello, a local NGO; school rehabilitation in Belet Weyne; coordinating with the Education sub cluster in Belet Weyne.

Intersos: Ongoing education programs in South Central; started a new school.

WVI: Ongoing programs in Middle Juba, Bay and Bakool; evacuated staff on Sep 12 due to the volatile security situation; the schools have reopened, enrolment was ongoing at the time of evacuation; construction of 42 learning places in tents completed; targeting 20 other learning places. The school feeding programme was suspended as it is the harvest season and the local government prefers buying grains from the local market. WVI pulled out of Waajid after the August 16 incident; the situation is now calm and the school programmes are ongoing; however, there is no international presence in Waajid.

Shabelle Relief and Development Organization (SHARDO): Education programs in Middle Shabelle; computer training; SHARDO participates in the Education sub cluster meetings in Jowhar and Mogadishu.

ADRA: Basic education program in SCZ; ADRA is concerned that the drought in Mudug may affect enrolment.

CISP: Education programs in three of the four districts in South Mudug ongoing; enrolment is low due to Ramadhan, more enrolment expected after Ramadhan; the situation is calm though problems with Al Shabaab expected.; trying to link up with the different groups in the region.

NRC: Schools have re-opened; increased enrolment from 1050 to 2000; school rehabilitation in Media Central completed; recruitment process of the head teacher and other staff completed; there are 800 students. Concerns in Puntland over the government's threat of eviction, could affect enrolment.

SWRDA: Assessment in El Wak and Berbera in six villages to identify students displaced by the conflict.

HADO: One school in Bosaso; intend to open Vocational Training Centre in Bosaso.

CREDO: Education programs in Mogadishu and Shabelle; school rehabilitation for the youth with the aim of discouraging joining the Al Shabab.

UNICEF: Organized the Regional Coordination meeting in Dhuusamarreeb for Hiran, Bay and Bakool regions from 8 - 10 Sep.

Somali Aid Foundation: Programs in Middle and Lower Juba, in partnership with UNICEF and WFP; 6 schools in Lower Juba and Mudug.

3. 2010 CAP

Update on timeline

The project sheets are due on Friday Sep 25, 2009 to Mera. The vetting of the projects will be during the week of Sep 28 - Oct 2. Anyone with questions on the CAP, please revert to Mera.

CAP objectives/ activities /indicators

Mera was scheduled to defend the Education Cluster Plan to the Humanitarian Coordinator and IASC for approval. The minimum standard for the cluster is spelt out in Obj. 1; Activity 1: integration of cross cutting issues in WASH, health, nutrition into emergency education curricula. Success Indicator 1 will be the overarching indicator as it shows how many people the cluster is reaching.

Gender is a cross cutting issue in all the clusters. Rosaia is the Education Cluster gender focal point; the guidance notes were circulated. Considering that women and men have different needs, the activities in the project sheets must be gender-specific, with gender-desegregated indicators. In the IASC Gender Handbook, there is a section on Gender and Education that explains how to make programs gender specific. Agencies are advised to involve the

local community and all the stakeholders in developing the projects e.g. CEC, DEB.

Review of Education Cluster scoring criteria

The scoring criteria are finalized. They are the strategic priorities for the cluster. Mera will circulate a mail requesting for volunteers to vet the project sheets.

Action 4: Mera to re-circulate the Scoring Criteria and a mail requesting for volunteers to vet the projects.

CAP Funding Priorities

OCHA's feedback on CERF funding is that Galgaduud and Mudug are priority as the two are the second and the third largest IDPs settlements in Somalia after Afgooye; with 149,000 and 70,000 IDPs respectively. Afgooye has about 524,000 IDPs.

4. Working group to update INEE Minimum Standards (inclusive education) – presentation by Emily Fereday, Save the Children – UK

The revision process of the Inter-agency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE) minimum standards is ongoing. Emily of SC UK is taking part in the revision process, and has been consulting with different people and collating input on the challenges faced in using INEE standards as well as their usefulness in emergency education.

Cluster members' comments on INEE standards:

- Standards are not minimum; they are aspirational that actors could be working towards achieving
- Complex language, need to simplify
- Not applicable in acute emergency situation like Somalia, where there is limited funding vis-à-vis numerous needs
- Too many sections
- Not widely disseminated
- No linkage between the name and the standards
- Require participation of all the stakeholders in order to be efficient
- Need modules that guide the actors

Action 5: Mera to circulate the website with INEE standards, and request SC UK for hard copies for the next meeting

5. A O B

Strengthening Support to Cluster Coordinator

The Education Cluster initially formulated a strategy of rotational chairing of the cluster meetings and support in coordinating the cluster activities. There were joint donor meetings, and three working groups on advocacy; gender and school feeding. When Mera took over as the Cluster Coordinator in January 2009, it discussed then during the cluster meeting and agreed that Mera chairs the meetings as she is a full time Cluster Coordinator.

The strategy was revisited and there was consensus that it is good to have a full time Cluster Coordinator as the cluster performance had improved since Mera took over the Coordinator role. It was also noted that it is better to have one person coordinating the cluster activities for consistency. However, it was remarked that the cluster has not been strong on donor advocacy, and agreed to have working groups for specific tasks. It was proposed to have a co-chair. However, the discussion was postponed to the next meeting.

Action 6: Mera to circulate the Education Cluster ToR in order to see the way forward

NGO Participation in the CAP

In response to a concern raised on the local NGOs submitting CAP project sheets and not participating in the decision making process on the allocation of funds, it was clarified that CAP is a planning process, whereby OCHA present the projects sheets to the donors through the CAP process on behalf of the humanitarian agencies. Donors decide who to fund, and liaise directly with the agency that submitted the proposal through the CAP. Funding does not go through the clusters or CAP. The funding for the project sheets in CAP 2009 was generally poor.

The discussions for establishing the Common Humanitarian Fund were put on hold. Therefore, there is need for direct contact with the donors in order to strengthen relationship. Donor-agency relationship is built gradually.

Action 7: Mera to compile info on CAP, HRF and CERF and circulate to the cluster members.

Education Sector Meeting

The Education Sector Committee (ESC) meets monthly on the day after Education Cluster meeting. ESC and the Education Cluster work together on education issues in Somalia. Marla is the Chair of Education Sector. All Education cluster members are invited to attend the Education sector meetings.