

Education Cluster Meeting

Wednesday 8 October 2008, 14:00h
Chatrium Hotel

Chair: Marc Wetz, Cluster Co-Lead (UNICEF), Shirley Long, Cluster Co-Lead (Save the Children).

1. Welcome and introduction
2. Recovery plan
 - Clusters are producing a concept note (deadline 27 October) for a three-year recovery plan (PONREPP) for five main sectors, of which education is one. This is a participatory process, and a small group already did some preparatory brainstorming on goals and how to achieve them. These were presented to the meeting, opened for discussion in order to reach consensus on goals and programme activities, and touch on any policy implications. The draft goals and activities discussed are:
 - Two goals:
 - Increase access and retention to formal and non-formal basic education and ECCD for all children in affected areas.
 - Promote quality basic education through the establishment of child-friendly teaching/learning practices and environment.
 - Proposed programme activities:
 - Reconstruction of destroyed schools; and maintenance and repair of temporary schools (which have a normal anticipated lifespan of 12 months, until a permanent school can be provided).
 - Provision of Disaster Preparedness and Response Education in primary and secondary schools (already in process, but needs to continue beyond April 2009).
 - Provision of psychosocial care for children by trained teachers and parents.
 - Promotion of child friendly teaching and learning practices and environment (includes extending actual programme to cyclone-affected areas).
 - Provision of non-formal education for out-of-school children (expand existing programme).
 - Establishment of community-based Early Childhood Development services (expand existing programme, with Department of Social Welfare).
 - Implementation of Transition Curriculum in Grade 1.
 - Provision of vocational training for out-of-school children aged 14-18.
 - Establishment of Township Education (TEMIS) and School Management (SMIS) Information Systems.
 - [New] School feeding programme, if needed and feasible.
 - Additional discussion:
 - Provision for children with disabilities is addressed to an extent in Child-Friendly Schools (CFS) programme, as means of integrating children into school.
 - Basic education covers not only primary but also secondary, and concern was expressed about overlooking quality of secondary education. Government has had a programme in secondary schools since 2001.
 - Cluster partners have ongoing activities on child-centred approach and child-friendly methodologies.
 - School feeding programmes were suggested as livelihoods and agriculture activities have been destroyed. Pestalozzi (PCF) provides school feeding through PTAs to increase attendance and allow parents to work in the fields, and has also provided livelihoods support (nets and ploughing materials). Since Nargis, not enough evidence has been gathered on identification of

needs and demand for school feeding, although there have been some interventions on nutrition. It was agreed that monitoring would be an important requirement for such a programme.

- Save the Children (SC) with Dept. Social Welfare and partners developed Transition Curriculum and methodology, which was piloted in 580 primary schools in 2007-2008. SC has planned to expand to 5 or 6 more Nargis-affected townships under the UNICEF umbrella. Transition from home to school is important, and Grade 1 experience is an important determinant of drop-out. Ideally, children attain the necessary skills for school in an ECD environment.
 - Policy Implications: Are any policy changes (shifts) needed in order to achieve the proposed goals?
 - What are the policy changes needed?
 - i. Still no compulsory education system, as there is no law. Universal primary education is not the same as a compulsory education system.
 - ii. MoE should offer MoUs to more partners. To date there is a single MoU with UNICEF. One partner has applied since 2004 but has had no response.
 - iii. Increase in Government budget for education (currently thought to be 2% of GDP).
 - iv. Visa issues; dependent on MoU.
 - What kind of policy changes could negatively influence the outcome of these key activities?
 - Sectoral working group meetings will be announced by email. Aiming for a first draft of the concept note to share at the next cluster meeting on 22 October. Thereafter there is one more week in order to finalise.
3. Update from Disaster Preparedness and Response Education (DPRE) Working Group
- 4th meeting last Wednesday 4 October. A DPRE concept note has been prepared, and the group is currently working on the resource pack, which includes 21 DPRE materials, the most relevant of which are being selected for inclusion. The next meeting is on Wednesday 15 October at UNICEF office.
4. Comments on minimum requirements for child friendly schools
- These were discussed at last meeting and circulated by email for comment.
 - No room size was stipulated. Look into issue of room size, DBE specifications.
 - Noise reduction should replace 'noise proof'.
 - One TEO reportedly said that DBE does not want partitions, although some designs with partitions have been approved. PCF has incorporated a beam, where a partition could eventually be added.
 - Furniture improvements were suggested to make desks and chairs less heavy, easier to move for group work.
5. Other cluster activities
- Cluster Co-Lead will observe the OCHA hub-level training this Friday 10 October, to see how the cluster can further help support people in the field.
6. Brief updates from agencies / inputs for this week's sitrep
- **AMURT**. Locations confirmed for permanent schools in Dedaye. Initial assessment was 3 months ago, and since then 2 of 9 schools earmarked have been rebuilt by private donors - 1 local and 1 Korean donor. The latter was not up to the cyclone-proof standard, and had no reinforced concrete. Much self-recovery is ongoing, using recycled wood, with tarpaulin supplied by NGOs. Lack of coordination persists, even with the prior TEO agreement.
 - **WVI** has had donor approval for 7 schools in Bogale township.

- **UNESCO** is still waiting for project approval from MoE.
- **Pestalozzi Children's Foundation** anticipates approval of its rehabilitation project by MoSWRR this coming Tuesday 14 October.
- **Samaritan's Purse** is awaiting funding and working on budget for rebuilding three schools in Pyapon.
- **NRC** had its project for school reconstruction in Labutta township approved in August, has funding, and is now in the process of arriving and establishing the two-year programme.
- **LRC** expressed concerned that students learning in TSLs cannot learn well. In some locations children are asked to come very early morning, finish by noon, and restart at 2pm. Need to address issues of tarpaulin.
- **Save the Children** has repaired 542 schools, provided 18 ECD centres, 51,000 student kits, honorarium to 350 teachers in affiliated schools, and is planning until March 2009 for 160 TSLs or school repairs. Training of volunteer teachers (297) is planned in Mawlamyinegyun, Myaungmya, Dedaye, and Pyapon.
- **IRC** no update, but still planning for school reconstruction.
- **KNK** is waiting donor approval for its next phase.
- **DKSH** plans to rebuild two schools in Mawlamyinegyun and one in Bogale to its own design, which fulfils Government requirements, although cost estimation is needed for final approval. DKSH has approval for a cyclone-resistant hexagonal wooden building on stilts (not reinforced concrete). (Two models were demonstrated to the meeting.) Efforts have been made to keep cost as low as possible, a major factor second only to child safety and saving lives in event of another cyclone. Cost depends on price of wood from the Myanmar timber association. Design is for 300 students, 6 classes of 50 students. Using jungle wood the cost is around US\$ 16,000, while for hardwood is around US\$ 24,000. Construction and manufacturing is budgeted at an additional US\$ 5,000 per school. The plan is to build before next wet season, with schools manufactured in Yangon and assembled on location. It may be possible to replicate for up to 1,000 schools.
- **Partners** is distributing materials to 144 schools in Yangon division.
- **PLAN International** is working in partnership with Metta Development Foundation and Bridge Asia Japan, and discussions are ongoing on second phase (BAJ will update).

7. AOB

- Updated 3W is now available and will be posted to the website.
- MSWRR updated that to date there have been commitments by 13 INGOs for reconstruction of only 74 permanent schools.
- Discussion is needed on the future of the Education Cluster. Shirley is here until mid-November, and Marc until the second week of December. Duration of clusters is an agenda item for cluster leads meeting tomorrow.
- Last call for expressions of interest for *Education for All Trust* furniture.

8. Date of next meeting Wednesday 22 October 2008; 2pm, Chatrium Hotel

9. Note: Meeting minutes and additional materials (including updated Who What Where information) are available at the Education Cluster webpage, on the Myanmar HIC: <http://myanmar.humanitarianinfo.org/education/default.aspx>