

## Education Cluster Meeting

Wednesday 22 October 2008, 14:00h  
Chatrium Hotel

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

17 participants

1. Welcome and introduction
2. Recovery plan (PONREPP) concept note development
  - Three working group meetings were held since the last cluster meeting, in order to cover content for the concept note as laid out in the guidance note: Implementation Strategy, M&E, Outcomes and Indicators, Policy Issues, Cross-cutting Issues. The working document was presented to the meeting for comment and recommendations.
    - **School reconstruction.** Clarifications were made on the need for approval by MSWRR and MoE.
    - **Psychosocial care.** The group agreed that although it was intrinsic to several programmes (including the Child-Friendly Schools) it need not be singled out as a main activity for the recovery phase. Many partners have been focusing on psychosocial care as part of the emergency and early recovery response.
    - **Roll-out of Child Friendly Schools.** An additional indicator is needed UNICEF indicator is the Number of schools moving up two ranking levels (compared with the baseline survey). It was agreed to pick other indicators (perhaps from UNICEF's list of 33 for CFS) to be more inclusive of other organisations involved in child-centred/friendly approach.
    - **Non-formal/Vocational Education.** This includes providing opportunities to learn new skills, linking education and livelihoods. Opportunities are for young people, including (not limited to) children in mobile populations.
    - **Need for school feeding.** Working groups had discussed removal of monitoring the need for school feeding from the proposed activities, as no major existing or planned programme had provision for this. If any partner will continue to monitor we can reinstate it as an activity. It was agreed to drop as a discrete activity from the concept note.
    - It was confirmed that activities proposed covered all types of school: government, affiliated, community and monastic.
    - **Policy issues section.** For one bullet point in the Partnerships section, it was suggested that the focus of could be on only agreements and MoUs, as issues of funding were secondary to this.
    - Increased ownership of monastic and affiliated schools by MoE could be advocated (education as responsibility of a single ministry).
    - In the interests of clarity and consistency, most members of the group agreed to adopt Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) as the standard terminology for the purposes of this document.
    - **DRR** is sectoral, within education, cross-sectoral and a cross-cutting concept. Cluster Leads will take advice from the PONREPP leaders on how to refer to DRR in the concept note.
    - **M&E.** This section also needs more work. It was noted that if only one township in cyclone-affected areas will be a pilot for TEMIS, that less emphasis should be placed on TEMIS as a tool for M&E.
    - **Secondary schools.** It was noted that this activity is likely to focus on advocacy in the coming three-year period. Including advocacy for inclusion of lifeskills as core curriculum.
    - Comprehensive evaluation or an assessment should be built in to M&E.

- **Action point:** Circulate draft to cluster by next Wednesday, 29 October. Deadline for the concept note is Friday 31 October.
3. Update on other cluster priorities
- **Disaster Preparedness and Response Education (DPRE) Working Group** continues to collect and review materials for selection for the resource pack. The concept note was finalized and will be posted to the website. A group workplan has also been finalized, and can be shared within the cluster. Working group representatives hope to meet MoE Director General this week to ensure that Government is well informed, in addition to continuous participation of Ministry staff in the working group. A workshop on community-based DRR was facilitated by UNDP on 16-17 October, and plans were presented to carry out training-of-trainers down to village level. The NGOs Mingalar Myanmar and Action Aid are active in community-based DRR, and the latter had some interesting resource materials which will be shared. Next meeting of the DPRE working group will be 29 October, 2-4pm at UNICEF office.
  - **Capacity building for field workers.** Cluster has adopted and adapted OCHA training for a wider audience. After discussion with OCHA, some training-of-trainers (ToT) is planned in Yangon for trainers to multiply training in the field. The training is about cluster approach, reporting, and meeting skills, etc. The ToT will be on Tuesday 11 and Wednesday 12 November. Participation of cluster partners' staff members to be trained as trainers is welcomed. Training will be in both English and Myanmar. Shirley has more details, and will share these with cluster partners. At the moment the training is cross-sectoral in nature, and if needed sector-specific modules could be added in future.
  - **Education for All Trust.** Expressions of interest were received from three parties, and compiled for forwarding to the Trust. While the initial call was facilitated by cluster, it is anticipated that interested parties and the Trust will take this forward bilaterally. The Trust is able to provide a range of materials including furniture. Shipping costs are the main contribution. Some concerns are acknowledged, including impact on livelihoods (furniture could be produced locally), environment (shipping), language and cultural appropriateness of non-furniture material.
  - **Build Back Better - School reconstruction.** MSWRR representative was not able to attend this meeting. Several approvals for projects have been given in this week. MSWRR has voiced willingness to support 20% of costs for reconstruction, in kind (not cash contribution). One Director General stated at this weekend's TCG meeting that Government is prioritizing relief and rehabilitation efforts on infrastructure such as roads and bridges. The 20% in-kind contribution might be cement, timber, or roofing sheets, for example. Further discussions are needed and a meeting at MSWRR on school reconstruction is anticipated next week. It is not yet known if the in-kind contribution also applies to community and monastic schools.
4. Brief updates from agencies / inputs for this week's sitrep
- **Save the Children (SC)** is halfway through a teacher-training programme, for primary teachers in all types of schools, in seven townships. UNICEF has also been training on Child-Friendly Schools in five townships over the last 10 days, and SC checked to avoid overlap. There was positive feedback on the 3-day training, and follow-up by trainers visiting teachers in schools. Many voluntary teachers had no prior training. Topics included child-centred approach, psychosocial support, disability, hygiene and health, behaviour management in class. Details and some modules can be provided or circulated. It may be possible to arrange a session where partners can make presentations on their training packages.
  - **UN Habitat** will start construction of one prototype school in Pyapon next week.
  - **Green Care** is planning to support the reconstruction of three community schools in Bogale.

- **UNICEF** has almost completed its supplies distribution phase, with the exception of some plastic stools. Approval is expected this week for the model school designs, and the aim is to start rebuilding in December. Child-friendly schools training has been going on for the last 10 days, finishing today.
- **Baptist World Aid Australia** hopes to support local agencies and early recovery programmes.
- **KnK** has had approval to extend its support to two schools in Labutta and two in Wakema, providing toilets, water tank and school furniture for children, as well as supporting some extra-curricular activities.
- **Pestalozzi Children's Fund (PCF)** sent apologies for absence and news that they have presented PCF's activities to the MSWRR and are expecting to sign a letter of agreement today.
- **Welthungerhilfe (WHH/GAA)** has received approval to rebuild seven primary schools in Bogale.
- International Children's Day is on 24 November and provides an opportunity for partners to organise a celebration.

5. AOB

- Updated 3W is now available on the website and from the cluster IM Focal Point.

6. Date of next meeting **Friday 7 November 2008**; 2pm, Chatrium Hotel. As it is the penultimate cluster meeting a theme of lessons learned is proposed; eg. how has the cluster been useful, what could have been more useful, etc.

7. 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>