

# 12<sup>th</sup> Education Cluster Meeting Minutes

**Wednesday 16 July 2008**

**2:00 to 4:00 pm, Chatrium Hotel**

**Co-Chair:** Shirley Long (Save the Children)

**IM focal point:** David Little

**24 participants from 20 organisations**

## **1. Introduction & Welcome**

- Ms Shirley Long is the Education Cluster co-lead for Save the Children (SC) and Mr Charles Avelino is Cluster Co-Lead ad interim for UNICEF.

## **2. Action Points from last meeting**

- IM Focal Point circulated the supplies and Who What Where formats that partners can fill in at today's meeting; GAA will provide details of village tracts
- DRR and other resources were posted on the HIC website, including INEE Guidelines in Myanmar language translation
- Working Group for technical discussion on buildings and to liaise with Government counterparts, with the arrival of the UNICEF team now expected this week.
- The Ministry representatives are in attendance at this meeting

## **3. Update from Ministry of Education**

- Department of Educational Planning and Training (DEPT) updated on the process for submitting proposals to work. Received proposals from Islamic Relief and AMURT, however the procedure has been changed and proposals should be presented to the National Disaster Preparedness and Response Central Committee in Nay Pyi Taw, which is chaired by the Prime Minister. Resubmit proposals to NDPRCC.
- DEPT is the coordinating department for technical assistance or education activities for INGO and UN organisations, and as such is not directly related to Nargis field activities.
- The MoE Emergency Response Plan was developed and jointly planned with UNICEF.
- A private company has renovated Bogale Education College.
- (Department of Basic Education) DBE 3 (Yangon Division). Schools are now all open and teaching in Temporary Learning Spaces (TLS) where schools were completely destroyed. On a recent monitoring visit, students in Kawhmu were happy with the Essential Learning bag they had received. Science lab apparatus and materials were broken, and such materials are needed to reopen schools. In Twante one school is operating in three shifts, but should be maximum two shifts otherwise student-teacher contact time will not meet the full entitlement of hours per subject per week.
- DBE 1 (Lower Myanmar incl. Ayeyarwady Division). All schools are reported to have opened. Some teachers have been redeployed to Ayeyarwady to reopen schools. School uniforms, furniture and materials have been provided. Government has assigned private companies to repair and rebuild schools.
- The Chair clarified that proposals should still be presented through the cluster in the interests of coordination and information sharing.

## **4. Cluster Coordination**

- An updated (twice-weekly) Education Cluster supply list is available. A modified draft of Who, What, Where format was shared for the group's review, which includes planned activities and supplies. It is an effort to simplify reporting and to capture wider information. Following discussion, minor modifications were made with an agreement to trial the template. Members will receive the copy by e-mail within the next few days. The IM Focal Point offered to re-circulate to each partner what information it had submitted earlier to check if it was still current.
- DBE 1 reported that enrolment in Ayeyarwady before the cyclone was 68,871 students, while since the cyclone there are 59,000 students. Schools report monthly enrolment updates to the TE Office.

- Integrated Monitoring Matrix (circulated) was developed for the Appeal, and all partners (not only those in the Appeal) are encouraged to report against its five, basic core indicators.

## 5. Information sharing

- **GAA** has gathered information on schools in its project areas, 14 village tracts in Bogale township, listing 70: government, affiliated, community and monastic schools. At present supplying food and shelter, but data have been collected to start on education activities. Not yet started on rehabilitation. TEOs are helping some of these other schools – which have a history of self-supporting – with supplies and teachers, and they are now recognised by DBE. DEPT commented that affiliated schools are registered at TEO.
- **SC** has education projects in 14 townships of which 6 in Yangon Division. 263 schools are supported, 65 with repairs and 128 TLS, including 6 ECCD centres. The Deputy Minister recently requested special support for Bogale and Labutta to provide teacher honorarium to 58 affiliated Primary schools in Bogale and 79 in Labutta, two teachers honorarium per schools. SC was also requested to provide blackboards for each classroom and one clipboard for each student.
- **UNICEF's** school design consultant's arrival was delayed but he is expected this week, and will organise a school construction technical working group. UNICEF is currently covering 1,390 schools in 7 Delta and 10 Yangon townships, and not all schools in each township. Seven townships were selected for blanket coverage and inclusion in UNICEF's regular programme under the Child Friendly Schools framework. There has been some overlap with other actors including Save the Children, which underlines the needs for coordination between agencies. SC is focusing on affiliated, monastic, and post-primary while UNICEF's focus is on government
- Charles Avelino is a **UNICEF** Education Specialist and will be the Field Coordinator for UNICEF's regular response. In the mean time, he will co-chair with Shirley for up to 3 weeks, when a dedicated cluster co-lead is expected to have arrived to take over.
- The **Chair** noted that gaps are identified through information and planning. It is vital to keep communications open with the TEOs themselves, to benefit from their local knowledge and expertise.
- **Pyinnya Tazaung's** EXCEL lifeskills project was supported with renovation in six centres and tarpaulins for nine centres. Additional support includes providing snacks, stationery, T shirts. Pyinnya Tazaung has identified the need for psychosocial activities.
- **Ar Yone Oo** is supporting local organisations working in 44 villages in 3 delta townships: Bogalay, Mawlamyinegyun and Labutta where local capacity is low. There is an urgent need for school repair, furniture and WASH facilities including portable water for children. To date TLS shelters have been provided to 33 primary schools in the area.
- **World Education** does not have a presence in the country, but is participating here for the INEE working group, which developed the Minimum Standards for Education in Emergencies. Feedback on the guidelines is welcomed.
- **Myanmar NGO Network** is collecting information on who still has needs and what these needs are.
- **WVI** is working in five areas in Yangon, and in Bogale, Dedaye, and Pyapon. 25 TLS will be provided in Bogale, and also stationery, books and toys for psychosocial support for affected children.
- **UNESCO** is still in the process of discussions with the MoE. A call for interest in the DRR working group was circulated and the first meeting for the ToR is yet to be scheduled.
- **Bridge Asia Japan** specialises in infrastructure and WASH. In Mawlamyinegyun and Myaung Mya, 18 schools were identified with the DEO and TEO, one of which needs construction and the others repairs including latrines, wells, furniture (depending on the needs of each school).
- **LRC** supports local groups. The Secretary of the Monastic Education Board identified gaps in the response for the monastic schools and more donors are needed. SC is supporting 30 monastic schools for repairs of 74 planned in Mawlamyinegyun. Textbooks have also been supplied through the Min. of Religious Affairs.
- Although lists of schools rehabilitated/repared have been posted, it was noted that this did not include degree of completion of interventions. It was proposed that level of school rehabilitation/repair be indicated in SitReps.

- **GAA** attended a meeting yesterday with the MSWRR where it was proposed that school designs option be discussed between the Education Cluster and the Shelter Cluster which has concentration of engineers including members of the Myanmar Engineering Society. The Myanmar Engineering Society has made standards of construction including schools.
- What the Cluster does:
  - It aims to contribute to a better response - to provide actors with the chance to support and be supported in the response. It involves identifying needs and gaps but is also about sharing resources.
- Partners' expectations of Cluster: how see cluster support.
  - Some have used the forum in the hope of identifying partners for implementation.
  - People are busy but like to hear what everyone is doing and the latest from MoE on proposals etc. It provides a chance for other organisations to connect, networking, listen and share what they can.
  - A forum to exchange lessons learned and good practices, in order to improve on what partners are already doing.
  - Discussion in MMR language could make the meeting make more accessible for local groups.
  - The Chair reminded that the agenda is always open for inclusion of items.

## 6. **AOB**

- UNICEF shared IEC leaflets on key survival messages to families and communities.
- There are some affected schools in the Yangon area and it was proposed to have a cluster meeting at a school and get input from children.
- There was no updated information on attendance at schools being affected by costs/fees.
- **SitReps** – inputs (data and narrative) by 10.00 am on Monday and Thursday
- **Cluster meeting minutes** and a selection of other documents are available from: <http://myanmar.humanitarianinfo.org/education/default.aspx>

## 7. **Next Meeting: Wednesday 23 July: 2 – 4 pm at Chatrium Hotel.**