

# Education Cluster Meeting

**Wednesday 13 August 2008, 14:00h**  
**Chatrium Hotel Ballroom**

**Co-Chairs:** Shirley Long (Save the Children) & Marc Wetz (UNICEF)  
19 participants, 14 organisations

1. Introduction and welcome
  - New cluster co-lead for UNICEF, Mr Marc Wetz, arrived last week and will be here for four months.
  - Agencies were represented at the meeting for the first time: IFRC, JICA, The Salvation Army, UN Habitat.
2. Action points from last meeting
  - Draft ER strategy document was circulated to those who had not received it previously. Any additional comments by Friday 15 August.
  - Cluster commodities tracking for OCHA. Education cluster is expected to compile the information for the sector, provided by agencies, and forward to OCHA. Action: Send form to Salvation Army.
3. Field visit report (Shirley Long)
  - The TSLs visited were of various types. One TSL already had wear to the roof, with rainwater coming in. Frames should last at least 1-2 years; but the roof fabric will not last so long, and so need to consider and provide for roof maintenance.
  - Guidelines for use of CFS and staffing would be useful. Some are staffed by willing volunteers with gaps in understanding, and so ongoing support was thought to be necessary. For example, one CFS visited was operating in competing hours with the school.
  - Difficulties of access to schools for children, both in terms of distance and physical access (eg. lack of footpaths).
  - Some support for teachers could be appropriate,
  - Comments:
    - IFRC/MRCS is finalizing its early recovery strategy, which will have an element of cash for work. Noted the need for follow-up for basic structures after these are in place. For example, there is scope to include roof repair in cash-for-work project. Community meetings are held to identify types of support needed.
    - It was noted that the presentation at last cluster meeting by Development Workshop on DRR voiced concerns of safety in quick-fix situations. DRR and ER include ensuring safety and stronger.
    - The WASH Cluster Meeting highlighted a plan to have extra water storage containers on schools to gather extra water for use in case of shortages.
    - Rainwater collection tanks and feeder systems are the simple technology most used and most applicable in this area. These are mostly large ceramic jars, and were largely destroyed in the cyclone. Some monasteries (TSLs) are using plastic sheeting for water collection and filters to make it potable.
    - A small business called Lilypad is producing water filters, which were developed and trialled at Inle lake.
4. Updates from the field and inputs for the weekly sitrep
  - **UN Habitat** is producing IEC flyers on safe building, emphasizing joinery, joints and structures. Trying to enhance local technology, including technology transfer, and providing information is food distributions activities. They are surveying technologies used in communities to see how these can be improved, with a focus on construction

workers/skilled labourers.

- UN Habitat will construct 40 transitional learning spaces, in the form of prefabricated temporary classroom packages on concrete foundations. There are two designs, one on the ground and another on stilts. Eight will be built in Bogale, 10 in Labutta, 10 in Pyapon and 12 in Dedaye.
- Design competitions with Myanmar Engineering Society and Myanmar Architects Association will be completed by 20 September. These include designs for shelter, community facilities, cyclone-resistant shelters. Three school designs have been provided by DBE. Ministry of Science and Technology also produced designs but these are for large-scale constructions.
- **Peace Winds Japan** has been distributing NFI in three townships this week, and school uniforms and notebooks in the same villages in Labutta. Peace Winds Japan is also considering school repairs, perhaps with a focus on community schools, and not limited to school buildings, eg. physical access to schools, water collection, sanitation. It was again noted that many communities have neither mechanisms nor financial capacity for upkeep and maintenance of things such as tanks, taps and ponds.
- Minimum standards for temporary constructions have been developed in the Shelter Cluster, which discussed parameters. These are available on the Shelter Cluster webpage. DBE also produced a one-pager on TSLS.
- It was noted that travel for staff is also dangerous and that rivers and waterways are now more dangerous without shelter of trees to reduce the wind. Some shortages of lifejackets were reported, as demand and cost have increased.
- **Save the Children** updated on its response up to 11 August, which included repairs to 122 schools, setting up 394 TSLS and 16 ECD centres.
- **JICA** to date has had no education activities specific to the response to Nargis, nonetheless, one visiting expert would now like to discuss with officials on building schools or shelters. In addition, a new project phase on capacity building for teachers is soon to start with DBE.
- **UNESCO** is working with UNICEF on DRR, and is organizing the first DDR meeting with DBE 1, DBE 3 and DEPT on 26 August. There are 11 working group members, and six MoE staff have been nominated from four departments. The first meeting will finalise the group's draft ToR. UNESCO will brief the Education Cluster after the first working group meets.
- **Plan International** will partner with LINGO Metta Development Foundation to reconstruct five storm-resilient community-based ECD centres starting August through December. Metta has 29 ECD centres of which 25 were damaged by the cyclone. Metta has a branch in Myaungmya and a network of volunteers in the Delta. Parallel trainings are also planned for teachers and parents.
- At the Protection of Children and Women cluster meeting, the Dept. of Social Welfare (DSW) Deputy Director shared a request for donors to reconstruct 283 schools. Plan International will request further details from DSW Deputy Director.
- UN Habitat met the Minister of MSWRR yesterday, who also requested support for school rebuilding. The Minister was unable to provide precise locations during the meeting, but asked to contact Education Cluster and call meeting with participation of Cluster Leads and DBE.
- The need for improved horizontal coordination at the township level was noted, to improve information on what has already been done and avoid duplication of efforts. Education Cluster meetings at the hub level are being held (Patheingyi, Labutta, Bogale, Mawlamyinegyun, Pyapon, as well as Dedaye and Kyaiklatt). The Cluster Leads are trying to support the field level.
- UNICEF suggested waiting to build permanent structures until BBB school designs are confirmed. Requested data on locations in order to avoid overlap, as UNICEF engaged contractors. Can use MIMU for maps. Need village tract level info from partners.
- **Salvation Army** is distributing school kits and is looking at reconstructing schools in Thanlyin, Twante, and Kawhmu townships of Yangon Division, and requested

information on school locations to avoid duplication.

- **UNDP** is focusing on livelihoods and cash for work, and not directly on education.
  - **UNICEF** has provided updates on response and supplies to IM focal point. An email was sent out on availability of supplies and roofing sheets from the warehouse in Yangon, and the documentation required. One clarification is that the textbooks are only available for UNICEF supported townships and schools. However, other ECD and children's books are available, while roofing sheets are available for all areas, and also for community schools, ECD, and teachers' houses in school compounds.
  - The team for school construction design comprising Ministry of Education engineers and a UNICEF architect and national consultant continued field assessments in Pyapon, Dedaye and Kyaiklat, and findings will be shared in Yangon next week, including with Shelter Cluster. Considering factors including soil type, seismic tendency and wind exposure, the team will then produce (over the next 4 weeks) designs for model schools, to build back better, safer and more child friendly.
  - **IFRC** with **MRCs** are consolidating initial relief operations and in the process of planning for early recovery in 13 townships including livelihoods, shelter and WASH. There are no direct education interventions, however there is opportunity for information flow on needs for the education sector, which could inform Yangon-level cluster meeting, and township-level coordination meetings. IFRC will think how it can supplement needs of communities at this level.
  - **World Vision** plans to build 25 transitional, semi-permanent schools in Bogale township.
  - World Vision reported that the under-8 age group is a duplicate target group for Child-friendly Spaces (CFS) and ECCD, which have not been demarcated well enough. It was suggested that Cluster Leads take this up with those of the Protection of Children and Women cluster, on how temporary CFS can be moved forward towards ECCD (**Action point**).
  - **AMURT** has completed seven TSLs in 3 villages in Dedaye and has been asked to upgrade the standard of the design to more transitional structures. Considerable overlap in Dedaye was noted and overlapping and gaps needs to be coordinated. AMURT has regular dialogue with DBE as the focal department and technical counterpart, which knows about minimum standards. However, reconstruction and response are being coordinated through MSWRR, with the Minister of MSWRR as chairman of the Rehabilitation and Reconstruction committee. In the field only get direct instructions from the Ministry in charge for that township.
  - TEOs are needing support, and are giving information and requesting help. Information is not always flowing from State/Division EO's down to TEO. Private sector rarely feed back to TEO.
  - Cluster Co-Lead met three TEOs during the last trip, of whom two were interested and appreciated information sharing. Need to build understanding of why cluster is collecting and requesting information, and to give clearer idea of how the cluster approach operates. Movement and communications in delta are very difficult and things do not run smoothly. TEOs don't always have the data we need and it is very *ad hoc*. Living conditions for staff are very difficult. Nonetheless, it was encouraging that cluster meetings were taking place. The simple reporting formats were provided and were accepted, and it is hoped will eventually improve information flow.
  - OCHA hubs are now functioning and cluster is hoping to link with coordination and information flows they are setting up. Some clarification is needed on what happens in those hubs, as messages conveyed differed, depending on the area.
5. AOB
- With the aim to improve data sharing, Cluster Leads shared template for sitrep inputs. It is really simple, and aims to get idea of what people have been achieving during the last two weeks. Where constraints are shared, the cluster will aim to help provide support. The same format was shared with field level. It is possible to fill out together at the cluster meeting or to send electronically or in paper, by post, or phone. Can be from sub-

national cluster and from cluster partners. The aim is to raise quality of information and support. Information should be for the 2-week period and as the OCHA sitrep is on Thursdays, to receive information by the 15<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of each month was agreed. Information will be compiled and fed back to cluster partners. IM focal point to forward/put on website (**Action point**). There are also formats for a project sheet for new partners, to capture small projects and a simplified 3W (already shared).

- Cluster leads will start a consultation process over the next week to ask partners to send in recommendations and suggestions on what they would like the cluster to do to improve its functioning, and to plan for the coming weeks (**Action point**). Suggestions will be discussed and a plan for the coming weeks set up.
6. Next meeting: Wednesday 27 August, 2pm, Chatrium Hotel.