

Education Cluster Meeting

Wednesday 27 August 2008, 14:00h
Chatrium Hotel Ballroom

Chair: Shirley Long, Cluster Co-Lead (Save the Children)

1. Introduction and welcome
2. Action points from last meeting
 - Transfer of Child-Friendly Spaces to an ECCD function is being discussed with Protection of Children and Women Cluster Co-Leads.
 - Reporting template circulated (by email with last minutes).
 - Consultation process on ideas to improve cluster functioning was initiated. Some suggestions were received, and will be circulated as bullet points for further comment. (Was agenda item for today's meeting, but unlikely to have time).
 - Additional information point: More than 300 water containers with incorporated filters have been purchased for schools and are ready for delivery.
3. School building designs
 - A presentation on build back better school design mission (by UNICEF-commissioned architect Carlos Vasquez)
 - Assessments for the Build Back Better, Safer, Child-friendly Schools initiative have been ongoing over the last month, resulting in ideas and inputs for designs. Important to note the distinction between building shelters that can be schools, and schools that can become shelters. The latter is more focused on the child.
 - Seven schools will be built, one each in seven Ayeyarwady townships. Three designs have been developed, which can be used as shelters:
 - 45 children, 2 teachers, shelter 245 people
 - 100 children, 3 teachers, shelter 600 people
 - 250 children, 5 teachers, shelter 970 people
 - Schools have the following components
 - Library
 - Playgrounds
 - Adequate water and toilets
 - Conducive learning environment (minimize noise and heat; maximize learning)
 - Ratio of 1 toilet for every 20 children (UNICEF recommended)
 - Outdoor sheltered area for children to play or learn
 - Traditional architecture will be incorporated
 - Cyclone resistant and earthquake proof
 - The survey of seven townships included 22 schools, and 66 soil samples were collected, of clay, sand and mud soil types. There is risk of seismic movements, closer to Yangon and schools will be built seismic resistant. Salt water in soil will affect iron bars. Deforestation through use of mangrove as firewood caused land erosion, as mangrove forests form a natural dyke.
 - Lack of maintenance of existing schools was noted; many were built without supervision or monitoring during construction. Maintenance budget is low and has been planned two years previously (money is worth less in real terms by the time it arrives).
 - Logistics for materials is a challenge and involves river and sea transport.
 - Construction costed at US\$ 20-40 per sq. ft.
 - Capacity to increase size subsequently by adding wings; North-South alignment to resist prevailing South-West monsoon winds; location of concrete water tanks

to provide some shelter from wind; concrete wall at least 30 ft. away to block tidal surge; water collection for toilets from roof; playground on cooler side of the building; the 100-student size school has provision for a clinic or kitchen, that can also serve as a multipurpose room for the community.

- Assumptions: 100mph for wind; higher-end seismic activity; poor soil.
- Concrete needs more maintenance, contrary to what people assume.
- Students and teachers often travel to school by boat, which can be overcrowded and dangerous. Suggested that schools have a boat for students and teachers, which will reduce travel costs for students and teacher.
- From donor perspective, US\$ 20-40 per sq. ft. is reasonable (and approximately half of US\$ 80 per sq. ft. in Thailand last year).
- Role for Cluster to advocate for quality as well as number.
- To provide adequate light, windows are on West side (where sun is at a lower angle). Curved bamboo ceiling to evacuate hot air from top of building and reduce heat inside.
- Timber structure, thicker metal sheets, thermal and noise resistant; screwed down, not nailed down.
- Nothing will be imported, as all materials are available in country. It is planned to develop a kit that people can take and build. Designs will be ready by 5 September. Awaiting approval before construction can begin, then expect to complete seven schools in a six-month period, before the next rainy season.
- Improved techniques will build capacity of local communities.
- Copies of designs provided by DBE were circulated, and participants requested copies (mostly soft copies) **Action point:** Send scanned copies by email and post to website. Post approved UNICEF designs to Education Cluster website.

4. Update from 1st DRR Working Group meeting

- DRR Working Group met yesterday, 26 August, with 14 participants including Ministry of Education departments and cluster co-leads. Discussion on terminology resulted in agreement to change the name of the group to Disaster Preparedness and Response Education Working Group. Resource materials were shared and members suggested specific future activities. Selected bullet points will be submitted to MoE. The next meeting will be on 4 September at UNICEF.
- Interested to hear from any agencies planning DRR; email to Daw Myint Myint San, UNESCO Liaison Officer: mmsan@mptmailmail.net.mm

5. Brief updates from agencies / inputs for the weekly sitrep

- **Yinthway Foundation** is a technical resource organisation for ECCD. Training of local trainers is ongoing, along with multiplier trainings in three locations. Materials are being developed for young children. One is a book on 'Nargis days', with several stories that aim to help young children deal with psychosocial problems. Two more books for young children are in the final stages of development with UNICEF. Interested parties can contact Daw Nwe Nwe Aung, Yinthway Foundation Director, about these resources: yinthway@yangon.net.mm
- **Samaritan's Purse** is cooperating with the MSWRR for rebuilding three schools in Pyapon.
- **UNICEF** targeted 2,000 schools for post-Nargis assistance and has covered 2,034 with essential supplies. 300,000 students will be covered with essential learning packages. There is much furniture in the pipeline for delivery, including some plastic tables and chairs, as there are not workshops to produce locally in all townships (which creates a bottleneck for supply). Transportation charges to the school level have been factored in (not only to TEO office). Although it has been possible to count items delivered to township level, it is much more of a challenge to get data about exactly what has gone to each school. The aim has been to distribute according to the schools' needs.

- **UNDP** is focusing on Early Recovery assistance to 750 villages within its existing ICDP project in disaster-affected areas for the first year and 500 for the second year.
- **JICA** is conducting a survey with the interest to construct schools and shelters, but to date there are not yet specific plans, pending approval of the Government of Japan.
- **Pestalozzi Children's Foundation (PCF)**, as part of its regular programme in Ayeyarwady, is assisting community and 64 villages of eight townships. Six schools in the area were destroyed and six more partially damaged. PCF's consulting engineer reported that repairs to damaged schools were mostly roofing, and are now complete. New construction has started on three new schools: 90 and 60 ft. size; brick or reinforced masonry. Three more will start in mid September, and completion is expected by mid December. Costs are approximately 12,000 kyat per sq. ft. This includes some community participation in the form of manpower, otherwise the cost per sq. ft. would be 20,000 kyat. PCF considered reconstruction an urgent need as there was no place for the children to continue schooling. PCF also has school lunch and livelihoods activities.
- UNICEF expressed the desire for more donor commitments to build back better, instead of at low cost. The Cluster Co-lead confirmed the need to continue to look for funds, and to feed back opportunities to cluster partners.
- **Salvation Army** is considering reconstruction of schools, depending on what needs are identified where.
- **KNK Japan** has provided desks, chairs, materials and toilets to BEPS No. 35 in Shwepyithar. Psychosocial activities for children were planned (incl. music, maths, drawing, English and Myanmar languages), and DBE initially agreed to this, but have since asked that only renovation be done. KNK will support four schools in Wakema and Labutta with WASH, furniture, and materials. It was noted that Wakema is receiving minimal help compared with Labutta, although there are still schools with children learning on the floor, because of damage to furniture.
- **Local NGO Resource Centre** received information from local NGOs that they are getting requests for food, and reminded that this is remains a major need.
- **World Bank** is not able to provide financing in Myanmar, but is able to provide technical assistance. The consultant is here trying to figure out how World Bank can provide support through ASEAN.
- **World Vision** has received funds for construction of semi-permanent schools, as well as a list of 25 schools and approval from township-level authorities in Bogale.
- **International Rescue Committee** has provided washrooms in schools in Ngaputaw township as part of its WASH activities.
- **Islamic Relief** plans to provide furniture and school buildings in Dedaye.
- **UNESCO** is still in discussion with MoE on its planned programme.
- **Save the Children** in 16 townships has carried out 136 school repairs, 316 TSLS. These 452 schools are now finished. 19,951 Student Kits were distributed. Teacher honoraria are being provided temporarily (3 months until September) in Bogale and Labutta townships to 174 community-school teachers. 80,715 students are in these schools, which in Wakema include state schools, while in other areas are monastic and affiliated.
- **AMURT** has a target of building 20 TSLS in Dedaye in 9 villages. So far 6 TSLS are operational in 3 villages. Since the original plan was submitted, DBE-1 requested semi-permanent concrete and wood, structures and has now asked for permanent instead.
- In response to a question on terminology and translation, participants confirmed that renovation and reconstruction were different words in Myanmar language.
- The process of application is still advised through the cluster, so that the cluster leads can provide a letter of endorsement, and submit through UNICEF. It is also useful for mapping cluster partners' activities and information sharing.

6. AOB

- Cluster leads are interested in whether partners perceive a need for provision of food in schools.
 - PCF aims to provide lunch to children 5 days per week in 14 schools in four townships, to encourage parents to send children to school.
 - Yinthway staff noted on one occasion that high-energy biscuits were being distributed more than the recommended one per child. Adequate instructions in Myanmar language were not provided.
- A Who What Where list of schools partners plan to reconstruct is being compiled ahead of a meeting with the Ministers of Education and Social Welfare Relief and Rehabilitation (30 August), and information is requested. This list will be shared back to cluster (**Action point**).

7. Date of next meeting modified to Tuesday 9 September 2008; 2pm, Chatrium Hotel