

# Zimbabwe Education Cluster

## MEETING MINUTES

15<sup>TH</sup> OF SEPTEMBER 2020 & ONLINE ZOOM APPLICATION

### AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Updates:
  - a. Technical Working Groups
  - b. Information Management: HNO and HRP Process
3. Business of the Day: School Readiness for Reopening: MoPSE and Cluster Partners
4. AOB

### PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS/INSTITUTIONS:

Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education (MoPSE), Save the Children, UNICEF, CARE, CAMFED, Caritas ZCBC, CBM Zimbabwe, CRS, Child Protection Society, DCA, Deaf Zimbabwe Trust, DEMCO Trust, ECOZI, FCDO, Elevate Trust, FACT Zimbabwe, FAWEZI, FHI 360, HLF, HOSPAZ, IRR, IYF, Jesuit Refugee Service, JF Kapnek Trust, Mavambo Orphan Care, Plan International, REPSSI, TdH Italia, OCHA, UNESCO ROSA, UNFPA, UNHCR, VSO, World Education Incorporated, WFP, WV, ZINEDCA.

### MINUTES:

Agenda item	Discussion points	Action points (by whom and by when)
<b>Welcome</b>	- The Chair welcomed participants to the meeting and expressed gratitude towards their dedication and work in supporting the education sector.	

<p>COVID-19 Technical Working Group (TWG) Updates</p>	<p>Below updates were reported by the various Technical Working Group (TWG) leads:</p> <p><b>1) The Alternative Education, Open and Distance Learning:</b></p> <p><b>a) Radio and Television Education</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- By Friday 11 September, a cumulative of 574 primary lessons had been developed, 55 radio lessons are to be developed this week.</li> <li>- Writing of scripts for secondary radio lessons is in progress and is being done at provincial level. About 80 scripts have been developed to date.</li> <li>- Broadcasting of lessons (ECD to Grade 7) is in week 13 this week. Financial support for the radio lessons is only available for the next 10 weeks.</li> <li>- As of Friday 11 September 2020, a total of 439 radio lessons had been broadcast through National FM, Classic 263, Power FM, Radio Zimbabwe and Diamond FM. A total of 44 lessons are scheduled to be broadcast during the week starting on Sunday 13 September 2020.</li> <li>- Community radio stations, namely: Nyaminyami FM, Khulumani FM and Hevoi FM, and Star FM will commence broadcasting lessons in indigenous languages during the week beginning 14 September 2020.</li> <li>- The procurement of 2,500 radio sets for learners in disadvantaged communities is in progress.</li> <li>- Preparations to start the recording of TV lessons are still on-going. Examination classes to be prioritized. MoPSE is still negotiating with ZBC on the unit cost for broadcasting TV lessons.</li> </ul> <p><b>b) Digital and Online Learning Content:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Ruzivo Digital Platform has 1, 619,720 registered users with 963,543 (Female: 497, 335 Male: 466, 208) learners accessing the platform.</li> <li>- The ICT team in the MoPSE Curriculum Development and Technical Services (CTDS) is uploading resources onto the MoPSE Educational Resources portal. About 1,000 resources uploaded so far.</li> <li>- Planning is under way for teacher training supported by the Global Partnership for Education COVID-19 funding following consultations with CDTS. UNESCO to discuss with MoPSE on selection of first cohort of teachers for the training</li> <li>- Internet of Good Things (IoGT): Uploading of downloadable talking children story books has been completed. Uploading of radio lessons has however been discontinued.</li> <li>- Learning Passport: Uploading of open source content is in progress. Development of local content for the site by MoPSE is ongoing.</li> </ul>	
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	<p><b>c) Learning Materials</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The CDTS is still reviewing the Non-Formal Education (NFE) Modules that have been developed to support non-formal learners at secondary school level.</li> <li>- Planning for the development of workbooks for Primary classes (Grade 3 to 7) by CDTS is in progress.</li> <li>- ECD storybooks have been converted into braille. Proofreading has been completed. The contracting process for printing of the braille version of storybooks is in progress.</li> </ul> <p><b>2) The Back to School/ Learning Technical Working Group:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Following the cabinet announcement that schools will reopen for examination classes- Grade 7, Form 4 and Form 6, school commenced for Cambridge learners on September 14, 2020. Learners who are scheduled to sit for Zimbabwe Schools Examination Council (ZIMSEC) examinations are expected to reopen on September 28, 2020.</li> <li>- As discussions had been made for schools to reopen in a phased manner beginning with examination classes followed by non-examination classes, discussions are underway to set the gaps in reopening between the different cohorts. The MoPSE continuous to consult stakeholders, including the Education Cluster for inputs on the safe reopening of schools.</li> <li>- The MoPSE has established WhatsApp Education Network Groups for Provincial, District and School Leaders as part of the preparedness for the reopening of schools. On Thursday and Friday September 10 and 11, 2020, the MoPSE conducted national consultations with northern and southern region rural provinces to gather reports on the status of preparedness in schools. All districts reported on their state of preparedness. This exercise was repeated on Monday 14 September 2020, with District Schools Inspectors in Bulawayo and Harare provinces reporting on the level of school’s preparedness. The districts have varying levels of preparedness. Hence the MoPSE has planned for a Joint Monitoring visit to assess and verify the level of preparedness as well as gaps in schools across the provinces. This monitoring visits are scheduled to run during the week of 21 September 2020.</li> <li>- Government has authorized the resumption of Face to Face training for teachers to facilitate the reopening of schools. As such, health coordination training of teachers is expected to resume in all provinces.</li> </ul> <p><b>3) The Information, Education and Communication (IEC) Materials Technical Working Group:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There are no new updates.</li> </ul>	
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	<p><b>4) Alternative School Feeding Technical Working Group:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The MoPSE is reviewing the School Feeding Strategy and Handbook for printing.</li> <li>- In relation to the Joint Monitoring Visit planned to assess school readiness, the TWG intends to synchronise their needs and understand the school feeding issues/needs in schools. A tool is to be developed to support the monitoring.</li> <li>- The school feeding mapping tool was upgraded into real time for partners to update on the status of school feeding.</li> </ul>	
<p>Humanitarian Needs Overview &amp; Humanitarian Response Plan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The chair announced that Zimbabwe’s Humanitarian Programme Cycle for 2021 had begun. This process, which starts off with a Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO), would culminate in the development of the Zimbabwe Humanitarian Response Plan for 2021, on the basis of which a Humanitarian Appeal would be made to galvanize resources to tackle the most critical needs across the country, in support of the Government response and appeal. The plan should be evidence-based, addressing the most critical and immediate needs targeting most affected people, communities and districts.</li> <li>- The Education Cluster partners, under the leadership of the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education, are expected to start the needs assessment and analysis of the projected scenario for 2021 as part of the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO). This would lead to the development of strategic response planning and resource mobilization to address the prioritised needs of the affected people.</li> <li>- The Education Cluster will be developing the Humanitarian Needs Overview. To facilitate this process, partners are asked to provide any agency assessments of emergent issues and or promising programmatic interventions to help identify sector needs and inform the development of the Education sector HNO.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All information updates to be shared with Isaac Macha (<a href="mailto:ismacha@unicef.org">ismacha@unicef.org</a>).</li> </ul>
<p>Business of the Day: <b>School Readiness for Reopening: MoPSE and Cluster Partners</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The MoPSE Permanent Secretary opened the discussion by expressing her gratitude toward the work that partners are engaged in supporting the MoPSE. The education sector must address various gaps to ensure the smooth reopening of schools. To that end, the sector must prioritize the most pressing, among the many needs. While there have been different initiatives to support the school reopening, more support is required to facilitate the safe reopening. The Permanent Secretary highlighted some major areas for concern:</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- MoPSE to send a letter with the list of priorities to partners.</li> <li>- The Education Cluster to Map partner resources that are committed to support school reopening. <a href="https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/">https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/</a></li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Water Supply:</b> For schools to reopen and operate safely, there is need of safe water supply for regular handwashing with soap and water, daily disinfection and basic drinking water and sanitation services. Many schools were identified as being exposed to the highest risk of health as these schools lack basic water and sanitation services. The recent assessment by MoPSE showed that there was need for 729 boreholes in schools. So far, a total 40 have been drilled in different schools. Besides boreholes, water storage facilities are also optional as some schools have nearby water supply.</li> <li>- <b>Thermometers:</b> As learners return to school daily temperature checks will be introduced for all learners attending school. However, some schools have large enrolments which would require more than one thermometer planned for by the fiscus. Hence, there is need for additional non-contact infrared thermometers to detect fever in learners, staff and visitors in schools.</li> <li>- <b>Reusable Masks:</b> The school reopening plans are intended to address adherence to behaviours that prevent the spread of COVID-19. When used consistently and correctly, along with other important mitigation strategies, masks are important to help slow the spread of COVID-19. There is need to include masks on school supply lists and provide masks as needed to students, teachers, staff, or visitors who do not have them available.</li> <li>- <b>Support for Alternative Strategies:</b> There is need for printing Self-Study Guides for the Primary and Secondary School level learners to ensure that they continue learning. Support is also sought on the production and broadcast of Television lessons.</li> <li>- Partners reflected on the reopening and highlighted some gaps, including the need to disinfect schools and scale up catch-up programs for learners returning to school. The meeting also noted the importance of assessing learners as part of efforts to address the loss of learning during COVID-19.</li> </ul>	<p><a href="https://www.facebook.com/MinistryofEducationandSportsDevelopmentGhana/posts/10158341111111111">https://www.facebook.com/MinistryofEducationandSportsDevelopmentGhana/posts/10158341111111111</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To establish a team to address learning loss to work with the MoPSE Learners welfare.</li> <li>- Establishment of key strategies to ensure that every learner returns to school.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>AOB</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The MoPSE will be conducting a Joint Monitoring Visit from Monday, September 21<sup>st</sup> 2020. Partners are invited to participate in the Joint Monitoring Visit Assessment, those interested are</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Partners to send expression of the interest to join the Joint</li> </ul>

	<p>advised to express their interest by email to <a href="mailto:lawmkwala@gmail.com">lawmkwala@gmail.com</a>. The schedule and group allocation will be shared with them.</p> <p>- The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020 at 2:00 PM. The zoom link for meetings is below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Date: Tuesday September 22, 2020, from 2:00 - 3:00 PM</b></li> <li>▪ <b>Where: Zoom: <a href="https://unicef.zoom.us/j/5310749326">https://unicef.zoom.us/j/5310749326</a></b></li> <li>▪ <b>Meeting ID: 531 074 9326</b></li> </ul>	<p>Monitoring Visit groups to Mr. Lawrence Mkwala, the Acting Deputy Director of Innovation and Development at MoPSE. Email: <a href="mailto:lawmkwala@gmail.com">lawmkwala@gmail.com</a></p>
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**NEXT MEETING: 22<sup>nd</sup> of September 2020 & ZOOM APPLICATION**

<p><b>Minutes Secretary:</b> Name: Melissa Mutasa Title: Education Cluster Associate Signature: M. Mutasa</p>	<p><b>Approved by:</b> Name: Sibangani Shumba and Dominic Muntanga Title: Education Cluster Co-Coordiators Signature: S. Shumba and D. Muntanga</p>
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