



2015 Post-Earthquake Education Cluster Transition Plan

The Nepal Education Cluster was activated on the 26th April immediately after the first earthquake struck Nepal. The Education Cluster is led by the Department of Education under the supervision of the Ministry of Education and is co-led by UNICEF and Save the Children. The Education Cluster grew quickly in the weeks after the earthquake, and is now made up of over 73 national and international organisations, including 37 International NGOs, 32 National NGOs and 4 UN Agencies on the contact list, with 30 of these organisations are reporting activities regularly to the Cluster's 3Ws.

At the district level, the Education Cluster has been activated in 14 of the most affected districts, where response efforts are coordinated by the DEO, with the support of a District Focal Point Agency and a number of other cluster partners. The District-level coordination mechanism has been critical, allowing for decentralized decision-making, shortened response time, adaptation of responses to local contexts, and strengthened accountability to affected people by working closely with local communities.

The Government of Nepal and the international humanitarian community are now moving from the emergency to the reconstruction phase. The Earthquake Flash Appeal and the Education Cluster Strategy are concluding at the end of September 2015. There will be a gradual transition of key functions of the Education Cluster over the next four months (September – December 2015) to ensure critical issues are addressed and the move to reconstruction and ongoing working on emergency preparedness and response is smooth.

This document is intended to be a draft discussion document to guide the transition process.

Coordination at the National and District Level

Full National Education Cluster will cease to meet in September. However, ongoing meetings of a "core group" of representative government actors and partners will continue to meet biweekly. Proposed membership of core group: DoE (Lead), Save the Children and UNICEF (National Co-leads), Plan International, Restless Development, World Education, World Vision, Street Child, NSET (District Focal Point Agencies). Full National Education Cluster meetings will be called on an ad hoc as needed basis.

The national co-lead agencies will continue to provide coordination capacity (Coordination and Information Management functions) at the national and district levels until December 2015. In December, it is anticipated that the National Education Cluster will be formally deactivated and work on two streams will be coordinated as follows:

Reconstruction Issues	Emergency Education Issues
<p>What: As the education sector transitions to recovery, there will be the need for significant coordination to ensure that work to reconstruct education facilities and mainstream soft components of DRR into the education system</p>	<p>What: As Nepal is a disaster-prone country, there will be ongoing emergency education issues in the coming months and years. There is needed for continued work to coordinated preparedness work, undertake contingency planning and other emergency-related work.</p>

<p>Modality: A Project Implementation Unit (PIU) is being established within the Department of Education, chaired by the Director General. The PIU will provide leadership and coordination of the reconstruction of the education sector in Nepal. It will need significant coordination and information management capacity to ensure all partners – big and small – are aware of and applying quality standards, reporting planned and completed reconstruction work, and identifying gaps and ongoing needs.</p>	<p>Modality: As the Cluster will be formally deactivated in December 2015, it is proposed that there will need to be an Education in Emergencies Sub Group of the Disaster Risk Reduction and School Safety Thematic Working Group formed under the SSRP. It will be necessary to clarify who will take leadership of this work on the government side from MoE and DoE. The Government has a National Disaster Response Framework (2009) which outlines the responsibilities of the various sectoral line ministries, therefore, as the SSDP is finalized, Education in Emergencies coordination must be mainstreamed into the new sector plan and institutionalized into ongoing sectoral coordination efforts.</p>
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At the District level, coordination meetings will continue to take place, addressing ongoing emergency response, transition and reconstruction issues, and will follow DDRC guidance regarding deactivation and transition. District Implementation Units (DIUs) are also planned as part of reconstruction efforts and will take the lead in coordination reconstruction work at the district level. Ongoing emergency education issues will be led by the District Education Office Emergency Education Focal Points, under the overall leadership of the DDRC.

Review and Future Planning Process

It will be important to facilitate a process for the review of the work of the Education Cluster in response to the earthquakes in order to inform future emergency preparedness and response efforts. It is proposed that this review will include three major components:

- **An online survey** that invites all members of the Education Cluster at national and district levels to reflect on the strengths, weakness, challenges and achievements of the cluster in key functional areas.
- **Joint monitoring visits** led by the Department of Education and District Focal Point Agencies to district Clusters to monitor the emergency response and discuss with District Education Clusters key lessons learned, challenges and good practices.
- **National and District Review Workshops:** The National Education Cluster will hold a face-to-face review workshop at the end of September to collectively brainstorm lessons learned and key issues that need to be considered for future contingency planning and emergency preparedness and response. District Clusters will also be encouraged to facilitate review meetings to feed into the national review process.

The Nepal Education Contingency Plan will be revised and lessons learnt from the Nepal earthquake incorporated. This process will be informed by the review process and led by the Education Cluster Coordinator and Department of Education with the involvement of the District Focal Point Agencies. The wider Cluster membership will also be consulted and have opportunities to review the draft Contingency Plan before finalization.

Reporting requirements and Information Management

OCHA reporting requirements in relation to the Flash Appeal will end at the end of September. The Education Cluster will continue to produce the 3Ws on a monthly basis until December, to cover partner activities that are ongoing beyond the Flash Appeal timeline.

The Cluster's 3W system and Structural Assessment Data will be gradually transitioned over to the Department of Education's EMIS Section and PIU, with adaptations made as necessary so that the Reconstruction information management needs are met.

Timeline for transition of key functions						
What	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan - 2016	Notes
1. National level education cluster	Final National level Cluster Meeting Review Workshop takes place.	Core Cluster group meetings on a biweekly basis. Full National Cluster meets on ad hoc basis as necessary.	Core Cluster group meetings on a biweekly basis. Full National Cluster meets on ad hoc basis as necessary.	Core Cluster group meetings on a biweekly basis. Full National Cluster meets on ad hoc basis as necessary.	Cluster officially deactivated Alternative Reconstruction Coordination Mechanism activated, led by PIU	Full National Cluster meetings phased out in Sep. replaced by small core group (DoE, UNICEF, Save with District Focal Point agencies)
Benchmarks for transition						
2. District level clusters	District level Cluster coordination takes place, in line with DDRC guidance	District level Cluster coordination takes place, in line with DDRC guidance	District level Cluster coordination takes place, in line with DDRC guidance	District level Cluster coordination takes place, in line with DDRC guidance	Clusters officially deactivated if still meeting. Alternative District Reconstruction Coordination Mechanism activated, led by DIU	2 District level roving coordinators recruited for Sep – Dec to support district level coordination and transition to reconstruction
Benchmarks for transition						
3. EiE Sub Group of SSRP Thematic Working Group	-	-	-	-	EiE Sub Group established under the regular DRR and School Safety TWG.	Plans for integration of EiE coordination should be mainstreamed in the SSDP.
Benchmarks for transition						
4. IM / 3W reporting	Partners report monthly Flash Appeal ends	Partners report monthly 3W adapted for reconstruction needs and linked with EMIS, begin transfer	Partners report monthly 3W/EMIS transfer to DoE	Partners report monthly 3W/EMIS transfer to DoE completed	DoE responsible for information management of reconstruction coordination	DoE supported with an IM person to support with reconstruction Information Management and the merging of EMIS with 3W?
Benchmarks for transition						

Contingency plan	Cluster Review Workshop	Contingency plan draft incorporating lessons learnt from Nepal response	Contingency plan finalized		Contingency plan for education integrated to national level contingency plans	Contingency plan for education needs to be revised.
Benchmarks for transition						