



## National Education Cluster - Meeting minutes

**Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2016 at 11:00, MoEST Boardroom**

**Meeting Participants:** ADRA, AET, BRA, CHiDO, FCA, GESS, GREDO, HCO, IBIS, LWF, NRC, Room to Learn, RUDI, SEM, SSAA, SSYDA, UNICEF, UNKEA, WAO, WV, USAID, WFP.

TOPIC	ACTION POINTS	PERSON/ENTITY in CHARGE + DEADLINE
<b>1. Introduction</b>		
Nicolas reviewed the agenda and indicated that two items would be postponed to the next meeting: sharing of responsibilities between the Education and WaSH Clusters (John, WaSH Cluster) and overview of Back to Learning (Vinoba, UNICEF).	The two items will be presented and discussed at the next Cluster meeting	Nicolas
<b>2. Teaching facilitator incentives</b>		
The ECU met with Esther (focal point for the Cluster at the MoEST) and the Under Secretary to discuss the way forward on incentives. Both the Under Secretary and Esther explained that the government agreed to increase junior staff salaries by 300%. The Under Secretary therefore recommended that the Cluster increases its level of incentives by 300%. The ECU is however waiting for a written confirmation that teachers' salaries will be tripled, or at least a memo from the MoEST authorizing the Cluster to proceed with the 300% increase. The ECU then consulted with a group comprising of SAG members, donors and INGOs involved in refugee response to review various options and seek their guidance. Although no strong consensus came out of the meeting, there was agreement that options 1 and 2 (maintain level of incentives at SSP 400, or SSP 400 plus in-kind benefits) are not viable in	Seek feedback from the State Focal Points and partners in the field. Follow up with MoEST regarding enforcement of cabinet decision and/or memo. Call SAG to come to a decision.	ECU (Nicolas) this week and the week starting February 8, decision to be made by mid-February for revised incentives to be paid for the month of February already.

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<p>the current context. Participants in the meeting did not take a decision whether to go for the monthly SSP 800 (option 3) or SSP 1,100 (option 4) but made three main recommendations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) The level of incentives should support teaching facilitators' livelihoods, but also be sustainable in the long run (for donors, and in case the pound gains value again);</li> <li>2) The level of incentives should be adjusted to the cost of living;</li> <li>3) Adjustment of the level of incentives should reflect on the original incentives' level (April 2014, SSP 300) so as to be able to justify the proposed increase and future ones.</li> </ol> <p>Participants in the Cluster meeting ruled out options 1 (unbearable in the current context) and 2 (NFIs and food are hardly available outside PoCs, making this solution almost impossible to implement outside the main towns/sites). They also highlighted the financial risks linked to option 4, in case oil prices increase and the economy gets stronger. USAID also insisted on the need to seek sustainable and long term approaches, to avoid discrepancies between EiE and government schools, endless increases of incentives, and to mobilize communities around the support of teachers.</p>		
<b>3. Information Updates</b>		
<p>The Information Management training was successfully completed in January, with the majority of HRP partners attending. Fred is still providing orientation to partners that missed the training. The partners are reminded that the reporting continues to be done on a monthly basis, between the 15<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of each month, and are encouraged to use the updated template for their reporting.</p> <p>11 partners reported for the month of January: ADRA, INTERSOS, World Vision, CAO, CMD, HCO, JCI, NH, UNIDO and UNKEA. IM products will be produced out of the partner reports and shared widely on a monthly basis. Mapping is only limited to important requests given the sensitivity of the status of the number of States. Partners are also encouraged to share their assessment reports with the Cluster.</p>	<p>Ongoing 5Ws training for partners that missed the January training</p>	<p>Fred/ECU</p>

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<p>As a way of improving the quality of the response, there are several online courses that partners are encouraged to undertake. Use the below link to access the Building a Better Response course: <a href="http://www.buildingabetterresponse.org/">http://www.buildingabetterresponse.org/</a></p>		
<b>4. Humanitarian updates</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In Western Equatoria, ADRA started supporting schools again in Yambio and Maridi. The situation in Mundri remains uncertain with limited access. Until there is significant security, schools are likely to remain closed.</li> <li>• In Pibor, FCA is concerned that the beginning of the school year may be delayed due to violence and displacement.</li> <li>• Juba: NRC is supporting 739 learners sitting for their end of Secondary School certificate.</li> <li>• WFP is seeking partners interested in delivering and administering deworming tablets to learners/children in South Sudan. The package has albendazole that is administered twice a year. For details please contact David: <a href="mailto:david.lugeron@wfp.org">david.lugeron@wfp.org</a></li> </ul>	<p>Interested organizations should contact WFP</p>	<p>David (WFP)</p>
<b>5. AOB</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaboration between the Education Cluster and EMIS in 2016: as all partners know, there is strong need for data to support planning and programming. Instead of conducting its own assessment, which would be time- and money-consuming, the Education Cluster has the opportunity to contribute to the EMIS in 2016. The information coming out of this exercise will be used to inform the 2017 HNO and HRP, but most importantly to support partners' response. Both sides (MoEST and Cluster) would benefit from this collaboration as Cluster members can access areas where the MoEST cannot go (e.g., only 40% of GUN States counties were covered as part of the EMIS in 2015) and the Education Cluster/partners would have access to information that is reliable and recognized by the government. This would also be an innovative approach to collecting data in an emergency context. The process will kick off with the review of the questionnaires by Cluster members.</li> </ul>	<p>The ECU will share the EMIS questionnaire with partners for their review.</p>	<p>ECU, together with minutes of the meeting</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BBC Media Action is currently running radio programs on behavior change with focus on social and cultural practices hindering girls' education, e.g., the benefits of education, encouraging young mothers to go back to school. There are also recorded stories which can played in areas where there is no radio, e.g., PoCs. These programs last 15 minutes and are recorded in Juba Arabic, Nuer and Dinka. BBC Media Action is therefore seeking partnership with organizations interested in the program to roll it out further. Detailed presentation will be made during the next Cluster meeting.</li> </ul>	<p>Full presentation by BBC Media Action at the next Cluster meeting</p>	<p>BBC Media Action together with ECU</p>
<p><b>Next Regular Meeting: Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> February 2016, 11am, MoEST Boardroom</b></p>		