



National Education Cluster - Meeting minutes

Date: 30th August 2016 at 11:00, MoGEI Boardroom

Meeting Participants: ACEM, ADRA, ADCORD, CADA, CADE, CASS, CMD, FYF, GESS, HCO, IBIS, INTERSOS, JRS, MC, MoGEI, NH, NRC, RuCAPD, SC, SCA, TAO, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNKEA, WCH, WR, WTI, WV.

TOPIC	ACTION POINTS	PERSON/ENTITY in CHARGE + DEADLINE
1. Introductions, review of agenda and opening remarks by MoEST		
George Ali (Ministry of General Education and Instruction - MoGEI) welcomed all partners into the meeting. The agenda was reviewed and no items were suggested for addition.	N/A	N/A
2. Level of incentives for teaching facilitators		
<p>Following the increase of day workers rates, teaching facilitators threatened to strike or went on strike in a number of PoCs, most notably in Bentiu, where a demonstration turned violent and children were injured. While the Cluster is fully aware of inflation and increased food prices, the more general situation in country should be looked at, especially the delayed or absence of payment of government teachers' salaries, and discrepancy between PoCs (supported by humanitarian organizations) and rest of the country. The Cluster is seeking ways to ensure the continuation of education services in PoCs, but that would not to undermine mainstream education provision by the government. One suggestion is to pay two different levels of incentives inside and outside PoCs.</p> <p>NRC reports that its staff were threatened by teaching facilitators in Juba PoC 1 and wishes that a solution is identified sooner rather than later. World Relief highlights that</p>	Meeting with the Ministry to follow up on the issue, consultation with the State Focal Points on the situation in PoCs and scenarios.	Nicolas, coming days.

TOPIC	ACTION POINTS	PERSON/ENTITY in CHARGE + DEADLINE
<p>teachers are communicating with each other between PoCs and IO areas, therefore that it would be very difficult to pay two different levels of incentives (example of Malakal PoC and Wau Shiluk). All organizations agree that this solution would be very difficult to implement and manage. All insist that the proposed response should cover the whole sector.</p> <p>The Ministry and UNICEF insist that teaching facilitators are volunteers. If they are not happy with their working conditions, they can leave their jobs, but also leave room for others.</p>		
3. Assessment of the situation of education at the national level and support needed to resume activities in a safe and sustained way		
<p>This year has become increasingly difficult for the education sector in most parts of the country due to delayed or lack of payment of teachers' salaries whilst inflation rose at the rate of 700% over the past 12 months. After the Wau crisis in June, followed by the July fighting in Juba, the GPE contacted UNICEF and the Cluster on the need to get a clear and objective picture of the situation in schools across the country. Tizie (GPE Manager for UNICEF) and Nicolas discussed this with the Ministry who recommended to conduct a rapid assessment. This will assist donors (including GPE) to determine which activities could support the resuming of education in a sustained way.</p> <p>Specific objectives of this assessment are to: 1) Provide key findings for external stakeholders to understand the situation, inform proposals and advocacy documents to increase financing for the sector; 2) Prioritize geographic areas according to needs and risks, and the most effective response for each area; 3) Provide recommendations on the most effective activities to resume education in a safe and sustained way, taking into account the possibility to link humanitarian and development responses.</p> <p>One key point for the Ministry and partners is to focus on all areas of the country, both non-conflict-affected and conflict-affected parts. An Assessment Working Group will be constituted to provide oversight and guidance on the process. The MoGEI already prepared a list of Units to be represented and personnel to take part in the Assessment Working Group. George and Nicolas met last week and propose the following organizations for this group: GESS, HCO, IBIS, PCO, PEG, SC, UNICEF and WFP. Additional</p>	<p>Share a ToR with the Ministry, then AWG partners. Meeting of the AWG to agree on objectives and composition of the group.</p>	<p>Nicolas, AWG, Monday 5 September.</p>

TOPIC	ACTION POINTS	PERSON/ENTITY in CHARGE + DEADLINE
members may be added, as long as the balance between development and humanitarian partners is kept.		
4. Issues related to end-of-primary exams in Upper Nile		
<p>The Upper Nile State Focal Points contacted the cluster at national level as local education authorities in Wau Shiluk refuse to let exam papers come from the education authorities based in Malakal (issue of logo of Eastern Nile state). The partners who attend the meeting share that this issue is very specific to Upper Nile/Malakal area, as the planning of exams, transportation of papers, examination and sharing of results go smoothly between government-controlled and IO-controlled areas of Unity and Jonglei. Partners recommend to solve the problem through discussion with the different stakeholders and diplomacy.</p> <p>For the partners, this issue goes beyond the education sector, as IO authorities often challenge any official document which bears the logo or mentions of the new states. The problem of the 28 states is also economic, as the newly appointed authorities lack resources and capacity at the new states level.</p> <p>Regarding end-of-primary exams, the Ministry shares that it is trying to harmonize them at the national level, and to recentralize the process of exams.</p>	Debrief with Upper Nile State Focal Points, discuss with Eastern Nile state education authorities.	Nicolas, Amuda and Pietro, following visit of Eastern Nile state to Juba (planned for the consultation on SDGs, end of September).
5. Humanitarian updates		
<p>NRS reports that the July fighting in Juba spilled over to Leer, where 32 schools supported by NRC had to close and only nine of the 21 schools supported by NRC in northern Mayendit remain functional.</p> <p>UNICEF reports that all schools outside Wau town and in the neighbouring counties remain closed to date. Following the reoccupation by IDPs of the 34 TLS classrooms set up by UNICEF and War Child Canada at Wau PoC, the SMoE, UNICEF and War Child Canada are working to establish eight new classrooms in a new location close to the PoC. The closing of IDP schools in Wau PoC has left over 13,000 children without learning (5,000 had joined classes before the occupation of classrooms by IDPs).</p> <p>xx reports that a number of schools are occupied by IDPs in Ayod county.</p>	The Cluster and UNICEF are following on support and advocacy needed in Wau.	Nicolas and UNICEF, ongoing.

TOPIC	ACTION POINTS	PERSON/ENTITY in CHARGE + DEADLINE
HCO assessment in schools affected by the July violence in Juba showed that an average 27% of formerly registered children were out of school in the weeks that following the fighting, with Lobonok location actually gaining a number of IDP children. Adequately trained teachers are available in all schools, buildings and WASH facilities are generally fine but there is a need for hand washing facilities and gender disaggregated latrines in Gurei.		
6. AOB		
CHF: eight partners have been pre-selected for a total budget of USD 1.9 million (6.5% of the total allocation): four national NGOs, three international NGOs and one UN agency. Mid-Year Review of the HRP/OPS: Nicolas will seek information from OCHA on the deadline to submit/revise projects.	Review process ongoing for the CHF	Nicolas, next cluster meeting.
Next Regular Meeting: Tuesday, 13th September 2016, 11am, venue: Ministry of Education		