

Education Thematic Working Group (ETWG)
Rakhine Education in Emergencies Coordination Meeting

Date:	6 June 2013	Venue:	UNICEF, JPG Hall
Time:	10:00 – 12:00	Chaired by:	Arlo Kitchingman - Education in Emergencies Coordinator

Present: See accompanying attendance sheet

Meeting minutes by: Arlo Kitchingman, Education in Emergencies Coordinator

Meeting agenda for Thursday 6 June 2013

1. Last meeting's minutes and action points - review
 2. Rakhine EiE updates – overview
 3. 3W format review
 4. EiE planning - a) beyond primary? b) coordinating TLS, CFS and Madrasas
 5. Teacher incentives – discussion and review
 6. Key EiE advocacy points – general and specific
 7. Conflict sensitivity and peace-building – update and discussion
 8. OCHA Mahesen lesson learned exercise – sector feedback
 9. AOB
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1. REVIEW OF LAST MEETING'S ACTION POINTS (FROM 17 MAY 2013)

Updates on the the action points from the last meeting are as follows:

- 1) Organize for UNICEF to provide an overview on the concept of Risk Informed Programming and what it means to programme design and implementation **(AK)**. *UNICEF now suggests waiting to do this as part of the visit from the conflict and peace-building expert from HQ planned for the end of June.*
- 2) EiE response agencies to coordinate use of EiE teacher training materials and trainers from UNICEF **(AK)**. *Save the Children will be requesting UNICEF for support when they are ready to train their teachers, in terms of materials and trainers (now experienced). UNICEF recommend that any training be held in a central location (in Sittwe), coordinating closely with the TEO (Township Education Office) in order to secure passes for the trainee teachers from the rural camps, and so the TEO can participate in and observe the training.*
- 3) EiE advocacy points and strategy needs to be developed as part of a common response and funding strategy **(AK)**. *See agenda point 6*
- 4) Develop a Rakhine EiE 3W to map the current response, identify geographical gaps/priorities and generally support coordination **(AK)**. *See agenda point 3*
- 5) Finalize and release the SC Rakhine Assessment to support planning and proposals **(AK)**. *AK has been waiting on further feedback/input for the report. It was suggested that the report is now too out-of-date to be useful and that a new assessment is needed. Whilst it is agreed that a new rapid assessment to gain an accurate picture of the situation now is needed, there is useful information in the original report which can benefit sector members in the meantime – AK to re-edit the document pulling out the most salient and still-relevant information to share, as soon as possible.*
- 6) UNICEF to share data on adolescent education needs to support development of programmes in this specific and important area of need **(AK)**. *This process is ongoing at the field level. As soon as data is available UNICEF will share with sector partners.*

2. RAKHINE UPDATES

UNICEF

- UNICEF has started construction of its temporary learning spaces (TLS) in rural Sittwe camps and is scheduled to finish on 28 June. Identifying suitable sites for the TLS was a problem (warning to other agencies) even with the involvement of the state government engineer (necessary).
- UNICEF has completed the initial 6-day induction training for all of its volunteer teachers (93 teachers in total). Experience from this can be used to support other agencies starting responses.
- UNICEF is distributing some teaching and learning materials in Rakhine, and is pushing the state education office to do the same. The focus is on Rakhine schools now as they have already opened for the new academic year. Rural Muslim schools and TLS will be targeted once established.
- The government is requesting UNICEF provide an addition 6 TLS in some of the hard to reach communities – this is under review.
- UNICEF promoted the use of an art-therapy/psychosocial support book of which it has ordered multiple copies printed for both Rakhine and Kachin ('When bad things happen'). Soft copies of this for sector partners to use will be provided at the next meeting (**Action point 1 – AK**)

Save the Children (SC)

- Save the Children has revised the proposals submitted to UNICEF and HMSF and is awaiting further feedback. Both have been reviewed for conflict sensitivity and potential for contributing to peace-building. In total the projects aim to reach over 6000 children.
- SC internal funds have gone live and will be used to start constructing TLS and recruiting and education team for Sittwe. In the meantime, one idea being explored is to use the SC CFS as TLS for half of the day to allow education to start as soon as possible.
- Focus group discussions conducted by Save the Children last week gained a snapshot of education before, now and plans for TLS and also looked at the issue of language and medium of instruction. The report on this will be shared with the sector as soon as it is finalized. (**Action point 2 – AK**)

Lutheran World Federation (LWF)

- LWF have submitted proposals to their donors identifying locations for 12 TLS. The locations selected are based on information provided about UNICEF and SC's activities and therefore the gaps. LWF is already working in some of the communities doing fire safety. These TLS will reach up to 2900 children.
- LWF is expecting a psychosocial expert to come support the programme in mid-August, including mainstreaming psychosocial support (PSS) into the education work underway. LWF is willing to share this expertise with other agencies doing similar work in the area (namely SC and UNICEF).

Qatar Red Crescent

- Currently the Myanmar Red Cross is not involved in supporting education in Rakhine. However, the Qatar Red Crescent has received interest from its donors in supporting education in the conflict affected-areas of Rakhine. Therefore, the Red Crescent is collecting information on the area in order to produce 'headline' proposals for this potential funding. This whole process is expected to take some time.
- Once funding is secured a detailed implementation plan will be produced for the Myanmar Red Cross to implement, possibly alongside NGOs with more experience in the sector in that location. The programme will target both Rakhine and Muslim communities.

OCHA

- Due to the constantly and rapidly changing nature of the situation in Rakhine, OCHA has decided to update the Rakhine response plan every six months, rather than yearly. The next response plan, currently being planned, will be for the period July to December 2013.

3. REVIEW OF RAKHINE EDUCATION IN EMERGENCIES 3W (WHO'S DOING WHAT WHERE)

Based on an old format, a new and more comprehensive 3W format has been produced for Rakhine education in emergencies actors. A few changes were made based on feedback from the meeting group. The main decision was that numbers should only be provided for the following 3W categories:

of TLS / # students enrolled in TLS / # teachers recruited

All of the other categories regarding TLC facilities, furniture, kits and activities will be simply Y/N.

For planning purposes, the first columns of the 3W estimate the number of children in each school age group (pre-primary, primary, middle) based on age-proportionate percentages for each age group. However, these proportions are based on the estimate that 50% of the population is children (under 18), but this is unlikely to be the case given that the average family size in the camp is 6 – 6.5. Therefore a more accurate planning figure could be 67%. If this, or a similar figure, be agreed as more representative of the population, ideally this would be adopted by all sectors for planning. This needs to be raised with OCHA and other the other sectors before being adopted by the EiE sector for programme planning.

(Action point 3 – AK)

Once the latest camp figures are released by the CCCM Cluster, the 3W will be circulated for further review by EiE Coordination group members, and the same process will take place for Kachin. **(Action point 4 – AK)**

4. EDUCATION IN EMERGENCIES PLANNING

a) Beyond primary

To date UNICEF and Save the Children's focus has been on mobilising funding and establishing TLs for primary school-age children (age 5-9). Whilst it is usual for both organisations to initially focus on this age group the middle-school age children (10-15) which incorporate the adolescent group, must not be ignored; in a situation of conflict this age group is particularly vulnerable to being drawn into violence and exploited by its instigators. The need and demand for activities for this age group also came out strongly in the focus group discussions held in two of the camps on 3 June (see SC update).

Therefore Save the Children is looking into using the internal funds it has live as seed funding for initiating education activities for this age group offering two types of education 1) Accelerated learning programme (ALP) for those children over 10 years old who have never been to primary school – this course condenses five years of primary curriculum into two; 2) Non-formal education (NFE) with a focus on life-skills (possibly the Excel course) for children aged 10+ who have completed primary school already. These services will need to be tailored to the needs of the individual camp populations – camps containing more urban-origin IDPs generally have higher levels of education than those from rural areas.

b) Coordinating TLS, CFS and Madrasas

With respect to location, TLS need to be separated from CFS and the madrasa (although within a reasonable walking distance for children) to avoid distraction and movement between the two. ***Any new sites selected for TLS should be done in consultation with organizations managing existing structures.***

5. TEACHER INCENTIVES – DISCUSSION AND REVIEW

Teacher incentives were originally set and budgeted at MMK 35,000 per month, significantly below the government trained teacher salary of between MMK 97,000 and MMK 109,000 (including the 30k per month living allowance) due to their lack of formal training and lower number of hours per day.

However, other sectors (WASH, Nutrition, CP) are already paying more than this, between MMK 60 – 75,000 per month which is a problem for those agencies looking to recruit teachers. Although those receiving these levels of incentives often work more hours than the teachers will, the teacher incentives still need to increase or education programmes risk losing them.

Therefore at the Rakhine EiE coordination meeting it was agreed that the incentive rate should start at MMK 35,000 for the first 6 months, and then increase to MMK 50,000 for working day of 4-6 hours (depending on agency) .

6. KEY EiE ADVOCACY POINTS – GENERAL AND SPECIFIC

A list of general and specific EiE advocacy points have been compiled and shared with the group. Changes were suggested and will be made. The list will be shared with the EiE coordination group soon and further feedback on the list is requested from members (***Action point 5 – AK to follow up***)

7. CONFLICT SENSITIVITY AND PEACE-BUILDING – UPDATE AND DISCUSSION

At the end of June UNICEF are bringing in a conflict and peacebuilding expert to specifically work on a strategic framework for ensuring conflict sensitivity and incorporating peacebuilding into education programmes in Rakhine state. The Save the Children PCA currently being reviewed by UNICEF also includes a piece of research to follow up on this, to fill the framework with programmatic recommendations – i.e. how to practically implement the strategy through education activities by agencies. A 2-page handout introducing the basic definitions of and approaches to conflict sensitivity and peacebuilding also accompany these minutes, as a starting point for the work the sector will undergo.

8. OCHA MAHESEN LESSON LEARNED EXERCISE – SECTOR FEEDBACK

A list of preparedness activities and lessons learned had been prepared and was shared with the group. No other points were added and the list has been shared with OCHA ahead of the Mahesen lessons learned workshop in Yangon on Monday.

The next RAKHINE Education in Emergencies coordination meeting is provisionally scheduled for Thursday 27 June 2013, 10:00-11:30 am at UNICEF (meeting room to be confirmed).

The next KACHIN Education in Emergencies coordination meeting is provisionally scheduled for Friday 28 June 2013, 10:00-11.30 am at UNICEF (meeting room to be confirmed)
