

TERMS OF REFERENCE

EDUCATION Thematic Working Group in Myanmar

PURPOSE

The main purpose of the Education Thematic Working Group (ETWG) is to coordinate the range of efforts that support the realization of the Education For All (EFA) plan in Myanmar. This accords with the obligations and responsibilities of the State, in particular the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), and the Millennium Development Goals (MDG).

OBJECTIVES

Within the general framework of the educational priorities and objectives of the Myanmar Government¹, the main objectives of the ETWG are threefold:

- 1) To provide a regular opportunity for open dialogue between key education stakeholders in support of the priority areas in achieving the Education For All in Myanmar;
- 2) To provide a mechanism which facilitates the coordination of educational activities;
- 3) To provide opportunities for capacity building for the inter-agency and government-supported activities, including preparedness and recovery activities;

FUNCTIONS

The group will discuss overall progress of the EFA priorities for key activities; proactively identify issues, gaps and constraints to facilitate the implementation of EFA recommendations and strategies more effectively.

To this end, the ETWG will:

- 1) Coordinate educational interventions in line with national education goals and objectives, as well as supporting and contributing to educational development and advancement;
- 2) Enhance and facilitate information exchange of education activities to achieve EFA goals, objectives and priorities amongst stakeholders and partners;
- 3) Advocate to partners for appropriate inter-sectoral strategies to address underlying causes of educational issues;
- 4) Contribute to updating national guidelines and references related to education;
- 5) Share regular updates on programmes and interventions and explore each agency's comparative advantages in addressing and promoting EFA priorities to maximize complementarity;
- 6) Encourage partners to share experiences on innovative strategies and good practice in providing education services in hard-to-reach areas;
- 7) Work with the government to address the identifying issues, gaps and challenges for priority areas in EFAs and MDGs;
- 8) Appropriately channel the proposed EFA recommendations and strategies to the sub-working groups;

¹ Including, but not limited to, the Myanmar Basic Education Development Plan 20-30, and the National Education for All (EFA) Plan of Action 2003-2015.

- 9) Encourage local capacity development with national and local authorities, institutions and I/L NGOs.

COMPOSITION

The ETWG will be composed of representatives from the following institutions and organizations:

- Government Departments, including but not limited to, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Social Welfare, Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development, and Ministry of Religious Affairs;
- National and international NGOs;
- UN agencies;
- Donors.

Each member institution/organization will be responsible for designating **one contact person** for the ETWG to attend regular meetings.

OPERATION

In collaboration with the government counterparts, the ETWG will be co-chaired by UNICEF and Save the Children.

1) MEETING

- 1) Meeting is fixed and scheduled on every other month, while ad-hoc meetings can be held as necessary;
- 2) A written agenda will be circulated to members along with the notice of each meeting. Any member may place items on the agenda;
- 3) Each member would alternately prepare meeting minutes and distribute them to members;
- 4) Ensure education representation in appropriate meetings and provide briefings to the IASC, inter-sectoral coordination meetings (health, water and sanitation and protection), and recovery meeting as appropriate;
- 5) The Group respects the sensitivities of its members around various issues;

2) SECRETARIAT

The Secretariat is comprised of at least one representative from UNICEF, Save the Children and UNESCO who will plan and organize the meetings and maintain documentation for the Group. Each of this focal people apportions at least 25% of his/her work time to attend and manage the ETWG secretariat matters.

TECHNICAL WORKING SUB-GROUPS

The following sub-groups are established in key technical areas in line with jointly identified priorities of the EFA recommendation and strategies, and will regularly feed in to the main ETWG meetings. These sub-groups can change as deemed appropriate by the members.

- 1) Formal Education/ Education Discussion Meeting (led by UNICEF);
- 2) Non-Formal Education (led by Save the Children/ Local Resource Centre);
- 3) ECCD (led by Save the Children/UNICEF);

- 4) Education in Emergencies:
 - a) Disaster Preparedness and Response Education Working Group (DPRE WG) (led by UNESCO);
 - b) Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies Sub-Working Group (INEE) (led by Save the Children);
- 5) School Construction Sub-Working Group/ School Discussion Group.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The ETWG will:

- Share and update information on educational matters;
- Operate as a platform for advocacy and provide continuous educational dialogues;
- Document lessons learned and good practices in education.