

# Refugee Education Sub-Working Group (RESWG) Meeting

## Meeting Minutes

12 April 2017

10h00 – 12h00

### Attendees

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Name	Organization	Email address
1. Ashenafi Demeke	ARRA	<a href="mailto:aschu2020@gmail.com">aschu2020@gmail.com</a>
2. Getachew Admasu	Ministry of Education	<a href="mailto:gadmasu56@gmail.com">gadmasu56@gmail.com</a>
3. Aberra Makonnen	SCI	<a href="mailto:aberra.makonnen@savethechildren.org">aberra.makonnen@savethechildren.org</a>
4. Melesse Yalew	OIC-E	<a href="mailto:oic.ethiopia@gmail.com">oic.ethiopia@gmail.com</a>
5. Dita Tefera	World Vision Ethiopia	<a href="mailto:Dita_Tefera@wvi.org">Dita_Tefera@wvi.org</a>
6. Kefyalew Tassachew	World Vision Ethiopia	<a href="mailto:kefyalew_Tassachew@wvi.org">kefyalew_Tassachew@wvi.org</a>
7. Shewaye Tike	IRC	<a href="mailto:Shewaye.Tike@rescue.org">Shewaye.Tike@rescue.org</a>
8. Tafesse Haile	DICAC	<a href="mailto:hhaile.tafesse@gmail.com">hhaile.tafesse@gmail.com</a>
9. Monica Llamazares	UNICEF	<a href="mailto:mllamazares@unicef.org">mllamazares@unicef.org</a>
10. Ben Reese	UNICEF	<a href="mailto:bresse@unicef.org">bresse@unicef.org</a>
11. Ronald Odero	NRC	<a href="mailto:ronald.odero@nrc.no">ronald.odero@nrc.no</a>
12. Ahmed Esmael	AEEG	<a href="mailto:dafiataeeg@gmail.com">dafiataeeg@gmail.com</a>
13. Rana Milhem	UNHCR	<a href="mailto:milhem@unhcr.org">milhem@unhcr.org</a>
14. Girma Yadeta	UNHCR	<a href="mailto:yadeta@unhcr.org">yadeta@unhcr.org</a>

### Absentee

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1. Plan International
  2. Jesuit Refugee Service

### Agenda

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1. Review of meeting minutes of February and March 2017
  2. Joint education assessment/monitoring missions – Calendar for 2017
  3. Briefing on the UNICEF/DFID Self-reliance (education) project
  4. Assessment of Out of School Children (OOSC) in 2017
  5. Harmonization and coordination of in-service teacher training
  6. AOB

#### Agenda 1. Review of meeting minutes of February and March 2017:

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The meeting was attended by participants from eleven different organizations including the Ministry of Education (MoE). The chairperson introduced the agenda of the meeting and suggested review of the last two previous minutes of meeting. Then the group reviewed action points from minutes of February and March 2017 as follows:

- a) Status of report on assessment conducted on girls' education in Assosa and Gambella camps by Association of Ethiopian Educated in Germany (AEEG). AEEG indicated that the draft report was not shared pending further review and suggested presentation the same in the next meeting. It was proposed to invite two refugee representatives one each from South Sudanese and Sudanese (urban-based) to be present at the meeting and share their experiences and views on girls' education.
- b) Status of mapping of available and potential resources for education sectors and sharing of the information with the group: Group members agreed that each organization prepares this mapping and share with UNHCR and ARRA. To do this UNHCR/ARRA will prepare and share a template with partners.
- c) UNHCR was to share statistical report from Education Management Information System with all partners and interested bodies. While UNHCR has shared the statistical report/raw data with partners widely the statistical abstract report was still being drafted and to be shared as soon as completed. Discussion is also ongoing with EMIS & ICT Directorate of MoE for the refugee education data to be published along the national MoE's yearly abstract for the academic year 2016/17.
- d) Prepare advocacy message on Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) to reach out to wider donor community and national Education Technical Working Group (ETWG) for allocation of resources and for more predictable and sustainable programming of ECCE. It was recommended to have a thematic discussion in the next RESWG with a short joint presentation by MoE (preprimary) and UNICEF on the current state of affairs of ECCE covering topics, among others, institutional, policy, curriculum and data related etc... from which joint advocacy message and action plan could be drawn.

## **Agenda 2: Briefing by UNICEF of the Building Self-Reliance Project (BSRP)**

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UNICEF's Coordinator for Building Self-Reliance Project (BSRP) and Refugee Education Specialist presented background to DFID's BSRP and the global trends in diminishing humanitarian funding to respond to the increasing problem of refugees. The presentation referred to the global meetings held in 2016 that recognized the global refugee and migration issues and protracted humanitarian situations and contexts. The briefing also referred to the Government of Ethiopia's pledges on refugee at Leaders' Summit in New York in 2016 and that the Government is playing a global leadership on refugee issues.

BSRP comprises of four sectors, namely education, child protection, health and water looking at five regions – Afar, Benishangul Gumuz, Jijiga, Gambella and Tigray. The programme looks at self-reliance, institutional capacity building, and effective and efficient government service provision. Modalities of implementation discussion is ongoing and a few key activities are being implemented. There is a whole range of activities covering refugee and host communities in areas of self-reliance by creating enabling environment.

In the education sector, the project aims at increased access to education through critical expansion of classrooms and accelerated school readiness programme, and improvement of quality of education through teachers' development and formative assessment of students. Other critical quality enhancing interventions include support to the integration of refugee education in key national and regional education sector plans and policies, and the inclusion of refugee schools in national standards assessments and inspection, national school improvement plans and grants provision. The overall vision is to improve self-reliance whereby education plays a role in increasing human and social capital (both key self-reliance assets) of children and their communities, and to promote social cohesion through education to ensure a conducive environment for refugees to pursue more effective self-reliance strategies. In terms of outcome the project is to improve learning outcomes and host and refugee communities' participation/collaborative approaches in education. The project also targets improved education oversight system through enhanced institutional capacity building and more integrated planning and implementation of refugee and host community education.

Participants noticed that the role of NGO partners in the education sector of BSRP was not as explicit. And UNICEF indicated that the specific implementation modalities were still being discussed with relevant stakeholders to ensure that UNICEF systems and procedures are upheld (system-strengthening direct cash transfer to education sector) while also exploring innovative partnerships with the NGO and private sectors to support MoE and ARRA to deliver quality education services to host and refugee communities.

**Key next step for implementation of BSRP (to be led mainly by UNICEF):**

- a) Invitation to partners for bilateral discussions - starting from the week of 17 April
- b) Joint school standard assessment in the targeted Woredas (ARRA, MoE, UNICEF and UNICEF)
- c) Joint assessment and planning (for inclusion of refugee schools in the national/regional planning processes).
- d) Joint communication/letter by ARRA and MoE to REB and ARRA Zonal Offices: ARRA and MoE are holding discussion to frame MoU that will upgrade the level current cooperation between the two Government Offices. UNICEF is supporting this processes through allocation of budget as part and parcel of institutional capacity building initiative. UNICEF also suggested the need for joint communication by ARRA and MoE to regional offices so that the planning process for the ensuing fiscal year is as inclusive as possible. ARRA suggested that while bi-lateral discussion is ongoing to determine the content of the MoU, and acknowledging this discussion is at highest level, ARRA asked that UNICEF writes a formal letter to ARRA and MoE on the justification and/or the need for this communication to regional offices.

**Agenda 3: Joint Education Assessment/Monitoring Mission**

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UNHCR indicated that Joint Education Monitoring Mission (JEMM) has been conducted periodically in the last few years but the activity was a bit weak in 2016 due to other work exigencies. In 2017, JEMM will be conducted at least once per sub-office. This year's JEMM will also accommodate aspects of school assessment and will adjust its ToRs to the needs/requirements the ongoing and new initiatives and opportunities such as BSRP and ECW funding.

The group discussed on the feasibility of the JEMM as to when and where this could take place first and what the involvement of partners look like. In the discussion the criticality of full participation of all partners was highlighted. The JEMM will cover issues, experiences, challenges and information and data not normally captured in the quantitative reports such one captured by EMIS.

**Action to be taken in April and May (to be followed up mainly by UNHCR):**

- a) Identify convenient time for all while placing important attention on the known calendars and expected major events/plans. For example, the relocation of refugees from Gambella to Assosa is one of the major plans that need to be taken into account while planning to go to these locations.
- b) Draft instruments of JEMM and share with education working group for comments/review.
- c) The focus is to be placed on all levels and sub-sectors of education at a given location.
- d) Ensure involvement of federal MoE and Regional Education Bureau to get the expertise needed for the exercise.
- e) UNHCR and ARRA together with MoE should agree on the ToR and timetable for the JEMM and this is to be shared with education sub-working group members in April for possible undertaking of one JEMM in May 2017.

**Agenda 4: Assessment of Out of School Children (OOSC) in 2017**

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Following the request of UNHCR, budget has been allocated for assessment of out of school children (OOSC) in refugee camps. The assessment is to better understand the root causes that keep children out of school. The assessment will be conducted by local research institutions firms.

**Action (to be followed up by UNICEF)**

UNICEF to draft terms of reference for OOSC assessment and share the draft with education working group for comments.

**Agenda 5: Harmonization and coordination of in-service teacher training**

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This agenda item was postponed until next meeting.

**Agenda 5: Any other business (AOB)**

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Education Cannot Wait (ECW) initial investment project will be launched soon focusing on primary and secondary education in Assosa and Gambella refugee camps and host community. On the behalf of the group, UNICEF will present in the next working group meeting on the way forwards as regards the project.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 10 May 2017 @10:00 am at ARRA Office.

End.