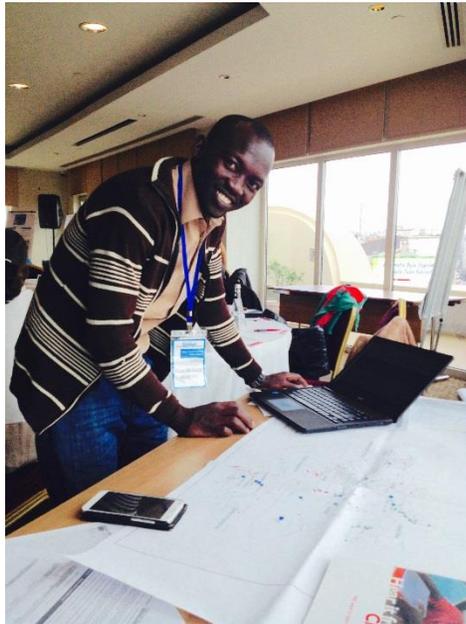


## Education Cluster Quarterly Update October – December 2015



Fred Morjan Mugabi, IM for the South Sudan Education Cluster, won the “best in show” stand at the GEC annual meeting market place  
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Under the new [2015-2019 Strategic Plan](#), the Education Cluster Unit (ECU) produces quarterly updates to report on progress against the objectives and activities in the [current work plan](#), and highlights key upcoming events and training opportunities in the next quarter.

Our monthly newsletters are continued, covering country and global level activities, key resources and events as well as highlighting relevant work of global Education Cluster (GEC) partners. In addition regular updates and information are available on the Education Cluster website, circulated via listserv messages.

Finally, the Education Cluster also utilizes Facebook, Yammer and Twitter to share information.

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## 1. Field Support – RRT Deployment, ECU Support Mission, and Remote Support

### Direct field support through RRT deployment, ECU support mission, and stand by partners deployment

The Education Cluster provides direct support to country clusters mainly through the deployment of experienced coordination staff and information management specialists. This is achieved both through the use of the Education Cluster Rapid Response Team (RRT), but also through the UNICEF standby partners and via Save the Children members. The table below outlines the expected workload for the global Education Cluster for the current (fourth) quarter in weeks, actual number of weeks of deployment and remote support undertaken during the fourth quarter, and the cumulative number of weeks for the year.

#### Actual Deployment time (Weeks)

Product	Q4 Forecast	Q4 Actual	Variance	Total year to date.
<b>Deployment of Cluster Coordinators (Total)</b>	35	28.5	-6.5	129
<b>Deployment of Information Managers (Total)</b>	38	35	-3	136.5
Deployment of RRT Cluster Coordinators	23	16.5	-6.5	63
Deployment of RRT Information Managers	23	8	-15	50.5
Deployment of partner Cluster Coordinators	12	12	0	66
Deployment of partner Information Managers	15	27	+12	86
ECU Support Missions	3	0	-3	5.5
RRT Remote support to Coordination Function	3.75	17	+13.25	37.5
RRT Remote support to IM Function	6.5	9.5	+3	23
ECU Remote support to Coordination	4.5	6.5	+2	22
ECU Remote support to IM Function	4	0	-4	8.25

RRT deployments were fewer than forecast. However the RRT did provide an increased amount of remote support; mainly focussed around the development of Humanitarian Response Plans (HRPs) and as post deployment support. Partner agencies were able to cover a significant proportion of IM requests with deployments also lasting longer (typically 6 months)

A new UNICEF IM RRT (Dominik Koeppel) started early October, increasing the RRT team capacity to 7 members in Q4. The funding outlook for 2016 also looks positive with an expected expansion to the required 8 staff by the end of Q1.

#### RRT/ECU Deployment Countries

##### Central African Republic

RRT member Gøril Tomren returned to CAR for the second time since she joined the team to support the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) process together with the co-lead, NRC, and cluster partners. For more information, read the [November](#) newsletter.

## **Nepal**

RRT member Risto Ihalainen finished his deployment to Nepal end of October. He provided support to the transition and contingency plan revision.

## **Nigeria**

RRT members Tyler Arnot (coordinator) and Dominik Koepl (IM) were both deployed to Nigeria to support the HRP process. The deployment of a strong Cluster Coordinator with solid HRP knowledge and experience together with expert IM support was highly appreciated by the Education in Emergencies Sector Working Group in Nigeria (EiEWGN) and partner agencies and helped mobilize partners around a common strategy. After the finalization of the HRP, the focus lay on strengthening of state level coordination, the mobilization of resources and capacity for programme implementation and the recruitment of a dedicated Sector Working Group Coordinator to maintain the momentum and partner mobilization achieved through the HRP process. For more information, read the [November](#) and [December](#) newsletters.

## **Whole of Syria**

RRT member Luca Frascini was deployed for the second time to Amman for 3 weeks to support the HRP process in October and provided remote support until the new Save the Children EiE focal point for WoS came on board early December. For more information, read the [October](#), [November](#) and [December](#) newsletters.

## **Standby Partner Deployment Countries**

- **Nigeria** – Mary Ombaka (NRC) will finish her mission as Education Sector Working Group Coordinator to Nigeria at the end of the year.
- **Somalia** – Ateeq Bashir (MSB) continued his mission as IMO to support the Somalia cluster.
- **Southern Turkey (Syria)** – Muhammed Farhad (MSB) continued his mission as IMO to support the Southern Turkey cluster.
- **Malawi** – Per Sonnerby has been deployed as a cluster coordinator to Malawi as concerns over the effects of El Nino continue to rise in East and Southern Africa

## **ECU and RRT remote support to country-level clusters**

As well as deployments the Education Cluster Unit and non-deployed RRTs provide technical support to country clusters. Of particular focus in Q4 was support to Yemen which was declared a level 3 emergency this summer. The Yemen cluster team had little experience with the HRP process, and two new coordinators came on board in August. In addition support was provided to CAR and Nigeria (before and after missions) and to Ethiopia (with an RRT deployment probable in the New Year).

The RRTs continue providing remote support to country clusters through the Cluster Helpdesk. In total Q4 saw 10 requests to the helpdesk from 5 different countries, 9 of those requests have been successfully completed with one ongoing.

## **Outline for January-March 2016**

### **RRT/ECU Deployments**

- **Ethiopia** – It is expected that two members of the RRT will deploy to Ethiopia in early January to support the reestablishment of the Education Cluster there.

- **Myanmar** – A new coordinator is under recruitment for the Rakhine crisis. An RRT mission is planned once the new staff is in place to support the building of IM systems and strengthen links to the country and global levels.

## 2. Strengthening the Framework and Capacity in Coordination

### Multi-Cluster Joint Coordination Training

From 8 to 13 November, RRT member Annelies Ollieuz participated as one of a team of co-facilitators for the UNICEF Multi-Cluster Joint Coordination Training held in Limerick, Ireland. This training targeted both stand-by partners and UNICEF staff and gathered 17 coordinators and information managers with a WASH, child protection, GBV or education background. The training aimed at giving participants the key knowledge required to lead a coordination mechanism at field level, as well as further developing the skills related to these roles. The UNICEF competency framework for coordination formed the basis of the training, which focused on soft skills like leadership and communication, and on the development of a Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP).

### Needs Assessment Training

27 participants including Rapid Response Team (RRT) members, partner staff from global and country level, Ministry of Education officials and Cluster coordinators/Information management officers participated in a 5 day needs assessment workshop in Divonne-les-Bains, France, at the beginning of December. As well as building needs assessment capacity across the Global Education Cluster, the workshop focused on reviewing the new guidance and tools for needs assessments (an ongoing project supported by ACAPS consultants). The new needs assessment guidance will be available for piloting in the new-year and financial support is available for countries who would like to use the guide to support their assessment needs.

The workshop itself concentrated on many of the practical aspects of needs assessments such as Secondary Data reviews, tool and database design, training and supporting field teams and visualisation and analysis. The most popular session was the data collector de-brief featuring Sloppy Joe, a session which supported the underlying theme of quality over quantity of data.

UNICEF and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs jointly funded the workshop and guide development, with their support continuing into 2016. The final guidance will be edited and published in April 2016.

### Guidance and training on monitoring, reporting and prevention of attacks on education

The Education Cluster started a project in Q4 to develop practical guidance for cluster coordination teams in the field on monitoring, reporting and responding to attacks on education, and to consult country-level and global stakeholders on the role of clusters, capacity development needs, and collaboration with other stakeholders. Both countries with the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) on grave violations against children in armed conflict, and other countries experiencing attacks on education are included. The project builds on the outcomes of the session on this topic during the annual global cluster meeting in Istanbul (see 3. Global Initiatives).

The work is supported by consultant Elizabeth Cossor. To date, on-line surveys sent to Education Cluster and Child Protection Sub-Cluster teams, have yielded responses from 19 countries experiencing attacks

on education. Key informant interviews with global, regional and country level stakeholders are close to completion, and include GCPEA, HRW, DPKO, SRSG CAAC Office, PEIC, CPWG, MRM staff at UNICEF and others. Initial findings show the initiative is timely and welcomed, with possibilities to link to current initiatives such as the DPKO 'think piece' with the global CPWG and the GCPEA's work with country implementation plans. Consultations have confirmed demand and need for operational guidance and capacity development. The project will continue to March 2016. Deliverables include practical guidance for country clusters including packaged key resources, and recommendations for a second phase.

### 3. Global Initiatives

#### Advocacy

2015 is a crucial year for education. The new sustainable development goals (SDGs) for 2015-2030 has now been adopted. This time, education in crises contexts is on the agenda, and a range of key initiatives to advance education in emergencies are taking place in 2015. The Education Cluster is engaged directly in two of them (see below):

#### 1. Better support and financing for education in emergencies:

The Overseas Development Institute (ODI) has been contracted to conduct research and present options towards addressing the significant gaps in education in emergencies funding and the strengthening of implementation capacity. INEE has set up a [web page](#) in preparation for a global consultation in early 2016. This consultation will be based on ODI options paper focusing on how to operationalize solutions towards a 'common platform' for education in emergencies and protracted crises. The Education Cluster has provided significant technical input into discussion and documents and will actively participate in Phase II of the global consultation managed by INEE.

On 6 November the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) held a [round table discussion](#) on the challenges of education in fragile and conflict affected states. The panel included former Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard, now head of the Global Partnership for Education (GPE). Global Education Cluster Coordinator James Sparkes also participated in the panel. Increasing its engagement in fragile states is a priority for the SDC, which also intends to strengthen its support for education and training, a sector to which it committed CHF 103 million in 2014.

#### 2. World Humanitarian Summit (WHS):

The Global Education Cluster co-hosted, along with many NGOs and UN agencies and the Child Protection Working Group, a panel discussion on "[Putting Accountability to Children at the Heart of the World Humanitarian Summit](#)" on 2 October in Geneva, ahead of the WHS Global Consultation. Co-sponsored by the Permanent Missions of Lebanon, Luxembourg, Norway and Switzerland, the event was well attended with representatives from 27 States and many UN agencies and NGOs.

### 4. New Ways of Working

#### GEC Annual Meeting

45 participants representing 11 country clusters and 12 global partner organisations joined the RRT and ECU members for the GEC annual meeting which took place in Istanbul on 13-16 October. The meeting reviewed experience with the new strategic plan, progress against the 2015 work plan, and discussed

priorities for 2016. A survey shared with global partners and country cluster staff prior to the meeting helped identify the following key topics for the meeting: 1) Funding and de-prioritization of education in emergencies (EiE); 2) Role of the Education Cluster in reporting and monitoring attacks on education, and link with Monitoring and Reporting Mechanisms (MRM); 3) Transition out of the cluster system and the integration of education in emergencies into sector planning; 4) Capacity development and Human Resources strategy; 5) Coordination in mixed settings (refugees and IDPs): and 6) Psycho-social support (PSS) and EiE technical harmonization. Two parallel sessions were organised, one for country cluster staff and RRTs to discuss key issues they face in the field and the support they need from the global and regional level. In the other session, global partners and the ECU reviewed the current GEC partnership model and new ways of working. Read the [meeting report](#) or the [October newsletter](#) for additional information.

### **Next Call**

The next scheduled call for partners will be Thursday 21 January 2016.

## **5. Events and trainings in Q1 (2016) and beyond**

January 2016	INEE consultation on Education in Emergencies and Protracted Crises, Phase II
TBD	Assessment Webinars on Sampling, Analysis and Database design
TBD	Webinars on Sahel Online Reporting Systems and Excel tools
6 – 11 March 2016	Core Coordination Skills training
July 2016	Core Coordination Skills training (TBC)

For a complete list of upcoming and past events, please visit our [website](#).