

**Education Cluster Quarterly Update
October-December 2016**



Global Partners' Meeting, Nairobi, 15-17 July 2016

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 newsletters continue, 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, and circulated via listserv messages.

Finally, the Education Cluster also utilizes Facebook, Twitter and Skype groups 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 (IM) specialists. This is achieved primarily through the use of the Education Cluster Rapid Response Team (RRT) who can deploy for strategic purposes; initiating, adapting and strengthening coordination mechanisms in emergency contexts. For longer deployments to maintain coordination functions during critical periods and staffing gaps, the Cluster is able to call on UNICEF standby partners (SBP) and Save the Children members Humanitarian Surge Team (HST) and roster members. The table below outlines the workload for the Global Education Cluster for each quarter in days, actual number of days of deployment and remote support, and the cumulative number of days for the year.

Actual Deployment time (Days)

Product	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total year
Deployment of Cluster Coordinators (Total)	162	234	172	225.5	793.5
Deployment of Information Managers (Total)	114	202.5	239	220.5	776
Deployment of RRT Cluster Coordinators	60	76.5	52	104.5	293
Deployment of RRT Information Managers	48	58.5	103	107.5	317
Deployment of partner Cluster Coordinators	102	157.5	120	121	500.5
Deployment of partner Information Managers	66	144	136	113	459
ECU Support Missions	30	0	0	0	30
RRT/ECU Remote support to Coordination Function	108.75	7.5	18	4.5	138.75
RRT/ECU Remote support to IM Function	50	22.5	48.75	35	156.25

RRT deployments significantly increased in Q4, due to acute crisis in Iraq, Nigeria and Burundi.

Deployments of RRT IM Specialists were also significantly higher than the number of deployments of RRT Coordinators, highlighting the increased need for more and better data to prepare and coordinate humanitarian responses. Cluster Coordinators' position are more often filled through standby partners.

Karina Kleivan, SC Norway, joined the team in October as RRT Education Cluster Coordinator. After three years and half with the GEC, Landon Newby, Senior RRT IM ad NA Specialist with SC Denmark, left the team at the end of the year. Luca Fraschini, RRT IM Specialist and Coordinator, will be on contract break the first few months of 2017.

RRT/ECU Deployments

Burundi

RRT member Sarah Bellotti's (coordinator and IM) deployment continued until mid-November. Sarah supported the EiE Working Group in developing a strategy and set up IM systems. For more information, read the [October-December](#) newsletter.

Iraq

RRT members Kaisa-Leena Juvonen (coordinator) and Dominik Koepl (IM Specialist) completed their deployment in November. Both supported the coordination in preparation for and response to the Mosul offensive. For more information, read the [October-December](#) newsletter.

Nigeria

RRT members Landon Newby (senior IM) and Karina Kleivan (coordinator) deployed from October-November to support the Education in Emergencies Working Group (EiEWG) and strengthen coordination mechanisms at national and particularly, at the sub-national levels given the scale-up of the humanitarian response in the Northeast. For more information, read the [October-December](#) newsletter.

South Sudan

RRT member Michael Wilkins (NA specialist) deployed to Juba on a short mission in December to support the Education Cluster in analysing data collected through the Education Needs Assessment. Michael also strengthened IM systems in country. For more information, read the [October-December](#) newsletter.

Standby Partner Deployments

- **Central African Republic** – Mactar Diagne (NRC) deployed as Education Cluster Coordinator mid-November.
- **Iraq** – Katy Noble (SC Australia) completed her deployment as Education Cluster Coordinator based in Erbil in October. Abdi Dahir Osman (NRC) deployed as roving Education Cluster Coordinator mid-November. IM Specialist Fred Mugabi (NRC) deployed in November.
- **South Sudan** – Harish Murthi (DRC) continued his deployment as Information Management Officer (IMO).

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 Burundi (after the RRT mission), South Sudan (before and after the RRT mission), and Vietnam (after the RRT mission). Seven countries in total (Burundi, CAR, Iraq, Nigeria, South Sudan, Syria, and Vietnam) benefitted from technical support.

The RRTs continue to provide remote support to country clusters through the Education Cluster Helpdesk, in total, Q4 saw 25 requests to the Helpdesk from 15 different countries (Burundi, CAR, DRC, Ecuador, Greece, Iraq, Niger, oPt, Pakistan, Serbia, Southern Turkey, South Sudan, Sudan, Vanuatu, Yemen) and one from the global level. All requests have been responded to and completed successfully.

Outline for January-March 2017

RRT/ECU Deployments

- **Afghanistan:** RRT IM Specialist Dominik Koepl deployed January 14th to support the country in building and strengthening the information management systems of the EiE Working group, building evidence to make the case for the reactivation of the Education Cluster. RRT coordinator Karina Kleivan will also deploy on March 1 to bolster the coordination mechanisms further.
- **Somalia:** With impending emergency in the Horn of Africa, Cluster Lead Agencies are looking to scale up efforts in preparedness and response. As part of this, RRT Michael Wilkins will deploy to the Somalia Cluster in March to strengthen information management systems allowing the Cluster to respond more efficiently to the onset of emergency.

Standby Partner Deployments

- **CAR** – Education Cluster Coordinator Mactar Diagne (DRC) will continue his deployment through Q1 and Q2.
- **Iraq** – IM Specialist Fred Mugabi (NRC) and roving Education Cluster Coordinator Abdi Dahir Osman (NRC) will continue their deployment through Q1 in 2017.
- **South Sudan** – Harish Murti (DRC) will continue his deployment as IMO through Q1.

2. Strengthening the Framework and Capacity in Coordination

Education Cluster Core Coordination Skills Training

The Global Education Cluster delivered its fourth Core Skills training, culminating in a one-week simulation hosted in Hadeland, Norway, on 5-10 December. The training was co-organised by Save the Children Norway and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC). RRT member Luca Frascini adapted the content training to the target audience, mostly SC Norway and NRC staff and roster members and along with Landon Newby, facilitated the training. Prior to the residential training, all 19 participants completed a pre-training, online module with both theory-based readings and quizzes as well as practical Information Management (IM) focused exercises. For more information, read the [October-December](#) newsletter.

Needs Assessment Package

The Global Education Cluster released the new [Guide to Education in Emergencies Needs Assessment](#) which is an accompaniment to and provides theoretical foundation for the [Needs Assessment Package](#) contained within the GEC Toolkit. The purpose of the Guide and Needs Assessment Package is to provide practical, relevant guidance and resources to EiE coordination staff conducting, coordinating and participating in secondary data reviews and joint, harmonized and/or multi-sector needs assessments.

3. Global Initiatives

Advocacy and Global Representation

The Global Education Cluster has continued its engagement in crucial initiatives and global events related to education in emergencies.

1. **Education Cannot Wait Fund:** The Global Education Cluster continued consulting with INEE and UNHCR to finalize the joint proposal to benefit from the initial round of investment. The proposal

was submitted before Christmas. Global Cluster Coordinators (GCCs) Maria Agnese Giordano and Tyler Arnot also participated in a workshop in Brussels on 15-16 December to discuss the fund modalities. For more information on the ECW Fund, visit its [website](#). The partners will again meet March 8-9 in Geneva to further refine the activities of the partnership.

- 2. Education for a better future – prospects for displaced populations:** GCCs Maria Agnese Giordano and Tyler Arnot and ECU Communications and Programme Officer Lisa Sabot-Schmid took part in the international conference co-organised by the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and INEE in Berlin on 2 November. For more information on the conference or to watch the recording, please visit [INEE website](#).
- 3. INEE Working Groups meeting:** The GEC team took part in the INEE Fall meeting in Berlin on 3-4 November, represented by Tyler Arnot in the Standards and Practice Working Group, and by Maria Agnese Giordano and Lisa Sabot-Schmid in the Advocacy Working Group.
- 4. Education in Emergencies Forum:** GCCs Maria Agnese Giordano and Tyler Arnot participated in the EiE forum organised by the European Commission’s humanitarian aid and civil protection department (ECHO) in Brussels on 30 November. The event included high-level interventions by Christos Stylianides, EU Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management, Gordon Brown, UN Special Envoy for Education, Ömer Çelik, Minister for EU Affairs of Turkey and Elias Bou Saab, Minister of Education and Higher Education of Lebanon. For more information, visit the [ECHO website](#).

Communications

In addition to regular social media and website posts, the Global Education Cluster produced one newsletter and the 3rd 2016 quarterly update. The [October-December newsletter](#) featured the great work done by the Somalia Education Cluster, in particular their advocacy efforts linked to the closure of Dadaab refugee camp.

4. Ways of Working

GEC Annual Meeting

72 participants representing 10 country Education Clusters/EiE Working Groups, 2 ministries of education, 3 regional offices, 20 partner organisations, and 2 donors joined the RRT and ECU members for the Global Partners’ Meeting in Nairobi on 15-17 November. The discussions, held over three days, were framed around the three strategic focus areas of the GEC: partnership, humanitarian-development nexus, and accountability. Each day was entirely dedicated to one focus area, starting with a panel discussion on the topic, followed by country examples, and small group discussions to identify concrete action points to feed into the GEC 2017-2018 work plan. For more information, read the [meeting report](#). The RRT and ECU also met with country clusters staff for a field day on 14 November, to discuss challenges, share good practices, and receive direct support from the global team on cluster coordination and IM tools. Key points fed directly into the discussion during the partners’ meeting.

5. Events and trainings in Q1 in 2017 and beyond

2 March	Global Partners’ call
TBD	Education Cluster Core Skills training

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