Global Education Cluster

Education Cluster Quarterly Update
January – March 2015

Aliyu* receives help on his math from his teacher on 16 February, the first day of school in Liberia after a 7-month closure because of Ebola (© Save the Children)

Under the new 2015-2019 Strategic Plan, the Education Cluster Unit (ECU) is implementing new ways of working and now produces quarterly updates to report on progress against the current work plan. This document is intended to provide members and partners at global level a regular update on progress on the activities and towards objectives outlined in the 2015 work plan. In addition it provides links to further information and resources and highlights key upcoming events and training opportunities.

Our monthly newsletters will be 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, and will be circulated via listserv messages.

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

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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 chart below outlines the expected workload for the global Education Cluster (per quarter) and the current actual deployment weeks undertaken to the end of quarter one.

Actual Deployment time (Weeks)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Est.</th>
<th>Actual</th>
<th>Difference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deployment of Cluster Coordinators (Total)</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>+8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deployment of Information Managers (Total)</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>+5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deployment of RRT Cluster Coordinators</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deployment of RRT Information Managers</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>+2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deployment of partner Cluster Coordinators</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>+14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deployment of partner Information Managers</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>+6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECU Support Missions</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RRT Remote support to Coordination Function</td>
<td>3.75</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>+1.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RRT Remote support to IM Function</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>2.75</td>
<td>-3.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECU Remote support to Coordination</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>-0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECU Remote support to IM Function</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to RRT and standby partner deployments the Education Cluster Unit staff also undertake field missions, both specifically for the education cluster, but more often as part of multi-sector missions with the Global Cluster Coordinators Group (GCCG), or UNICEF Global Cluster Coordination Unit (GCCU).

Finally remote support in the form of calls, feedback on documents, analysis and secondary data reviews is performed by the ECU and non-deployed RRT staff.

The current level of support provided during Q1 in response to requests for support, is similar to that envisaged in the 2015 work plan. However the RRT currently has only 6 staff (not the 8 required) hence a relative dependence on cluster partners to provide both coordination and IM support (as can be seen in the table above). With significant support required for the Nepal earthquake, it is expected that the workload will continue at the estimated level for Q2 making funding for and recruitment of 2 more RRTs (to bring the team up to its full complement) a priority.

Several partner agencies have expressed interest in supporting the RRT and the ECU will continue discussions with these partners to move this forward.
RRT/ECU Deployment Countries

Ebola crisis
Rapid Response Team members Annelies Ollieuz, Landon Newby and Tyler Arnot were deployed to Liberia over a four month period to support an education sector assessment and the safe reopening of schools. For more information on the work of the cluster in Liberia, read the January-February and March 2015 newsletters.

Sigbjorn Ljung was deployed to Sierra Leone to support the Information Management function to support coordination of the education sector response. For more information on the ECU deployment to Sierra Leone, read the March 2015 newsletter.

Ukraine
Farhad Muhammad was deployed to Ukraine in February as the Information Management officer for the Education Cluster and Child Protection Working Group. For more information on the RRT deployment to Ukraine, read the March 2015 newsletter.

Southern Turkey (Northern Syria)
James Sparkes took part in a joint mission of the Global Cluster Coordinators Group and UN OCHA to strengthen coordination in Gaziantep and Antakya as the Southern Turkey hub for Northern Syria officially transitioned to a formal cluster structure. For more information on the joint mission to Southern Turkey, read the March 2015 newsletter.

Iraq
Gørl Tomren was deployed to support the Iraq Education Cluster and provide a handover to the incoming Save the Children Cluster Coordinator. For more information on the Iraq education cluster please access their website here.

Central African Republic (CAR)
Risto Ihalainen was deployed to CAR to support an in-depth needs assessment as part of the return to school initiative. It was the third CAR Education Cluster needs assessment. The full report can be accessed here.

Standby Partner Deployment Countries

- **Ebola** - IM Support was provided to all three Ebola affected countries in Q1, through iMMAP in Guinea, Canadem in Sierra Leone, and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) in Liberia.

- **Ukraine** – The Danish Refugee Council (DRC) provided a Cluster Coordinator for Ukraine for three months (March-May) whilst UNICEF undertake recruitment for a long-term appointment.

- **Southern Turkey (for Northern Syria)**- Save the Children UK (4 weeks) and Save the Children Australia (10 weeks) provided staff to support the Education Working Group in Southern Turkey during Q1. This period saw the official transition of the hub to a formally activated cluster.

- **Sudan** – Save the Children UK provided a cluster coordinator to undertaken a 3 month cluster strengthening mission in the Darfur region of Sudan. The mission included an EiE partner capacity mapping exercise as well as a series of short workshops on EiE and Rapid Needs Assessment (using a locally developed rapid assessment tool). More information about the Sudan Education Cluster can be found via their website.
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 Q1 was the development of capacity mapping tools for use in Darfur, and the development of a basic 2 day EiE/Needs Assessment training for those partners. In addition, significant support was given to the Liberia Cluster in depth Needs Assessment, the Iraq Education Cluster (whilst recruitment of a long term staff was finalized), South Sudan (during staffing gaps), Sierra Leone and Mali.

Outline for April-June 2015

RRT/ECU Deployments

- **Nepal** – Support to the Education Cluster is provided by Annelies Ollieuz (Senior Coordination specialist) and Landon Newby (Information Management expert). Each is undertaking a 6 week mission until mid-June.

- **Ukraine** – Continued IM support will be provided by the RRT to the Education Cluster by Farhad Muhammad until end May. In addition, Tyler Arnot has been deployed to support coordination at the subnational level on a six week mission.

- **CAR** – Ellen van Kalmthout will be part of a UNICEF cluster mission to CAR at the end of June to help develop transition planning from formal clusters to sector working groups.

Standby Partner Deployments

- **Whole of Syria** – Save the Children Denmark is providing a Whole of Syria Focal Point for Education during April and May whilst recruitment for a long term member of staff is undertaken.

- **Ukraine** – The DRC has extended the deployment of a Cluster Coordinator for Ukraine until end July whilst UNICEF finalize recruitment for a longer-term appointment.

- **Ebola** – IM Support provided through standby partners (NRC, iMMAP and Canadem) will continue in the Ebola affected countries (Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone) throughout Q2.

2. Strengthening the Framework and Capacity in Coordination

The 2015 work plan provides details of the priority activities that will be undertaken by the global Education Cluster (ECU and partners) during 2015. Q1 was mainly used to reach out to partners to validate priorities for the year; also identify activities where partners and the ECU could work together. As much of Q1 was used for planning there were not many capacity building and guidance development activities in this period.

A full list of trainings and dates can be found in the work-plan. In Q2, no cluster coordination, Needs Assessment or IM trainings are planned.

Information Management Training

UNICEF WCARO approached the Education Cluster for support in the delivery of Information Management training to education clusters and sector working groups in the region. It was decided to deliver the training in two workshops, one francophone, one anglophone. The focus of the workshops is on strengthening core competencies in monitoring and information management amongst the EiE
coordination and IM focal points, MoE staff and partners. In addition, the Sahel countries and Ebola affected countries would develop consistent dashboards for monitoring and reporting purposes. The first training was successfully completed between March 23rd and 27th involving 20 participants from: Burkina Faso, CAR, Chad, DRC, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and UNICEF regional office.

### 3. Global Initiatives

**Advocacy**

2015 is a crucial year for education. The new sustainable development agenda for education for 2015-2030 will be set. 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:

1. **Better support and financing for education in emergencies:** In January, at the World Economic Forum in Davos, the UN special envoy for education, Gordon Brown, called for a global fund to provide education in crisis-affected countries. On 9 March, the Global Partnership for Education in Washington D.C. hosted a meeting of technical stakeholders to explore the potential of such a global humanitarian fund or platform for education. The Education Cluster Unit participated and contributed on gaps, challenges and opportunities for education in immediate onset emergencies and protracted crises in the context of the humanitarian system architecture. We also provided inputs through UNICEF and Save the Children as Cluster Lead Agencies during Q1, and will prepare new funding analysis in Q2 to provide evidence on financing gaps. Q2 will see intensified preparatory work under the overall leadership on Norway, with the aim of presenting analysis and a range of options for discussion at the Education for Development Summit in Oslo (6-7 July).

2. **Safe Schools Declaration:** Norway and Argentina have been leading consultations with member states to develop a Safe Schools Declaration, through which states will be able to express broad political support for the protection and continuation of education in armed conflict, and for the implementation of the *Guidelines to Protect Schools and Universities from Military Use in Situations of Armed Conflict*. During Q1, the Education Cluster Unit engaged in Geneva meetings organised by Norway and provided inputs to the draft declaration. The finalized Guidelines were shared with field-based Education and Child Protection coordinators, and with global partners.

**Global Cluster Coordinators Group (GCCG)**

Members of the Education Cluster Unit participated in a two day retreat with their counterparts at the other global clusters and facilitated by UN OCHA. This retreat took place in Annecy from 29-30 January. The GCCG outlined a work plan for 2015 and agreed to work together on strengthening coordination and rollout of the transformative agenda, preferably via joint missions with UN OCHA and the Senior Transformative Agenda Implementation Team of the (STAIT). Find links to informative webinars on the transformative agenda and changes to humanitarian leadership and coordination [here](#).

**Communications**

The website is currently under revision to align with the new Strategic Plan and to better reflect to support to ongoing emergencies. The [global Education Cluster partners webpage](#) was revised and a [webpage on L3 emergencies and high priority countries](#) was developed. We are currently developing
webpages on each of the L3 country clusters: Central African Republic, Iraq and South Sudan are already available.

The global Education Cluster produced two newsletters, a special issue on attacks on schools in CAR and another special issue on the Ebola crisis.

4. New Ways of Working

Individual consultations with current and potential global partners/members

The Education Cluster Unit has focused in Q1 on individual consultations with 20 existing and potential new partner organisations to consult on the new global membership model, and on partners’ engagement in the 2015-2016 Education Cluster work plan. The new membership model has two levels for global partners: Education Cluster Global Partners who are involved in the delivery of education in emergencies services and/or support work on capacities and systems for coordination. Education Cluster Associates are those organisations that wish to be kept informed, but don’t engage directly with the cluster’s work. By the end of Q1, consultations had taken place with most partners, and the process will have been completed by the end of June. Partner engagement in the work plan will be reflected in the 2015-2016 work plan. A formal call for membership will be issued early in Q3.

Monthly calls

As part of the new ways of working, monthly Education Cluster Partner calls were instituted, to provide a platform to discuss work plan priorities, progress and follow up, on field support, capacities and systems for coordination, and global support; and to provide opportunities for partners to raise issues or provide updates. The first call took place on 9 April. Calls will be held every 3rd Thursday of every month.

5. Events and trainings in Q2 and beyond

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18-23 April</td>
<td>Standby Partners Joint Information Management Training (Bangkok, Thailand)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 April – 1 May</td>
<td>Education Cluster Unit – Rapid Response Team Retreat (Geneva, Switzerland)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12-13 May</td>
<td>Education Cluster Steering Group Meeting (Geneva, Switzerland)</td>
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<tr>
<td>19-22 May</td>
<td>World Education Forum (Incheon, South Korea)</td>
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<td>21 May</td>
<td>Education Cluster Global Partners call</td>
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<tr>
<td>28-29 May</td>
<td>Oslo Conference on Safe Schools (Oslo, Norway)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4-5 June</td>
<td>ALNAP Global Forum for Improving Humanitarian Action (New York, USA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>18-23 June</td>
<td>Standby Partners EiE Training (Norway, organised by NRC, UNICEF, and UNHCR)</td>
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<tr>
<td>22-26 June</td>
<td>Rapid Response Team Retreat for all UNICEF Clusters/AoRs (Villars, Switzerland)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6-7 July</td>
<td>Summit on Education for Development (Oslo, Norway)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6-9 July</td>
<td>WCARO Anglophone IM Training (Dakar, Senegal)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12-16 October</td>
<td>Global Education Cluster annual meeting (location TBD)</td>
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For a complete list of upcoming and past events, please visit our [website](#).