



Access & Quality thematic group

Notes from 27th March 2013

Introduction

The Forum for Education NGOs in Uganda is a national coalition of civil society organisations working to bring about education rights in Uganda. This document outlines notes made at the meeting on 27th March 2013

Notes from meeting

Quality Public Education Week

The group discussed final plans for Quality Public Education Week which will take place from 22nd-26th April.

There will be many activities throughout the week. Some of these activities are being coordinated by FENU secretariat, while others are being organised by different NGOs. FENU secretariat would like to invite any member to get involved or organise their own activity that week.

The original suggested agenda is attached and an updated version will be circulated soon. An updated summary is below:

Date	Activity	Coordinated and funded by
28 th March – 17 th April	School activity - NGOs doing work with children to find out their views on education using 'my education' tool (country-wide)	A wide range of NGOs
Mon 22 nd April	Press conference, Panel debate and NGO exhibition (Kampala)	Press conference and panel debate coordinated and funded by FENU, NGO exhibition funded by contributions from NGOs
Tues 23 rd April	Radio talk-show (Kampala)	Coordinated and funded by FENU
	World book day and copyright day activities	Coordinated by NABOTU
Thurs 25 th April	Radio talk-show (Gulu)	Coordinated and funded by FENU
	Multi-lingual Education Network meeting	Literacy and Adult Basic Education organization

Fri 26 th April	Quality Public Education Rally (Gulu)	Coordinated and funded by FENU with assistance from the Quality Public Education Campaign.
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The two main activities that members of the access and quality members will be jointly responsible for are the school activity and the NGO exhibition.

School Activity

It was agreed that members would like to incorporate the views of pupils as part of the week. To do this member organizations will use the ‘My education’ tool to work with schools across the country. This tool is in Annex 1 and also attached.

These activities are under the auspices of the individual organizations, not FENU, and therefore the organization’s normal child-protection, consent forms etc should apply.

The information that is gathered by schools will then be collated by the FENU secretariat. All completed forms need to be with the FENU secretariat **by Weds 17th April**. Student’s views will then be incorporated into the speeches at the Rally and we will also present them to the Parliamentary Forum on Quality Education and other decision makers at a later date.

A range of organizations have pledged to carry out this activity across the country:

REGION	ORGANISATION	CONTACT PERSON
NORTH	War child Holland –Abim, Lira, Otuke, Alebtong, Pader	Jackie Okao
	PEAS- Amuria, Kumi	Sarah Milburn
	UNICEF - tbc	Dr. Andrea Valentini
	PLAN UGANDA	Edison Nsubuga
	EDUKANS- ELECU	Seraphine Awacango
	AEPF - Arua	Rose Birungi
WESTERN	PEAS – Mitana, Kigarama	Sarah Milburn
CENTRAL	UNICEF -	Dr. Andrea Valentini
	CLEAN UGANDA- Kampala, Masaka, kalangala	Nkuraija Julius
	IDAY Uganda Kampala, Masaka, Wakiso	Namakula Reginah

	AYPI	Asaba Vincent
	UCC	
	OPEN LEARNING CENTER	Vincent Kizza
	RAISING VOICES-Luwero, Kampala	Willington Ssekade
EASTERN	Build Africa	Senkasi Henry

If other organizations are interested in being involved then please do get in contact with FENU secretariat at anya.whiteside@fenu.or.ug.

NGO Exhibition

Members of the group agreed that they were keen to have an NGO exhibition next door to the press conference and panel debate on Monday 22nd April. The idea would be to have a space and tables available where different organizations can showcase their work on education.

FENU secretariat explained that there are not the funds for FENU to support this exhibition. Members suggested that anyone who wants to exhibit should pay 100,000USH to do so. FENU secretariat agreed to help with the facilitation.

Member organizations who want to exhibit need to inform FENU secretariat by **Weds 10th April**, but the sooner members can let the secretariat know the better. All payments for exhibiting must be received by **Weds 17th April**.

Press coverage

FENU secretariat only has limited funds and capacity and so is limited on securing coverage for Quality Public Education Week. Nonetheless if individual organizations are keen to, they are very welcome to contact the press and work with them on stories to publicize the week or invite them to come along to a school where they undertake the 'My Education' activity. Dixon Ampumuza from the Vision Group attended the meeting and has asked for any organization who is interested in publicizing activities that week to get in contact. His contact details are E-mail: dampumuza@newvision.co.ug, Tel:0312 202 121, Mob: 0772194116.

What do we mean by 'Quality Education'

The access and quality group moved on to discuss what we mean by 'Quality Education'. The group were keen to discuss this issue as there is ever increasing focus on improving the quality of education in Uganda. The following was agreed by the group:

Quality Education

The access and quality thematic group feel that 'quality education' is complex and difficult to define. No definition will be perfect but we believe that Quality Education needs all of the following:

- *Healthy, well nourished learners supported by families and communities*
- *A safe and inclusive learning environment*
- *Relevant and appropriate curricula with teaching and learning materials that builds knowledge and skills for life.*
- *Child-centred, participatory learning delivered by well-trained and supported teachers*
- *Well governed schools at the heart of our communities with active involvement of government families, communities and all involved in education.*

Update from documentation group

The documentation group, which is a small working group looking at how we can better share our data shared a suggested data-collection form with the wider group. There was some debate on whether this would actually be used as all organizations also have their own form. Nonetheless it was agreed that the form should be piloted and then tried. The documentation group need to meet again to follow up on this.

Update from the case study group

The case study group, which is a small working group looking at whether we can produce a booklet of case studies to be used in advocacy reported back to the wider group. The group heard how a meeting at Mango Tree had been very useful in making us realize that we need to tighten up the purpose of the case study booklet. The group now needs to meet to discuss this further.

AOB

Improving Mathematics in schools- Africa Youth Peace Initiative (AYPI)

Asaba Vincent (AYPI) informed the group on work he has been doing on improving mathematics in schools. Asaba informed the group that he had initiated a model and teaching resources to help improve Mathematics performance. He called upon the members who were interested to get in contact with him to discuss joint work on improving the teaching of mathematics.

Menstruation campaign- Build Africa

Build Africa informed the group of the plans for a campaign on menstrual management in schools. The group was informed that all who want to participate in the campaign are welcome and should contact Build Africa.

Edison from Plan informed the group that Plan Uganda researched on how menstruation affects girls. Plan suggested working with Build Africa during the campaign as both are working in the similar issues.

The group agreed that Build Africa will send details on the campaign to the FENU secretariat so that the information is circulated to all interested members.

Comparative Education conference- Plan Uganda

Edison from Plan informed the group that he attended an international comparative education conference. The yearly conference discusses different models used to approach quality education

Actions that came out of this meeting

Action agreed upon	Responsible person/ organization
Use the 'My Education' tool to gather the views of learners to feed into Quality Public Education Week. Forms need to be returned to FENU before 17 th April.	War Child Holland, Peas, UNICEF, Plan, Educans, AEPF, Clean Uganda, IDAYm AYPI, UCC, Open Learning Centre, Raising Voices, Build Africa
Consider any additional activities your organization would like to plan for Quality Public Education Week	Everyone
Talk to those at your organization about whether you would like a stall at the NGO exhibition (cost to exhibit 100,000USH). Inform FENU secretariat if you'd like to exhibit by Weds 10th April (but the sooner members can let the secretariat know the better). All payments for exhibiting must be received by Weds 17th April .	Everyone
Documentation group to meet to discuss the way forward	Documentation group
Case study group to meet to discuss the way forward	Case study group

Next meeting

The group agreed to hold the next meeting on 30th May 2013 at New Vision.

My Education – explanation of tool

‘Quality Public Education Week’ is taking place this year from 22nd-26th April. This is an opportunity for all of us to come together to take action to improve public education in Uganda.

Quality Public Education Week is part of Global Action Week where countries from all over the world take action to improve education.

Quality Public Education Week will include many exciting activities. One of these activities involves asking students from across Uganda what they think about education and how it could be improved. This will then be used to show decision makers what learners think.

On the next page is a tool we are encouraging NGOs to use with some of the schools and learners they work with. The tool asks students to draw a picture of themselves and their school. It asks them to tell us what they like about their school, what could be improved and what makes a good teacher. Students can write their answers to these questions or, if they find it difficult to write, ask someone to write the answers down for them.

The ‘My Education’ sheets should then be returned to the Forum for Education NGOs in Uganda (FENU) before 17th April. The views of pupils will then be used during Quality Public Education week to show decision makers what learners think. Some will be read out at a public education rally in Gulu and some will be presented to the Parliamentary Forum on Quality Education.

Please be aware that these activities are carried out under the auspices of your own organisations and not through FENU. This means that you need to use your organisation’s normal child-protection and consent practices.

If you have any questions please contact Anya Whiteside from FENU on anya.whiteside@fenu.or.ug or give me a ring on 0312 262 154. FENU’s address is plot 58, Block 254 Ggaba Road, Kansanga.

My Education

School:

District:

Class:

Picture of me:

(Draw a picture of yourself here)

- What I like most about my school is:

- If I could change one thing about my school it would be:

- One thing that makes a good teacher is:

Picture of my school:

(Draw a picture of your school here)