



Early Childhood Education thematic group notes *20th November - Uganda Children's Centre*

Introduction

The Forum for Education NGOs in Uganda (FENU) is a national coalition of civil society organisations who work together on joint advocacy to improve education in Uganda. This document outlines notes made at the meeting on 20th November.

Notes

Welcoming

FENU secretariat welcomed participants and explained the aims of the meeting. They shared that this will be the last meeting of the year. They thanked Uganda Children's Centre for hosting.

Update on ESSR

FENU secretariat gave an update on the Education and Sports Sector Review (ESSR). At the last meeting the group spent time discussing what recommendations civil society should take to the ESSR on early childhood education. The agreed recommendations were incorporated into a booklet called 'FENU civil society contribution to ESSR' which outlined civil society's recommendations to the ESSR. Every delegate at the ESSR received a copy of this booklet. FENU also produced a series of 7 posters to highlight some of the key advocacy messages. These were displayed at the ESSR and many ministry and district officials took copies.

This year FENU was unfortunately not given time to present the recommendations, and FENU were only given two invitations to attend, despite the secretariat asking for more so that representatives from the membership could be there.

The outcomes from the ESSR are not yet clear. The final aide memoire and critical undertakings have not been circulated and there seems to be some uncertainty within the Ministry of Education on the way forward. There was talk of a Ministry retreat to further refine the way forward, but it has not been confirmed and funds may be an issue.

FENU secretariat will continue to try to find out what is happening and how civil society can feed in, and will keep the membership updated.

GPE update

The group were updated that Uganda's final submission to the Global Partnership for Education is being considered at the moment and a decision will be communicated imminently. The final application included support to early childhood education.

What next?

This year we have focused on the National Integrated ECD policy and ECD funding among other issues. It is therefore important to think now what we want to focus on next year.

Participants discussed what issues they felt we should focus our advocacy work on next year and the following were highlighted as being particularly important:

- **Global Partnership for Education (GPE)** – including looking at how CSOs can monitor implementation, organising a meeting with Madam Resty to discuss this in relation to ECD etc
- **National Integrated ECD policy framework** – including issues of disseminating, translation, sensitisation, simplified version and monitoring
- **ECD in Education Policy** – including looking at translation, briefing document on our input and inclusion of a separate department, better regulation and a budget line in the revision.
- **Engaging Parliament** – Including developing a briefing on the importance of early childhood education, finding out who ECD champions are etc.
- **FENU briefing on importance of early childhood education** – to give to Parliamentarians and Ministry officials.

Reporting back to the AGM

FENU secretariat asked for a representative from the group to report back to the FENU AGM on the 28th Nov to give a short update on what the group has been working on over 2013. Susan Asio from Ka Tutandike kindly offered to feed back.

Working groups

FENU secretariat explained that next year we want to have more involvement in the Ministry of Education working groups, where important decisions are made. One way forward would be to have two individuals from different organisations as ‘FENU representatives’ for each working group. They would be responsible for attending the working groups and feeding back to the membership on what happened. Participants felt this was a good idea and the following organisations are either already involved or expressed an interest in being involved:

- Basic education (Stromme foundation, AYPI)
- Teacher education (AYPI)
- BTVET (Uganda Children’s Centre)
- ECD (Stromme foundation)
- Gender taskforce (Ka Tutandike)

Feedback questionnaires

Participants were asked to fill out questionnaires on FENU’s work over 2013 so that FENU can learn and improve in the future.

Action Points

Action points	Responsible person/ organization
Set up a meeting with Madam Resty to ask how civil society can be part of the monitoring in relation to ECD (Mid Jan)	Anya, FENU secretariat
Anya and James to discuss with wider FENU secretariat and membership how FENU will be involved in GPE monitoring more generally.	Anya, James, FENU secretariat
Set up a meeting with the consultant, NCC, FENU, MoGLSD and UCC and Ka Tutandike to discuss NIECD policy framework	FENU secretariat, KA Tutandike, UCC
Send Madam Resty an e-mail asking about timeline for review of ECD education policy and contact NCC to find out who ECD champions are.	Anya, FENU secretariat

Add 'please confirm' to bottom of e-mails about meetings	FENU secretariat.
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Next meeting

The next meeting will be in the first week of March at Stromme Foundation.