



Emergencies in Education thematic group

Notes from 18th June 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 EIE notes made at the meeting on 18th June 2013 at the DES.

Notes from meeting

Action points from the previous EIE meeting (Anya FENU)

Anya updated the group on the previous meeting's action points. The group was pleased to learn that all the action points of the previous EIE meeting were fulfilled.

Update and discussion on forming an EIE working group within MoES (Mr. Kajumba DES)

Mr Kajumba informed the group that the P.S (Permanent Secretary) in MoES (Ministry of Education and Sports) retired from the post before finalising the formation of an EIE working group. Mr. Kajumba informed the group that he was advised by MoES to re-submit to the new P.S.

Mr. Kajumba will re-send the proposal to the EIE group members for any additions before the proposal is re-submitted to the new P.S.

Natural disasters (Mr. Kajumba DES)

Mr. Kajumba updated the group on the floods that destroyed the bridge between Kasese and Fort Portal .This disaster left schools, teachers' houses among others affected. He noted that though OPM (Office of the Prime Minister) together with different individual groups like Red Cross among others responded after a few hours, joint response to this disaster came after 3 weeks which is a long time.

The group agreed that there is need for joint response to come earlier so that the people receive help when it's early to prevent more damage. The group agreed to discuss the process for disaster preparedness and response at the next meeting to see what could be improved.

Update from vision in action on needs assessment at Rwamwanje (Mr. Evans Vision in action)

Mr. Evans updated the group on a research made by Vision in action on the refugees in Rwamwanje. He informed the group that the most pressing issue in the camp was overcrowding in the few schools. The teacher- pupil ratio is around 1:200 in most of the schools. Below are some of the issues faced in the camp;

- ❖ Teachers lack accommodation near the school and have to walk long distances to get to school
- ❖ There is a lot of dropout from older children who cannot understand the lessons as they are in English
- ❖ Some students have missed a lot of education and would be keen to catch up and also have vocational training

Discussion on joint advocacy on education in areas with many refugees

Below are suggestions of advocacy issues as suggested by individuals. The group noted that sorting out the advocacy issues below is quite complicated. The group agreed that a smaller technical group meet in July so that the issues are sorted and presented at the next meeting for discussion.

One issue that was discussed is that UNEB does not have equation to the Congo certificates as it has for other countries. Mr. Onyango (UNHCR) informed the group that UNHCR will have a meeting with UNEB and hopefully this meeting will answer this issue. The small group will meet after this meeting with UNEB.

Suggested advocacy issues

TO MoES

1. Creation of an EIE and/or refugee education budget at ministry level line (EIE working group to advocate)
2. Revise the UPE and USE. The government has to purely make UPE and USE free of charge otherwise these small requirements in UPE make the whole concept very expensive for refugees.
3. Creation of an English learning centre.
4. Creation of a learning centre within a reasonable distance.
5. Creation of vocational schools.
6. The MoES with support should handle child protection and education issues during emergency.
7. We should advocate to MoES to effectively crackdown on teachers charging compulsory remedial fees in schools
8. MoES and OPM should devise means on how to translate and interpret academic papers for refugees who have qualification from their countries of origin.
9. No provision for learners with SNE (Special Needs in Education). MoES should consider modification of schools to cater for the disabled children. Therefore, as a group we need to advocate for MoES to increase funding for special needs.
10. Recruiting of more teachers specifically for areas with many refugees.
11. Special training for teachers in refugee areas.
12. Close supervision of education in these areas.
13. The government through MoES should demand for more teacher recruitment from the public service ministry.
14. Academic certification equation framework especially diploma
15. Accreditation of teacher certificate obtained in country of origin (MoES)
16. Access to post primary education
17. Government to increase the MoES budget. This will help in teacher training and recruitment hence bridging the gap of both teacher ceiling and teacher pupil ratio.
18. Double shifting for schools which are overcrowded.

TO OPM

1. Creation of response units for Congolese refugees living in Uganda.
2. UNCHR in collaboration with network Congolese to establish communication in response to accessing proper education.
3. Engage refugee teachers and take care of them.

TO others

Teacher ceiling: Districts to include refugees in enrolment numbers when reporting for teacher ceiling.
Ministry of public service should take refugee enrolment into account when setting ceilings.

Actions that came out of the meeting

Action agreed upon	Responsible person/ organization
Circulate report on flooding.	Kajumba DES
List common themes (from list compiled by Els) in EIE to be discussed at the next meeting in order to improve cooperation.	Anya FENU
Circulate Terms Of Reference for the working group this week.	FENU and DES
Resubmit Working group TOR to the new Permanent Secretary by end of June 2013	Kajumba DES
Summarize the advocacy issues suggested by the group on refugee education and circulate	Anya FENU
Meet with UNEB to discuss problems with exam equation	James, UNHCR
Organise small meeting in July after UNCHR has held a meeting with UNEB to analyse the priorities of the group	Anya FENU
Feedback on the suggested priorities	All members

AOB

Next meeting

The group agreed that the next date will be communicated after holding the small meeting which will discuss the advocacy issues.