



Emergencies in Education thematic group notes
Tuesday 26th November – Directorate of Education Standards

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 26th November.

Notes

Welcoming

Joseph Kajumba (DES) welcomed participants and explained the aims of the meeting.

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 Education in Emergencies. 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.

Working group

Mr Kajumba informed the group that he submitted the paper requesting for a working group to the Permanent secretary and is waiting for feedback. He also gave the group exciting information that EiE as a group was able to solicit for a separate portion from the budget to cater for DRR starting 2014/2015. This money will help to fund trainings with DRRs and will also facilitate activities like the EiE meetings.

Mr Kajumba promised to inform the participants once the P.S responds.

Certificate Equation Network

For Congolese refugees (and all other students) to study in Uganda a certification equation framework between Uganda and DRC needs to be developed as none currently exists. This interrupts studies of refugees as it's difficult to gauge the academic stage they were at. This issue was brought forward by some NGOs working with refugees. Below is what has been done so far;

- James (UNHCR), Anya (FENU) and UNICEF went to talk to the person in charge of certificate equation at UNEB. However, the tricky bit is that Uganda and Congo as two countries need to agree on this.
- UNICEF contacted their colleagues in Congo
- UNHCR contacted Congo for a letter requesting the procession of the certificate.

The participants were also informed that due to examinations, there has been stalling and this process will continue next year. The NGOs working on this issue decided to deal with the examination boards in Congo and Uganda since this is the fastest method. However, if this fails, the embassies will be contacted to intervene.

Update from the refugees and education group

A group of refugee organisations have formed to work specifically on refugee education issues. This group will enable more detailed work on this issue and will feed into the wider Education in Emergencies group.

It was suggested that the working group needs to focus on more issues. For example there are many refugee children who are not in school. To this, the participants agreed that the group needs to review its strategy and gauge the issues that they can add on the advocacy list.

Reporting back to the AGM

Mr Joseph Kajumba will represent the Education in Emergencies group at the FENU AGM and feedback the work of the group over the year.

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: the participants also hoped that next year EiE will be a full MoES working group.

- Basic education (PPDR, Inter Aid)

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.

A.O.B

Anya (FENU) informed the group about a new thematic group that will start operating next year. The youth and adult education will address issues affecting informal education (skills and development, BTVET, Non formal education, adult education)

Action Points

| Action points | Responsible person/ organization |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Set up a meeting with DRC exam centre in Uganda to find out contact details in DRC for examination board | Pecos, PPDR |
| Follow up with UNEB’s letter to examination board in DRC – early | FENU, UNICEF, UNHCR |

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| January | |
| Meet and discuss how to disseminate information on translation & discuss refugee education working group's work | Inter Aid, UNHCR and Refugee community |
| Follow up on working group TORs. | Joseph(DES) |

Date and venue of next meeting

The group agreed to hold the next meeting in the 3rd week of January at DES. The date will be communicated.