

**Notes- Education Task Force Meeting**

**September 25th, 2013**

**9:00-12:00 Hours EST, UNICEF House, New York**

**Agenda:**

* Introductions
* Governance of the Education Task Force
* Brainstorming on Priorities for Task Force workplan
* Draft Workplan, stocktake by participants and allocation of responsibilities

**Meeting Co-Chairs:** UNICEF (Dr. Changu Mannathoko) and UNESCO (Ms. Florence Migeon)

**Participants:** Please see Annex 1 for list of participants.

**Meeting Proceedings:**

**Opening remarks and Introductions:**

1. Dr. Changu Mannathoko, Senior Advisor, Education Section, UNICEF HQ made welcome remarks and opened the Education Task Force (TF) meeting. Dr Mannathoko invited participants to introduce themselves and highlighted that the priority of the meeting and the work planning process was to take stock of the work of each member and identify areas of comparative advantage and synergies to support the goals of the Task Force. She highlighted the importance of enhancing the ownership and shared responsibility of Task Force members in the operationalization of the workplan for 2013-2015.

**Background, Goals and Achievements of the Task Force:**

1. Initial observations about the goals, results and coordination mechanism of the Task Force in Year 1 were made by the current co-chairs, UNICEF and UNESCO.
2. UNICEF and UNESCO shared the main objectives and achievements (see Annex 2) of the Task Force during 2012-2013:

Key Achievements:

* Inclusion of disability specific outcome in the Global Partnership for Education’s (GPE) Implementation Plan- covering Accessibility, Data, Teacher Education.
* Contribution to the global online Education Consultation on Post-2015 hosted on the World We Want portal in February 2013.
* Contribution to the consultations on the High Level Meeting on Disability and Development.
* Roll out of a Knowledge community on inclusive education.
* Survey on Article 24 on the challenges to the right to education for persons with disabilities from a policy perspective to be launched shortly.

**Task Force Communication:**

1. UNESCO shared that a Knowledge Community (KC) on Inclusive Education had been launched on the UNESCO ICT portal, however, engagement from Task Force members had been low and it needed to be seen how engagement, ownership of the KC could be enhanced.
2. So far, communication of the TF has been through emails and updates sent through the GPcwd Secretariat but all TF members have not received these. The membership list needs to be reviewed against the email list.
* **Action Point:** More full-proof **method of communication needs to be determined and intimated to the entire TF by Nov 15th 2013.** Until then communication will continue through email.

**Task Force Governance and Functioning:**

1. UNICEF shared that currently UNICEF and UNESCO were co-chairs of the TF and met bi-monthly. Suggestions were made from participants about the need for representation from Organizations of People with Disabilities (DPOs) and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in the core group of the Task Force. It was suggested that there be **4 co-chairs- UNICEF, UNESCO, International Disability Alliance (IDA) and International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC).**
* **Action Point:** The 4 co-chairs are to draft a **ToR on the functioning of the Steering Committee** and their roles by Dec 3rd 2013.
* Follow up with **IDA and IDDC for appointment of a representative** each (update: IDDC has appointed Jane Anthony, Able Child Africa, as its representative to the Steering Committee)
1. UNICEF shared that there had been discussions on the setting up of a technical advisory committee for the Education Task Force comprising global and regional experts on Inclusive Education and Disability to guide the work of the Task Force and opened the suggestion for discussion by participants. The participants decided that it would be better to have working groups comprising different Task Force members.
2. As a result of brainstorming during the meeting the following **4 working groups were formed and interim focal points appointed-**
3. **Pedagogy and learning-** Focal point, Charmaine Crockett, University of Hawaii
4. **Learning environment-** Focal point, Mona Indargiri, Harvard Law School Project on Disability
5. **Teachers and Education Personnel capacity-** Focal Point,Paula Frederica Hunt, UNICEF CEE/CIS Regional Office
6. **Child and youth participation-** Focal Point, Jenny Nilsson, Human Rights Watch
7. **2 cross-cutting sub-groups were also formed-**
* Policy and legislation, post 2015 Working Group- Focal Point, Gabriele Weigt, Disability and Development Cooperation
* Knowledge Management Working Group- Focal point, TBD
* **Action Point- Focal point for Knowledge Management to be appointed by Nov 8th 2013.**

The Task Force Steering Committee is responsible for ensuring regular meetings of the policy and knowledge management sub-groups and synergies with the other Working Groups (WG). Each WG to appoint a representative to the policy and knowledge management working groups.

* **Action Point-** WG focal points to share 1 paragraph descriptions of their group by September 30th 2013 which will be sent out by Education Steering Committee to the entire TF so that members can sign up based on their interest and work area.

**Task Force Work Planning 2013-2015:**

Meeting henceforth chaired by Florence Migeon, UNESCO.

1. Given the duration of the meeting and the need for the larger TF members to contribute to decision-making it was decided that once members had signed up to the TF WGs, the following action points will be needed:

**Action Points**

* WGs to convene week of Nov 3rd 2013.
* Each WG will share 2-3 priorities and action points for the TF workplan.
* Stocktake survey on the work and expertise of current members, countries and regions of their operations will be rolled out so that members can contribute as per their comparative advantage and take more shared responsibility of the work of the TF over 2013-2015. Charmaine Crockett from University of Hawaii will develop the first draft of the survey design. This will be refined by the Steering Committee, Knowledge Management WG and shared with the entire TF.
* Knowledge Management WG to create short leaflet on the Education Taskforce.
* UNESCO will send invitations to task force members for contribution to the survey on Article 24 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)-Right to Education mentioned above.

**Inter-Task Force collaboration:**

1. Given the multi-sectoral nature of inclusive education, it was felt that better collaboration would be needed with other Task Forces.
* **Action Point: UNICEF will be responsible for proposing and following up on establishment of mechanism for inter Task Force collaboration with the GPcwd Secretariat.**

**Conclusion:**

Meeting concluded with agreement on the all the above-mentioned action points.

**Annex 1**

**List of Participants:**

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| Abu Osama Abdalla Mohamed Taktook | Republic of Sudan,National Council for Persons with Disabilities |
| Ahmed Bannaga | Tawsol Al-amal Charity Org |
| Aubrey Webson | Perkins International |
| Bolajoko O. Olusanya  | Centre for Healthy Start Initiative |
| Candace Cable | Paralympian, Disability Awareness and Inclusion Educator |
| Carolyn Alesbury | Save the Children |
| Jane Anthony | Able Child Africa |
| Gabriele Weigt | Disability and Development Cooperation |
| Molly Eberhardt\* | Results for Development Institute |
| Mona Indargiri | Harvard Disability Project |
| Natasha Graham | Global Partnership for Education |
| Paula Frederica Hunt | UNICEF CEE CIS |
| Tshering Yangzom | Bhutan Foundation |
| Chairmaine Crockett | University of Hawaii |
| Gabriel Mayr | UEECE Sports |
| Hitomi Honda | World Vision |
| Nancy Maguire | PA Richard Rieser |
| Maguli Shaghashuli | First Step Georgia |
| Felipe Ferreira | Escola De Gente |
| Hend Alshowaier | Prince Salman Centre for Disability Research |
| Shanta Rau Barriga | Human Rights Watch |
| Jenny Nilsson | Human Rights Watch |
| Maryam Farzanegan | University of Southern California |
| Richard Rieser\* | World of Inclusion  |
| Nolan Quigley\* | Lumos Foundation |
| Florence Migeon | UNESCO HQ |
| Changu Mannathoko | UNICEF HQ |
| Stephanie Hodge | UNICEF HQ |
| Sreerupa Mitra | UNICEF HQ |

\*Remotely through teleconference.

**Annex 2**

**Education Task Force Plan of Action for the First Year (2012-13) and Achievements**

1. Produce an advocacy document to influence the strategies of the **Global Partnership on Education (GPE)** and Reading achievement, as well as the Global Learning Metrics (Brookings Institute).  Develop clear and concrete suggestions on the three specific strands highlighted in the Background Note on Inclusive Education: (1) using existing funding to build accessibility and inclusion instead of barriers; 2) investing in teacher training for disability-inclusive education; and 3) collecting data for evidence building and progress monitoring.

The Education Task Force prepared and circulated an advocacy document with the above recommendations on (1) Accessibility, (2) Teacher Education, (3) Data during the November 2012 Board Meeting of the GPE. UNICEF reiterated the same recommendations and inclusion of a disability specific outcome in the GPE’s implementation plan during GPE’s Board Meeting in May 2013. The Implementation Plan was approved with the addition of a disability specific inclusive education outcome covering accessibility, data and teacher training.

The Task Force’s contributions to the post 2015 education discussion and High Level Meeting on Disability and Development also focused on data, accessibility and teacher training.

1. Develop guidance addressing the full implementation of Article 24 of the CRPD and use it to influence the High Level Meeting on Disability and Development.

An advocacy document was produced to influence the High Level meeting on Disability and Development (HLMDD). This document was submitted during the official online consultations of the HLMDD. Through the Knowledge Community the Task Force is launching a survey on Article 24 which will facilitate the development of this guide.

1. Establish a coordinating procedure to link all interested parties in a global community of interest and map a network of all interested stakeholders to develop concrete proposals and follow through on developing documents related to item 2.

Knowledge Community (KC) on Inclusive Education established and hosted on UNESCO ICT portal- 205 registered members at present.

1. Establish a list-serve to share good practices (yahoo group).

This is being done through the GPcwd group email and update. The KC should increasingly support the sharing of good practice and this needs to be strengthened going forward.