

Online Meeting of Sub-group 1: “Coordination”

Date: 7 April 2020, 16h (GMT)

Participants: AfDB, ANCEFA, CAMES, ECHO, Educo, IPE-UNESCO, Plan International, Save the Children, SOS, UNESCO, UNHCR et UNICEF

Moderation : Elena Locatelli, UNICEF

Introduction

The COVID 19 pandemic has led to the closing of schools in all WCA countries. The period for closings has been prolonged until further notice (until the end of the crisis or the end of the school year).

Following a meeting of the RCG4-WCA Steering Team and two meetings of the EiE WG, the EiE WG and the RCG4-WCA decided to organize a joint response by creating three sub-groups which will work on priority interventions areas in the COVID 19 response: (1) Coordination, (2) Learning and (3) Data and monitoring.

The mission of sub-group 1, “Coordination,” is to organize and coordinate a joint response between members of both the RCG4-WCA and the EiE WG in order to support, as efficiently as possible, WCA governments in their education responses to this crisis.

The meeting objectives include :

- Define specific objectives for the sub-group
- Identify two organizations to lead and co-lead the sub-group.

Discussion

In response to the question on the impetus of the creation of the sub-group on coordination, it was reiterated that the creation of the 3 sub-groups was decided by the two regional groups (EiE and RCG4-WCA). The EiE WG held two meetings last week wherein members agreed on three sub-groups to respond to priority areas of intervention.

On the question of the longevity of the sub-groups, it was explained that they will operate throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Afterwards, the sub-groups will be dissolved, but the EiE WG and the RCG4-WCA will continue to pursue their mandates as normal.

Concerning coordination between EiE WG and RCG4-WCA, several proposals were made on the appropriate modality to adopt. The EiE WG could take the lead and continue to coordinate with actors on the ground, notably the Education Clusters. It was also suggested that the RCG4-WCA should coordinate support to governments. It was emphasized that the two groups had decided to work together in the spirit of partnership in order to take advantage of the areas of expertise of each actor and to ensure a holistic and efficient response within the countries in the region.

There are multiple initiatives within each agency and organization, therefore efficient coordination is indispensable to ensure efficient action. The RCG4-WCA Secretariat will participate in the sub-group to link to its plenary group. The EiE WG coordinators will do the same for its members.

Next steps

UNHCR is available to co-lead, but would need another co-lead. Participants will reflect on their capacity to lead the sub-group.

In order to clarify the mission and objectives of the sub-group, UNICEF, UNHCR and UNESCO will work together on a first draft of the sub-group's TOR, including a proposed action plan. This document will be shared with participants for their comments before the end of the week.

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, April 14th at 14:00 (GMT).