Online Meeting of Sub-group 2: "Learning"

Date: 8 April 2020, 14h (GMT)
Participants: CONFEMEN, DRC, ECOWAS, HI, IFEF, NRC, Plan International, Save the Children, Sightsavers, UNESCO, UNHCR, UNICEF and the World Bank
Moderation: Charlotte Berquin, UNHCR

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.

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.

Mission of the sub-group

Sub-group 2 on « Learning » aims to compile distance learning resources from governments and partners, determine how to adapt these resources to different contexts and provide them to governments to ensure good practices are distributed throughout the region. Emphasis will be placed on equity and inclusion in the process in order to ensure the continuity of education for all learners.

Sub-group 2 aims to establish a single line of communication between al partners and the governments in a coordinated manner. This will be further discussed by Sub-group 1, "Coordination."

The work of the sub-group will be of a technical nature.

Lead and co-lead of the sub-group

The sub-group needs a lead and a co-lead. The responsibilities of the leads/co-leads are as follows:

- Define general guidance to the sub-group and develop a work plan in consultation with members of the sub-group, which will be updated regularly and according to the evolution of the situation in the region.

- Organize regular meetings for monitoring and sharing information and share meeting reports with the coordinators of the EiE WG and the RCG4-WCA Secretariat.
- Send important information to members of the team
- Coordinate the implementation of activities defined in the work plan
- Monitor the implementation of activities and complete reporting to the EiE coordinators and the RCG4-WCA secretariat

Save the Children and IFEF are interested in becoming co-leads. They will confirm their availability after internal consultation.

Objectives of the sub-group
The participants discussed several objectives and established five priority areas:
1. Create a mapping of distance education initiatives put in place by countries
2. Share good practices ("what works"/"what doesn't work") and ensure knowledge management between members and with countries.
3. Create a repertoire of existing resources at the global level that can be adapted to different contexts in the region, including the translation of resources
4. Monitor the accessibility and inclusivity of resources to ensure that all learners with different profiles can continue to learn from distance during this time
5. Support teacher and ensure that resources for learning evaluation are available, especially to prepare for the re-opening of schools.

Three transversal themes were also identified:
- The importance of parental engagement
- Classification of resource based on levels (pre-primary, primary and secondary)
- Reinforcement of learners' resilience and availability of psycho-social resources to learners.

Next steps
UNHCR, UNICEF and UNESCO will integrate the five priority areas into the terms of reference (TOR) and will share them for participants' comments. For each priority area, organizations can add their activities directly into the work plan table within the TOR.

The sub-group will organize its next meeting shortly.