**Education Thematic Working Group (ETWG)**

**Education and Disability Sub-group**

**Terms of Reference**

**Context**

The Education Thematic Working Group (ETWG) has established a number of sub-groups in key technical areas in line with jointly identified priorities of EFA. These sub-groups are responsive to the context and evolve as deemed appropriate by members.

In light of the post-2015 global development agenda, and current education reform process in Myanmar, which are based on the key principles of equity and inclusion, it is timely to establish a Sub-Working group on Education and Disability. Myanmar signed the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities in 2012, and is currently developing a national law for implementation of the Convention. This will include education rights, and a number of education laws are under development.

Globally, it is noted that children with disabilities are most at risk of being excluded from education. Current figures for Myanmar indicate that 53 percent of children with disabilities are out of school. The reform process provides an opportunity to ensure that children with disabilities are able to enjoy their rights to a quality education.

**Purpose**

To provide a platform for coordination, learning, advocacy and joint action for organisations working on education and disability in Myanmar

**Functions**

***Advocacy***

* Awareness raising including
	+ Public awareness raising on the Disability Law, Education Laws, and other relevant laws
	+ Public awareness raising to challenge social norms and stigma
* Policy dialogue with Ministry of Social Welfare and Ministry of Education, and relevant decision makers (including parliamentarians)
* Commission research on inclusive education in Myanmar
* Identify areas for joint action
* Identify, develop and share resources – technical, financial, other.
* Link to JESWG through ETWG

***Coordination and linkages***

* Supporting cohesive and consistent programmes, approaches and messages. This could include
	+ Sharing materials like booklets for parents
	+ Developing publications and resources and sharing existing resources
	+ Bringing together existing training modules
	+ Developing common standards and best practice
* Sharing information about who is doing what where (3Ws) – through MIMU and including setting up a web page as part of the ETWG pages (to be established on MIMU)
* Organizing sharing of resources
* Coordination between disability actors and education actors
* Coordination with
	+ wider ETWG, JESWG
	+ other sectors including TVET, Health and Protection sectors

***Capacity building***

* Develop a community of practice on education and disability
* Invite international and national experts to provide training/facilitate workshops
* Sharing information about trainings and events (ETWG newsletter)
* Convene seminars and workshops
* Link up with regional networks and events

**Membership**

* This group is a task oriented group.
* It is open to all organizations with an interest in education for children, youth and adults with disabilities. This includes:
	+ Disabled People’s Organisations,
	+ government
	+ non-government partners
	+ organizations in and outside of Yangon
* criteria for participation include:
	+ regular attendance at meetings
	+ commitment to share resources with the group
	+ willingness to foster inclusive participation, particularly of people with disabilities
* Efforts will be made support inclusive participation in all aspects of the functioning of the group, for example wheelchair access, signing for hearing impaired members.
* Meetings will take place predominantly in Myanmar language

**Chairs**

The chairs of the group will be nominated from amongst the group’s members. For the first 6 months the group will be co-chaired by VSO and the Myanmar Education Consortium (MEC) (as agreed at the ETWG special meeting on disability), after which the elections will take place on an annual basis.

**Meetings**

The sub-group will meet regularly and also convene ad hoc special meetings aligned with the ETWG meeting schedule.

**Planning and Reporting**

The group will develop an annual work plan and report on outcomes annually to the ETWG co-chairs.

**Budget**

* ETWG budget to cover administrative expenses of meetings
* Other partners will including (but not limited to) MEC and VSO could co-sponsor special events, etc.