**Education thematic working group (ETWG) Meeting:**

**Consultation on CESR Phase 1**

**Rapid Assessment - draft Findings and Recommendations**

**8:30 -5:00 PM, 8th April l2013**

**CESR Office**

**Draft Minutes**

* Dr. Zaw Myint, Deputy-Director of Higher Education Department, (Lower Myanmar), Ministry of Education, warmly welcomed to everyone to the ETWG meeting, and thanked UNICEF and Save the Children as Co-Chairs of the ETWG for their support. Dr. Zaw Myint outlined the purpose of the meeting, namely to provide an opportunity for the Ministry of Education (MoE) to consult with ETWG members on the draft Findings and Recommendations of the Rapid Assessment report produced under Phase 1 of the MoE’s Comprehensive Education Sector Review (CESR). Dr. Zaw Myint also provided an overview of the CESR process, which will inform education sector reform.
* Ms Jane Davies, Education Specialist (Policy) for UNICEF and ETWG Co-Chair, emphasised that working together in a coordinated way delivers stronger results, and that the ETWG looked forward to working together with all partners to support coordination in the sector reform process, which would help build an education system that benefits all the people in Myanmar. Ms Davies also expressed particular thanks to the Ministry of Education for kindly hosting the meeting, and to the CESR technical team who prepared the presentation and logistic arrangements. She also thanked all participants for their support in joining the meeting.
* Ms. Philippa Ramsden, Education Programme Advisor, Save the Children and ETWG Co-Chair, provided background on how the ETWG had been established in July 2009, following Cyclone Nargis the year before. Once the emergency response was completed, work had moved forwards to the development stage, the cluster system was de-activated, and Thematic Working Groups were established, including for education. In addition to the Nargis-affected area, the ETWG had then expanded to support coordination across the sector, and more broadly across the country to work together to achieve education for all children. Ms Ramsden emphasised that all partners are working towards a shared goal and purpose, to ensure that all children, youth and adults in Myanmar are able to achieve a quality education.
* In all, eight CESR technical team members from MoE presented the draft Phase 1 Rapid Assessment findings and recommendations to the participants in the following areas:

 1) Early Childhood Care and Development

 2) PLM, Structure, Multigrade, Monastic

 3) Curriculum, Assessment, Textbook

 4) Quantitative, Financing and Stakeholders

 5) Non Formal Education

 6) Teacher Education

 7) Technical Vocational Education Training and

 8) Higher Education[[1]](#footnote-1)

* After the technical team presentation, all participants were invited to break into eight discussion groups on these topics, in accordance with their areas of interest and expertise. Discussion points for each technical team were to note where they:
1. Agreed with the draft findings and recommendations (why?)
2. Disagreed on the findings/recommendations (why?)
3. Added further points and suggestions on the findings/recommendations (with reasons)
* After the Group Work, all discussion points were recorded on flip charts and stuck around the walls, and all participants were invited to view the postings in a ‘gallery walk’, and provide suggestions and comments to each team. Each group then compiled all their feedback and suggestions onto laptops for presentation to all participants
* After the Gallery Walk, all participants gathered again in plenary and Daw Tin Tin Shu, CESR Task Manager for MoE presented the feedback from each group’s work for further comment by the whole group. All suggestions and feedback from the lively discussion were fully documented and carefully recorded. Participants’ feedback broadly validated the Ministry’s findings and recommendations, with comments focusing on points to be added. Daw Tin Tin Shu elaborated that the feedback would be analysed to see which points: (i) could be incorporated into the Phase 1 Rapid Assessment Report; (ii) could be incorporated into the in-depth analysis in Phase 2; or (ii) were outside the current scope and resource availability of the CESR, but would be documented for consideration going forward
* As a final activity, the Facilitator introduced the concept of building a shared vision for education in Myanmar, and invited all participants to write down their own vision on the form provided by CESR team, and then collected all the forms. The Facilitator then drew out some vision statements and read them aloud to the audience.
* On behalf of UNICEF and Save the Children as Co-Chairs of the ETWG, Ms. Jane Davies and Ms. Philippa Ramsden thanked all participants once again, particularly commending the Ministry of Education for their openness and transparency in inviting feedback on their CESR work to date. They also expressing appreciation to ETWG members for their active engagement in sharing their technical expertise and field experience throughout the day, which had helped ensure that perspectives from grass roots implementation were reflected in the draft. The ETWG Co-Chairs both looked forward to continuing close collaboration between the MoE and ETWG to support the education sector reform process going forward
1. See handout attached [↑](#footnote-ref-1)