

INITIAL MEETING WITH NGOs AND LINS ON 20th OF FEBRUARY

Present:

Guro Nesbakken	LINS administrator: hiv/aids, peer education in secondary school
Janne Lexow	LINS/DECO: child labour, emergency education, hiv/aids, SWAP
Hanne Aaby	Salvation Army, Project Secretary
Inger Marit Nygaard:	Salvation Army, International Development Section. Funded by NORAD and Bistandsnemnda. Hiv/aids and Education. Travelled around the world.
Synnøve Vestheim:	Salvation Army. 20 years in South America, Peru, Indonesia. Mission, development and relief work. Presently project in Tanzania and Kenya. Integration +inclusion for handicapped children in primary school.
Berit Østreng:	Utdanningsforbundet (prev. Lærerforbundet and Norsk Lærerlag) Education Society, International Section. Working to define a new identity and a way ahead. Framework agreement with NORAD, 8 mill. NOK. Solidarity work and political aspects. 24 mill teachers around the world. Planning a seminar in June on "Solidarity work seen from the South".
Brit Schumann	Project co-ordinator for Utdanningsforbundet. 30 projects in Latin America, Asia and Africa. Organisational and educational purposes, emergency education.
Kathrine Blyverket:	Utdanningsforbundet (was previously with Lærerforbundet). Working on educational projects, esp. teacher education in Palestine, vocational education in South Africa and Palestine, project in Egypt. Supports university Nicaragua to keep teachers in the region and give them better education.
Elisabeth Reizer:	Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC). Developing Youth Package for illiterate youth. Literacy material for emergency situations in Sierra Leone
Bjørn Rongevær	PLAN Norge programme director: UN Convention on Right of the Child. Early childhood care. Education. Vocational training. Emergency education. Educational programmes worldwide. Handicapped children in Sri Lanka: integrating handicapped into regular school programme. West Africa: Guinea (girl child), Sierra Leone (re-integration project). Partners: WB, UNESCO
Eldrid Midtun:	Educational adviser for NRC. Education to be recognised as 4 th pillar of humanitarian assistance. (food, shelter, medicines and education). Developing generic material for emergencies. Angola, Burundi, Sierra Leone, Uganda and Goma. Refugees in Pakistan. Human Rights in Armenia, Azerbaijdjan, Georgia. Afghan refugees in Pakistan. Columbia: support to internally displaced. Indonesia consortium. Network conference Dakar 2000. Global group/network for emergency education (UNICEF Paris, NY, Care US, Save the children US and NRC steering group): Monitoring & evaluation, post primary education/non formal, networking. Anyone can sign up for this network, share experience.
Anders Wirak.	LINS/DECO: Ethiopia, Educaid
Liv N. Haraldsen	LINS Secretary
Robert Smith	LINS Centre Leader

General discussion:

- Discussed major educational reforms taking place in Zambia (basket funding), Malawi and Uganda (free education for up to 4 children).
- Need to find a way of sharing resources and knowledge without stepping on each other toes (avoid being in the same country and the same area at the same time, or seek co-operation?). Need to find out how to learn from other NGOs, possible mapping of NGOs and resources in the educational field.
Noted attempt 10 years ago in Mozambique to map Norwegian NGOs. Result showed that many Norwegian NGOs worked in the same area at the same time without knowing about each other. Might be competition between NGOs, should be more co-ordinated.
- The importance of having a forum was noted. The target for 2015 is to have all children in school, thus worrying that support for education is declining. In the strategy plan for poverty reduction, education is priority number one. How can we as NGOs influence the political agenda? We should bring NORAD to the table and discuss this. There is a Nordic Conference to be co-hosted by Hilde Frafjord Johnsen and Kristin Clemet. (Nordisk Ministerråd). Will take place here in June as a follow-up to Dakar. Norwegian UNESCO Commission will take part as only NGO. How to initiate a dialogue?

The Salvation Army shared a frustration on the dilemma of choosing what to prioritise, when the Minister in one meeting calls for hiv/aids to be the major priority and at the next meeting to prioritise education. There is not enough money to prioritise both!

Utdanningsforbundet underlined that they are not a development aid organisation, rather a solidarity organisation. Thus focus should be educational issues related to the South, not merely development aid. They focus on the situation of teachers in the South.

NRC expressed a wish for looking at how to include an educational emergency plan in national educational strategies, since this was set up as a goal at the Dakar conference. What are the implications, and what should such a plan look like?

Educational Network/Forum:

Decided upon forming an educational forum. The purpose of this forum should be to share experiences, gain insight and understanding, as well as influence NORAD policies. LINS will be the co-ordinator of the network. We will exchange information and call for meetings, in order to get it rolling. (Educaid could be used for the minutes from the meeting).

Importance of linking up with Bistandstorvet was underlined.

At the next meeting we will look more in depth on a specific issue; educational reforms was suggested, as well as looking at budget for next year. Contributions would be welcomed.

Date for next meeting: Week 15: April 9th at 0900 – 1100 at HiO.

Noted that LINS has an archive with resources, working on making these more accessible through website development. The new website should be finalised during March.

LINS is trying to arrange a meeting with Hilde Frafjord Johnson at HiO.