

MINUTES FROM NGO-FORUM TUESDAY MAY 28th

Present: Ane Haaland, Scanteam, Atle Karlsen, Scanteam, Svend Søyland, PLAN Norge, Bjørn Rongevær, PLAN Norge, Synneva Vestheim, Frelsesarméen, Robert Smith and Guro Nesbakken

Apologies: Eric Severin, Flyktningerådet, Ingvild Langhus, CCM, Kari Øyen, Kirkens Nødhjelp, Pia Reierson, Strømmestiftelsen

Welcome and introduction by Robert L. Smith

Noted that most NGOs were left out of the interministerial meeting June 4th and 5th.

Noted a number of central issues facing NGOs in the field as well as on a policy level, among these decentralisation, early childhood development, quality vs. quantity, increasing need for secondary education. Informed that NORAD is drafting a new strategy for the Education Sector in development co-operation, and commented on some of the possible tendencies.

Open discussion

A discussion on educational challenges commonly faced by the NGOs followed, with a specific focus on the following issues:

- *learning* as concept rather than education
- fitness for purpose important
- Rights based education, empowerment tool
- education as a political issue; e.g. critical thinking
- various sorts of NGOs needed, e.g direct or indirect advocacy role
- HR organisations may work both inside out and outside in

Discussion on the policy document on education

Some tentative trends were presented and commented on by RLS.

- NORAD will probably consolidate the countries they are already prioritising
- noted a heavy emphasis on basic education, especially subjects like life skills, health, hiv/aids
- low capacity of national government machinery
- fund recurrent expenses
- more radical views on schooling
- relate to multilaterals – UNESCO, UNICEF, WB Trust Fund
- research funds

Noted the potential role of NGO educational forum contributing with questions and issues to be researched, outline some of the problems in educational research. Multi sectoral approach is challenging. Need to become more practical.

The NGOs could indicate where the gaps are; where knowledge is lacking. Could also identify institutions.

NGOs should be more involved in the strategy discussion, would like to contribute to the content of the strategy. Decided on a proactive strategy, will present comments to NORAD before the strategy is drafted.

Decided to meet mid June, in order to prepare input to NORAD, at PLAN's offices in Wessels gate 8. Bjørn Rongevær will chair this meeting, Guro Nesbakken will co-ordinate the meeting beforehand. LINS will provide a framework for the discussion.

The forum also wishes to invite Sissel Volan to a meeting in August in order to present and discuss the new strategy for education, and comment on it.

12.06.02

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P.S. Later info: Sissel Volan, NORAD, is very willing to receive NGO inputs to the policy document