



Addressing Gender Inequalities in and through Education in Emergencies, Post-Crisis and Contexts of Fragility

Workshop co-organized by IRC, INEE Gender Task Team/IASC Education Cluster Gender Working Group, UNGEI and UNICEF
September 16-18, 2008
Geneva, Switzerland

“Crises have serious and different impacts on the lives of women, girls, boys and men. Educational needs change, and the ability of girls and boys to attend school changes. Male and female teachers have different experiences and priorities that need to be addressed. To ensure that all girls and boys benefit equally from education in emergencies it is critical to understand the social and gender dynamics that might affect or place constraints on them.”¹

Background and rationale

It is critical to establish gender-responsive education programs throughout the emergency relief to development continuum. Not only do girls and boys, women and men, experience conflict and natural disasters differently, but these crises contexts can also provide opportunities for systemic change that can increase gender equity within communities and national systems as they recover and rebuild.

Cooperation between IRC/ INEE/Education Cluster, UNICEF and UNGEI allows for a unique sharing of expertise, resources and tools to promote gender equality in and through education interventions before, during and after natural and man-made disasters. The workshop complements the ongoing efforts of IRC, INEE Gender Task Team/Education Cluster Gender Working Group, UNGEI and UNICEF to strengthen their internal capacity on gender mainstreaming whilst also cultivating the capacity of government counterparts and national civil society organizations to mainstream gender into their work, and further develop their capacity to respond to the particular gender and education challenges in these contexts. Unsafe school–community environments, especially for girls and women constitute one of the biggest challenges,

Therefore, this two-day workshop, “Addressing Gender Inequalities in and through Education in Emergencies, Post-Crisis and Contexts of Fragility”, will serve as a capacity strengthening opportunity that will work in synergy with the context and environment of high-level child rights policy advocacy presented by holding it in Geneva in September 2008.

Workshop participants from different organizations and locations (countries, regions and headquarters) will deepen their understandings of gender equity in emergencies, post-crisis and contexts of fragility. The participants will become familiar with a range of tools, strategies and processes for addressing gender disparities in and through education (including the INEE Minimum Standards, the IASC Gender Mainstreaming Manual) and have opportunities for rich exchange, coordination and to plan further collaboration between gender and education specialists, and emergency and post-emergency actors.

This workshop builds on a successful pilot gender training facilitated by IRC on behalf of the INEE Gender Task Team/Education Cluster Gender Working Group, with the financial and logistical support of

¹ Gender and Education in Emergencies, Education Chapter in “Women, Girls, Boys and Men: Different needs-Equal Opportunities”. IASC Gender Handbook in Humanitarian Action.
<http://ochaonline.un.org/AboutOCHA/GenderEquality/KeyDocuments/IASCGenderHandbook/tabid/1384/Default.aspx>

UNICEF Philippines². The workshop is strategically timed and located in relation to the Day of General Discussion convened by the Committee on the Rights of the Child, on the theme of the Right to Education in Emergencies, on Friday September 19th in Geneva. As part of the preparation process pre-registered workshop participants will be invited to contribute to an IRC/INEE, UNGEI and UNICEF submission to the Committee on the specific topic of gender equality and the right to education in emergencies. The workshop will subsequently further develop collective understandings of gender equality and rights realization in and through education in emergencies, transition and fragility. These understandings will then help to nuance the oral presentation of the submission by a representative of the partnership during the Day of General Discussion.

Specific Workshop Objectives:

- a. To bring together relevant actors from INEE, Education Cluster, IRC, UNGEI and UNICEF networks, as well as other relevant sectors and partners, to focus on the particular gender dynamics created by emergencies, post-crisis and fragile contexts, and their impacts on education opportunities and experiences for girls and boys;
- b. To present a range of gender theoretical frameworks, tools, strategies and processes (including the INEE Minimum Standards) for addressing gender disparities in and through education in emergencies, post-crisis and contexts of fragility;
- c. To share and discuss examples of good or promising practice from field experience of gender-related education policy and program development in contexts of emergency, post-crisis and fragility;
- d. To present and discuss key developments and initiatives in education in emergencies, post-crisis and contexts of fragility (e.g. the Education Cluster, recent studies on financing of education in emergencies, the FTI progressive framework) and discuss their implications from gender perspectives;
- e. To identify priority issues in gender equality in education in emergencies, post-crisis and fragile contexts and to develop a collaborative action plan and to make recommendations for the INEE Global Consultation (March 2009);
- f. To review a submission to the Day of General Discussion convened by the Committee on the Rights of the Child, on the theme of the Right to Education in Emergencies, to be further circulated by the co-hosts and other partners as an Advocacy Brief; and
- g. To develop action plans for improved coordination and collaboration on priority issues between participants (at global, regional, national and local levels)

Workshop Outputs

- Training/resource package focused on 'Addressing gender inequalities in and through education in emergencies, post-crisis and contexts of fragility', including theoretical frameworks and analysis, overview of key resources and scenarios;
- Guidance document on gender responsive education in emergencies that summarizes key strategies and includes 'lessons learned' and recommendations from the workshop;
- Set of case studies of good or promising practice in addressing gender inequalities in and through education in emergencies, post-crisis and contexts of fragility provided by participants and collated for wider dissemination (partners' websites etc);
- A submission to the Day of General Discussion convened by the Committee on the Rights of the Child, on the theme of the Right to Education in Emergencies, which will be further circulated as an Advocacy Brief;
- Collective action plan for collaborations at different levels to address, for example, gaps in tools and resources, in research, capacity and recommendations to take to INEE Global Consultation, March 2009.

² A one day workshop, 'Addressing gender inequalities in and through education in emergencies, post-crisis and contexts of fragility' was held in the Philippines on April 4th, 2008, provided as an additional capacity building opportunity to participants in the INEE Capacity Building Workshop (April 1-3) and to members of the Philippines Education Cluster.

Participation/ Application Details

Preference will be given to applicants who are working in government agencies or other civil society organizations and occupying a position in which they will be able to apply the learning of the workshop.

The workshop will begin in the evening of the 16th September and then continue through 2 full days, the 17th and 18th. The organizers will cover the costs of the workshop venue, materials, and coffee break refreshments. However, participants in the gender workshop will be expected to cover their own travel, accommodation, lunch and other per diem costs (or to have these covered by their organization). The organizers of the workshop are **not** able to cover these costs.

There is no registration fee, but prior registration is required due to anticipated high demand. The deadline for application is **June 9, 2008**. Early application is highly recommended. Notifications of acceptance and information regarding next steps will be sent out by Friday, 27 June.

For workshop application please email the following details to: Please respond with the required personal details and a short (200 word) paragraph explaining why you would like to attend the workshop and how you will apply the learning from it, by **Monday, 9 June 2008**, to Diksha Mudbhary-Sitaula at Diksha.Mudbhary-Sitaula@their.org

Required information:

Name
Male/ Female
Organization
Position
Current work station
Email address
Telephone number

Short statement (around 200 words) about why you want to participate in the workshop, what you hope to learn and how you think it may be relevant and applied to your work

Confirmation that you understand the costs entailed in participation, and have the financial backing required to participate.