

Teacher Development Working Group Minutes from 12.8.2011

Attendees:

- Charlotte Phillips (VSO)
- Nathan Hamilton (IEE)
- Jeffery Komant (Wellspring, RENCP Co-chair)
- Kirsten Lake (Wellspring)

General Sharing:

The meeting began with a brief overview and 'catch-up' on the developments and changes in the education sector. An encouragement was made that as RENCP and member organisations we help to keep focused on the big picture issues, especially in light of the new key issues from the cluster presentation. Where possible keeping in focus the Vision 2020 and the ESSP goals.

Charlotte shared about a possible 'handover' meeting where partners and key stakeholders would be present along with Ministry personnel to meet and share with one another. This would be in an effort to avoid loss of momentum with all the new changes; REB and personnel.

Wellspring had met with Janvier (Inspector General) and had shared about RENCP. Jeff shared his interest in creating an advisory committee to the Inspectorate on quality and his willingness to work closely with partners. Jeff also shared that he had presented the RENCP to Janvier in this meeting. Wellspring also shared that they had had an informal meeting with Damien (TSC) and were planned to meet him for an official meeting on Tuesday 16th August. Jeff shared that during this meeting he would again present the RENCP and encourage the TSC to work/refer all players (Hope Rwanda et al) through to it.

RENCP would request a meeting with Damien for all key groups in Teacher Development.

VSO showed how SEOs will be included in their support structure and the relationship they will have with other VSO volunteers (methodology and leadership). Wellspring also shared its interest in supporting the equipping and empowering of SEOs as they are being recruited and placed. Currently they are thinking about the SEOs in Gasabo District. All attendees recognised the importance and value in training and supporting these new SEOs.

Matters relating specifically to the role of this working group:

- 1) There is a need to connect and try and draw in all possible organisations working in Teacher Development. This is to ensure information and collaboration is being effective throughout the sector. Key organisations/groups were listed with a view to approach them about the RENCP and the 'Teacher Development' working group:
 - BNEP - Charlotte believed Ruth from VSO may have some contacts here. – Charlotte to follow up.

- Anglicans – Kirsten will make specific contact here due to some approached that have been made to Wellspring.
 - SNEC – it was decided that the best way to form relationship here would possibly be via CRS as they are already part of the RENCP. Jeff (Co-chair) and Kirsten to follow up.
 - ADRA – Esther Ndudu’s name was given – Nate was requested to follow up
 - AEGIS – were going to attend the meeting- Kirsten will follow up.
 - HOPE Rwanda – perhaps a viable way to follow up with this group would be via the Peace Plan.
 - Conservatives – as Charlotte is the only member of the group with contacts here perhaps she could send an email just informing them about the existence of the RENCP and its work- especially in Teacher Development. With a link to the website.
 - Canadian Baptists – not sure of a connection here but possibly through the BNEP. (Having met with Damien this morning he has already referred them to Wellspring, co-chair of RENCP)
- 2) There is a wealth of skills and strengths we have amongst us as a working group. It would be beneficial to establish some sharing days. Nate suggested one per quarter. This would be an opportunity to share specific skill strengths to help equip and empower one another’s staff and organisations. Thus it was suggested that each organisation would map its key strengths and skills that may be of benefit to the others. These would then be circulated and as a group the most desired/significant of these would be chosen to begin our skills sharing. These may then be opened up for attendees from Ministry or other key stakeholders (District/SEOs)
IEE, VSO, Wellspring to circulate their strengths and skills via email within the next 2 weeks, for each organisation to peruse.
- 3) As part of this sharing field visits could also be made- eg: to VSO, IEE etc. It was acknowledged that we have not been conscientious about inviting RENCP members to our individual organisational activities. It is important that we are communicating various aspects of our work so where others may be interested they can attend. Wellspring extended an invitation to its training workshop the following week on Active Participation, Cognitive Skill Development and also Teaching Aids- Tues-Fri. These field visits may again serve as opportunities to invite Ministry partners.
- 4) Another idea was briefly discussed of having a RENCP working group sharing day/afternoon where external stakeholders could come and see what the various players in the sector are involved in.