

RENCP Teacher Development Working Group Minutes

Date: September 19, 2012

Organizations in attendance: Wellspring Foundation, EDC/L3, VSO and FHI 360/REC

Kirsten, from Wellspring Foundation, introduced the group and gave a brief history of its workings and leadership followed by some recommended items to cover in the agenda:

- Introductions
- Project/Organization updates
- New leadership for the working group
- Potential name change for working group

Individuals then introduced themselves followed by Project/Organization updates:

- **EDC/L3**—The L3 project is providing substantive support to the National School-based mentorship program. It recently interviewed 450 potential new members and designed a five-day training for mentors. This training was piloted on the mentors from EDC's six action research sites with the intent of recalling those mentors currently deployed (approximately 400) to receive the training as well.

Furthermore, EDC is developing interactive video training modules to be utilized by the mentors when working with teachers. The modules will cover three main topics: leadership, English as a Second Language, literacy instruction

General updates on the status of the government school-based mentorship program were also given and included, but not limited to: by January 2013 1,000 mentors will be recruited and deployed. Recent interviews yielded 177 school-based mentors in addition to the 425 already employed giving a total of 602 mentors. Recruitments will continue in October, November, December until the 1000 school-based mentors are secured. To date, REB has been conducting trainings for school-based mentors in collaboration with British Council and IEE. In addition, EDC-L3 gave a more intensive pilot training to six REB school-based mentors. This pilot training will be eventually be utilized for all incoming school-based mentors. More generally, deployment of mentors is still lacking coordination, 60 senior mentors will be Rwandan and recruited later in the year, challenges with overall coordination amongst actors conducting similar activities continue, design document waiting for official MINEDUC approval, etc.

- **VSO**—VSO is providing education volunteers in three main areas: 1) leadership advisors per district, 2) teaching methodology advisors with one advisor covering three sectors and 3) methodology resource advisors with one advisor in each of the TTC Teacher Resource Centers. This last set of volunteers is part of the UNICEF CAPACE project that is scheduled to end in December 2012. Further funding is currently being sought.

One question that was discussed after VSO's update was the use of the new pre-service curriculum. As of now, the curriculum is still not being fully utilized, but much evidence shows the use with the Year 1 students of the TTCs as well as student teachers at KIE in the teaching methodology course.

- **FHI 360's Rwanda Education Commons Project (REC)-** REC provides teachers and instructors with a wide range of resources via its education portal (educationcommons.rw). A library that includes everything from lesson plans to academic research is available for teachers. It is fully searchable and allows teachers and educators to upload their personal resources. The portal also hosts an online discussion board and a news feed highlighting events in the education sector. To date, the bulk of the users come from TTCs but it is open to anyone.

Additionally, REC produces the Smart Learning Television broadcast that seeks to demonstrate Rwandan teachers utilizing good teaching approaches in the classroom. It broadcasts primary school math and English teachers on Saturday and secondary school science and English teacher on Sunday.

- **Wellspring Foundation-** Wellspring is moving into its second phase of its program. With its 48 schools in Gasabo it will be performing "surprise" observations to get a better sense of the strengths and weaknesses of the teachers that received training and support from the program. Following this, a second round of training will be hosted in November/December that focuses on weaknesses identified.

Additionally, Wellspring will be providing a 2-day training for Sector Education Officers. As a result of its training of SEOs, the PS of MINEDUC requested Wellspring to write a concept note for a training to be given to all SEOs. Wellspring is waiting for feedback on this concept note.

Other elements of Wellspring program that were discussed included, but were not limited to, peer observations, school-to-school observations, inclusion of ECCD classes and instructors, planned training on instruction through the use of play, PTC training that looks at the heart and health of the community, and asset based community development.

Following the project/organization updates a brief discussion of change of leadership of the group took place. Nominations for new leadership were made with a consensus that **VSO and FHI 360 will co-lead the group going forward.**

Action Item: Last item discussed at the meeting was the potential need to change the name of the working group to better reflect the larger workings of the members (e.g. training and support of other education officers in addition to teachers). Recommendations for new names are to be sent, via email, to Vicky Frantz, vfrantz@fhi360.org with the final decision made at the next working group session.

Next Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, November 14 at 10:00am. Venue TBD.