

## Notes from the RENCP General Assembly held on September 30<sup>th</sup> 2016 at Sportview Hotel, Remera [Hosted by ActionAid]

Item	Description and details	Action
<i>Opening Remarks</i>	PLAN Rwanda Country Director (Names?) opened the GA. PLAN CD praised the increased RENCP involvement in the sector, especially in building strong collaboration and partnerships with Development partners and key donors including DFID, UNICEF, USAID, etc. as well as relevant government agencies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The platform should grow with more members joining but also to pay attention to the quality of the contribution brought by the Civil Society Organizations.</li> <li>• Increase our presence, recognition and advocacy powers to influence decision making at sector and national levels.</li> <li>• Increased commitment by members to support RENCP activities. Improved partnerships between members</li> </ul>
<i>Presentation of Education Programs by Action Aid</i>	James Butare, Head of programmes and policy at ActionAid presented to the GA the core of their education programmes. The presentation is attached to these notes for further reference. The presentation was followed by questions and remarks from members. Members’ interventions covered areas like the quality of nutrition programmes in ECD centers and parents contributions to support those community-based centers. The importance of Special needs and inclusive education was also stressed. The issue of appropriate girls’ rooms was also brought forward by some members. As the new competence based curriculum is now being implemented, emphasis was put on relevant reading and teaching materials	

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	to improve students learning outcome.	
<i>Presentation of broad Sector Updates by UNICEF</i>	UNICEF Chief of Education, Sara shared key sector updates including the SDGs – National Domestication Process, the LARS II report, the recent research on the financing of the Education Sector, and the upcoming Drop-out and Repetition Study	RENCP to continue to play its advocacy role as the main Education CSOs by sharing relevant issues with partners to help smoothen the implementation of the ESSP. RENCP to share the 5 advocacy points for increased financial allocation to the Education Sector to UNICEF for subsequent distribution for review amongst Development Partners.
<i>Speech from the Senate representative, Hon. Narcisse Musabeyezu</i>	<p>Narcisse speech to RENCP members covered the necessity of building synergy with Civil society organization, by sharing relevant advocacy issues faced by the education sector in order to foster mutual accountability. The senator also praised the RENCP initiatives and the role of the CSOs in supporting the implementation of National Education Strategies in Rwanda. Senator Narcisse ensured that RENCP is welcome to connect with the Senate Committee in charge of Social affairs, Human Rights and Petitions.</p> <p>The Senator’s speech was followed by members’ questions including the role of the parliament in supporting and in holding accountable the Ministry of Education in Rwanda</p>	RENCP was specifically encouraged by the Senate representative to continue to champion quality education in schools, to advocate for equity and inclusion and to help fight genocide ideologies in all its forms.
<i>Discussions on the Political Economy of Basic Education in</i>	Wellspring Country Director, Richard Taylor brought to the members’ attention the highlights of the study done by	Despite the noticeable efforts from all the stakeholders in the sector, RENCP members

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<i>Rwanda</i>	researcher Timothy Williams on the political economy of basic education in Rwanda. Members saluted key GoRs achievements that are echoed in the study. These include strong political will from the decision makers to give access to quality education to all children, relevant policies aimed at fostering good governance and accountability, alignment of district goals to national level policies and vision, zero tolerance for underperformance.	acknowledged the necessity of continuing to collaborate to ensure that early grade children acquire the needed basic literacy and numeracy skills, that dropout and repetition rates are lowered and that completion and transition rates are increased.
<i>Presentation of Three Mountains Academy</i>	Gery Van der Hulst presented to the RENCP members key components of their education programmes whose main focus is on building E-learning network and development of effective teaching strategies. Three Mountains welcomed RENCP members to consider accessing e-learning solutions that they have developed as ICT in education is a core component of National education strategies. For more information about Three Mountains, their website can be accessible at <a href="http://www.threemountains.academy/">http://www.threemountains.academy/</a>	
<i>Validation of new RENCP members</i>	5 new members' applications were approved by the General Assembly. They include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GIRUMUTIMA UTABARA (Full member)</li> <li>• KIDS PLAY RWANDA (Full member)</li> <li>• MINDLEAPS INTERNATIONAL (Full member)</li> <li>• DP2 CONSULTANCY (Affiliate member)</li> <li>• OKOBI CENTER BUSINESS (Affiliate member)</li> </ul>	Members were encouraged to communicate any change in their organization's profile to help RENCP have updated information on its website. Effective communication requires accurate and consistent information

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<i>Selection of RENCP Co-Chairs</i>	<p>Since the current RENCP Chair (PLAN Rwanda) and Co-Chair (Save the Children) had their mandates expired on July 30, RENCP renewed their Chairship for another year. However, the Chairing role will be fulfilled by Save the Children while PLAN Rwanda will support RENCP as Co-Chair.</p>	
<i>Opportunity for increased educational content dissemination</i>	<p>Tanya Cotter from British Council Rwanda shared with members opportunities for spreading educational materials with the public through accessible platforms like Imvaho Nshya at very limited costs. This comes in response to members' needs to share developed solutions and education expertise with practitioners and the public</p>	
<i>Closing remarks from Save the Children</i>	<p>SC Education Program Director, Richard Ashford, expressed, on behalf of SC, the gratitude for being entrusted with the responsibility to serve as Chair of the Platform. Ashford praised RENCP for what has been achieved particularly in establishing and sustaining a Civil society platform to increase NGOs voice and to foster collaboration. He also insisted that advocacy efforts built on evidence-based research should continue to be the core of RENCP work, to ensure that national policy decisions are well informed</p>	