

RENCP GIRLS' EDUCATION WORKING GROUP

MEETING MINUTES

Date	06 August 2013
Time	9am - noon
Location	CO meeting room
Chair	Donatha Gihana (Girl Hub)
Attendees	Nadia Hitimana (SHE), Munyaneza Charles (VSO), Ndayambaje Michel (Action Aid), Rachel Mahuku (Wellspring Foundation), Mary Balikungeri (Rwanda Women's Network), Kanzayire Theopista Nwoigwe (Care International), Arpana Pandey (Unicef), Clement Kabiligi (Imbuto Foundation), Munyeshuli Deogratias (Club PESCT), Uwimbabazi Sylvie (MINEDUC), Winnie Muhumuza (WDA/AGI), Kabera Telesphore (FAWE), Grace Kabuhoro K.(Plan)
Regrets	Twagirimana Eugene (NUDOR)

Item	Summary of Discussion	Action Item	Person Responsible
Introduction and welcome	<p>Grace (Plan) welcomed the members of the group.</p> <p>Donatha (GHR) introduced herself as chair.</p> <p>She started by thanking everyone for coming, she invited everyone to introduce themselves and discussed the background of the WG. Donatha reviewed the main points from the last WG meeting.</p>		
	Grace (Plan) discussed the importance of completing the CSO mapping tool for all members of the WG.	All members to fill out the mapping tool (due August 9)	All members

<p>GE policy and Strategic Plan</p>	<p>MINEDUC and all members agreed that there is need to review the GE policy. We need to generate evidence around the impact of the policy/carryout an impact assessment. MINEDUC mentioned that they were supposed to carry out a national baseline survey on the situation of girls' education in Rwanda, but due to budget cuts, this was postponed.</p> <p>Members agreed that there is need to generate specific evidence around teenage pregnancy and to develop a strategy to re-enroll these girls back to school. Perhaps, this is an opportunity for UNICEF to explore more on this aspect with DFID. Grace (Plan) to share details on a campaign to support girls who have dropped out.</p> <p>Need to revive NGETF because it is a key structure that will lead the review process of the GE policy, once evidence is generated. NGETF should inform us about their next meeting as soon as possible</p> <p>Discussed possibility of providing a girls' education expert to MINEDUC. Need to discuss further.</p> <p>NGETF through Kabera from FAWE to confirm to GEWG the dates of the next meeting (tentatively proposed for Thursday, 3 October).</p>	<p>NGETF and GEWG need to find ways of mobilizing resources to carry out the impact assessment of the GE policy (</p> <p>To discuss with UNICEF, DFID, MINEDUC.</p> <p>Members agreed that Sylvie from MINEDUC will act as our ambassador to speed up all the GEWG initiatives including resource mobilization</p>	<p>All members. Plan and Girl Hub to lead.</p> <p>UNICEF, DFID, MINEDUC.</p> <p>Sylvie (MINEDUC)</p> <p>UNICEF, DFID, MINEDUC</p> <p>FAWE</p>
<p>International Day of the Girl</p>	<p>Last year IDG was hosted by NCC. The theme and hosts are unknown for this year.</p>	<p>Check the theme and consult NCC.</p>	<p>Plan Rwanda</p>
<p>Briefing on the UNESCO Menstrual Health Management/Education Consultative Workshop</p>	<p>Nadia (SHE) presented on challenges to girls' education in relation to menstrual health and hygiene management.</p> <p>Objective of the review:(1)review available evidence and discuss the challenges of managing menstruation and its impact on providing a quality education; (2) Identify the characteristics of quality menstruation education within the context of comprehensive sexuality education;(3) Identify and share good practices in terms of programs and practical tools that currently exist and are used in</p>	<p>Follow up on implementation.</p>	<p>MINEDUC and SHE</p>

	<p>different regions in the world;(4) Identify barriers and opportunities to scale-up programs within the education sector;(5) Agree on practical guidance for the development and implementation of education sector responses.</p> <p>The best practices shared: (1) MINEDUC passes a \$35k to buy pads for girls in Schools, after a 2010 national campaign on breaking “silence around Menstruation; (2) Girls Education Taskforce set up at the MINEDUC; (3) Some policies being reviewed to incorporate ME and MHM as new components under RH&R and WASH. i.e: SHN; (4) Different MHM awareness campaign in schools; (5) Girls rooms’ campaign by MINEDUC; (6) with Media interest: Radio talk shows on both local and international media: BBC, Radio10, Radio Rwanda etc.</p> <p>Common challenges were: Menstruation its self being a taboo in most of the developing countries, leads to: (1) Insufficient knowledge; (2) Plentiful concerns and questions; (3) Myths and misconceptions; (4)Unclear separation of ME and MHM in school curriculum; (5) Lack of affordable menstrual Hygiene management materials; (6) WASH facilities that are not girl friendly in most schools.</p> <p>Recommendations: (1) General research to be carried out, for more evidences to be found. These will also serve as advocacy tools, thus the revision of existing policies; (2) ME and MHM to be considered as 2 different and separate components. ME to be in delivered under the school tested curriculum and MHM through other channels: PTAs, and school clubs; (3) Improvement of WASH, as an important component for proper MHM; (4) Synergy of efforts among Girls education focused NGOS.</p>		
Next GEWG meeting	Tentatively on Thursday, October 3 rd 2013. FAWE to confirm.	Confirmation of next meeting date and location.	FAWE
Closure	Grace (Plan) concluded the meeting by thanking the members.		

