

Notes from the RENCPC General Assembly

Date: February 26, 2016

Venue: Classic Hotel / Kicukiro District, Kigali

Hosted and sponsored by: Chance for Childhood

Highlights from the General Assembly:

- 60+ people representing their respective member organisations were present
- Members received a warm welcoming remark from the Chairing Organization, PLAN International Rwanda
- Chance for Childhood, the hosting organization, made a compelling presentation on their investment in the life of children through their educational programmes (See the attached powerpoint presentation)
- Members were updated on key broad sector updates
- Save the Children facilitated interactive group discussions on key issues faced by RENCPC members at both policy and implementation levels
- REB/TDM offered an overall presentation on the implementation of the new competency-based Curriculum, followed by questions, discussions and recommendations
- RENCPC Working Groups, presented key advocacy issues to the participants
- Members were updated and introduced to the RENCPC members needs survey
- 4 organisations were approved as new RENCPC member organisations

Notes from the meeting

Welcoming remarks from the Chairing Organisation:

On behalf of PLAN RWANDA country director, Paul Bagambe, RENCPC chair, commended RENCPC members for their active participation. He pointed out that the involvement of the RENCPC in the sector has increased the visibility of the Civil Society. Ed sector is one of the most vibrant sectors in Rwanda. He commended the existing collaboration with GoR stakeholders as well as donors. He also thanked members for voluntarily supporting the RENCPC (e.g. hosting and sponsoring special meetings, field visits, case studies, general assemblies, etc.). He encouraged working groups to keep up with the good work.

✚ ***Presentation from Chance for Childhood (PowerPoint presentation is attached):***

Regional Operations Director presented to the assembly, key components of educational programmes at Chance for Childhood. The presentation covered Chance For Childhood key activities including the community mapping study of people with disabilities in Musanze, Gakenke and Nyabihu Districts, Special education to deaf and hearing impaired children, the integration of children with SEN into mainstream school with Learning Support Assistants (LSAs) support, and People with Disabilities (PWDs).

✚ ***Key broad sector updates:***

Bagambe Paul shared with RENCP members key sector updates. The following points were covered:

- Education Sector Strategic Plan Mid Term Review is underway and draft report has been presented to the Ministry of Education and partners and RENCP was represented and shared inputs (e.g. consideration for salaries for ECCD teachers/caregivers, increase for the Education sector budget, recommended using unconventional approach to expand access to ECCD services etc.)
- Quarterly Development Partners Meeting for the Education Sector have been revived and chaired by UNICEF. RENCP will be represented by the Chair and Co-Chair of RENCP as well as the Chair and Co-Chair of the WGs.

✚ Interactive group discussions on key issues faced by RENCP members at both policy and implementation levels. Catherine Mercy from Save the Children facilitated the discussions. The following questions were discussed:

1. What are challenges of 'gaps' in education policy and delivery / implementation at the local level;
2. What are the barriers to better coordination and alignment within the sector;
3. How might RENCP be able to help address some of these challenges?

Following the interactive discussions, RENCP members raised the following issues/recommendations:

1. Challenges or gaps in education policy and delivery/implementation at the local level:
 - The policy on inclusive education, which has been reviewed, still need to be validated
 - Teachers motivation is still an serious obstacle to quality education delivery
 - Local government actors (policy implementers) are carrying the heaviest workload
 - Need to have an effective communication strategy to disseminate national policies to schools and local educators

2. The barrier to better coordination and alignment within the sector:
 - Need to foster coordination and collaboration between NGOs and all educational stakeholders at all levels (MINEDUC/REB, DEOs, SEOs, etc.)
 - Some NGOs initiatives need to be coordinated. RENCP mandate is to avoid duplication by encouraging complementarity
 - Some NGOs need to refine their accountability both internally and externally (with other partners and stakeholders).
3. How RENCP members might / RENCP as a whole be able to help address some of these challenges?
 - Due to inappropriate coordination among educational NGOs, policies are misinterpreted and implemented which leads to competition among NGOs instead of complementarity. What NGOs have to do is to make sure that they have effective coordination of what they are doing instead of have competition among themselves. RENCP offers such an opportunity through its working groups activities. Members are encouraged to be involved in working groups to ensure more coordination of activities.

✚ ***Presentation on the new competency-based curriculum (CBC)*** by Damian Ntaganzwa, Head of the Teacher Development and Management (TDM). The new curriculum was launched in April 2015 and started to be implemented in February 2016. Damian presented the key achievement in the implementation and the challenges encountered in the process. The aim of the new CBR was to align it with national aspirations and to ensure that ***knowledge, skills, values*** and ***attitudes*** acquired by Rwandans in schools meet the challenges of 21st century. The roll-out plan of the CBC implementation includes training for Management Stream and Technical Stream (See the attached presentation on the new competency-based curriculum for details about the accomplished trainings as well as the upcoming activities)

Below are some of the key reflections points and recommendations raised by members:

- Need to have more substantial trainings of teachers on the CBC (beyond a simple orientation or awareness raising)
- Need to increase the English language proficiency levels for teachers
- Need to ensure inclusive education is not only a key component of the new CBC but that it is also practiced accordingly.
- Need to make more Kinyarwanda textbooks available especially for lower primary.
- Need to continually assess the progress of the CBC implementation through the M&E plan in place

- ✚ **Key advocacy issues from RENCP working groups** are available through the attached power points presentations

- ✚ **RENCP members' needs Survey.** Bethany Ericson (Save the Children) introduced the members' needs survey to RENCP members. The purpose of the survey is to collect relevant information that will help in assessing the capacity gaps of members and to respond to those gaps accordingly.

- ✚ **Validation of new RENCP members.** 5 new organisations were approved as new RENCP members as follows:
 - Action Pour l'Education et la Defense des Droits Humains (APEDDH), Full member
 - 3 Montains, Affiliate member
 - Cameleon Resources, Affiliate member
 - Fondation St Dominique Savio, Full member
 - Friends Effort to Support Youth

✚ ***Closing Remarks by the Co-Chair:***

In her Closing Remarks, Bethany from Save the Children informed members of the upcoming training/workshop on effective Advocacy that has been organized and planned by RENCP. The workshop will be facilitated by Kirsten Mucyo and Bethany Ericson. Dates and venue will be communicated to the members in the due course.