

KIX Africa 19 Hub

MEETING REPORT

KIX Africa 19 Hub Validation Workshop Reported by the KIX Hub Secretariat

Date: Tuesday, 28 July 2020

Time: 15:00 – 17:00 EAS

Participants: 25 participants representing the following countries and organizations: ACBF-PACT, ADEA/AFDB, AUC, Education International, IDRC, IFEF, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, South Sudan, UNESCO, UNESCO IICBA, UNICEF ESARO, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Meeting Objectives:

The meeting aimed to:

- Present three strategies on country engagement, communications/advocacy and monitoring and evaluation to the Hub's members
- Discuss each strategy with Hub members and collect their inputs and suggestions
- Provide a brief update on the preliminary results of the In-Depth Country Mapping exercise

I. Introduction, Beifith Tiyab (UNICEF ESARO)

Beifith welcomed participants to the Validation Workshop for the Hub's three strategies. The strategies will help the Hub achieve its goal of sharing education data and knowledge across the region.

II. Presentation of the DCP and LEG Engagement Strategy, Dr. Tilaye, IICBA

Dr. Tilaye presented the [Developing Country Partner \(DCP\) and Local Education Group \(LEG\) Strategy](#), which has the objective of enhancing communications and collaboration and engendering commitment of the key stakeholders from the Hub's countries, including Ministries, LEGs and other partners. The strategy aims to contribute to the expedited improvement of policies and practices to strengthen national education systems. It outlines nine outputs, including country participation in the Hub's activities, the creation of country roadmaps, capacity strengthening, online communities of practice, generating and disseminating knowledge and data etc. There are several principles which guide the strategy: sense of ownership, commitment, responsiveness, learning and sharing, collaboration and cooperation, integrity, trust, transparency and accountability. Several of the key activities within the strategy include a stakeholder mapping, the In-Depth Country Analysis (currently underway) and the facilitation of mentored grants. A detailed Implementation schedule was also shared.

Questions and Response

- **Question:** The Strategy should focus on sharing promising practices, in addition to the gaps, in the six priority areas. **Response:** Dr. Tilaye agreed and indicated that the In-Depth Country mapping will collect best and promising practices.
- **Question:** Please clarify the publication of books free of charge and the implications on publishers and authors. **Response:** Joy Nafungo (IDRC) responded that the KIX Digital Platform will publish

all products commissioned by IDRC and the GPE and will follow the proper procedures to ensure they are open access, free to download and disseminated via the Hubs.

- **Comment:** ADEA will revisit the partner roles section and provide specific comments to be integrated in the text.

The participants agreed to validate the Strategy on the condition that the above comments be resolved.

III. Presentation of the Communications and Advocacy Strategy, Chelsea Lavallee, IICBA

Chelsea presented the [Communications and Advocacy Strategy](#), which has four objectives: 1) ensure visibility of the Hub and alignment with SDG4, CESA and national education priorities; 2) document and share best practices and lessons learned; 3) support operations research and generation of new evidence/data and 4) develop communications and advocacy materials. The Strategy's vision is to increase visibility of and engagement in the Hub. The target audience has several segments, including the Hub members, teachers, academia/researchers, media and existing networks/working groups. The Strategy has 14 activities (further details available in the presentation), and an Open Access Dissemination Plan. In terms of operationalization, there are 23 channels and tools to leverage including social media, media outlets, multimedia and the KIX Hub Digital Platform (to be launched soon by IDRC). Each Hub member has a role and responsibility, with details available in the Strategy. In terms of measuring progress, the first evaluation will take place in November and December 2020.

Questions and Response

- **Question:** Mabor from South Sudan asked how the materials will be sent to the KIX focal persons because the challenge in Africa is a lack of materials and loss of information or feedback due to communications issues. **Response:** A questionnaire will be sent to countries in August to understand which of the communications platforms and tools are best for the different countries.
- **Question:** Shem would like to strengthen the regional component, particularly by including priorities from the REC education strategies. RECs are the bridge between the continental and national levels. Additionally, with the engagement of media, it is important to mention other stakeholders involved in advocacy. The key is to ensure clear communication on data and availability of data, especially for the country focal points. **Response:** This is a very important comment which will be further highlighted in the next draft of the Strategy.
- **Question:** Please provide further information on the set up of the 5 member country teams. The Francophone Hub would like to know more about how this Hub is supporting countries to establish these teams and to share tactics. **Response:** The Secretariat has been in discussion with Maimouna and Montresor from the Francophone Hub on country engagement and will continue to exchange good practices together. The information on the 5 member country team was originally communicated by the GPE in March 2020. The Secretariat will re-send the TORs on these country teams and provide instructions, as some of the country focal points may not have received the TORs.
- **Comment:** Joy added that in order to support the KIX project at country level, she encourages each KIX focal point to nominate 2 additional focal points from the Ministry and 2 focal points from the LEG. Kenya has already identified their 5 members but should ensure these have been communicated to the Secretariat.

The participants agreed to validate the Strategy on the condition that the above comments be resolved.

IV. Presentation of the Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy

Argaw presented the [Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy](#), which is a tool for all of us in the Hub to plan, manage and document the Hub’s progress and make decisions on implementation. The specific objectives of the Strategy include: providing clear roles and responsibilities to ensure progress is documented, detail how to ensure accountability, how to share the Hub’s progress, how to utilize the data from the Hub in decision-making and how to strengthen the M&E culture. Among the outcomes for the Strategy, Argaw emphasized the need for all members to report on activities following the agreed-upon standards. Each country is meant to prepare an M&E action plan, update the performance indicator tracking table and provide data on the progress reports toward the program’s impact. Periodic reporting will occur, and the assumptions and risks will be updated accordingly; for example, the project was designed before the COVID-19 pandemic.

A number of performance indicators have been developed, in consultation with the donor, at the impact, outcome and output levels. The M&E tools that are available are: an annual joint project review, results framework and indicators, implementation review, evaluations, surveys, progress reports and M&E plans.

The key interventions of the Strategy are:

- Strengthen M&E coordination within KIX Africa 19 Hub;
- Carry out performance reviews at regular intervals;
- Enforce Data Quality Assurance mechanisms;
- Build capacity for M&E among MoE staff

Questions and Response

- **Comment:** Please be consistent with the name of the Strategy, it should be the MEAL Strategy throughout, rather than M&E or MEL. **Response:** This will be adjusted.
- **Comment:** Section 7.2 on the Information Dissemination Strategy may be duplicated from the Communications Strategy that has already been developed.
- **Question:** Will the tools be only web-based? Once COVID is over, it will be important to go beyond web-based tools to accommodate the constraints existing in all countries. Diverse tools will be needed to measure the negative impact on education by COVID 19. **Response:** The web-based tools will be available offline as well. All the tools will be shared and they are quite varied.
- **Comment from the chat:** The part about initiating special studies to capture the learning is a good component - e.g. sometimes it is not easy to identify the learning in policy dialogue situations.
- **Comment from the chat:** What is missing in the strategy is the formative evaluation tools

The participants agreed to validate the Strategy on the condition that the above comments be resolved.

V. Update on the In-Depth Country Mapping Exercise, Dr. Tilaye, IICBA

Dr. Tilaye briefly summarized the status of the seven questionnaires:

Tool	Theme	Reponses	Response countries
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Tool 1	Policy, planning & strategy (Respondents: Education Ministry)	13	Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia
Tool 2	Teaching & learning and learning assessment (Respondents: Education Ministry)	13	Ethiopia, the Gambia, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, South Sudan, Uganda
Tool 3	Early childhood care & education (Respondents: Education Ministry)	13	Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Nigeria, Rwanda, Somalia, Uganda, Zambia
Tool 4	Gender equality questionnaire (Respondents: Education Ministry)	9	Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Uganda
Tool 5	Equity and inclusive education questionnaire (Respondents: Education Ministry)	10	Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Uganda
Tool 6	Education data management system (Respondents: Education Ministry)	10	Ethiopia, Lesotho, Malawi, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Sudan, Uganda, Zambia
Tool 7	LEG: GPE Themes (Respondents: Partners and LEG members)	25	Eritrea, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Lesotho, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Uganda, Zambia
		Total: 93	

At the time of the meeting, Zimbabwe and Mozambique had not yet responded. The deadline to respond has been extended to end of day on Wednesday, July 29th. All members are encouraged to promote the questionnaires among their colleagues.

Joy reiterated that feedback on the surveys is taken very seriously and will help drive the direction of the Hub. The upcoming IDRC regional calls will rely on the report developed from the questionnaire data, among other sources, to ensure that the IDRC calls are demand-driven.

VI. Conclusion, Lukeman Jaji (AUC)

In conclusion, Jaji reinforced the importance of leverage. He urged all participants to leverage their own channels and their own contacts within each country to support the Hub and its objectives. The AU has direct contacts with Member States and we all should look inward to see how our own organizations can increase engagement in the Hub. Additionally, with the M&E processes, we need to look at the data sources and make sure they are aligned with the data the countries are already collecting. This will help to streamline the process and leverage existing mechanisms. A final thank you was expressed to the Hub Secretariat team for all their great work.

Beifith thanked everyone for their participation. The meeting recording, report, strategies and presentations will be shared.