

Report : Meeting on Collaboration with Local Education Groups (LEG)

Regional Coordination Group on SDG4-Education 2030 in West and Central Africa

Report from the Secretariat (UNESCO-Dakar)

Location: UNESCO, Dakar

Date: 17 October 2018

Time: 14h30 - 16h30

List of organizations present:

Africa Network Campaign on Education for All (ANCEFA), Conférence des Ministres de l'éducation des États et gouvernements de la Francophonie (CONFEMEN), Education International (EI), Global Partnership for Education (GPE), RCG4-WCA Secretariat, Save the Children, TALENT, UNESCO Dakar, and UNESCO Institute of Statistics (UIS).

Meeting Objectives:

1. Determine the priorities of RCG4-WCA members for LEG collaboration.
2. Develop a protocol for collaborating with the LEGs.

1. Presentation on LEG Structure

The GPE Country Support Team presented a [Powerpoint](#) on the LEG concept. The presentation (available on the platform) covered the following topics in particular: LEGs as country partners, LEG composition and LEGs in the education planning cycle.

Participants discussed how the structure of each LEG is based on existing mechanisms in the particular country.

2. Objectives for LEG collaboration and experience sharing

The Secretariat highlighted two key functions within the RCG4-WCA TOR, which could orient collaboration with the LEGs:

- Implement joint initiatives to support the development of education in countries, in alignment with SDG4, its targets and CESA 16-25;
- Support linking global-level efforts, initiatives and discussions with country-level processes, challenges and evidence at the country level.

Participants presented their objectives for collaboration with the LEGs and their past experience:

- **GENIE** would like to carry out advocacy activities with the LEGs and become involved in national sector planning. In preparation for the Pan-African High Level Conference (PACE), GENIE had prepared an advocacy package on girls' education in WCA but there was no follow-up.

- **TALENT** aims to collect feedback on the needs of countries, including partners, support policy dialogue to ensure that what is done at the regional level is implemented at the national level, monitor progress after TALENT workshops at the national level and advocate.
- **Plenary group** could learn about what is happening and the needs on the ground, and gather reports from ministries and civil society organizations (CSOs) participating in the LEGs.
 - **Education International**, as a member of the Senegalese LEG, mentioned that collaboration with the LEGs would allow the group access to policy dialogue, planning and implementation of education policies. In addition, by collaborating with LEGs, RCG4-WCA can share information that comes from the global level, such as SDG4, Global Education Monitoring Report (GEMR) recommendations and others that stakeholders (e.g. teachers) may not be aware of.

3. Establish a protocol for collaborating with the LEGs

A. Introduction of the group to the LEGs

The group envisions sending a letter on behalf of the group to:

- Introduce itself, its task teams and their activities to the LEGs,
- Explain the group's objectives,
- Summarize the achievements of the group,
- Ask the LEGs about their expectations from collaboration with the RCG4-WCA (a call to action), and
- Request updates on what happens in the LEG (through their mailing list or meeting reports).

The letter and the group's brochure (which was developed in the past), will be updated with information reported in the questionnaire sent to the task teams. It will then be circulated among the members for comments before being sent to the lead agency and concerned Ministry of Education (who often takes on the role of "Secretariat" for the LEG) in each of the 24 countries covered by the RCG4-WCA.

B. Follow up with the LEGs

Mapping : Since follow-up is required after the letter of introduction is sent, and taking into account the capacity of the GRC4-AOC, the group will use a map that will indicate the participation of GRC4-WCA members in each of the LEGs. GENIE has developed such a map for its members using the SYSTeam table. The group will complete it in order to achieve several objectives: use members' contacts in the LEGs when it is necessary to reinforce the messages sent by the RCG4-WCA to the LEGs, follow up on the group's actions with the targeted LEG, and report on the actions of the LEGs to the RCG4-WCA.

How to engage with the LEGs that respond to the letter: depending the number of countries that respond, the members will determine if it is necessary to:

- a) Re-contact or follow up with the LEGs that did not respond to the letter.
- b) Identify pilot countries and/or strategic countries (ie Senegal) keeping in mind where countries are in their review process of their education sector plan (ESP) so as to provide input from the group during the ESP joint sector reviews (JSR).

4. Questions to consider

Participants addressed a number of questions that should be considered, the suggestions are described below:

Question	Suggestion(s) from participants
<i>What can the RCG4-WCA offer to the LEGs?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Communicate information from the global to the regional level on the SDGs, for example the GEMR (note that the GPE has a newsletter that is sent to partner countries, an example is available online) - Tools developed by the group - Technical support, especially in relation to the JSR
<i>How to envision meeting the LEGs in order to further present the RCG4-WCA?</i>	When colleagues are on mission in a WCA country they can attend LEG meetings
<i>How to ensure that the group contributes to the review process of the ESP?</i>	The group could mandate someone to act as the group's spokesperson in the ESP validation process
<i>How to update the SYSTeam table</i>	Review the possibilities with SYSTeam, and/or ask plenary members to make changes they are aware of
<i>How to coordinate between the different task teams and the plenary group in order to communicate with LEGs?</i>	Task teams or members could report to the Secretariat when they contact a LEG, but the team itself would engage directly with the targeted LEG
<i>How to use the platform in this collaboration?</i>	For an introduction of the group to the LEGs, it was proposed to have a discussion or presentation of each task team on the platform. For example, each week, a LEG or a task team appears on the platform.

5. Next steps

The following next steps were decided by the members:

1. Preparation of a letter to be accompanied by the group's brochure (Secretariat)
2. Update of the group's brochure using the answers to the questionnaire already sent to the working teams (deadline: 25 October) (Task teams and Secretariat)
3. Circulation of the letter and brochure among members for comments/modification (Secretariat and members)
4. Mapping of members' participation in the LEGs using the SYSTeam table (all members, the Secretariat to coordinate)
5. Update at the plenary meeting: 13 December (tbc)