

Lessons From Cross-Sectoral Issues: Key Recommendations

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The Moving Minds Alliance works to scale up the financing, policies, and leadership needed to effectively support young children and families affected by crisis and displacement everywhere. The MMA's Joint Advocacy Group on Humanitarian Architecture (JAG 2) is working to ensure that Early Childhood Development (ECD) becomes a core component of every humanitarian response. To achieve this goal, the group is pursuing several areas of work focused on effectively embedding ECD work into OCHA-led processes such as the GHO as well as IASC policy channels and the global cluster architecture. In support of this work, Seedling Education developed a report to understand how cross-sectoral issues have best achieved representation across cluster work streams. The learning from this analysis has been synthesised into core recommendations on how to approach this from an ECD perspective.

Recommendation 1: Evidence

The generation of key evidence on ECDiE is not a new notion for the work of the MMA, nor the work of the wider ECDiE space. However the report showed a greater focus on the type of evidence produced and how to reach stakeholders who are not already sympathetic with the cause would benefit ECD's position in the humanitarian architecture. Three types of evidence were identified as being important:

- Evidence which speaks to donors showing how low-cost interventions can reach a large number of individuals.
- Case studies which exemplify an individual-centred approach, and which reaches across sectors.
- Research and evidence from children and their care givers exemplifying what it is that they want and need.

Additionally, an analysis of resources already available against relevant criteria (Donor friendly language, Education/ Child protection/ Health/ Nutrition etc. appropriate, generalist language) and the creation of a subsequent ambitious dissemination plan which reaches beyond current allies.

Recommendation 2: Finding Allies

Finding a government donor ally was highlighted as an important catalyst and has led to the inclusion of indicators and priorities which align with the values of cross-cutting issues.

In addition to garnering government support, establishing small collaborative working groups with other cross-cutting issues would provide a good opportunity for expanding ECDiE representation into spaces others have already 'conquered'. Some examples of these opportunities.

1. Cash for ECDiE - Working with a Cash working group to establish some core principles of how to use cash for ECDiE or examples of how this could be used.
2. ECDiE and Disability and Inclusion - technical note on ensuring those with disabilities are included in ECDiE programming. (Inclusion of small scale ECD activities in medical settings).
3. The creation of a two-pager case study with clear PowerPoint slides in collaboration with the nutrition cluster on how Philippines Humanitarian Country team (HCT) have included ECD.

Recommendation 3: Working groups/ Reference groups

Each cross-cutting issue included in the content gathering of this report highlighted the challenge of working groups; without one it was difficult to reach beyond those sympathetic to the cause however, there is also a feeling of over-saturation of cross-cutting issues. When considering the use of working groups three approaches were highlighted

- **Working groups are established but for specific tasks** targeting key moments, e.g. building support for guidance in the run up to an event.
- If a longer standing working group is to be established, dedicated funding and agreements with specific organisations to lead the work should be considered.
- A deployable expert to support TOR would need to include significant networking in the startup phase of a response and provide tangible, actionable guidance is seen as improving the uptake of cross cutting issues.

Recommendation 4: Support to the creation of IASC Guidelines on Inclusion of the Youngest Refugees and Their Caregivers

The creation of guidelines for the inclusion of youngest refugees and their care givers endorsed by the IASC featured as a highlight in interview responses. It is important to note that there is a changing approach developing in the humanitarian sphere away from sectors and towards the individual. This change will take time and it has been highlighted in conversations with IASC staff that **we should not miss the opportunity for inclusion in the current structure but to ensure our mission is future proofed with the correct vocabulary highlighting how it is centred around the need of a missed group** in a similar way to 'no child left behind'. While it may not be the position of the MMA to undertake this- support to this pivotal piece of work is suggested to be an impactful next step.