

INEE Policy Roundtable 2010 – Concept Note

An Enabling Right: Education for Youth Affected by Crisis

While access to education opportunities for crisis-affected children of primary-school age has become an increasingly accepted, critical component of humanitarian response and a priority for recovery, the rights and capacities of youth, who face different but severe challenges, have not received the same attention from governments, donors, and organizations responding to disasters and conflict. Across all sectors, the world's significant youth population too often continues to fall between programming, policy and funding cracks; yet approximately 35% of the world's 14 million refugees are young people between the ages of 12 and 24, and many more unaccounted for youth are seriously affected by disasters and displacement.

The 2010 INEE Policy Roundtable, organized in collaboration with the IASC Education Cluster, will bring together a diverse group of humanitarian and development policy makers, practitioners and expert youth from the education, protection, livelihoods and other relevant sectors to discuss and strategize how to close critical gaps in crisis response and recovery through to development. The event will involve both in-person and online components to address the following objectives:

- **Stimulate cross-sectoral dialogue** on approaches for engaging with, and addressing the needs of, youth in humanitarian response through to recovery.
- **Review innovative youth-focused policies, programmes and funding mechanisms** to determine how the rights and needs of youth in crisis can be met at scale.
- **Develop targeted policy recommendations and advocacy strategies** to significantly improve and expand existing and emerging policy, programming and funding for youth affected by crisis.

The INEE Policy Roundtable will be structured around three Framing Papers, which will highlight three different thematic areas and will examine a variety of age and gender specific needs and capacities of youth in a range of crisis contexts. Furthermore, the Framing Papers will provide much-needed data and analysis of the current situation, will document emerging good practice and innovation, and will present recommendations for discussion. The three Framing Papers, to be written by leading youth advocates in collaboration with expert youth, are as follows:

Education and Opportunity: Post-Primary and Livelihoods

While post-primary options may be costlier and more complex to implement than primary education, youth have a right to education. Education is particularly important for youth affected by crisis as it is an enabling right which facilitates personal recovery and growth as well as contributing to broader social stability and development. This Framing Paper, and the accompanying Roundtable discussion, will examine available post-primary education options and explore ways in which to diversify and scale up these efforts. It will also investigate opportunities for youth engagement in the creation and design of post-primary initiatives and will highlight strategic linkages between education and livelihoods, peace-building, and development.

Financing for All: Beyond the Primary Need

Much humanitarian and development financing is targeted at primary education, resulting in stunted education systems that only provide opportunities for children to complete the first few grades of schooling. This Framing Paper will track financing for youth education programmes, bringing to light evidence of this widely acknowledged failure to adequately resource post-primary education opportunities for youth affected by crisis.

Whole People, Holistic Approaches: Cross-Sectoral Action and Learning

Working across sectors is critical if the rights and needs of youth in humanitarian crises and recovery are to be met. This Framing Paper will document examples from a range of sectors, exploring potential strategic cross-sector partnerships. The paper and ensuing Roundtable discussion will provide recommendations for strengthening coordinated action on youth issues in crisis.

Facilitated working groups will address these three themes in a structured and action-oriented way, and the event will culminate in the formulation of a plan for collaboratively moving forward key recommendations and actions.

The 2010 INEE Policy Roundtable will consist of virtual activities as well as a one and a half day face-to-face event in Geneva in November. In addition, there will be a half-day research symposium, open to Roundtable participants, immediately following the event.