

Key Recommendations of a Research on the AU CESA (16-25) Cluster on Peace Education including the protection of education in humanitarian settings for the adoption of the Specialized Technical Committee (STC-EST3) to be held on the 12-15 November, 2019 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Introduction and background

The AU Department of Human Resources Science and Technology in collaboration with Save the Children Pan Africa and AU Liaison Office in Addis Ababa, and the Cluster on Peace and Education commissioned a research on the extent of protection of education in humanitarian situations in Africa.

The research which was commissioned in June 2018 with the objective of assessing the progress of the AU CESA 16-25 Cluster on Peace and Education, including the state of protection of education in humanitarian situations, was validated by member states on the 1-2 August 2019.

A total of over 150 key contacts were interviewed across 24 countries including stakeholders in education, defense, child protection and humanitarian sector. Field visits were also undertaken in Botswana, DRC, Nigeria and Sierra Leone to enable face to face and deeper interactions and to promote participation by children.

Recommendations for adoption by the Specialized Technical Committee

The following are key recommendations of the research for the adoption of STC-EST3.

1. Adopt a mechanism for reporting on peace education and the protection of education in humanitarian situations, including during armed conflict by all AU member states towards the implementation and reporting on the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA 16-25).

2. Propose the improvement of national education policies and curricula through the mainstreaming of key elements such as global citizenship, peace, life skills, media skills, among others, towards education for sustainable development and the realization of the peace and education strategic objective of CESA 16-25.
3. Reiterate and propose practical recommendations on the education for refugees and displaced children in particular regarding access to quality education and curriculum development, the development of refugee education action plans, education fund and responsibility sharing for refugees.
4. Encourage inter departmental and inter-ministerial collaboration at the AUC and at national levels for engagements on providing uninterrupted education for vulnerable groups in humanitarian settings.
5. Call on all member states that have endorsed the Safe Schools Declaration to adequately resource the implementation of the Safe Schools Guidelines in their respective countries; as well as member states that have not endorsed the Declaration taking concrete steps to endorse and implement the Guidelines. Even States that have no active conflict should have preventive measures and a contingency plan in place.
6. Enhance the implementation of a comprehensive school safety and transformative pedagogy for peace building through the AU Commission working with stakeholder, including Save the Children, UNESCO and UNICEF to consolidate existing practices and lessons, including teacher training good practices.

7. Call on AU member states to take steps to consider education as a tool for the prevention and resolution of conflicts and take concrete steps towards their overall protection of the rights to education and ensuring continuous education even in conflict situations.
8. Propose a special protective mechanism for reporting attacks on education and other violations against Children and Armed conflict (CAAC) to be developed to protect/hide the identities of informants who are often targeted with reprisal attacks by non-state actors during wars. In addition, responsibility for violations against children should not only rest with governments but also extended to all groups and individuals found to perpetrate crimes against CAAC during armed conflict.
9. Call on Regional bodies and partner organizations to support capacity building for regional blocks on peace education, including the protection of education from attacks and military use in Africa.
10. Call on Member states to find durable solutions to conflicts by addressing their governance and resource ownership challenges.