

Strengthening EMIS and Data for Increased Resilience to Crises

International Conference

Programme Outline

UNESCO Headquarters

Room IV

7 place de Fontenoy, 75007 Paris, France

21-23 April 2020

UNESCO in partnership with Education Cannot Wait and NORCAP and supported by SIDA, will host the second international conference on Education Management Information Systems (EMIS) on 21, 22 and 23 April 2020 in UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, France. This second edition focuses on the role of EMIS in strengthening resilience to crises and within the Education in Emergencies (EiE) data landscape. The conference aims to promote better humanitarian and development coherence through improved alignment of EMIS and humanitarian data systems.

Objectives

The overall objective of the conference is to contribute to better data and evidence for EiE, through strengthening EMIS to support crisis preparedness and response in coordination with humanitarian data collection.

The specific objectives of the conference are:

- To examine **gaps, challenges and promising practices** related to strengthening EMIS, data and evidence and information management for crisis preparedness and response, drawing on the findings of six countries case studies.
- To foster a **dialog on the coordination** of education data across both humanitarian and development spheres, including in relation to the role of EMIS in crisis settings.
- Formulate key **recommendations** for Member States, humanitarian and development actors, partners and donors to strengthen EMIS within the EiE data landscape. These recommendations

will serve as a tool for collective advocacy efforts, designing and implementing interventions and targeted financing, along with elaborating common guidance for EMIS and data in crisis settings.

Main format:

The moderator for each session will open by highlighting the key challenges related to the thematic area identified in the six country case studies, undertaken by UNESCO and NORCAP. This problem statement will be followed by 2-3 presentations to be given by partners (Ministries of education, UN agencies, NGOs) on concrete ways to address the identified challenges. Following the presentations, time will be dedicated to questions and discussion, with the aim of collectively exploring the gaps, challenges and promising practices.

Tuesday 21 April 2020	
08:30 – 09:00	Registration
09:00 – 10:30	<p><u>High-level opening</u></p> <p>Keynote speeches:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Stefania Giannini, Assistant-Director General for Education, UNESCO • Representative from Education Cannot Wait (TBC) • Representative from the Norwegian Refugee Council/NORCAP (TBC) <p>Introduction to the UNESCO NORCAP initiative “Strengthening EMIS and Data for Increased Resilience to Crises”</p> <p>Preliminary remark – “Conceptualizing EMIS” UNESCO Representative</p>
10:30 – 10:45	Coffee break
10:45 – 12:15	<p><u>Setting the scene: Data for what?</u></p> <p><i>This opening session will provide an overview of the situation at field level, highlighting the main challenges and multitude of data demands in Education in Emergencies (EiE) among the various education actors. The session will take stock of the extent and nature of the fragmentation in the EiE data landscape.</i></p> <p>Individual presentations will showcase the different perspectives of EiE data across both the development and humanitarian sectors.</p>
12:15 – 13:45	Lunch break
13:45 – 15:45	<p><u>The role of national systems in EiE data</u></p> <p><i>National education systems play a critical role in the EiE data landscape. This includes EMIS, which is an essential component when considering the resilience of national education systems to crises. EMIS can play a key role in informing EiE, including for the humanitarian community.</i></p> <p>The presentations will highlight the potential of EMIS in various contexts, including EiE contexts. The session will explore some of the common challenges with EMIS experienced in many countries.</p>

15:45 – 16:00	Coffee break
16:00 – 18:00	<p><u>Fostering better coordination in EiE data</u></p> <p><i>The lack of comprehensive EiE policies and strategies across the humanitarian and development sectors often results in a lack of coordinated approaches to related data collection, management and analysis. Working towards shared objectives and aligned strategies is a prerequisite to reducing and mitigating against fragmentation of EiE data.</i></p> <p>Presentations will highlight and examine the importance of alignment between planning processes such as education sector plans and humanitarian and refugee response plans, mutual participation in coordination mechanisms and the coordination of the EiE agenda within Ministries of Education.</p>
18:00 – 18:30	Wrap up

Wednesday 22 April 2020	
9:00 – 9:15	<u>Recap of day 1</u>
09:15 – 11:15	<p><u>Increasing capacities for EiE data and evidence</u></p> <p><i>The lack of human and technical capacities in EiE and data is one of the main challenges experienced by humanitarian, development and the national actors. Building and strengthening capacities is fundamental to better EiE data and evidence.</i></p> <p>The presentations will focus on efforts to sustainably build and strengthen data-related capacities of those operating in the EiE landscape at both central to sub national levels. Furthermore, time will be given to exploring how related lessons learned from other sectors can inform EiE.</p>
11:15 – 11:30	Coffee break
11:30 – 13:30	<p><u>Integrating EiE data into national systems</u></p> <p><i>The session will examine key considerations when adapting EMIS to crisis situations and integrating EiE and humanitarian data. Focus will be placed on the complexity of adapting EMIS, emphasizing the importance of sustainability, ownership and holistic system-wide approaches to developing and implementing EMIS solutions. This will include review of the use of ICT to address EMIS challenges.</i></p> <p>Presentations will showcase lessons learned from strengthening and adapting EMIS to crises. These should stimulate a broader discussion on possibility and appropriateness of tailoring EMIS to include EiE data.</p>
13:30 – 15:00	Lunch break
15:00 – 18:00 (including 15min coffee break)	<p><u>Beyond coordination: Joint collection, sharing and use of EiE data</u></p> <p><i>The case studies conducted reveal that in many contexts substantial amounts of EiE-related data and evidence is being generated. However, data collection, management and analysis are often not harmonized or conducted jointly, leading to further fragmentation and increasing the potential for duplication. Furthermore, there is limited use of EMIS data, a lack of dissemination and sharing across sectors and organizations. When data is shared it often has limited comparability, particularly with EMIS, there is scope for better synergies.</i></p> <p>The presentations will explore the possibilities of joint data efforts and the harmonization of data sets. Challenges and considerations in data sharing will be highlighted, including issues of protection, privacy and ethics.</p>
18:00 – 18:30	Wrap up

Thursday 23 April

9:00 – 9:15	<u>Recap of day 2</u>
9:15 – 11:15	<p><u>Key recommendations and formulating a collective way forward</u></p> <p>This session will take stock of the conference’s key messages. These key recommendations will serve as guiding principles and common guidance for Member States, humanitarian and development actors, partners and donors for strengthening EiE data and EMIS in crisis settings.</p>
11:15 – 11:30	Coffee break
11:30 – 13:00	<p><u>Increasing financing for EiE data</u></p> <p><i>Despite growing recognition of the importance of data within the EiE field, funding remains low.</i></p> <p>The session aims to discuss the current state of funding for EiE data and call for additional financing and resources.</p>
13:00 – 13:30	Closing remarks