

Basic Education Coalition

Working Group Descriptions

BEC Steering Group

BEC's steering group advises and supports BEC's various actions relating to Congressional appropriations, key legislation, briefings, special events, success stories, and other matters. It is composed of BEC members at a senior staff level who can coordinate and consult with others in their organizations, including BEC board members, on BEC issues and activities.

Over the past year, the group guided BEC's responses to FY14, FY15 and FY16 appropriations, Congressional and BEC Member funding support letters, the sign-on letter on the kidnapped schoolgirls in Nigeria, Michelle Obama's support of girls' education and BEC's strategic planning process.

Evaluation Working Group

Co-Chairs: Amber Gove (RTI International), Karen Tietjen (Creative Associates) and Audrey-Marie Moore (FHI 360)

The Evaluation Working Group focuses on issues related to measuring learning. In 2015, the working group aims to:

- 1) **Serve as a forum for discussion and debate around data and metrics on global education.** Members of the group recently joined together in two panel presentations at the Comparative & International Education Society conference. Focused on the importance of setting realistic expectations for reading improvements when taking a project from pilot to scale, the group examined the results of early grade reading projects across 12 countries. The working group also provided collective feedback on the UN's proposed indicators for measuring Post-2015 global education goals.
- 2) **Promote improvements to U.S. policies on evaluation of education programs.** The group met with USAID staff to discuss the revised guidance for the USAID Education Strategy and the updated methodology on counting towards the goals. The group will continue to work with USAID to improve policies and effectiveness.
- 3) **Link with outside partners to leverage greater impact.** The group seeks to improve the sector's practice on education measurement and will partner with outside groups, including the Global Reading Network as well as Brookings' Learning Metrics Taskforce, on the proposed post-2015 education indicators.

Education in Crises Working Group

Co-Chairs: Rachel McKinney (Save the Children) and Ken Rhodes (FHI 360)

The Education in Crises Working Group focuses on the issue of basic education during times of conflict and disaster. With attacks on education at an all-time high, the working group aims to do the following in 2015:

- 1) **Promote improvements to U.S. policy and funding of education in emergencies.** The group seeks to work closely with USAID to help ensure that children affected by conflicts and crises around the world have access to an education. The group aims to address policy and funding issues to enable a rapid response to crises and a smoother transition between emergencies and long-term development.
- 2) **Raise awareness about the importance of education in emergencies.** The group seeks to raise awareness about the importance of education in emergencies through Congressional outreach and briefings as well as presentations at public events, including the InterAction Forum.
- 3) **Link with outside partners to leverage greater impact.** The group seeks to partner with outside organizations, including the Education in Crisis and Conflict Network, the Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE) and the Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack.

Early Childhood Education Working Group

Co-Chairs: Carol da Silva (FHI 360) and Katherine Merseth (Save the Children)

The Early Childhood Education Working Group seeks to raise awareness about the importance of early childhood education and development as a fundamental building block for all future learning. In 2015, the working group aims to:

- 1) **Serve as a community of practice on early childhood education,** sharing knowledge among members of the working group.
- 2) **Promote improvements to U.S. policy and funding of early childhood education.** The group seeks to encourage USAID to include early childhood education in future education programming, and will draft a series of policy briefs highlighting the compelling evidence on the issue.
- 3) **Raise awareness about the importance of early childhood education for all future learning.** The group seeks to raise the profile and visibility early childhood education - highlighting the issue at large conferences and events, like the CIES conference.
- 4) **Link with outside partners to leverage greater impact.** The group seeks to partner with the Global Reading Network to build evidence on the issue and also seeks to link with outside groups to improve collaboration between the education and health sectors.