

Launch Event for Accelerated Education Working Group (AEWG)  
Talking Points by Cornelia Janke

Hello, everyone, my name is Cornelia Janke. I am the director of of the USAID Education in Crisis and Conflict Network.

On behalf of ECCN and my organization, the Education Development Center, which has generously offered its conference space and communications facilities today—I am happy to welcome you to the Accelerated Education Working Group’s event to launch the new Accelerated Education guidance materials.

I’m personally very excited about what today’s launch event represents. It’s a beginning of sorts, as these new materials are put forward to the larger EICC community.

But at the same time, it represents the culmination of a lot of work, both specifically related to the generation of these materials, which you’ll hear more about, as well as a more general consciousness-raising process that has been going on for years.

I am reminded, for example, of a CIES presentation that Yolande Miller-Grandvaux and I did, in Montreal, in 2011, about out-of-school learners. My part of the session was specifically on Alternative Education, and the main question I asked was, “Has the time come to advocate for greater support for Alternative Education?”

Well, 6.5 years later, the time really has come! I am so happy that we can all be here to celebrate this event together. In particular I’d like to welcome the 50 in-person guests, who represent two dozen partners and include UN agencies, USAID, implementing partners, and universities. And a special welcome to our online participants, joining from across the globe, including from North America and Europe, Guatemala, Uganda, Swaziland, Kenya, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Afghanistan, Pakistan, South Sudan, Somalia, Qatar, Yemen, Indonesia, Japan, and others.

All AEWG Accelerated Education materials are on the [ECCN website](#) as well as the [INEE website](#).