

Launch Event for Accelerated Education Working Group (AEWG)
Talking Points by Martha Hewison

Good morning, my name is Martha Hewison, and I work for UNHCR as an Education Adviser with a specific focus on Accelerated Education. I also chair the Accelerated Education Working Group.

The Accelerated Education Working Group is made up of representatives from 10 organizations: UNHCR, UNICEF, UNESCO, ECCN, War Child Holland, Save the Children, IRC, NRC, Plan, and USAID. So on behalf of the working group, I would also very much like to welcome you to this launch—to all of you here this morning and, as Cornelia just said, to the online participants. I'd like to particularly thank EDC and ECCN for hosting this launch and for all the support with this event.

This launch is to share the materials we've been working on that support the quality of accelerated education programming globally. Our agenda begins with an introduction to the Accelerated Education Working Group from **Ita Sheehy** of UNHCR. This will be followed by a global overview of Accelerated Education from **Nina Papadopoulos** of USAID, an introduction to the Accelerated Education Working Group materials and tools from **Kate Radford** of War Child Holland, and finally a panel facilitated by **Ash Hartwell** with panel members **Brenda Bell**, **Mary Mendenhall**, and **James H. Williams**. After the panel, there will be an opportunity to ask questions

So, I'd like to begin by welcoming Ita Sheehy, who is a senior education adviser for UNHCR. Welcome, Ita.

Our next speaker is Nina Papadopoulos, Team Lead, Education in Crisis and Conflict, USAID.

Next is Kate Radford who is a Program Director at War Child Holland.

Now we will go to the panel, which is facilitated by **Ash Hartwell**, Adjunct Professor, Center for International Education, University of Massachusetts and also part of the ECCN support team

I'll leave it to Ash to present the panel members.

Your comments and thoughts have been very useful, as tomorrow we are going into our bi-annual two-day meeting, and this will help us to see how we move forward as a working group. The aim of the tools and guidance that we've launched today is to improve the quality of accelerated education programming. They are now available on the ECCN, INEE, and UNHCR website, so please do share widely.

I'd like to thank you all of you—in this room and those online—for attending.