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ICT in Education Policy Planning

Lessons Learned from Maldives

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Overview of national response to COVID-19 in education

The Impact

- C19 hit across the nation, 4 waves
 - Over 90,000 students
 - 10,000 teachers
 - In over 250 schools
- All schools were physically closed for over 3 months in the 1st wave
- 40 schools closed now (approx 30,000 stu)
- Learning hours reduced across the nation
- Foundation and Primary students are affected most
- Huge impact on private schools and their students

Major responses

- Preparation of Education Response plan.
- Academic Calendar extended
- Curriculum was condensed
- 3 modes of learning (Physical, online, and Telikilaases)
- Provision of mobile data to students
- Conducted a study on Key Indicators of the ERP response

Role of ICT

- During school closure, classes are conducted via Google workspace (mainly Google and Google classroom)
- All administrative meetings and other office work are being done from home.
- Teachers prepare lesson for telecasting. Preparation of these lesson involves a great deal of ICT and pedagogy
- Social media platforms plays a huge role in information sharing

Achievements in ICT during COVID-19

The major interventions and response for the continuity of learning are:

- a) Internet and Television Access Survey
- b) A portal for learning resources (Filaa portal) was established.
- c) Free Mobile data provided to students and teachers.
- d) Televised lessons (Telikilaases) are being conducted.
- e) Teachers are being trained to various aspects of ICT in Education.
- f) 420 laptops were distributed to all gov schools to assist remote learning.
- g) Development of 5 regional mini studios
- h) Students' attendance is being monitored via MEMIS with special focus on different modes of learning.
- i) Analysis of the Google Meet online classes. (No of online classes conducted, no of daily hours students spent in online classes etc - Disaggregated to regions and schools)
- j) Provision of Wi-Fi Dongles to the most economically vulnerable families

ICT in Education Overview

- ICT master plan 1.0 expired in 2019
- Development of new ICT MP 2.0 is in progress
- One of first ICT MP in the region after COVID-19

Maldives

ICT in Education Master Plan 2020 – 2024

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References

- Annex 1: ICT in Education MP2 Task Force
- Annex 2: Participants of the Planning Workshop
- Four Working Group Members
- ICT infrastructure availability check, March 2021
- Details of costs



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Many Programs have been added as response to COVID-19 and to build resilience education system

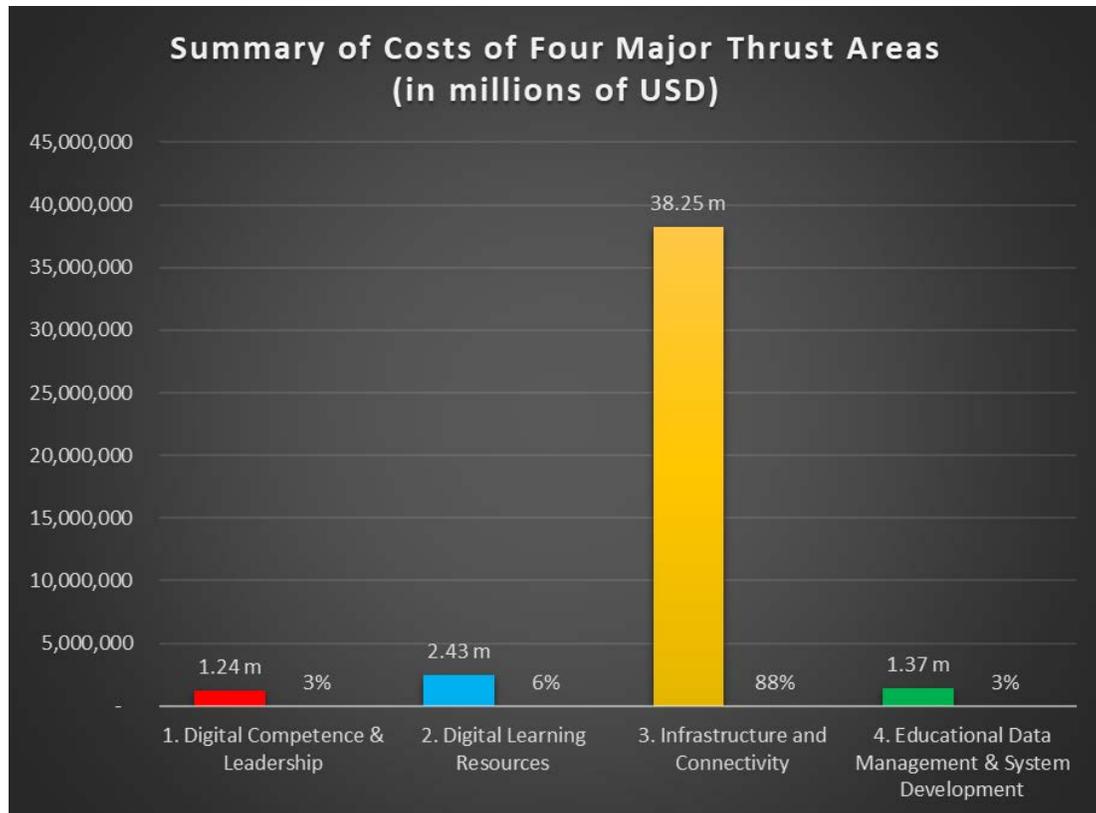
Achievements

- Almost 90% of the new ICT MP has been completed.

1. Assessing and Reviewing Current Draft	Status	Timeline	Stakeholders
Meeting with Working Groups	Completed	3 weeks	MoE Policy Officials /SMT and Project Coordinator/MP Task Force
Consultation with UNICEF	Completed	1 week	UNICEF
Desk study and analyses of all relevant policy documents	Completed	1 week	-
Conduct interviews	Completed	1 week	ICT specialists, educators, telecom/technology providers
Revising and redrafting MP	Completed		
Revising and redrafting of MP with relevant Covid related data	Completed	2 weeks	
Revising of time lines	Completed	1 week	
Re calculation of costing	Completed	2 weeks	
Feedback from UNESCO, Working Groups, SMT, and Development Partners	Completed	2 week	UNESCO, Working Groups, SMT, and Development Partners
3. Conducting validation workshop (online)	Completed		
Conduct online validation workshop with key stakeholders.	Completed	1 week	President Office, NCIT, UNICEF
Revise draft MP with input from the validation workshop.	Completed	1 week	-
Review of final draft by UNESCO and send feedback to MoE.	Completed	1 week	
Review and endorsement of final draft by MoE SMT.	On going	1 week	
4. Finalising and Submission of the MP			
Final editorial review and submission of final MP to UNESCO and MoE	to be started	1 week	
Dissemination of final MP to key stakeholders.	to be started		

Financing Mechanisms

- The MoE has considered that a certain percentage (though the % is not yet finalised) of resources would be forthcoming from development partners (e.g. for training) and local private sources (e.g for establishment of computer laboratories, supply of computer/laptops).
- These considerations have helped to make the MP more realistic and potentially feasible.



- Total # of students 2020 = 76,795 (approx. 77,000)
- Total cost of MP for 4 years = \$43.29m or MVR667.53m
- Cost per year = \$10.82m or **MVR166.88m**
- \$ 140 per student, per year
- MVR 2,167 per student, per year

MOE 2021 Budget 2,666,056,302 --- 6.3% of this year's budget for ICT MP



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Partnerships

The most relevant Ministries/Govt agencies have been actively engaged during the process.

- The Ministry of Communications, Science and Technology (very recently merged with the Environment Ministry),
- The Maldives National University operating under the Ministry of Higher Education,
- The technology department of the Office of the President represented by the Chief Technology Officer
- The private sector (mainly tourism related),
- NGO involved in technology sector,
- and UNICEF have been engaged throughout the process.

They have all been actively engaged in various stages of envisioning, project formulation and respective discussions on costing. These discussions have been extremely helpful in obtaining up to date national level data and developing the various program/project activities.

These engagements have also helped in better articulating feasible projects and have guided the MoE MP team in considering more cost-effective options.

There are already indications from private sources (e.g. MATI) and international agencies (primarily UNICEF at this stage) that are keen to financially or materially contribute to selected project activities. This would be very encouraging to complement the national budgetary resources allocations for this project.

The multi-sectoral and highly participatory nature of preparing the MP are deemed to be very useful in achieving a feasible and implementable plan.



Resource Mobilization

1. Through direct involvement in the planning and validation stage. Once the plan is endorsed the MP will be disseminated to additional development partners (e.g the World Bank, GPE, UNESCO, etc...) seeking their support for the activities included.
2. The MP will be submitted/presented to the Social Council, a Cabinet Sub-committee, Ministry of Finance, and the two major telephone/internet service providers in the country. It is hoped that these engagements will be productive in securing necessary funding locally for the activities included in the MP.

Next Steps

- Next steps

1. Share MP with the stakeholders and donor agencies
2. Identify the funding gaps, prepare costed proposal to reach out for funds
3. Activate the monitoring team and strengthen central coordination and teamwork

- Plans for the future

1. Evaluate schools and Maldives education system to international ICT benchmark/standards
2. Future-focused vocational skills and TVET, STEM and inclusion of 21st century competencies
 - a) Establishment of new regional hubs schools (STEM, coding, Arts, Sports science, Robotics)
 - b) Establishment of skill labs in schools

Thank you