

Digital Transformation of Non-Formal Education – A Regional Webinar

Increasing Access to Basic Education for Out-of-School Children in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam through Flexible Learning Programmes

28 June 2022

CONCEPT NOTE

Background

The [ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Education for Out-of-School Children and Youth](#) ('Declaration') was adopted by the Heads of State and Governments of ASEAN at the 28th ASEAN Summit in Vientiane, Lao PDR on 7 September 2016. The Declaration marks the first time a grouping drawn from some of the region's most marginalized peoples has made a unified commitment to addressing the needs of out-of-school children and youth (OOSCY) who face barriers to education. Reasons for these barriers include gender and racial discrimination; geographical distance; inadequate support for children with disabilities; costs related to schooling; language barriers; and humanitarian crises caused by conflicts, natural disasters, statelessness, and migration.

The Declaration takes a comprehensive approach to addressing the needs of these vulnerable groups based on its seven key principles: inclusivity, equity, accessibility, continuity, quality, flexibility, and sustainability. ASEAN Member States (AMS) also agreed under the Declaration to guide domestic legislation and policies to address the challenges faced by OOSCY in each unique country context.

The 'Increasing Access to Basic Education for Out-of-school Children through Flexible Learning Programmes' project, with generous support from the Government of the Republic of Korea (ROK) through the ASEAN-ROK Cooperation Fund, was initiated and developed to address the needs of OOSCY in ASEAN by assisting Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam (CLMV) within the frameworks of the Declaration and the [Initiative for ASEAN Integration \(IAI\) Work Plan III](#). The goal is to support CLMV in increasing access to basic education for OOSCY and disadvantaged learners through flexible learning solutions.

The introduction of the project has been timelier than ever, as the COVID-19 pandemic and its ongoing impacts have placed unique challenges on CLMV's education systems, leaving disadvantaged children even further behind.

The Project has focused on the following three components:

Component	Goal
1. Evidence-gathering	To identify promising blended learning cases in both formal and non-formal education settings and utilize these for pilot project design improvement
2. Policy improvement	To assess the relevance and effectiveness of current policies and develop policy recommendations for the target equivalency programme
3. Service delivery	To transfer the existing face-to-face equivalency model to digital format and pilot a blended equivalency program in two provinces of each country

The project has been implemented by the Ministries of Education of CLMV for the period of July 2020 to June 2022 with support from the Project Team (Good Neighbors International and UNESCO Asia Pacific Regional Bureau for Education, UNESCO Bangkok).

Progress to Date

The project was officially approved by the Government of the ROK in July 2020. From July to the present, preparation meetings have been held by UNESCO Bangkok and GNI, along with each of the CLMV governments, to introduce the project, review and discuss its overall direction and components, and identify and agree upon activities and a timeline for implementation. Because the current COVID-19 situation has made reopening schools and learning centres more difficult in some countries than others, the pace of preparation has varied, especially for Component 3: service delivery. Towards the end of the project planning meetings for monitoring and evaluation have been held.

The following is a summary of each country's progress to date:

Component 1: Evidence-Gathering

- Terms of Reference (TOR) for a national consultant is being prepared, and a national consultant has been identified to carry out the assignment.
- A team of international and national consultants will identify promising blended learning cases, which will be reflected in pilot project design improvements in both formal and non-formal education settings.

Component 2: Policy Improvement

- TOR for a national consultant is being prepared, and a national consultant has been identified to carry out the assignment.
- A team of international and national consultants will support:
 - *Cambodia* and *Lao PDR*: by improving their understanding of policy gaps which hinder OOSCY from learning.
 - *Myanmar* and *Viet Nam*: in preparing an equity- and inclusion-focused national education strategic plan. Final report of Myanmar has been produced, and component 3 activities cancelled.

Component 3: Service Delivery

- A blended learning model has been piloted and a learning management system developed and improved.
- A learning management system has been developed to share educational content and allow learners to interact with teachers/facilitators and peers synchronously.

- CLMV agreed to target lower-secondary-aged dropouts and OOSCY. Viet Nam will also focus on disadvantaged children at the primary and lower-secondary levels.

Regional Webinar

Good Neighbors International and UNESCO Asia-Pacific Regional Bureau for Education will jointly convene an online Regional Webinar with key stakeholders on 28 June 2022, to officially close the project, disseminate project results and share key learnings.

The objectives of the webinar are three-fold:

1. Information and knowledge sharing
 - a. Re-introduce CLMV governments and participants to the project
 - b. Share the outcomes and outputs of the project
2. Review the project achievements and M&E results
 - a. Review the achievements of components 1 and 2
 - b. Review the achievements of component 3 by each target country (CLV)
 - c. Inform the results of M&E and share lessons learnt
3. Discuss subject of blended learning for Out-of-School Children and Youth (OOSCY)
 - a. Share blended learning cases by different countries
 - b. Exchange information and learn from one another about recent experiences related to COVID-19 and the implementation of programmes and policies for OOSCY and disadvantaged learners

Date and Venue

The webinar will be held virtually from 14:00pm–16:00pm (GMT+7) on Tuesday, June 28th, 2022 via Zoom (please register <https://forms.office.com/r/a3D5N2EPAj>)

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PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

14:00pm–16:00pm (Thailand Standard Time / GMT+7)

Time	Item	Facilitator
14:00-14:15	<p><i>Opening Ceremony</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening Remarks by Mr. Junggon Kim, Secretary General, Good Neighbors International (3 min) • Welcome Address by H.E. Ekkaphab Phantavong, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (3 min) • Welcome Address by Ambassador Heeseong Kwon, Republic of Korea Ambassador to ASEAN (3 min) • Welcome Address by Mr. Shigeru Aoyagi, Regional Director, UNESCO Bangkok (3 min) • Meeting Objectives • Introduction of CLMV Participants and Project Team 	Good Neighbors International (GNI)
14:15-14:30	<p><i>Introduction: Increasing Access to Basic Education for OOSC in CLMV</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction on Project video (5 min) • An overview of the project and outcomes/outputs by Ms Seungheui Woo, Project Manager, GNI (10 min) 	GNI
14:30-15:10	<p><i>Session 1. Project Achievements/impacts during the COVID-19</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Country presentations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cambodia by Mr Kuoch Koulom-A, Director, Department of Non-Formal Education, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (10 min) ○ Lao PDR by Ms Philany Phissamay, Deputy director-General, Department of Non-Formal Education, Ministry of Education and Sports (10 min) ○ Viet Nam by Dr Ta Ngoc Tri, Deputy Director General, Primary Education Department, Ministry of Education and Training, Dr Le Anh Vinh, Director, National Center for Sustainable Development of General Education Quality, Vietnam Institute of Educational Sciences (TBC/10 min) • M&E results and recommendations by Dr Hwanbo Park, Professor, Chungnam National University (10 min) 	GNI
15:10-15:25	<i>Q&A</i>	
15:25-15:45	<p><i>Session 2. Blended learning programmes during the COVID-19</i> <i>Blended learning cases in Non-Formal Education during the COVID-19 pandemic</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education programmes for OOSCY in Indonesia by Fauzi Eko Pranyono, Member of Directorate of Community and Special Education (10 min) • Non-Formal education Programmes in Thailand by Sutthirit Punramol, Foreign Relations officer, The office of the Non-Formal and Information Education (ONIE) (10 min) 	UNESCO Bangkok
15:45-16:00	<i>Q&A</i>	
16:00	<p><i>Closing Remarks & Group photo</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Sun Kim, Senior Director, Good Neighbors International 	GNI