

Capacity Development Training on Designing Innovative Education Projects for Out-of-School Children

2 – 4 November 2016
Bangkok, Thailand

Introduction

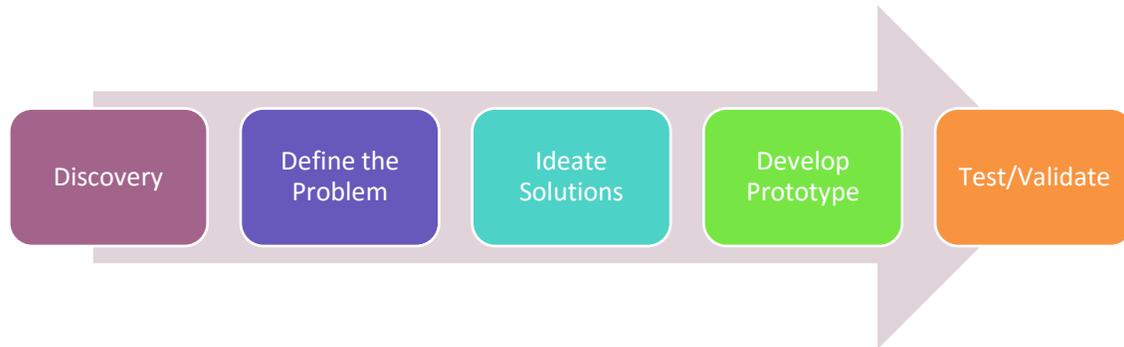
Despite tremendous advances in ensuring access to quality education for out-of-school children (OOSC) since 2000, data and analyses indicate an increase in the number of OOSC in recent years. Number of OOSC in the Asia-Pacific region increased by 1.2 million in three years time. This reflects an evident stagnation, following half a decade of stable progression, which highlights serious challenges in our efforts to reach the rest.

Numerous barriers and constraints prevent children from attending school. Barriers often include, but are not limited to: gender and racial discrimination; cultural prejudice; geographical distance or obstacles; lack of accessibility; inadequate support for children with disabilities; school costs; lack of support for localized languages (including minority languages); and emergency situations caused by conflict, natural disasters, statelessness and migration. These challenges are often intertwined to make the situation of OOSC more complex and difficult to address.

Therefore, with generous funding and support from Educate a Child (EAC), UNESCO Bangkok has begun implementing the *Strengthening Education Systems for Out-of-School Children* project to assist Southeast Asian countries that continue to face challenges in addressing the educational needs of OOSC. The main goal of the project is to enhance the target countries' institutional capacities and education systems in order to better address the educational needs of OOSC, regardless of their nationality and ethnicity, by utilizing flexible learning strategies (FLS) across contexts. This project has been expanded to include all Asian sub-regions, with the objective of increasing collaboration and cohesion of efforts for FLS and OOSC across Asia. Four strategies have been incorporated into this project, including research, regional policy advocacy, regional capacity building, and flexible learning strategies. This holistic approach will seek to ultimately lead the region to success in providing and sustaining quality learning opportunities for OOSC.

In this regards, UNESCO Bangkok will organize a regional capacity development training to help familiarize government officials with the concepts of design thinking. The goal is to inspire and empower participants with the potential of design thinking to help generate new solutions to the challenges of OOSC.

Five Steps of Design Thinking Process¹



Objectives

The overall goal of the training is to enhance the capacity of government officials to effectively design and implement innovative education programmes for OOSC by inspiring and empowering participants with the potential of design thinking to help generate new solutions to the challenges of OOSC. The main objective during the four-week preparatory online course is to orient participants in OOSC-related issues in education and design thinking.

Building upon the foundation made during the four-week online preparatory course between September and October, 2016, participants are expected to:

- Better understand various issues of OOSC across the region
- Demonstrate through inspirational examples on how design thinking can create new solutions across in any situations
- Familiarize participants with the design thinking mindset and principles and establish the strategic design thinking process to produce a plan for approaches

Methodology

The four-week online orientation

This regional capacity development training consists of a four-week online orientation and three days of offline training. The four-week online orientation is designed for participants to grasp basic concepts of design thinking and delve into issues of interest related to OOSC.

This online orientation will be available either online or via a mobile application. For the first two weeks, participants will be introduced to basic concepts of the design thinking process and work through a social context design thinking case study to understand how design thinking can impact social challenges. Participants will be given supplementary materials, including short readings on the topic and relevant YouTube links. Guiding questions to help participant's understanding will be provided during each session.

¹ Adapted from "Proposal: 3-Day Design Thinking Training Program for UNESCO Bangkok" prepared by Angela Koch in August, 2016

All participants are expected to provide brief answers in the comment box and are strongly encouraged to share their thoughts and opinions with other course-takers using an online discussion forum.

After the introduction sessions on design thinking end, participants will be introduced to various country cases and issues related to OOSC that they choose prior to the online course. The primary purpose of these sessions is for participants to learn more about how OOSC-related issues are dealt with in other countries, how innovation can help to provide these children with education and how participants might be able to apply lessons to their own contexts.

The topics identified within this training are:

1. Fundamental Topic: Participants are **requested to watch the following four videos** that offer an introduction to the situation of OOSC and innovation in education.

Situations of OOSC in Asia-Pacific	
1	A New Dawn in Rural Thai Education by <i>Dr. Mechai Viravaidya, Population and Development International (PDI), Population and Community Development Association (PDA), Mechai Viravaidya (MVF), Mechai Pattana School</i>
2	Innovative for Out-of-School Children: New Approaches to an Age-Old Problem by <i>Ms. Tara Hill, Results for Development (R4D)</i>
3	Ensuring Learning Takes Place by <i>Dr. Rukmini Banerji, Pratham Education Foundation</i>
4	Using Innovative Finance to Reach Out-of-School Children by <i>Dr. Nicolas Burnett, R4D</i>

2. Electives: The following is a selective **watch** list of **videos** that offer an introduction to various issues related to OOSC. Participants are **asked to choose at least four videos** and **watch** them.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governance and Policy • Finance • Collaboration and Partnership • Curricula and Assessment • Pedagogy and Learning • ICT • Gender • Disability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Labor and Trafficking • Education in Emergencies • Ethnic Minorities, Stateless and Migrant Children • Beyond Primary • CSR Activities in the Private Sectors • Monitoring and Evaluation
---	--

All videos are available at <http://www.flexlearnstrategies.net/online-courses/>.

The three-day training

Over the course of four weeks, participants will learn more about how they might use the design thinking process to improve the situation of OOSC.

Using a design-centered, solution-based approach, participants will develop new ways to tackle problems and avoid hazards. Participants will also learn to better understand their stakeholders and more effectively solicit government support and partnerships.

An expert in design thinking will facilitate the three-day training by helping participants to 1) apply the design thinking principles and process to tackle complex challenges related to OOSC in their own context; 2) learn techniques to improve ideation and prototyping; and 3) lay the foundation for a strategic design thinking process that comprehends the needs, behaviors, and desires of OOSC.

At the end of each day, participants' understanding will be assessed. This will help the expert and the UNESCO Bangkok team to adjust the training if necessary.

Expected Accomplishments

- Techniques acquired to discover the challenge, brainstorm and build a model that can be replicated
- Understanding of real stakeholders improved
- A plan for approaches developed to effectively reach OOSC and provide them with better learning opportunities

Participants

The participants of this training will include approximately 40 participants from ASEAN and East Asian countries, including Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Viet Nam, Mongolia and China.

- 33 national and provincial/district-level government officials currently in charge of educational programmes for OOSC or any disadvantaged children
- Design Thinking Facilitator
- UNESCO Bangkok Team

Venue

The Landmark Bangkok Hotel

138 Sukhumvit Rd, Khlong Toei,

Bangkok 10110

Tel: +66 2 254 0404

E-mail: email@landmarkbangkok.com

Website: <http://www.landmarkbangkok.com>

Training Programme

2-4 November 2016

Bangkok, Thailand

Day 1 | November 2, 2016

Time	Session
07:45 – 08:30	Registration
08:30 – 08:40	Welcoming and Introduction of the Training <i>Mr. Ichiro Miyazawa, Programme Specialist, UNESCO Bangkok</i>
08:40 – 08:55	Setting the Context: Overview of Training and Expectations <i>Ms. Angela Koch, Design Thinking Facilitator</i>
08:55 – 09:55	Pre-Work: Introduction of Participants and Sharing of Pre-Work
09:55 – 10:15	GROUP PHOTO & COFFEE BREAK
Module 1. Design Thinking Introduction and Design Thinking Mindset This module provides a conceptual understanding of design thinking and its components. This module aims to improve participants' understanding and knowledge on the overall design thinking processes. It also introduces why and how it is used. Countries will explore design thinking mindsets and understand the context of innovation through various cases.	
10:15 – 11:15	Introduction to Design Thinking With Experience Design Thinking: Group Work <i>Ms. Angela Koch, Design Thinking Facilitator</i> <i>In pairs, participants learn about the Design Thinking Process by experiencing it through a rapid-fire exercise where they design a solution for their partner.</i>
11:15 – 11:50	Inspirational Examples of How Design Thinking Has Solved Difficult Problems <i>Ms. Angela Koch, Design Thinking Facilitator</i> <i>Examples for the public sphere as well as business will be shared to demonstrate how Design Thinking solved a difficult problem: Examples will include a Meals Service from Denmark, Road Safety initiative from Japan, a Financial product from New Zealand, Stop Smoking Service from a PharmaCompany</i>
11:50 – 12:50	LUNCH
12:50 – 13:50	The Essential Skills and Mindset of Design Thinkers <i>Ms. Angela Koch, Design Thinking Facilitator</i> <i>Using a video Case Study, we will observe the inner workings of a team as they design a solution. Participants will discuss in their groups the Mindsets and Values that supported the innovation work. Groups will share their observations.</i>
Module 2. Design Thinking Process and Tools This module provides a deeper understanding of the overall design thinking process as well as available tools and techniques for each stage of the process. We will also answer the question: How can Design Thinking help us?	
13:50 – 14:20	Overview of the 5 Step Design Thinking Process

Ms. Angela Koch, Design Thinking Facilitator

An overview of the 5 step Design Thinking will be shared by referencing the earlier design exercise and the Video Case Study.

14:20 – 15:20

Identification of the Wicked Problem

Ms. Angela Koch, Design Thinking Facilitator

Working in teams, participants will reflect on how they believe Design Thinking might help with designing new solutions for OOSC. A representative from each group will share their thoughts on which specific challenges and stakeholder groups Design Thinking can help with and the facilitator will help the group select one area to focus on for the duration of the Training program.

15:20 – 15:40

COFFEE BREAK

15:40 – 16:20

Challenging Conventional Wisdom: Case Study and Discussion

Ms. Angela Koch, Design Thinking Facilitator

Using the Danish Meals Service Case Study participants will explore the typical ways of going about solving the issue and become aware of common assumptions and biases in solving finding.

16:20 – 17:00

Day 1 Reflections and Assessment

Participants work in country teams and create a Poster to communicate the essence of Design Thinking to their organizations back home. They present their poster to the whole group. A short 5 question multiple choice assessment is provided.

Day 2 | November 3, 2016

Time	Session
(Continuation) Module 2. Design Thinking Process and Tools	
This module provides a deeper understanding of overall design thinking process as well as available tools and techniques for each stage of the process. We will also answer the question: How can Design Thinking help us?	
09:00 – 09:15	Review of Day 1 and warm up exercise Ms. Angela Koch, Design Thinking Facilitator
09:15 – 10:15	Step 1: Discovery – The Engine of Design Thinking Ms. Angela Koch, Design Thinking Facilitator The facilitator will share tools for learning about the problem from a human perspective. Tools will include Discovery Plan, Journey Mapping and Stakeholder Profiling.
10:15 – 10:30	COFFEE BREAK
10:30 – 10:50	Continue with Step 1: Discovery – Exercises Ms. Angela Koch, Design Thinking Facilitator Groups will practice creating a Stakeholder profile using an earlier case study.
10:50 – 11:30	Step 2: Defining Innovation Challenges Ms. Angela Koch, Design Thinking Facilitator Using several case examples (Road Safety, The Danish meals service), participants will practice framing discovery learnings into Innovation Challenge Statements.

11:30 – 12:00 **Step 3: Tools for Generating Ideas**
Ms. Angela Koch, Design Thinking Facilitator
Participants will experience through exercises some of the challenges of generating ideas. They will be equipped with guiding principles for idea generation as well as 2 tools for generating solutions.

12:00 – 13:00 **LUNCH**

13:00 – 13:15 **Step 4: The Value of Rapid Prototyping**
Ms. Angela Koch, Design Thinking Facilitator
Participants learn about the value of transforming concepts into 3-D prototypes for easier communication and feedback.

Module 3. Exploring Stage of the Design Thinking Process for OOSC

This module provides participants with the opportunity to reflect and discuss how they might begin to apply design thinking in their country. In addition, participants will start to explore their stakeholders and identify information gaps in their understanding of these stakeholder groups.

13:15 – 13:45 **Kick-off of the Hands on Project for OOSC**
Challenging Conventional Wisdom in OOSC: Group Work
Groups work on identifying the typical ways of thinking about problems and solutions in their organizations.

13:45 – 14:15 **Report of Progress**

- Group Presentations
- Summary of Conventional Wisdom for OOSC Problem Identification and Solution Finding

14:15 – 14:45 **Stakeholder Identification: Group Work**
Key stakeholder groups are identified for further investigation and preliminary information requirements are explored.

14:45 – 15:00 **COFFEE BREAK**

15:00 – 15:30 **Reporting on Stakeholder Info Requirements**
Group Rapporteurs

15:30 – 16:00 **Discovery Plan: Group Work**
Groups develop detailed Discovery Plans for understanding stakeholders more fully.

16:00 – 16:40 **Reporting on Discovery Plan**
Group Rapporteurs

16:40 – 17:00 **Day 2 Reflections and Assessment**
Ms. Angela Koch, Design Thinking Facilitator

Day 3 | November 4, 2016

Time	Session
Module 4. Developing the Potential of Design Thinking to Help Generate New Solutions	
This module demonstrates how to find themes and patterns, synthesize and draw insights from stakeholder discovery and how sharp insights through the development of Innovation Challenges help bring us closer to better solutions.	
09:00 – 09:20	Review of Day 2 with warm up exercise
09:20 – 10:15	Stakeholder Journey Mapping <i>Participants use the Journey Mapping Tool to uncover pain points in the Stakeholder school experience</i>
10:15 – 10:30	COFFEE BREAK
10:30 – 11:00	Journey Mapping Reporting (Group based Assessment) <i>Group Rapporteurs</i>
11:00 – 11:30	Develop Stakeholder Persona Profiles: Group Work
11:30 – 12:00	Reporting (Group based Assessment) <i>Group Rapporteurs</i>
12:00 – 13:00	LUNCH
13:00 – 13:30	Develop Innovation Challenge Statements – Identify Themes: Group Work
13:30 – 14:00	Reporting (Group based Assessment) <i>Group Rapporteurs</i>
14:00 – 14:30	Preliminary Ideas Using a Tool: Group Work
14:30 – 14:45	Reporting of Ideas (Group based Assessment) <i>Group Rapporteurs</i>
14:45 – 15:15	Evaluating Ideas
15:15 – 15:30	COFFEE BREAK
15:30 – 16:00	Taking Projects Forward – Facilitator Perspective <i>Sharing the best Applications of the Design Thinking Tools with guidance on taking projects forward back in home country</i>
16:00 – 16:30	Taking Projects Forward – Participant Perspective <i>Groups share the value and concerns on using the Design Thinking approach for solving OOSC-related issues</i>
16:30 – 16:40	Training Feedback
16:40 – 17:00	Wrap-up <i>Ms. Angela Koch, Design Thinking Facilitator</i> <i>Mr. Ichiro Miyazawa, Programme Specialist, UNESCO Bangkok</i>