



The Way Forward

Lao PDR

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Country Profile

Lao PDR

- 17 provinces and one capital.
- District 148 districts.
- Villages 8,507 villages.
- Population: 6.5 million (2015)

Education hierarchy

- Ministry of Education and Sports.
- Provincial Education and Sports Services (PESS).
- District Education and Sports Bureau (DESB).
- School clusters.
- Village Education Development Committee (VEDC).
- Schools.

Impact of COVID-19

- Domestic revenue falling from 14 to 10 percent of GDP in 2020.
- Public expenditure falling from 20.2 percent of GDP in 2019 to an average of 18.9 percent in the period 2020-2022.
- School closure.



Key issues

- The curriculum is too crowded.
- Low pedagogical skills of many teachers.
- Limited pedagogical support for teachers.
- Low literacy and numeracy skills.
- Disparities between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged areas.

Constraint and Challenges

- Lack of teaching resources and support.
- Lack of adequate financial resources.
- Multi-grade teaching.
- Poor learning outcomes in Lao language and mathematics.
- Teacher allocation

Curriculum

- Too much contents in the textbooks.
- Fixed contents.
- Shortage for providing textbooks (3 to 1 ratio).

Pedagogy

- Limited teaching skills.
- Rote learning.
- Teacher centered approach (Lecture)

Assessment

- Focus on the assessment on knowing, remembering (academic criteria).
- Summative assessment (To get the score of a specific subject with the aim to determine fitness for next year of study).

Infrastructure

- ICT coverage (gaps between city and remote areas)
- Shortage of ICT infrastructure (rural and remote areas)
- Shortage wide Internet Penetration and connectivity.
- Shortage wide electricity coverage.

Reform Agenda

- New curriculum reform.
 - Natural Science and Social Science Stream.
 - Secondary Vocational Education.
- Improve content knowledge and pedagogical skills of teachers.
- Expand support mechanisms through school clusters (school mapping).
- New training framework for teachers.
 - Flip learning.
 - Students center approach.
 - Digital literacy.

Reform Agenda

“Increased number of graduates from ECE to upper secondary including non-formal education (NFE), with improved learning outcomes, particularly literacy and numeracy skills but also other 21st century skills, with special focus on disadvantaged and gender equity”.

“The use of science and technology, labor skills development, innovation, and labor skills competition, provision of information on labor, in order to improve the quality of employees, with the aim of promoting employment, to supply labor to the local market and abroad”.

“Increased number of graduates from upper secondary, with improved learning outcomes, particularly life skill, ICT skill but also basic vocational skills, with special focus on disadvantaged and gender equity”.

“Increased number of knowledgeable and competent teachers and principals meeting the teaching standards that are used to inform their professional development with regular performance assessment” .

Overcome Challenges

- Adequate financial support.
- School clusters (regulatory framework to ensure success).
- Decentralization (School-based management).
- Change the teacher's mindset.

Curriculum reform

- Natural Science and Social Science Stream.
- Secondary Vocational Education.
- The 21st Century skills.

Pedagogy

- A new pedagogy for teaching.
- Integrating pedagogy with technology.
- Blended learning.
- Life-long learning.
- Andragogy

Assessment

- Flexibility of assessment (Online assessment)

Infrastructure

- Allocate more funding to reduce the gap among disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged areas.

Desire outcome of K-12 Education system

- Entrepreneur.
- Labour market.
- Skilled workers (technical and professionals' skills).
- Active learning (Life-long learning skills)
- Learning to learn.

School leaders

- **Teacher Collaboration:** Platform for teachers by subjects.
- **Provide supports and guidance.**

Teachers

- Provide regular specialize training (in-service training).
- Effectively integrating pedagogy with technology.
- New pedagogies, ICT literacy and skills.
 - Create online videos
 - Online assessment via WhatsApp, Google Form ...
 - Video conferencing apps Zoom, Teams, Meets etc ...
- Flip Learning.
- Develop a holistic approach to assessment not tilted towards academic performance only.
- Give more weight to continual teacher's assessments (regular quizzes).
- Test & quizzes instead of exams.
- Assign research projects.
- Building flexibility in Assessment.
- Learn how to do online assessment (to cope with new Normal life).

Financial support

- Government budget.
- Official Development Assistance.
- Development partners
(EU, Australia, GPE III, ADB, World Bank, JICA, KOICA ...)