

ADB's Support to Education and Training - Ongoing and Emerging Priorities

8 September 2021

Presented by
Shanti Jagannathan, Principal Education Specialist
Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department
Asian Development Bank

Asia Pacific among fastest growing regions

- Economies in Asia and the Pacific have witnessed robust pre-COVID-19 growth rates.
- Post-COVID-19, the region is projected to grow faster than global average in 2021 (6.9% compared to 5.2% globally- IMF)
- Human capital development at the heart of knowledge-based growth with emphasis on higher order talent, and skills
- As per a recent McKinsey report, investments in digital, talent reskilling will be two of the 5 levers for recovery post-COVID-19
- Reimagining education and training in the wake of COVID-19

BUT

- **Many challenges to be addressed – slow pace of growth of high skills, digitalization, inequalities, and disparities**

Key Challenges in the Education sector

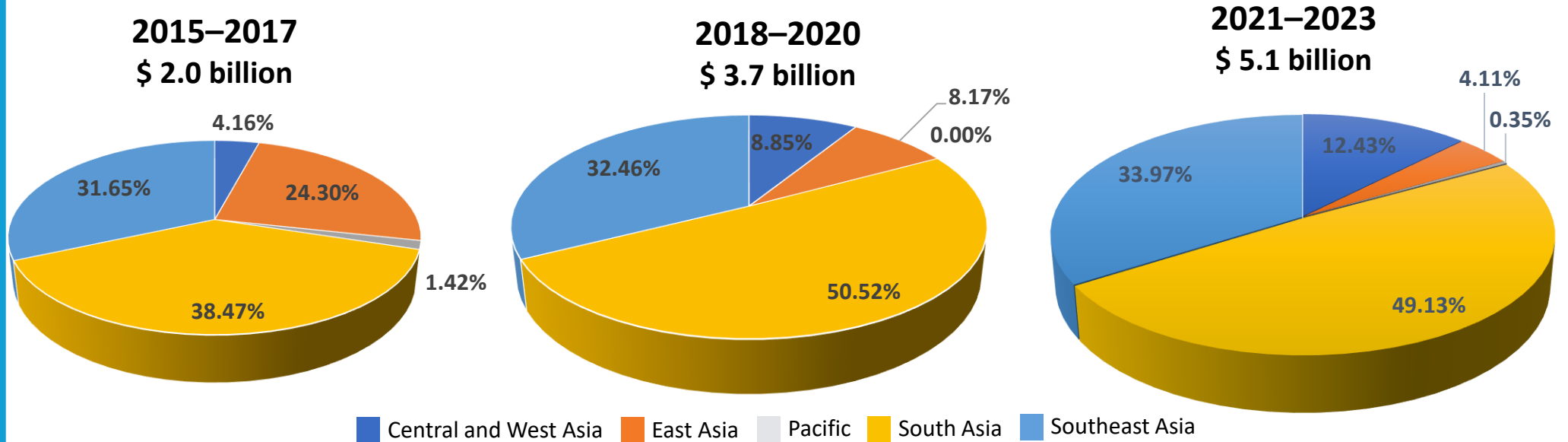
- ‘Learning crisis’: shortfall in foundational literacy and numeracy, despite tremendous progress in access
- Ineffective teacher practices; inadequate teacher capacities
- Slow pace of adoption of next gen curriculum and pedagogy
- Inadequate attention to soft skills, digital skills, and higher skills
- Mismatch between training institutions and employers on skills
- Lack of adoption of disruptive technologies in public education to improve learning and employability

BUT

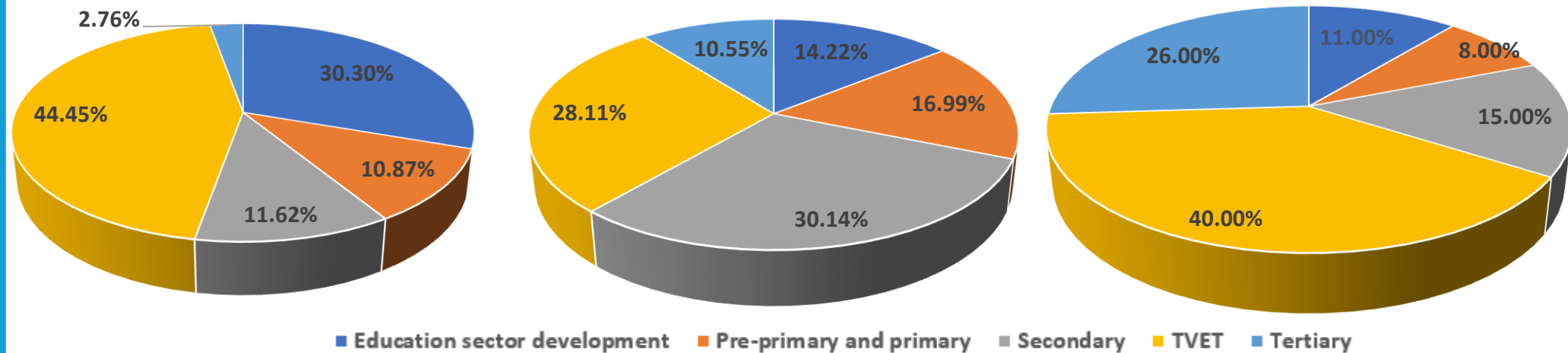
- **Governments addressing learning quality with equity**
- **COVID-19 spurring adoption of new technologies for learning**

Education Sector Lending by ADB

By Region



By Subsector



Consulting Business Opportunities in ADB Education Sector Programs

- Design phase: diagnostic studies, costing, economic analysis, market scoping, environmental and social safeguards, and assessment of climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Implementation phase: technical support to quality improvement and management areas – teacher professional development, curriculum, and training
- Monitoring and evaluation: annual fiduciary reviews, independent verification of achievement of results for results-based loans, tracer studies in TVET, impact assessment research, and evaluation studies.



Areas for Technical Support in demand from partner countries

- Developing member countries (DMCs) are looking for finance++ partnerships
- Knowledge solutions are increasingly critical to success of programs
- Innovative approaches and new operating modalities are called for to help DMCs keep pace with global trends
- Sharing of global experiences and practices and concrete working models with demonstrated results are sought by DMCs
- High-quality analytics in planning, design, and implementation are needed for value addition in ADB programs and projects

Key Areas for Technical Consulting

K-12

- STEM and improving science
- Creativity, problem solving, soft skills
- Student learning assessment
- New pedagogies; teacher training
- Coding, digital skills
- Online learning with instructional design
- Learning management system

TVET

- Skills for fourth industrial revolution
- Skills for climate resilient and green occupations
- Skills for health workforce, aging population and care economy
- Skills for hi-tech agriculture
- Advanced skills (tertiary)
- Skills University
- Real time job market forecasting
- AI-based job matching platforms

Higher education

- Research, innovation, start-up ecosystems
- Higher order digital talent
- Advanced skills in science and new technologies
- Digital credentials, blockchain for qualifications
- Corporate research partnerships
- Accelerators and incubators and entrepreneurship

New Modalities for Technical Collaboration

ADB seeks to explore opportunities in operations:

- Going beyond consulting to partnerships and long-term institutional twinning
- Enabling exchange programs for faculty, students
- Promoting collaborative research practice and innovation
- Amplifying Peer-to-Peer knowledge transfer and sharing global best practices
- Establishing professional networks and promoting regional resource centers of excellence and 'lighthouse' institutions
- Enabling institutional partnerships for teacher training, student assessments and research collaboration

Strategy 2030, Operational Priorities & COVID-19 Recovery

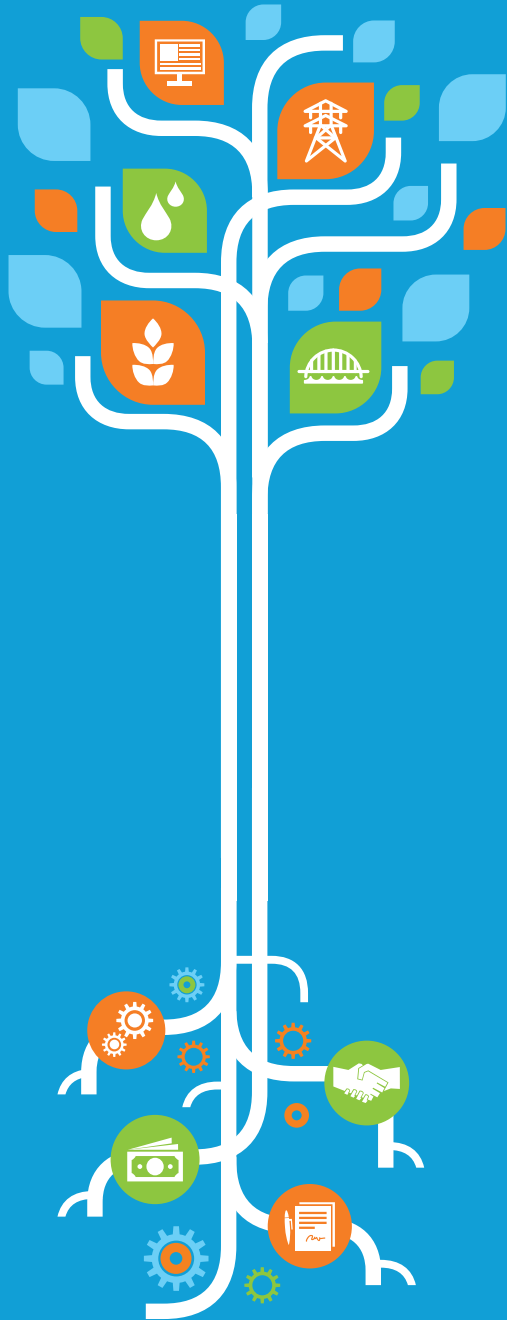
ADB seeks to explore opportunities in knowledge work:

- Multi-sectoral approaches for development impact
 - Skills for infrastructure leading to quality jobs (energy, transport)
 - Skills for climate resilient development processes
 - Education, skills and talent pipeline for smart cities
 - Training for hi-tech agriculture
- OP 1: address remaining poverty and reduce inequalities.
 - Intersection of education, health and social protection
 - Human capital, protection for all, generate quality jobs, and reduce inequality in opportunities
- Post-COVID actions
 - ADB guidance note on response, recovery and rejuvenation
 - New departures and re-imagining education delivery

UK Expertise and Collaboration

UK and Global practices in

- School quality supervision, school leadership
- Regulations and reforms in examinations, student assessments
- Expanding affordable and sustainable technology in education
- Role of the private sector in education and training to scale up quality education
- New departures in well-known equity aspects such as girls, disadvantaged youth and students with disability
- University networks, improving quality and relevance of tertiary education, research collaborations



THANK YOU!

BUSINESS
OPPORTUNITIES 

Shanti Jagannathan
Principal Education Specialist
Education Sector Group
sjagannathan@adb.org
[linkedin.com/in/shanti-Jagannathan](https://www.linkedin.com/in/shanti-Jagannathan)

We can put those interested in touch with our colleagues in the
different regional departments

ADB

APPENDICES

List of Pipeline Projects 2021–2023

2021 Approval Pipeline		ADB Financing
Central and West Asia Regional Department		
Pakistan	Improving Workforce Readiness in Punjab Project	100.0
East Asia Regional Department		
People's Republic of China	Shaanxi Xi'an Preschool Education Development Program	150.0
South Asia Regional Department		
Bangladesh	Improving Computer and Software Engineering Tertiary Education Project	100.0
India	Accelerating State Education Program to Improve Results (ASPIRE) (with piggybacked TA)	300.0
India	Assam Skill University Project (with piggybacked TA)	112.0
Bangladesh	Education Sector Development Preparatory Facility (PRF)	15.0
Southeast Asia Regional Department		
Indonesia	Higher Education for Technology and Innovation	79.5
Indonesia	Boosting Productivity and Human Capital Program, SP1	100.0
Philippines	Facilitating Youth School-to-Work Transition Program (Subprogram 3)	150.0
	Total 2021	1,106.5

List of Pipeline Projects 2021–2023

2022 Approval Pipeline		ADB Financing
Central and West Asia Regional Department		
Kyrgyz Republic	School Education Reform Sector Development Program	35.0
Azerbaijan	Vocational Education Sector Development Program	75.0
Georgia	Improving Learning Outcomes in General Education	150.0
Georgia	Modern Skills for Better Jobs Sector Development Program - Subprogram 2	30.0
Uzbekistan	Secondary Education Investment in STEM Project	50.0
East Asia Regional Department		
Mongolia	Research University Sector Development Project	30.0
Pacific Department		
Solomon Islands	Secondary Education Project	10.0
Vanuatu	Secondary TVET Education Project	8.0
South Asia Regional Department		
Nepal	Second Supporting School Sector Development Plan	100.0
Bangladesh	Strengthening Agricultural Tertiary Education Project	150.0
India	State Skills Development Project	100.0
Bangladesh	Second Skills for Employment Project (Phase 1)	300.0
Nepal	Improved Access to Skills for Productive Employment Project	70.0
Sri Lanka	Second Skills Enhancement Program	200.0
Bhutan	Pathways for Innovation and Technical Education Project	30.0
Southeast Asia Regional Department		
Indonesia	Skills for Employability	200.0
Indonesia	Promoting Research and Innovation through Modernization and Enhancement of Science and Technology Park (formerly Higher Education for Technology and Innovation Project Phase 2)	200.0
Philippines	Integrating Innovation System in Philippine Technical and Vocational Education and Training (might be advanced to 2021)	100.0
Viet Nam	Skills and Knowledge for Inclusive Economic Growth Project 2	100.0
Viet Nam	Upgrading Higher Education Institutions for Better Qualified Human Resources (formerly Tertiary Education Development Project)	100.0
Cambodia	Skills for Future Economy Investment Program, PFR 1	100.0
Cambodia	Science and Technology Investment Program, Tranche 1 (formerly Upper Secondary Education)	40.0
Timor-Leste	Workforce and Skills Development Project/ Secondary Education Project	10.0
Total 2022		2,188.0

List of Pipeline Projects 2021–2023

2023 Approval Pipeline		ADB Financing
Central and West Asia Regional Department		
Tajikistan	Improving Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics Education Project	20.0
Pakistan	Punjab Education Sector Development Program	50.0
Pakistan	Sindh Secondary Education Investment (additional financing)	75.0
Uzbekistan	Secondary Education Investment in STEM Project (Additional financing)	50.0
East Asia Regional Department		
Mongolia	Responding to the Demographic Bubble in the Education Sector	30.0
South Asia Regional Department		
Sri Lanka	Innovation and R&D Capacity Development Project	100.0
India	Meghalaya Human Capital Development Project (Phase 2)	80.0
India	Accelerating State Education Program to Improve Results (ASPIRE) - Phase 2	200.0
Nepal	Support for Devolved Education Project: Making Schools Work	50.0
Maldives	Social Sector Development Project	22.8
Bhutan	Strengthening Institutional Capacity for Innovation and Digital Transformation (TVET)	30.0
Sri Lanka	Additional Financing of Science and Technology Human Resource Development Project	150.0
Bangladesh	Innovations in Tertiary Education for Competitiveness (Garments and Textiles) Project	100.0
Bangladesh	TVET Teachers for the Future	300.0
Southeast Asia Regional Department		
Indonesia	Boosting Productivity and Human Capital Program, SP2	500.0
Lao PDR	Skill Development for Inclusive and Sustainable Growth Project	56.0
Total 2023		1,813.8

Non-Lending Pipeline, 2021–2023

2021		
Country	Project Name	Amount (million US\$)
		ADB Financing
Pakistan	Improving Workforce Readiness in Punjab Project	0.0
Mongolia	Supporting Implementation of Education Sector Medium-Term Development Plan	0.0
Regional (Solomon Islands, Vanuatu)	Preparing Education Sector Projects	1.0
Bhutan	Preparing Transformative Approaches to Skills Development Project (TVET)	0.5
India	Accelerating State Education Program to Improve Results	0.0
India	Supporting the Development of Higher Level Skills and Entrepreneurship	0.0
Sri Lanka	Preparation and Implementation of Tertiary Education Sector Development	0.5
Regional	Knowledge Development Support for Southeast Asia II	1.0
	Total	3.0

Non-Lending Pipeline, 2021–2023

2022		
Country	Project Name	Amount (million US\$)
		ADB Financing
Azerbaijan	Preparing the Vocational Education Sector	0.75
Tajikistan	Improving Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Education Project	0.00
Pakistan	Preparing Punjab Education Sector Development	0.80
Pakistan	Preparing Support for Sindh Secondary Education Investment (additional financing)	0.80
Georgia	Improving Learning Outcomes in General Education Social Development Program	0.50
Bangladesh	Support to TVET and Skills Development Project (supplementary financing)	1.00
Bangladesh	Support to NextGen Primary and Secondary Education	1.00
Bangladesh	Preparing for Education for Children with Special Needs Project	0.50
Nepal	Implementation Support for the Second School Sector Development Plan	0.50
Nepal	Implementation Support for Improved Access to Skills for Productive Employment Project	0.50
Nepal	Preparing Support for Devolved Education Project: Making Schools Work	0.50
India	Meghalaya Human Capital Development Project (Phase 2)	0.00
	Total	6.85

Non-Lending Pipeline, 2021–2023

2023		
Country	Project Name	Amount (million US\$)
		ADB Financing
Uzbekistan	Preparing Secondary Education Investment in STEM Project (Additional financing)	0.80
Kyrgyz Republic	Education Sector Development Program	0.50
Maldives	Social Sector Development Project (Education) (piggybacked)	0.50
Bangladesh	Support to Tertiary Education Program	0.50
Bhutan	Preparing Strengthening Institutional Capacity for Innovation and Digital Transformation Project (TVET)	0.50
Sri Lanka	Human Capital Development Capacity and Implementation Support II	0.50
Nepal	Implementation Support for Devolved Education Project Making Schools Work	0.75
	Total	4.05