

EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC REGION – LAO PDR

Second Global Partnership for Education Project (GPE II)

BACKGROUND

Improving access to and quality of education is fundamental for reducing poverty and sharing economic prosperity in Lao PDR. Despite considerable progress over the last decade, almost a quarter of poor primary school aged children are not enrolled in school. Dropout rates in early grades are high; for those who stay in school, learning outcomes at the end of primary education are low.

Lao PDR has recognized education as a fundamental priority in its medium and long-term development plans; universal access to quality education is also one of the main outputs of the draft 8th National Social and Economic Development Plan (2016–2020).

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVE

Support the Government of Lao PDR in improving pre-primary and primary education quality, through:

- providing additional funding at school, district and provincial levels, and strengthening capacity to manage these resources
- supporting early grade literacy, through improved teaching practices, instructional resources and analytical products

ACTIVITIES

Component 1 (USD 12.7 million): *Strengthening School-Based Management*, by funding complementary School Block Grants at the school level, operating costs at district and provincial levels, and building capacity at all levels to manage these resources effectively.

Component 2 (USD 2.5 million): *Improving Reading Outcomes and Assessment Capacity*, through the development, piloting and evaluation of a new approach to reading instruction for Grades 1 and 2.

Component 3 (USD 1.6 million): *Project Management and Monitoring and Evaluation*.



PROJECT BENEFICIARIES AND BENEFITS

- **1,000,000 pre-primary and primary students** who will benefit from better financed and better managed schools;
- **4,800 Grade 1 and 2 students** who will benefit from teachers trained in improved approaches for teaching reading;
- **400 teachers** who will benefit from training and new instructional materials related to teaching basic reading and writing skills;
- **8,900 principals /heads of incomplete schools** who will benefit from capacity building training;
- **8,900 Village Education Development Committees** who will be encouraged to increase their participation in their community schools;
- **1,000 Provincial Education and Sports Services / District Education and Sports Bureaus** in project provinces and districts who will benefit from cross – departmental capacity building activities;
- **20 staff from the Ministry of Education** who will benefit from further training in learning assessment as well as overall capacity development to deliver educational services.

FINANCING AND IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

- Global Partnership for Education grant: **USD 16.8 million**
- Implementation period: July 2015 to July 2019 (4 years)
- Implementing agency: Ministry of Education and Sports

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