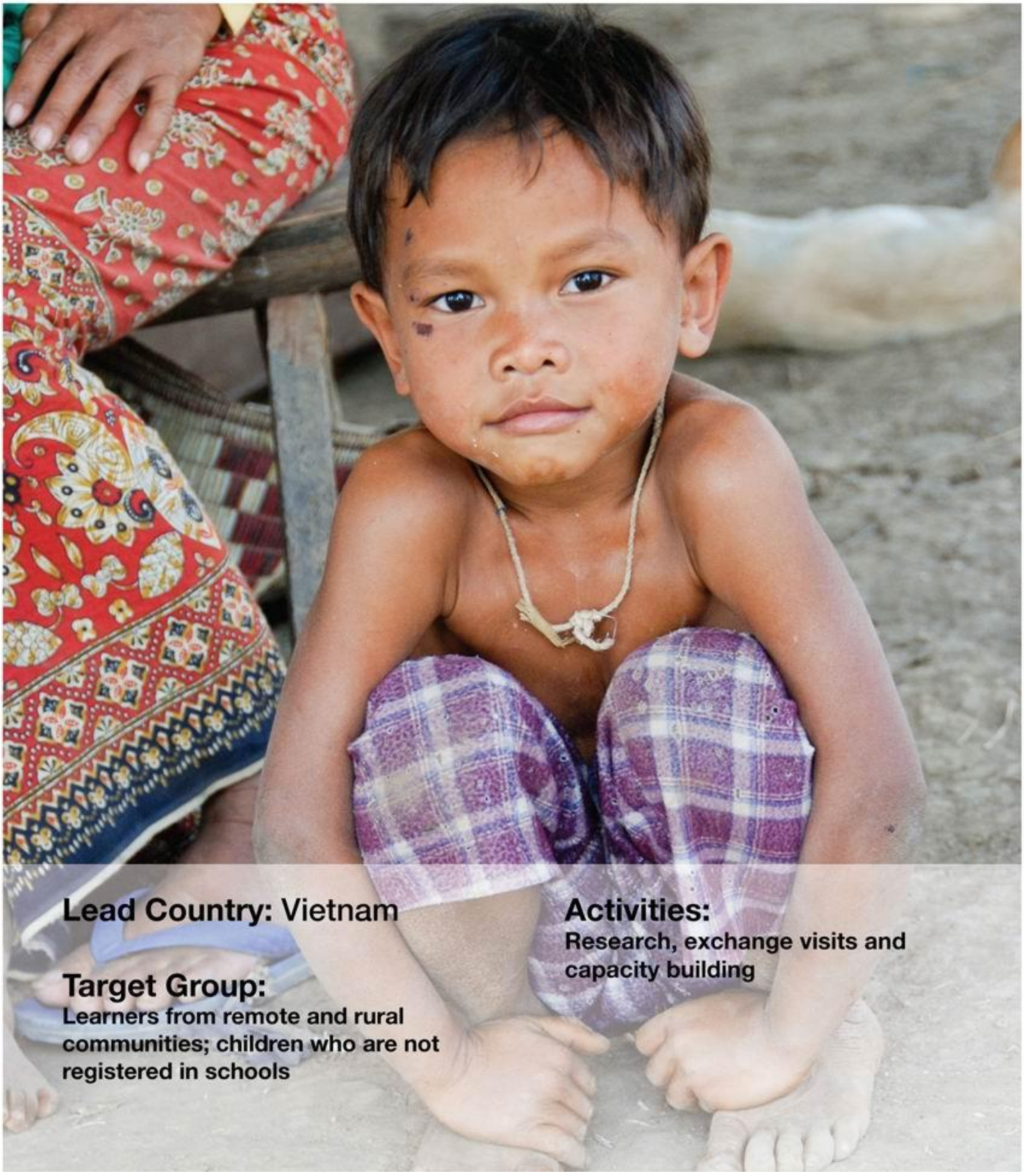
Collaborative Projects to Reach the Unreached in Southeast Asia and Attain Education For All Goals by 2015

Project 4
Tracking mechanism for unreached populations



Lead Country: Vietnam

Target Group:
Learners from remote and rural communities; children who are not registered in schools

Activities:
Research, exchange visits and capacity building

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PROGRESS REPORT by LEAD COUNTRY (As of November 2010)

Name of Project : **Project 4 - Tracking Mechanism for Unreached Populations In Education**

Lead Country : **Vietnam**

Target group: child laborers, street children, disabled children, children in difficult living conditions, children affected or infected by HIV and AIDS, orphans and abandoned children who are not registered in schools.

Participating country: Malaysia
Involved countries: Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand, Cambodia, and other SEA countries.
EFA partners: UNESCO UIS-AIMS, ASPBAE, and whoever it may concern.
Time: 3 years (2010- 2013)

I. RATIONALE

Unreached populations in education can be seen in most of the SEA countries as those under difficult circumstances who cannot get access to education. They belong to different groups such as street children, child laborers, children affected/ infected by HIV and AIDS, disabled children, children in difficult living conditions, orphans and abandoned children, etc.

In Indonesia about 1.50 million children aged 10–14 were in the labor force and not in school. Another 1.62 million were not attending school and helping at home or doing other things. About 4.18 million children of junior secondary school (13-15 years old), representing 19% of the age group, were not attending school. The incidence of child labor, and in general, the non-attendance rate in school due to different reasons is much higher in rural areas (National Socio-economic Survey, 2003).

In Cambodia, more that 50% of Cambodian school-aged children are involved in some form of economic activity, work an average of 22 hours a week, and account for almost 28% of household income (World Bank, 2006). In addition, about another 12,000 children under 15 years of age are living with HIV/AIDS.

In the Philippines, the armed conflicts in some areas have resulted in the delay in the delivery of basic education services, not to mention a number of children recruited as child soldiers. In Thailand and Indonesia, children in those tsunami-affected areas have still found difficulty in going back to school.

In Vietnam, according to data by the Council on Population, Families and Children, the number of street children in December 2006 was 6.894. Meanwhile the number of illiterate people is 1.7 million in which 140,000 people within the age of 15 and 25 are illiterate (according to the survey conducted by the Ministry of Education and Training by June 2009). Children affected/infected by HIV and AIDS in Vietnam, Cambodia, and Thailand are also high. However, very few data has been gathered on these unreached populations.

At the meeting of Southeast Asian countries to achieve the EFA goals in Bangkok in September 2008, Mr Nyi Nyi Thaung, Statistics Program Specialist, UIS-AIMS, UNESCO Bangkok, presented challenges concerning the lack of data on the unreached in education. According to him, data is limited in some countries, and never collected in others. Some countries collect data but the quality of data is beyond the acceptable and publishable level.

At the 32nd SEAMEO High Officials Meeting in Bangkok in November 2009, the Minister of Education of Thailand and President of the SEAMEO Council, Mr Jurin Laksanawisit, called for greater cooperation in promoting EFA and lifelong learning. He remarked that by combining the experiences and strengths of the eleven SEAMEO Member Countries and working through the nineteen SEAMEO Regional Centers, SEAMEO moves towards the same overall goal, that is, achieving education for all and lifelong learning.

To achieve the EFA goals for Southeast Asia, a tracking system to reach the unreached populations for education is very necessary for all countries in the SEA region and those involved.

This project is a collaborative effort among SEA countries, led by Vietnam to identify and design the best tracking mechanism for the unreached populations in SEA countries, contributing to the EFA goals in SEA region by 2015.

II. GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

Goal:

To obtain organized, valid and reliable data on the unreached populations in education in SEA countries in order to attain education for all goals in Southeast Asia by 2015.

Objectives

- To find and implement a tracking mechanism which can be used to identify the unreached populations in education in the SEA countries.
- To be able to use the tracking mechanism proposed by the project at the country level by 11 SEA countries.

III. MAJOR ACTIVITIES

1. Undertake literature review on different types of unreached populations in each country participating in the project.
2. Conduct a mapping study on the availability of data on the unreached populations in each country.

3. Hold field visits, expert meetings/conferences to share expertise and experience among the project participating and involved countries in data collection mechanism and also to discuss on what data is needed, how data is arranged, who should collect, consolidate, maintain and distribute the data, how to coordinate and get the data needed, how to build capacity to effectively use the data collection mechanism, etc.

4. Build a set of data collection mechanisms from best practices shared the countries involved and from the comments from experts at the expert meetings/conferences.
5. Pilot implementation of the agreed tracking mechanism of the project.
6. Participating and involved countries evaluate the project, consolidate findings and do further adjustments to the project based on the pilot experience.
7. Participating countries formally recommend the adoption of the tracking mechanism for approval.
8. Disseminate the tracking mechanism for unreached populations in education to all SEA countries.
9. Develop capacities at the country level to adopt and implement the tracking mechanism for unreached populations in education to all SEA countries.

IV. EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- A tool kit of data collection mechanisms for the adoption of 11 SEA countries.
- The ability of each SEA country in collecting data related to the unreached populations in education in their own country.

V. RESOURCES NEEDED

Funds, supports from donors, inputs from resource persons (experts), different types of documents and other sources from the related governments, organizations and participating units.

V. FINANCE

Vietnam and Malaysia will work together as the major partners in finding funds for activities and services of the project.
Each involved country will allocate funds for the project implementation within the country including capacity building.

VI. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Monitoring and evaluation will be performed and reported in the form of progressive reports and final reports. Participating in the monitoring and evaluation are project participating and involved countries, EFA partners and the SEAMEO Secretariat.

ACTION PLAN

2010

1. Communicating with the Ministry of Education of Malaysia to set up a visit of Vietnam delegation to discuss on further steps for this project.
2. Organize a delegation to come and work with the MOE of Malaysia
3. Work with SEAMES and UNESCO Bangkok to look for financial and technical assistance
4. Organize an expert meeting for the project implementation

2011

10. Conduct a mapping study on the availability of data on the unreached populations in each country.
11. Hold field visits, expert meetings/conferences to share expertise and experience among the project participating and involved countries in data collection mechanism and also to discuss on what data is needed, how data is arranged, who should collect, consolidate, maintain and distribute the data, how to coordinate and get the data needed, how to build capacity to effectively use the data collection mechanism, etc.

12. Build a set of data collection mechanisms from best practices shared the countries involved and from the comments from experts at the expert meetings/conferences.

2012

1. Pilot implementation of the agreed tracking mechanism of the project.
2. Participating and involved countries to evaluate the project, consolidate findings and do further adjustments to the project based on the pilot experience.
3. Participating countries formally recommend the adoption of the tracking mechanism for approval.

2013

1. Disseminate the tracking mechanism for unreached populations in education to all SEA countries.
2. Develop capacities at the country level to adopt and implement the tracking mechanism for unreached populations in education to all SEA countries.
3. Evaluation of the project and report