

Country Report

Lao PDR

EFA National Plans of Action
Prepared by Mr. Bounkhong Thoummavong
Deputy Director-General
Department of Non-Formal Education
Ministry of Education

PART I: Legal Framework

The legal framework of education in General (Formal Education) and Non Formal Education of Lao PDR , citing the texts are as following :

Article 2. **Meaning of education**

Education is a learning and teaching process about politic, thinking, morale, intelligence, physical and labour instruction and has the core mandate to continuously service public knowledge and capacity for Lao multi-ethnic people to develop themselves in the society efficiently according to their right and obligation.

Article 3. **Right to education of Lao citizen**

All Lao citizens without discrimination for their ethnicity, origin, religion, gender, age and social status have the right to education

Article 4. **Protection of right and benefice to education**

The government protects the legitimate right and benefit of educational personnel, and legally operated schools and educational institutions, and protects the legitimate right and benefit of pupils, students, teachers and researchers, including foreigners who study, carry out research and legal duty in Lao PDR.

Article 5. **Promotion of education**

Education is a public mandate. The state is directly responsible for developing the national education. At the same time, the state promotes the investment and contribution of all economic sectors to education with comprehensive policy on credit and tax/custom exemption, and creates favourable condition for expanding a universal qualitative education. In expending education, the state pays special attention to the remote isolated areas, females, disadvantaged groups and talented persons.

Article 6. **International cooperation**

The state promotes the international investment and cooperation for developing education and sharing experiences, in particular the technical, teaching, administration and management matters as well as mutual recognition of diploma, education qualification and learning certification.

Article 7. **Education system**

Lao PDR's national education system is a unified one with formal and non formal education that have parallel and equivalent content and status in all education levels.

Article 8. **Formal education**

The formal education is a form of education that is systematically organized in schools with determined learning time and standardized curriculum/content. It has the following levels

1. Early Childhood Education (ECE)

The ECE includes kindergarten and pre-school education for preparing the child's physical, thinking, spiritual, intellectual, emotional, and talent development to the primary education. Kindergarten receives infant aged 3 months to 3 years while pre-school receives children aged 3 years to primary education's age.

The state promotes the involvement of the community and private sector in developing ECE according to the ministry of education's promulgated law and regulation.

2. Primary Education

The primary education, the basic level of general education has the necessary foundation knowledge and is compulsory, free of charge for Lao multi-ethnic people ages six years and over. It requires five years of study to complete.

The government has the duty to formulate appropriate measure to ensure that the school ages Lao citizens have opportunity to learn. The administration authority, parents and tutors are the guarantors for the compulsory education of school aged children.

3. Secondary Education

Secondary education is the education level next to primary education that provides necessary knowledge for the further study or professional occupation as appropriate.

The secondary education has two levels:

- A 3 year lower secondary level for providing the general knowledge and basis foundation of technical knowledge
- An upper secondary with 2 specialization :
 - A 3 year general education for providing the general knowledge and basis foundation of technical knowledge.
 - A vocational education or basis vocational education with various comprehensive specialization for providing vocational skills according to the national socio-economic needs, labour market and individual occupation.

The government has the duty to expand secondary education as appropriate for creating conditions for the development of Lao citizens' necessary knowledge and capacity for their occupation or further study.

The government carefully plans the expansion of vocational education according the needs of the labour market and individual occupation.

The development of vocational education has to get support and contribution from all concerned sectors of the government and the involvement of the state-owned and the private enterprises.

Article 9. Non formal education

The non formal education is a form of education for servicing education to people and laborers without limitation of age, learning time and learning place.

The non formal education has similar levels and specialization as the formal education for servicing multi-ethnic Lao people who lack the opportunity to learn or can't continue their study in the formal education, or for the continuing education of those who have regular work.

Article 10. Determining learning time, not including the general education

The government has assigned to determine detailed learning time of the various vocational, higher and non formal education to meet the quality insurance and objectives of each level and specialization.

PARTII: NFE Components of National Plan of Action and UNLD

1. The steering committee EFA planning compose several department of MOE, they have Deputy Director General and one technical staff from department of NFE. The EFA will be completed in January 2004.
2. The major NFE programs insert in EFA Plan and NPEP are as following :
 - Reduce illiteracy especially among adult women and disadvantage targets group.
 - Promote basic education (Primary level) for ethnic group countrywide, especially for women and girls and disadvantaged population in remote areas :
 - Improving the NFE activities in CLC
 - Development of promotion the model CLCs through ICT programs
 - Establishing and promoting Community Learning Center in the poor target community
 - Set up Non Formal Education class at suitable local places
 - Using Formal and Non-formal teachers
 - Promotion basic vocational educational and training for marginal groups and disadvantaged populations , in order to increase income levels and promote their living conditions:
 - Implementation of basic vocational training in CLC or in basic vocational training centers.
 - Village based training for the villagers related to the local market demands, in order to improve their productions and to increase their income by using the own existing potential and resources.
 - Community skills training will be organized in the target villages.
 - The basic vocational trainers from different organizations related to the skills such as Agriculture forestry, Industry-Handicraft will be the trainer for training of the trainers.
 - The trained trainer will train at the community / CLC.
 - Set up NFE Monitoring and Supervising system
 - Create Management Information System (MIS) for NFE
 - Create NFE teachers:
 - Improving the quality of program of volunteer teachers
 - In service training for primary school on NFE technologies
 - Training of NFE teacher under 11+3 system
 - Produce instructional materials and teacher guides
 - Distance Basic Non-Formal Education to support Rural Development and Poverty Reduction countrywide program:
 - Reform the National Distance Basic Non-Formal Education (DBNFE) that is in the Non-Formal Education Development Center.
 - Set up Provincial Distance Basic Education Center, especially the Province where implemented pilot project of DBNFE.
 - Encourage cooperation and assistance from external agencies and donors:
 - Improve capacity fir Planning, Budgeting, Monitoring and coordination of the sector development program at all level.

- Training Workshop on Action / Quality Research for technical staff of National level, Regional and PES.
- Instructional strengthening and capacity building in policy development.

PART III: Literacy/NFE Programme

List of Major ACCU/APPEAL Regional Literacy/ NFE Programmes/Projects (2002-2003) NFEDC

1. Development of Lao National Version of “Manual for the implementation of Community Learning Centers” of UNESCO
2. A Study tour on Socioeconomic Development, Poverty Alleviation and Adult Literacy Education in Asia-Pacific Region by Professors and Students from Tokyo and Saitama Universities.
(13-19/July/2003)
3. Asia/Pacific Joint Production Programmes of Materials for Neo-Literates in Rural Areas : Savings Groups and dissemination scheme
4. Package Learning Materials on Environment:
 - PLANET 1 Water and
 - PLANET 2 Forest
5. APPEAL Manual on Small Scale Enterprise for Neo-Literates
6. Capacity Building on “Adult Learning Materials Development at Community level “ and “ Non-formal Adult Education Facilitators
7. Review and Evaluation of NFE System and CLC project in Lao PDR (Funding by APPEAL)
8. ICT application for NFE Programme for Community Empowerment (2003-2004)

The activities in Lao PDR from 2002 to 2003 among the major ACCU/APPEAL are as following:
Table for Review of Major ACCU/APPEAL Regional Literacy/NFE Programmes/Projects (2002-2003)

Programme/Project title	Main activities	Strength	Weakness	Suggestion
1. Development of Lao National Version of “Manual for the implementation of Community Learning Centres” of UNESCO	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 .To translate English UNESCO Version into Lao Version (National Version) 2. To printed “Manual for the implementation of Community Learning Centres” of UNESCO for distribution into CLCs*. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This material is useful and benefit for the project using the manual for CLC implementers in Laos. - NFE officers at provincial/district and CLC managers are able to apply their knowledge & skills from the manual. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Have no the budget to disseminate for CLC. Especially training for CLC implementers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ACCU should support training how to use it for CLC Implementers.
2. A Study tour on Socioeconomic Development, Poverty Alleviation and Adult Literacy Education in Asia-Pacific Region by Professors and Students from Tokyo and Saitama Universities.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Listen to Lectures. 2. Field Visit CLCs. 3. Exchange lessons & Experiences. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To gain knowledge and experiences among each others. - Inform the Situation of present Literacy and NFE Programs in Laos for Japan Side - To Obtain good suggestions to improve NFE programs in Laos 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mostly they learn about us than we learn from them. - Poor data/Information and statistics. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To exchange Study Visit between NFEDC* and Tokyo and Saitama Universities.

3. Asia/Pacific Joint Production Programmes of Materials for Neo-Literates in Rural Areas (AJP) - ACCU & APPEAL (especially "Savings Groups" and its dissemination scheme)	2002 Dissemination Scheme of Local Versions of AJP Materials "Saving Groups-Save a Little, Save a Lot"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Additional supplementary reading booklet for the neo-literates and non-formal learners in the CLCs. - The learners gained awareness on saving and helpfulness of group working. - The women in the rural areas have initiative concept on saving and setting up a saving group in their community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Limited number of booklet according to the target learners in the CLCs. - The monitoring and evaluation were not continuously and the government financial contribution was insufficient. 	
4. Package Learning Materials on Environment: - PLANET 1 Water	1998 Dissemination Scheme of National Version of PLANET 1 "Water and Our Life"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The target people understood more the importance of water and problems of water pollution. - They have awareness on cleaning rivers and 	Monitoring and evaluation were not sufficient conducted.	No guide for utilization.
- PLANET 2 Forest	2000 Dissemination Scheme of National Version of PLANET 2 "Forest Conservation"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The learners or neo-literates have new supplementary reading book. - The target people understood more the importance of forests for all living creatures, for present and future generations. They have awareness to protect and reserve the forest by stopping on cutting and burning its. 	Monitoring and evaluation were not sufficient conducted.	No guide for utilization.

5. APPEAL Manual on Small Scale Enterprise for Neo-Literates			Monitoring and evaluation were not sufficient conducted.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Manual Facilitator guide - Continuing of follow up activities.
6. Capacity Building on “Adult Learning Materials Development at Community level “ and “Non-formal Adult Education Facilitators”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Translated form English version to Lao version • Simplify for Facilitators at the grass levels • Workshops (National and Regional Workshop) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having the prototype hand book in Lao version and the simple set of hand book • The key NFE officers/technical staffs have been trained 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Did not yet train for province technical staff. • Did not yet print and disseminate the hand book for province. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NFE and Vocational section of PES could make the budget of the printing of hand book and disseminating / Workshop to Governors.
7. Review and Evaluation of NFE System and CLC project in Lao PDR (Funding by APPEAL)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Visiting 5 provinces, 7 CLCs and 3 NFE Regional centers - Data collection Discussion - Wake up meeting - National workshop 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Received reality situation of NFE and CLC project - Each level cooperated with UNECO consultants and NFE technical staffs very well - The Vice minister of MOE, who guide NFE department was the chairman of wake up meeting - Each NFE technical staffs of PES in Lao PDR attended the National workshop on Evaluation and Review Results of System and CLC project. - The Vice minister of MOE attended the National Workshop - Reform NFE Policy base on the results of the National Workshop 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do not disseminate the National Workshop result to grass root levels - The NFE Policy reforming use too much time. 	<p>Until now, the literacy situation in Lao PDR is quite clear, but they need to know the NFE procedure in future. The Research may be necessary for making the NFE master plan.</p>

<p>8. ICT application for NFE Programme for Community Empowerment (2003-2004)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discussion Meeting and Orientation. - Study visit (Bio-Organic Farm, Market of Farming Production, Best CLC, Extension pilot project etc...) - Training (CLC Management, Micro-financing, Small Enterprise, Computer/ Internet using, Appropriate technology or Integrate farming etc.) - Diffusion(Information, Knowledge for improving the quality of like - Construction new CLC (Villagers Contribution) and Repair Information and Cultural Center. - Net Working (Organic farming, PADECT, NFE Development Center and Distant Education Center etc...) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cooperation with many organization concerning in Community empowerment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To start late 	
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