Consultative meeting on improving efficiency of public expenditure

The consultative meeting on improving efficiency of public expenditures was held on 13th July 2017 between Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF) and Ministry of Education Youth and Sport (MoEYS) to discuss the priority reform of education sector and link to the budget allocation for 2018. NEP was also invited to participate in the discussion.

The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MoEYS) has presented progresses of the education sector which is highlighted as followings:

- **Teacher Policy Action Plan (TPAP):** MoEYS has completed the Teacher Education Provider Standards (TEPS) and School Director Standards (SDS); the Teacher Career Pathway (TCP) has reached the second draft and the qualification upgrading programme is underway.
- **Adopted the new Curriculum framework for general education and technical education.** 5,000,000 textbooks were printed per year to replace broken or lost and improving school environment.
- **Inspection:** MoEYS has adopted the Education Quality Assurance Framework for ECE and general education in Cambodia; refining the concept of inspection into thematic and regular inspection and inspection tools are being developed.
- **Strengthening evaluation such as exams** (delegated examination of grade 9 to the sub-national level reforming grade 12 examination with cooperation with Anti-Corruption Unit), tests and evaluation at national, regional and international levels
- **Reforming Higher Education by adopting the Higher Education Vision 2030**, delegated the responsibility for issuing the diploma to the Higher Education Institution and refining the modality and process of accreditation of Higher Education Institution.

Along with these progresses, some challenges and issues in those education reforms were also presented to MEF.

- **Educational Policies:** with unclear linkages between educational output/outcomes and National Development Priorities, lack of consistency of education outcomes from one to another, lack of policy on public-private partnership and lack of policy on private education.
- **Quality Improvement:** lack of
systematic continuous professional development policy and system, the current teacher qualification is not at the level of satisfaction, the quality of textbook is not well aligned to the curriculum, the deployment of the qualified teachers has not always responded to the needs of schools, little support of teaching and learning materials especially libraries, laboratories, the slow implementation of a performance appraisal system focusing on MoEYS's priorities in personnel management reform, slow progress of internal and external inspection, lack of linkages between the result of the National Assessment and the education system improvement and lack of research/studies on the improvement of teaching and learning practice.

- Management, Coordination and M&E: the capacity of Result Based Management needs to be improved for national and sub-national levels especially school directors, the M&E Tools are under development, the internal audit system/exercise need to be putting in place and diversification and harmonization of education information and data to respond to the progress of Cambodian education system and SDG4 2030.

For the priorities for 2018 and future directions, MoEYS will focus their attention to:

- Ensure connection between top-down and bottom-up reform.
- Expand New Generation Schools.
- Expand the mainstream of School Based Management practices to school level.
- Improve Teacher Qualification through implementation of Continuous Professional Development (CPD) policy/ programs link to Career Pathway, revision of curriculum for teacher training.
- Put in place school inspection through regular and thematic inspection.
- Rehabilitate school building and exam centers.
- Develop policy for increasing links with non-state providers.
- Implement school improvement fund at school level.
- Expand FMIS to PoE, DoE and selected schools
- Implement Youth Development Action Plan
- Continued to improve sport sector

To achieve the above goals, MoEYS will need support and cooperation from NGOs and development partners to fully implement the reform priorities.

Quarterly Meeting with Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Provincial Education Sector Working Group Members

Defined by its mandate to support the NGO members particularly those work at the sub-national level, NGO Education Partnership (NEP) had organized quarterly meeting with Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Provincial Education Sector Working Group members in Phnom Penh on 17th August 2017. The meeting was attended by 30 Chairs and Vice-Chairs including 5 females from 20 NGOs in 20 cities/provinces. The meeting was also joint by representative from MoEYS.

This meeting was also conducted in the framework of EU project “Tackling the Implementation Gap in Education Reform, Mobilizing Civil Society” implemented by NEP, its aims were to:

- Share about the analysis of teacher’s shortages and excesses
- Discuss on how to strengthen the P-JTWG’s functioning
- Share about the successful advocacy approach on Community Learning Center (CLC) standards

After welcoming and opening remarks by Mr. Keo Sarath, Chair of NEP’s Board of Directors, Mr. Chum Channra, Education Specialist from UNICEF in Cambodia had shared the analysis of teacher’s shortages and excesses and this was acknowledged by the participants. In that occasion, NEP has also shared about EMIS data analyzed related to the teacher deployment. The analysis and presentation have been very helpful for all P-ESWG members to use those data to monitor teacher deployment processes within their areas to make sure that the future teacher deployment respond to the real need of the school.
Mr. Keo Sarath, Chair of NEP’s Board of Directors, in his welcome and opening speech of Quarterly Meeting of Chair & Vice-chair of P-ESWG

In order to make the Provincial Joint Technical Working Group more functioning, the panel discussion was organized with participation from MoEYS representative, Chairs of the Kratie and Kampong Chhnang ESWG and UNICEF. NEP had presented the study on functioning of the Provincial Joint Technical Working Group (P-JTWG) at sub-national level as the starting point for discussion. The panel discussion had generated a lot of inputs from participants on how to improve the functioning of P-JTWG including the Terms of Reference needs to be updated regularly, building ownership amongst P-JTWG members, improve facilitation skills for the Chair, invitation needs to be sent to members far in advance to allow members to book meeting schedule, last but not least to make P-JTWG meeting a real dialogue for finding solutions to the problem raised.

ACTED had also shared the successful advocacy approach on Community Learning Centre (CLC) standards under the Prakas 2429. The advocacy led by NEP and ACTED has made some articles in the Prakas 2429 suspended until adequate resources for CLC are secured.

Mr. Chin Chameasna, Executive Director of NEP shared about EMIS data analyzed related to the teacher deployment to participants.

Cluster trainings for P-ESWG members on community-based research, policy analysis and effective education advocacy

NGO Education Partnership (NEP), in cooperation with DVV International, has been implementing the 3-year project which is funded by European Union and co-funded by BMZ “Tackling the Implementation Gap in Education Reform; Mobilizing Civil Society” aimed at improving educational services in Cambodia through the stronger and more structured engagement of CSOs in public monitoring, collective advocacy and efforts. In this process, NEP has organized 6 Cluster Trainings for Provincial Education Sector Working Group (P-ESWG) members on Community-based Research, Policy Analysis, and Effective Education Advocacy” covering 25 provinces and municipalities. The objectives of the training were to:

- Increase capacity and confidence of CSO participants in conducting community research in education sector in
Participants, P-ESWG members joined the first Cluster Training in Kampot Province from 22-24 August 2017

Mr. Chin Chanveasna, Executive Director of NEP, in his opening and welcome speech during Cluster Training in Phnom Penh

Cambodia
• Contribute to evidence-based advocacy campaigns for tackling the implementation gaps in education reform
• Build common understanding on the evidence based advocacy concept
• Develop basic skills on Advocacy Planning, and
• Strengthen basic skills on lobbying meeting with a decision maker to present advocacy messages.

The training was benefited and provided skills to P-ESWG members that enable them to:
• Develop their capacity in community research projects of good quality and designed in a way that produces relevant findings for advocacy objectives;
• Map points of influence and undertake analyses to improve targeting of advocacy messages and activities;
• Undertake more effective local level advocacy with public officials through mobilizing community support and using good evidence.

Since 22nd August till earlier of October 2017, there were six different cluster trainings were conducted. The 1st cluster training organized in Kampot province from 22-24 August 2017 with a total of 22 participants (3 female) from 19 NGOs working at 6 provinces (Takeo, Sihanoukville, Kep, Kampot, Koh Kong and Kampong Speu) were attended, the 2nd cluster training was organized in Siem Reap province from 29-31 August 2017 with a total of 23 participants (5 female) from 17 NGOs working at 6 provinces (Kampong Thom, Preah Vihear, Oddar Meanchey, Siem Reap, Sihanouk Ville, Banteay Meanchey and Kampong Chhnang Provinces). The 3rd cluster training was organized in Kampong Cham province from 5-7 September 2017 with a total of 21 participants (8 female) from 21 NGOs from Kampong Cham, Prey Veng, Svay Rieng, and Tbong Khmum Provinces. The 4th cluster training was organized in Kratie province from 12-14 September 2017 with a total of 18 participants including 9 female from Kratie, Stung Treng, Rattanakiri, Mondulkiri. The 5th cluster training was organized in Battambang province with a total of 25 participants including 6 female from Battambang, Pailin, Banteay Meanchey, Pursat and Kampong Chhnang) and the 6th and final cluster training was organized in Phnom Penh city from 03-05 October 2017 with a total of 22 participants including 11 female from 20 NGOs in 3 city/provinces (Phnom Penh, Kandal and Kampong Speu).

Through the six cluster trainings, participants shown their interest in the training topic, training methodologies which had enabled them to do the community research, evidence based advocacy at the sub-national level, thus contributing to the improved quality education services in Cambodia. They all were thankful to NEP for providing them such interesting and credible capacity building.