



Welcome to May 2017 monthly digest! NEP organized and participated in several meetings and events such as 8th Meeting of the Collective Consultation of NGOs on Education for All, 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarterly Meeting of the Non-Formal Education Sub-Sector Group, National Consolidation workshop on SDG4 Localization and Quarterly P-ESWG Meeting.

## 1. 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Collective Consultation of NGOs on Education for All

From 8<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> May 2017, UNESCO and NEP co-hosted the 8<sup>th</sup> Global Meeting of UNESCO's Collective Consultation of Non-Governmental Organizations on Education for All (CCNGO/EFA) in Siem Reap. There were 121 participants (90 Women) from education coalition NGOs and development partners in 120 countries from around the world. The objectives of the 8th Global Meeting of UNESCO's CCNGO/EFA were:

- Exchange information and take stock of approaches and action taken so far in the implementation of SDG4-Education 2030 at global, regional and national level and increase networking among CCNGO/EFA members, fostering cooperation and collaboration among them and with UNESCO at national, regional and international levels;
- Agree on the role of civil society in the implementation of SDG4-Education 2030 and the education-related targets in the other SDGs, including in terms of advocacy and awareness raising, governance and accountability, partnerships and collaboration, research and innovation, supporting delivery, review, monitoring and reporting, and financing;
- Agree on the way forward and key areas of action 2017-2019.

Prior to the official opening of the global meeting, Mr. Chin Chanveasna, Executive Director of NEP was invited to present on the overview of NEP role in representing education NGOs sector in Cambodia within the key component in different platform of policies dialogue included national ESWG and JTWG, Sub-Sector Working Groups, Government/Department Joint Sector Review, Public Financial Management Reform on education Working Group, Teacher Policy Action Plan Steering Committee, and SDG4 localization Working Group.

For fulfilling two days, the meeting brought together representatives of international, regional and national member NGOs from around the world to discuss and reflect on where civil society stands after the adoption of the global education agenda, taking into account activities undertaken, key challenges encountered, opportunities and the way forward. As a result, the participants were updated information and approaches in implementing SDG4-education 2030 at different level and strengthened the collaboration among education coalition NGOs with clear role of CSOs in advocacy, awareness raising, supporting, monitoring, and reporting. In addition, the Global Meeting have adopted a Joint Declaration in implementing SDG4-Education 2030 within defined a clear role of civil society, challenges, opportunities, recommendations for stakeholder in particular government to take into account to all targets of SDG4-Education 2030 implementation.

## 2. 2nd Quarterly Meeting of the Non-Formal Education Sub-Sector Group

On 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2017, NEP conducted the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarterly Meeting of the Non-Formal Education Sub-Sector Group at NEP's office in Phnom Penh. A total of 27 participants (10 Women) from 16 NGOs and the Department of Non-



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Formal Education (DNFE) of MoEYS from 8 cities/provinces participated in this important meeting. The meeting aimed to:

- Share about Non-Formal Education policy and CLC standard
- Identify NFE policies to be developed as a checklist
- Share about sub-grant scheme of EU project

It was clear that the NFE policy is important for the NFE sub sector group. It has not been reviewed since its adoption in 2002, but the DNFE plans to do sooner. So, NGOs will look forward to see an updated NFE policy. DNFE shared two subjects: 1) Non-Formal Education (NFE) policy which solves the problems of NFE and responds with a policy implementation program such as creating opportunities to all people to have access to lifelong learning, promoting literacy, and continuing education by creating links to skills and regularly provide the information and knowledge about vocational training; and 2) the Minimum Standard for Community Learning Center (CLC) which aims to empower individuals and promote community progress. The CLC standard covers 7 key points: infrastructure, management and leadership, curriculum, teacher's skills, budget disbursements, complete learning and evaluation. Currently, DNFE selected 10 provinces to build 10 CLCs according to the standards such as Koh kong, Prey Veng, Ratanakiri, Tbong Khmum, Takeo, Banteay Meanchey, Kratie, Preah Vihear, Pursat, and Svay Rieng.

Furthermore, the sub-grant scheme was shared with the NFE-SSG to understand about criteria of the proposals. NEP encourages the NFE-SSG to apply for sub-grants to do community research and use the checklist to monitor policy implementation. To identify NFE policies to be developed for a new checklist, the meeting decided to look at the activities that are easy to monitor and the topic should be made in consultation with NFE-SSG members as NEP does not want to develop a checklist that will not be used. In addition, the Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG4) was also promoted in the meeting.

### 3. National Consolidation Workshop on SDG4 Localization

As part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarterly membership meeting, NEP organized the National Consolidation Workshop on SDG4 Localization on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2017 in Phnom Penh. There were 126 participants (44 women) from 61 NGO member organizations and 24 provinces and cities. The meeting was to consolidate all the inputs and recommendations from the two regional consultations at sub-national level and prepare education NGOs to be ready for engaging in the official consultation of formulating CSDG4 localization at sub-national level that will be held by government.

The consolidated CSOs inputs and recommendations from the consultation in 2016 and two sub-national consultations in 2017 was presented to the participants and grouped participants as their expertise in each target of SDG4 to verify information and provide additional inputs. The expertise groups discussion was prioritized on three aspects included policy, program, and strategy priority for Cambodian SDG localization on education 2030 in order to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunity for all.



As a result, the inputs and recommendations for Cambodian SDG4 localization were consolidated and verified with participatory approach from the different expertise and area across the country. The consolidated inputs and recommendations have more critical and quality that would be led to be more confident for NEP and member organizations to provide input for MoEYS in localizing Cambodian SDG4 in the future soon. NEP will communicate with MoEYS in order to identify specific date of the official consultation that will be held by MoEYS and will invite member representative to participate accordingly. In addition, NEP will use the consolidated inputs and recommendations from this workshop to provide comment both MoEYS technical working group and leading committee on SDG4 as NEP is full membership of these groups.

#### 4. Quarterly Meeting of P-ESWG Chairs/Vice Chairs

In the framework of the project *“Tackling the Implementation Gap in Education Reform; Mobilizing Civil Society”* which is funded by EU and BMZ, the second quarterly meeting of P-ESWG for the year 2017 was conducted on 30<sup>th</sup> May 2017 at Phnom Penh with the participation of 33 Participants (6 females) from 25 NGOs located in 19 cities/provinces. Participants are chairs, vice chairs and representatives of provincial network. NEP focal points of P-ESWG also participated in this important meeting.

The meeting aimed to present the results of the use of checklist on textbook consolidated by NEP members, to announce the call for proposal for the sub- grant scheme (EU project), to share about research findings from the grassroots research conducted by ESWG in Siem Reap and to identify the education issues faced by each provincial network in dialogue with P-JTWG.

The consolidation of all checklists used by 8 NGOs members showed that among 57 schools (which represent 105 primary classes) monitored through checklist on textbook policy, 49% of primary classes claimed have not received enough textbooks from school (especially for Math, Sciences and Khmer) even majority declared having received textbooks from school. 22% of primary classes monitored have not received all textbooks in one time. NEP will advocate with different responsible departments to improve the distribution of textbooks to school on time and in sufficient amount.

Concerns were raised by participants about using the checklists especially for financial supports, limited understanding about the checklist and the prohibition by school director while using the checklist. Some of the challenges could be addressed through sub-grant scheme and NEP will find a platform to raise the issue of school director not allowing NGOs to conduct the checklist.

NEP sub-grant scheme was promoted to all participants. Some participants still have concern about complexity of the requirements to apply for receiving the sub-grants and others show high interest in NEP sub-grant and requested NEP to provide support in formulating the application especially for proposal elaboration.

In this occasion, NEP provided an opportunity to Mr. Ngam Kimsorn from This Life Cambodia to share the research findings on *“Enhancing Collaboration between school management and District and Provincial Office of Education”* from grassroots research to all the participants. This sharing allows participants to learn about this



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good example and motivate them to apply to EU sub-grant scheme. The full report could be obtained from NEP website [www.nepcambodia.org](http://www.nepcambodia.org)

Participants have discussed about education issues they encountered in each province that should be raised to the national level as P-ESWG chairs and vice chairs could not find solutions at the P-JTWG. Among all important priorities education issues, three should be raised at the national level (by order of priority):

- The issues of school monitoring and inspection (lack of regularity) due to the lack of transportation support. Results of school monitoring was not frequently shown to all concerned stakeholders
- The teacher deployment issues was raised by all the 4 working groups as the student teacher ratio is inappropriate in many provinces.
- School health issue is also a challenge especially for selling food/cakes in school compound and toilet and latrine.