Realizing the potential of education to spur economic growth, the government has made education a national priority. To lay a strong foundation for improving the education system in the country, Cambodia's Education Strategic Plan, introduced in 2014, focuses on achieving universal access to high-quality basic education and promoting equal educational opportunities to increase income and employment.

**CONTEXT**

Increasing the availability of assessment data to inform teaching and learning

The Education Quality Assurance Department (EQAD) of the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sport (MoEYS) prepared customized reports with grade 8 NLSA results for Khmer, Math, and Physics subjects for school directors, teachers, and parents. A guidebook for teachers on how to interpret and use the NLSA results was also developed and distributed to 100 schools under the Secondary Education Improvement Project (SEIP) financed by the International Development Association (IDA). The MoEYS is planning to distribute the guidebook to the remaining 1,600 lower secondary schools in 2020.

Over 760 teachers and technical group leaders of specific subjects in the 100 SEIP-targeted schools were trained on developing classroom assessment tools, conducting proper and fair classroom assessment activities, and utilizing classroom assessment results to improve student learning.

Enhancing the application of assessment data to inform policy decisions

The EQAD of MoEYS has developed the capacity to analyze assessment results and to subsequently develop recommendations based on the analyzed data. For example, after NLSA data is analyzed, a report for teachers and principals is produced, featuring the findings for the specific NLSA. These reports in turn inform teacher training and school-based management at the school, sub-national, and national levels through MoEYS mechanism, thus creating a feedback process to communicate NLSA results to key education stakeholders, including teachers, principals, and policymakers to facilitate dialogue on how to best improve assessment practices at the school and national levels.

Engaging a wide range of stakeholders in policy debate on education through improved dissemination of learning assessment data

Cambodia has expanded access to the grade 6 NLSA results by publishing them on the MoEYS website and on Facebook. It is expected that going forward Cambodia will continue to make assessment results readily available to the public, ensuring transparency and allowing for comparisons in learning outcomes to be made over time.

Continuing to strengthen the student assessment system

MoEYS will disseminate findings from the NLSA to teachers and school principals using the government budget. Likewise, MoEYS will use the classroom assessment guidebooks to help teachers design and develop formative tests for the target schools under the SEIP. MoEYS will also develop a test item bank for teachers of lower and upper secondary schools.

**FOCUS AREAS OF READ TRUST FUND GRANT SUPPORT**

Creating dissemination and feedback mechanisms for national large-scale assessment (NLSA) results

Enhancing capacity to use National Assessment data with other stakeholders

**AS A RESULT OF THE READ TRUST FUND, CAMBODIA IS:**

**Increasing the availability of assessment data to inform teaching and learning**

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