

03 September 2019

H.E. Dr. Hang Chuon Naron
Minister of Education, Youth and Sport
Phnom Penh Cambodia

Excellency,

Subject: Education Strategic Plan 2019-2023 endorsement letter from the Education Sector Working Group (ESWG)

We, the Education Sector Working Group (ESWG), would like to thank you for sharing the final version of the Education Strategic Plan (ESP) 2019-2023 dated 02 September 2019, as well as your Ministry's responses to the recommendations of the ESP independent appraisal dated 22 May 2019. This letter provides our further reflections on the final ESP 2019-2023 and serves as an endorsement of the new plan.

We would like to acknowledge your leadership, and that of your senior management team, in steering the development of the new ESP; and the consultative and participatory manner that has adopted as part of the development of the new plan. In this context, we would like to express our appreciation for being involved in the ESP formulation process; and for the collegial nature in which MoEYS engaged with the ESWG-initiated independent appraisal process.

In our view, the plan represents a strong commitment to not only improving the quality of education in Cambodia, but has, at its core, a firm commitment to delivering an inclusive and equitable education service to all children, including those from disadvantaged families and those with disabilities.

According to our assessment, the ESP 2019-2023 is well aligned with national development strategies, including the newly adopted Rectangular Strategy IV, which prioritizes human resource development, including improvement in the quality of education, as its most important development strategy; and with localized SDG4 strategies and targets.

The final draft ESP provides a coherent strategic framework to prioritize important education reforms and service delivery actions. The plan is comprehensive in its coverage, including all education sub-sectors ranging from pre-primary to higher education; technical education; formal to non-formal education and health education, including adolescent sexual and reproductive health.




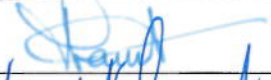

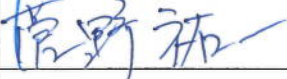
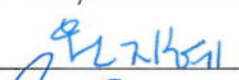

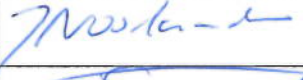








The financial framework proposed for ESP implementation provides for increases in allocations to education sub-sectors, which the ESWG welcomes.

We acknowledge the findings of the independent appraisal of the ESP completed in two phases in March 2019; and wish to thank the Ministry for its efforts to address key recommendations from this appraisal, including to revise the plan to reduce the number of strategies and to strengthen linkages between these strategies with priority education reforms.

Furthermore, key recommendations raised by the GPE Secretariat and ESWG members were also addressed by MoEYS in the final ESP. Specifically, we appreciate the efforts made by the Ministry to include targets for boys in education sub-sector targets to complement the targets already provided for girls. We also appreciate the Ministry's commitment to include survival rates for lower and upper secondary education, in addition to the rates for primary level. Having survival rate data is highly complementary and is an important balance to completion rate data, which have its own distinct set of challenges.

The Education Sector Working Group confirms our joint endorsement of the ESP upon the understanding that the Royal Government of Cambodia will address and commit to the development of a multi-year action plan for the ESP. We acknowledge the Ministry's efforts to date in commencing the development process for this plan, which form a separate document to the ESP. We have been pleased to participate in the series of sub-sector discussions held to date to contribute to the preparation of this plan. Our expectation is that the action plan should provide detailed information on key implementation actions and activity costs, and allow for adequate sequencing of implementation.

We, the under-signed ESWG members, endorse the ESP in its vision for strengthening the quality of inclusive education in Cambodia. We are committed to supporting the Royal Government of Cambodia to implement the ESP; and look forward to working with the Royal Government of Cambodia to strengthen the delivery of inclusive and equitable quality education; to promote lifelong learning opportunities for all and to ensure effective leadership and management of education officials at all levels.

Development partner organisation	Representative	Signature
Asian Development Bank	Sunniya Duranni-Jamal, Country Director	
Embassy of The Czech Republic	Vlastimil Tesař, Chargé d' Affaires, a. i.	
DVV International	Peou Vanna, Country Director	
Delegation of the European Union to Cambodia	Franck Viault, Head of Cooperation	
GIZ	Günter Riethmacher, Country Director	
JICA	Sugano Yuichi, Chief Representative	
KOICA	Weon Jihye, Deputy Country Director	
NEP	Seng Hong, Executive Director	
CARE	Jan Noorlander, Assistant Country Director Programs	
VSO	Guillaume Sauval, Country Director	
SIDA	Samuel Hurtig, Head of Development Cooperation	
UNESCO	Sardar Umar Alam, Representative and Head of Office	
UNFPA	Rizvina Dealwis, Representative	
UNICEF	Cristian Munduate, Representative	
USAID	Veena Reddy, Mission Director	
VVOB	Wilco Visscher, Programme Manager	
WFP	Francesca Erdelmann, Country Director and Representative	
World Bank	Inguna Dobraja, Country Manger	