

Basic Education Quality and Access in Lao PDR

The Basic Education Quality and Access in Lao PDR program, managed by Coffey, works in partnership with governments and ministries, teachers and students, partners and stakeholders to provide quality literacy, numeracy and other life skills to children from disadvantaged regions in Laos to improve their educational outcomes.

In many places, achieving a quality education can be a significant challenge. In Laos, a complex country with great diversity, children come from a range of backgrounds when they start school, often from remote regions with its own language and with no educational history in their family.

Lao PDR has made good progress in improving access to primary education over the past decade, reaching a primary enrolment rate of 98.8 percent in 2015-2016. Despite this achievement, high rates of dropout, poor school facilities and lack of teaching and learning resources are limiting education outcomes.

Through the Australian Government and European Union support, the Laos Government's Ministry of Education and Sports is aiming to increase literacy and numeracy levels and provide children with access to quality basic education.



Students from the Basic Education Quality and Access in Lao PDR (BEQUAL)

Project snapshot

Project Basic Education Quality and Access in Lao PDR

Client Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Duration 2015 - 2019

Goal Delivering quality and accessible basic education to more girls and boys in Lao PDR

Recent achievements Revised primary curriculum framework approved by the Ministry of Education and Sports, Grade 1 text books and teacher guides drafted and tested in 25 schools, 17 000 Grade 3 students tested in Laos language comprehension and mathematics ability, 20 000 children in 171 villages benefited from community action activities supporting literacy and reading, 126 book banks started and more than 43 000 books distributed.

The goal of BEQUAL is to support the Ministry in ensuring all girls and boys, especially those experiencing disadvantage, complete a quality basic education to achieve literacy, numeracy and other life skills. The program supports education policy, planning and coordination, increased child participation in (and access to) basic education, as well as teacher education, curriculum and teaching and learning materials and through improved school infrastructure

By targeted support to the 66 most educationally disadvantaged districts in Lao PDR, BEQUAL will help an estimated 450,000 children receive a better quality education, with a particular focus on children that traditionally experience poorer education outcomes

The program's activities include developing new methods for teaching Lao language and building new classrooms and providing sanitation facilities. It will also help to strengthen the national education system through support to revise the national primary curriculum, with textbooks for every school in Lao PDR, and building capacity across the central, provincial and district levels.

BEQUAL's five Key Result Areas are:

Key Result Area 1 Policy, Planning and Coordination

Building the capacity of the Ministry of Education and Sports to lead and better manage the basic education sector through training, professional development and institutional strengthening.

Key Result Area 2 Increased Participation

Helping more disadvantaged children attend school and learn by strengthening community engagement and providing supplementary support for reading and Lao language.

Key Result Area 3 Teacher Education

Providing training and support to teachers so they are better able to help children learn. This includes revising the teacher training curriculum and providing scholarships to up to 364 teachers from remote villages.

Key Result Area 4 Teaching and Learning Resources

Ensuring teachers and students have access to, and are using, quality teaching and learning materials. This includes revising the national primary curriculum and providing new text books and teacher guides to every school in Lao PDR.

Key Result Area 5 School Infrastructure

Improving school facilities to ensure children are safe, comfortable and able to learn This includes building or repairing classrooms, including water and sanitation facilities, in up to 600 primary schools.

