

National Statement of Commitment to Accelerating Learning Recovery in the Lao People's Democratic Republic

1. Foundational Learning

- The foundation of human capital is laid in childhood. The large proportion of children who completed primary education are unable to read with comprehension is a signal of the overall quality of education in a country, and thus its ability to realize its potential for human capital to benefit from the country's demographic dividend. Foundational learning provides the building blocks for all other learning, knowledge, and higher order skills that children and youth need to attain through education.
- Foundational learning is critical to enable all children to reach their full potential and participate in society. Ensuring foundational learning for all children to be good national citizen in order to be the ownership of self-development, gender equality, contributes to the sustainable development.
- We commit to improve the quality of basic education by focusing on improving foundational learning in order to increase the share of primary graduates who can read and understand a simple text.

2. Reaching Every Child and Retaining them in school

- Since the COVID-19 pandemic and associated economic difficulty, Lao PDR has experienced a decline in enrolments and an increase in dropouts across different levels of education. To ensure recovery and accelerate learning, we will work immediately to enroll all children and keep them in school, increase access to remedial and catch-up learning and teach children at their current learning levels; support teachers, giving them the tools that they need; and support the health, nutrition and psycho-social well-being of every teacher and child.

3. Closing the Education Resource Gap

- The Government recognizes that adequate, efficient, and equitable education financing is critical to accelerating learning recovery efforts in the post-pandemic context as well as ensuring all children's right to inclusive and quality education to enhance Lao PDR's human capital and realize the country's vision towards a modern and high-growth economy. We will work together with all parties including public sectors, development partners, private sector society and guardians to contribute technically and financially, leveraging technologies and educational transformation to align with the current situation and coping with future uncertainty to develop high quality human capital. **The Government reaffirms its commitment to improving education financing and to work towards achieving education's share in the national budget to meet the benchmark under the Education Law,**