With the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Global Goal 4 and its corresponding targets on education aims to "ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all."

Although progress has been made towards increasing access to education at all levels and ensuring that no one is being left behind, improvement towards achieving inclusive and equitable quality education for all remains a pervasive problem.

**OUT-OF-SCHOOL CHILDREN (OOSC):**

**REGIONAL OVERVIEW**

121 million children* are not enrolled in school (*6 to 14 years)

in Southeast Asia

8.9 million children worldwide are out of school

1 in 11

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**Economic Outlook in Southeast Asia**

Growth in Southeast Asia is forecast to increase as almost all Southeast Asian Economies are showing an upward trend.

Growth will be relatively solid among the large ASEAN-5 countries

- **Indonesia**
- **Malaysia**
- **Philippines**
- **Thailand**
- **Viet Nam**

Growth in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar will continue to be the highest among the ASEAN community.

Despite significant economic growth, the wealth gap is widening and social inequality is a growing concern.

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**OOSC in Southeast Asia**

OOSC rate (%) from 2000 to 2015*

Lower-Secondary age youth are twice as likely to be out of school than primary-age children.

**Number of OOSC**

- Primary age: 4.0 million
- Lower Secondary age: 4.9 million

**School Exposure of OOSC of Primary School Age (2014)**

- Left school: 8
- Likely to enter school in the future: 76
- Likely to ever enter school: 51
- Unlikely to ever enter school: 17
- Left school: 41
- Likely to enter school in the future: 7
- Likely to ever enter school: 17
- Unlikely to ever enter school: 41
UNESCO Response: Country Activity

In 2015, with support of Educate a Child (EAC), UNESCO has launched the project, “Strengthening Education Systems for Out of School Children”. The partnership aims to enhance institutional capacity of education systems to provide learning opportunities for OOSC in Southeast Asia.

The country projects are designed to enable our partners to sustain and expand the programmes for OOSC at the primary level by mid-2018. The project will focus on increasing participation rate and keeping learners in school. UNESCO’s support includes trainings of trainers, teachers and government officials, programme implementation and monitoring and communications.

Join us to provide learning opportunities for them!

WHERE WE WORK

**Myanmar**

Equivalency Programme: Non-formal Primary Education (NFPE)

By August 2018

7,212+ OOSC will have benefited

In Myanmar, UNESCO supports the country’s NFPE programme. The NFPE programme is designed specifically for OOSC aged 10 to 14, allowing them to learn outside the formal education system. Upon completion of the NFPE programme, they can either transfer to a formal lower secondary school.

**Thailand**

FLS for Marginalised Children

70+ Target schools

8,000+ OOSC will have benefited

The project supports the government in enhancing a national database system on dropouts, and OOSC. Access to quality education for children aged between 7-18, including those who are migrant, ethnic minority, stateless and unreached children along the Thai-Myanmar border, is promoted through the support of the ‘Myanmar NFPE’ and the ‘Thai basic primary education’ programmes. Learners who complete the programmes can continue secondary education in Thailand or Myanmar.

For more information, please contact Ichiro Miyazawa (i.miyazawa@unesco.org)

**Lao PDR**

Flexible Learning Strategies (FLS) at Primary Education Level

10+ Target provinces

9,000+ OOSC will have benefited

The project targets OOSC aged 6 to 18 with improved access to education by implementing the expansion of FLS at the primary education level. Flexible alternative learning programmes such as equivalency programme will be implemented to allow learners to gain equivalent qualifications to formal education while also supporting their reintegration into the formal education system to ensure sustainable future for all learners.

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