



Chung tay xây dựng một xã hội có khả năng thích ứng và bền vững hơn
Working together for a more resilient and sustainable society

Ministry of Education and Training (MOET), UNESCO and Samsung Education for Sustainable Development Initiative in Viet Nam Summary April 2014

In January 2013, UNESCO and Samsung launched a \$1 million two-year initiative to strengthen the education system and local community responses to the challenges of climate change, disasters and biodiversity loss in Viet Nam. The Initiative, UNESCO's largest country-level Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) intervention, involves creating an enabling environment for ESD through awareness raising of parents, community members, local authorities and media and linking them to school activities. The initiative began implementation in primary schools in coastal Thua Thien - Hue, a region hit hard by the adverse effects of climate change and disasters.

The comprehensive list of the ESD Initiative components comprises:

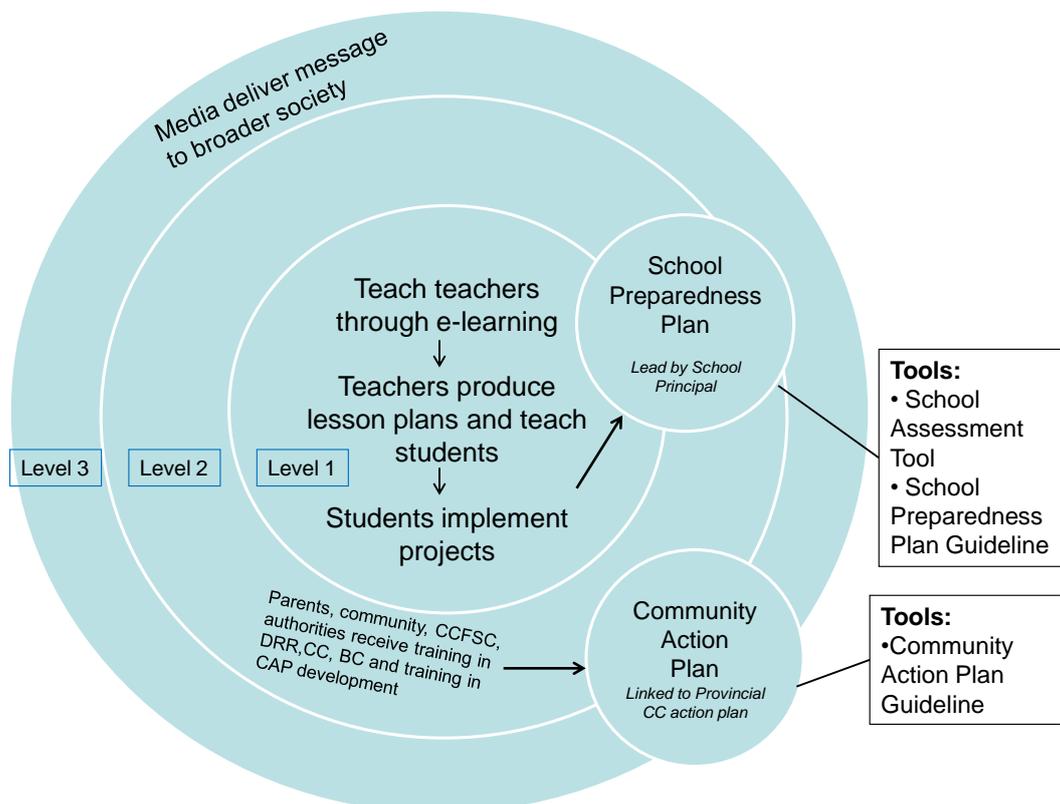
- I. Enabling environment for ESD through awareness raising sessions for school principals, parents, community members, national and local authorities, and the media on climate change, disaster risk reduction, and biodiversity conservation;
- II. E-learning teacher-training courses on: i) climate change, adaptation and mitigation; ii) disaster risk reduction; and iii) biodiversity conservation and restoration, and supporting teachers to prepare and deliver lessons to students;
- III. Tools for school risk assessment and preparedness plan preparation;
- IV. Use of satellite imagery as a tool for evidence-based decision-making and for awareness raising;
- V. Community Action Plans (CAPs) developed as intersectoral responses to climate change, disasters and biodiversity loss and as a result of awareness raising and continuing education for communities;
- VI. Development of communication plans and outputs by media organizations to better inform and educate the wider public on climate change, disaster risk reduction and biodiversity conservation;
- VII. Disaster risk management plans for three World Heritage Sites (Hoi An Ancient town, Hue Monuments Complex and Thang Long Royal Citadel) developed and UNESCO's methodology for managing disaster risks contextualized for Viet Nam;
- VIII. Capacity building of education trainers of the Centre for Research and Training on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction of the National Institute for Education Managers (NIEM);
- IX. Monitoring, assessing and documenting the Initiative activities and results for further ESD mainstreaming in Viet Nam and other countries.

The ESD Initiative has benefitted from the mutual reinforcement of funding from Samsung and UNESCO’s Intersectoral Platforms (Post-Conflict, Post-Disaster and Climate Change) and by their integration into one single programme, resulting in a more comprehensive strategy for greater impact.

The Initiative is being implemented through an agreement with the Ministry of Education and Training (MOET) and an agreement with the People’s Committee in Thua Thien – Hue Province implemented through the Department of Education and Training (DOET). The leading departments of MOET include the: Department of Science, Technology and Environment (DSTE) (focal point for the Initiative), Primary Education Department (PED), Department of Teachers and Education Administrators (DTEA), Continuing Education Department (CED) and Department of Facilities, School Equipment and Children’s Toys.

An intersectoral approach that generates policy and serves as a reference for other provinces to implement is applied throughout programme implementation. The Initiative contributes to developing relationships within the community and to establishing the bridge between formal and continued education in ESD initiatives. It is critical that students, linked with local community, are actively engaged in issues relevant to their locality as a part of their education, making their learning more relevant and holistic. Students are encouraged to develop projects that include parents and engage and benefit the wider community. Simultaneously, parents and the wider community raise their awareness of these same issues through a series of targeted trainings, creating an enabling environment for the children to apply what they learn in school.

With this multilevel cooperation and coordination in mind, the Initiative strategy has achieved three levels of implementation and impact: (i) within the school, (ii) within the community around the school, and (iii) within the wider society of that community.



This awareness raising, extended to the local authorities, the Schools' and Districts' Steering Committees for Flood and Storm Prevention and Control and Natural Disaster Mitigation and local media is enhanced through the participatory development of Community Action Plans and School Preparedness Plans. The plans are addressing issues related to disasters, climate change and biodiversity conservation, and linking community activities to student projects in the schools and vice versa.

In order to further promote the enabling environment and raise awareness of the wider community on disaster risk reduction, climate change and biodiversity loss challenges, as well as to inform them of specific project activities, members of the media have received training on these areas with a gender-sensitive focus, enhancing their capacities to report on these issues through the production and broadcast of various media outputs. The media is also supported to develop communication plans for their local media institutions. Such examples will serve as reference for further national implementation.

The Initiative has been closely linked to MOET's implementation of the Decision on Promulgating Action Plan for Response to Climate Change of Education Sector in the period of 2011-2015 and the Action Plan on Implementation of the national strategy on natural disaster prevention, control and mitigation in the education sector in the 2011 – 2020 period.

This summary reports achievements per component (April 2014):

I. Enabling environment for ESD through awareness raising

- ✓ 163 participants in Ha Noi and Thua Thien Hue Province including teachers, school principals and vice-principals, parents, local community members, local and national education authorities, school steering committees for flood and storm prevention and control and natural disaster mitigation, the district steering committees for flood and storm prevention and control and natural disaster mitigation, have been reached with awareness raising sessions on climate change, DRR, and biodiversity conservation.
- ✓ Teachers took part in awareness raising sessions on climate change, disaster risk reduction, biodiversity conservation, preparedness planning and Community Action Plan development, together with school principals, vice principals, members of the school steering committees on flood and storm prevention and control and natural disaster mitigation, parents, community members, local authorities and media.
- ✓ The ESD Initiative is contributing to the Curriculum Framework for Education on Natural Disasters Preparedness and Response at School, as part of a broader team of various agencies led by the Department of Science, Technology and Environment of MOET, who designed and is developing this unique tool that establishes knowledge, skills and attitudes for different school grades. UNESCO's contribution has a special focus on considerations of students' emotional, psychological and developmental characteristics.
- ✓ Desired profiles for learning citizen and learning society which include a focus on climate change, DRR and environment have been discussed in a national workshop on "From Vision to Action" led by The National Steering committee for Building a Learning Society, MOET and UNESCO.

II. E-learning teacher-training courses on ESD themes

- ✓ 26 teachers and school principals identified teacher training needs and recommendations on mainstreaming ESD, climate change, disaster risk reduction and biodiversity in school curriculum.
- ✓ 25 primary education teachers, principals and vice principals from five schools in Thua Thien – Hue Province were trained on the use of ICT and e-learning in preparation for e-learning.
- ✓ International consultants with broad experience and international desk reviews provided best practices for e-learning content development and for awareness raising sessions. Guidelines for content developers and guidelines on e-learning methodology are being finalized for sharing.
- ✓ Detailed content for e-learning course on Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation for Primary School Teachers has been produced. The content of the e-learning course on Climate Change has been officially validated by MOET. The course has been produced with inputs from MOET, international and national consultants, Live & Learn Viet Nam, the Viet Nam Man and Biosphere Programme (MAB) and the Department of Primary Education of Ha Noi University of Education.
- ✓ Content for e-learning courses on disaster risk reduction, biodiversity conservation and ESD under development will be finalized and presented to MOET for approval.
- ✓ The content of the e-learning courses for teachers will serve as a reference to inform new school curriculum.
- ✓ E-learning courses on climate change, disaster risk reduction, biodiversity conservation and ESD will be produced by Ha Noi Open University based on content approved by MOET.
- ✓ 25 primary education teachers, principals and vice principals are committed to piloting e-learning courses from June through August 2014, and to developing and implementing lesson plans for over 350 primary students during September and October 2014.

III. Tools for school risk assessment and preparedness plan preparation

- ✓ Teachers, together with school principals, vice principals, parents, community members and local authorities took part in the testing of the School Assessment Tool to identify risks and threats in the schools and surroundings.
- ✓ The School Assessment Tool is currently being integrated into MOET's Information System for Disaster Risk Management in the Education Sector together with tools developed by UNICEF for assessment during and after a disaster.
- ✓ Teachers, together with school principals and vice principals participated in validating School Preparedness Plan Guidelines.
- ✓ Official endorsement by MOET will ensure access to the School Assessment Tool for all schools and integration into the International Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE) Disaster Risk Reduction Toolkit.
- ✓ School Preparedness Plan Guidelines are being finalized for official endorsement and broad dissemination to all schools throughout Viet Nam.

IV. Use of satellite imagery for evidence-based decision-making

- ✓ 129 participants in Ha Noi and Thua Thien - Hue Province including national MOET authorities, national trainers of education managers, local education authorities, local community members and parents, school principals and vice principals, teachers, school steering committees for flood and storm prevention and control and natural disaster mitigation and media raised their awareness on the use of satellite imagery in decision-making on DRR and climate change.
- ✓ Participants in awareness raising have greater understanding of integrating remote sensing and space technologies into current educational curricula as well as integrating the scientific evidence provided by remote sensing skills and knowledge into local decision-making to

assist education authorities in increasing the preparedness of schools and communities to face the challenges of climate change and natural disasters.

V. Community Action Plans (CAPs) for intersectoral response to sustainability challenges

- ✓ Through participatory trainings on identifying local risks and resources, mapping community hazards, and listing and planning of priority actions, community members and local actors in five Community Learning Centres developed each a Community Action Plan.
- ✓ The five communities in Thua Thien – Hue Province have been enabled through training and planning to respond to locally-identified risks posed by sustainability challenges.
- ✓ CAPs developed by the community include: improving the solid waste management, developing a fire prevention system, swimming classes to reduce the drowning rate, tree and mangrove forestation and energy saving.
- ✓ A guideline on development of participatory Community Action Plans through Community Learning Centres is being developed based on the practical experience, to be made available online for further national use.

VI. Development of media communication plans on disasters

- ✓ Media professionals strengthened their capacity to effectively report on ESD, climate change, disaster risk reduction and biodiversity conservation through interactive trainings, which included a special focus on maintaining a gender-sensitive reporting approach. As a result of these training sessions, conducted in collaboration with the Ministry of Information and Communications (MIC), Radio Voice of Viet Nam (VOV) and the Thua Thien – Hue DOET, effective disaster response reporting and media awareness on ESD has been enhanced.
- ✓ Local media from the five districts in Thua Thien – Hue participating in the ESD Initiative have been working together with school principals, vice principals and teachers as well as parents and community members to develop Community Action Plans that support school environments.
- ✓ Members of the media have contributed to greater public awareness on ESD issues and the Initiative with at least 30 direct media outputs on issues relating to the Initiative and ESD themes being published in the time following the trainings.
- ✓ There has been a clear change in disaster response reporting with, for example, the VOV Central Region Bureau reporting for the first time on all stages of disaster cycles during five major storms which hit Viet Nam in late 2013. The goal is to enhance the role of the media to communicate with the broader society the messages required to develop the enabling environment for ESD.

VII. Disaster risk management plans for three World Heritage Sites

- ✓ A national methodology based on the World Heritage Manual on Disaster Risk Management, adopted in 2007 by the International Centre for Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM) and UNESCO's World Heritage Centre, has been translated and contextualized for Viet Nam, providing the framework for the production of Disaster Risk Management Plans for Viet Nam's eight World Heritage Sites.
- ✓ Disaster Risk Management Plans for three of the World Heritage Sites in Viet Nam have been produced and implemented as a result of the enhanced capacity of Site managers and technical staff of management boards. The plans, created with community participation and in collaboration with the Department of Cultural Heritage under the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, ICCROM and UNESCO, provide a clear framework for site-specific disaster risk management with observable actions.

VIII. Capacity building of education trainers of NIEM

- ✓ Capacity of trainers of the Centre for Research and Training on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction, established in NIEM with UNESCO support, was strengthened through trainings on climate change, disaster risk reduction, biodiversity conservation and use of satellite imagery for education.
- ✓ An e-learning course for education managers to be included in the curriculum of NIEM is being produced and will be made available for all education managers.

IX. Monitoring and documentation

- ✓ A methodology for integrated education and action to create an enabling environment for ESD including climate change, DRR and biodiversity conservation for teachers, school principals, communities, local authorities, media and other stakeholders is being successfully tested and is being monitored and documented for further use.
- ✓ ESD Initiative results in Viet Nam will be shared at global level during ESD UNESCO World Conference to be held in November in Japan on the occasion of the end of the ESD Decade.