Concept Note

The 2nd Consultation Meeting on Education for Myanmar and Thailand Children

2-3 December 2015, Napalai Ballroom, Dusit Thani Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand

Background

Today it is estimated that there are over 390,015\textsuperscript{1} migrant children from Myanmar residing in Thailand. Thailand also hosts 100,000 displaced persons from Myanmar in nine temporary shelters along the Thailand – Myanmar border. More than 70,000\textsuperscript{2} migrant children have enrolled in basic education schools and community learning centres supported by the Thailand Ministry of Education. With NGO support, a further 18,475 migrant children obtain their education from migrant learning centers (MLCs) and as many as 30,000 children obtain their education in the nine temporary shelters. The education provided through both the MLCs and in the temporary shelters is not aligned to the education systems of either Thailand or Myanmar and remains largely unaccredited by either country.

As one of the first steps, Migrant Education Integration Initiative (MEII), VSO, Save the Children, World Education, UNICEF and UNESCO collaborated to organize the 1st Consultation Meeting on Education for Migrant, Ethnic Minority and Stateless Children on 17-18 November 2014 at Mandarin Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand. The meeting was well attended by 115 participants, including officials from the Ministry of Education, Thailand and 10 officials from the Department of Basic Education, Department of Education Planning and Training and Education Director Offices of Kayin, Tanintharyi, Kayah and Mai Phyat, Ministry of Education, Myanmar, UN and development agencies. The meeting focused on sharing details about the education landscape for migrant and displaced children from Myanmar in Thailand and discussions were held about current policies and procedures to support migrant and displaced children to move between education systems. This raised issues around recognition of education systems as well as highlighting the challenges with and need for flexibility in placement tests.

On 9 May 2015, Ms Myint Myint Ohn, Director of SEAMEO Regional Centre for History and Tradition (SEAMEO CHAT), Myanmar observed the situation of Myanmar migrant children in Samutsakorn Province, Thailand. This study visit, jointly conducted by the Office of the Non-Formal and Informal Education (ONIE), Thailand and UNESCO, brought together more than 100 migrant children and families, teachers, local NGOs as well as officials from local ONIE

\textsuperscript{1} Ministry of Interior, Thailand, 2015
\textsuperscript{2} Several sources of Ministry of Education, 2015
and Education Service Area Office to reiterate the need for further education support from the governments of Myanmar and Thailand.

To continue promoting increased opportunities for quality, accredited education for disadvantaged migrant and displaced children from Myanmar, UNESCO, UNICEF, MEII, Save the Children and World Education aim to organize the 2nd Consultation Meeting on Education for Myanmar and Thailand Children on 2-3 December 2015, Dusit Thani Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand with the support from the Education Ministries of Myanmar and Thailand.

Objectives

1. Report about current situation and challenges in accessing education for migrant and displaced children, including those who return to Myanmar

2. Initiate dialogue between high level officials of the Education Ministries of Myanmar and Thailand to discuss potential policy frameworks and future collaboration

Expected outcomes

High level officials of the Education Ministries of Myanmar and Thailand explore the needs of migrant and displaced children and discuss potential policy frameworks that support their transition and access to quality, accredited education in both Myanmar and Thailand

Participants

Approximately 55 participants, including government officials from the Ministry of Education of Myanmar (5 officials) and Thailand, UN agencies, development agencies and stakeholders who are directly involved with education for migrant and displaced children.

Venue

The meeting will be organized at Napalai Ballroom, Dusit Thani Hotel Bangkok with an excursion visit to MLCs in Samutsakorn province, Thailand.

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Phone: +66 (0) 2200 9000
Fax: +66 (0) 2236 6400
Website: http://www.dusit.com/dusitthani/bangkok/location/
Agenda

TUESDAY, 1 DECEMBER 2015

Arrival of participants from Yangon, Myanmar

WEDNESDAY, 2 DECEMBER 2015

(THAI AND MYANMAR MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION & UN AGENCIES SESSIONS
OTHER REPRESENTATIVES ATTEND AS OBSERVERS)

8:30-9:00   Registration
9:00-9:10   Welcoming remarks
            *Mr Hugh Delaney*, Chief of Education, UNICEF Thailand
9:10-9:25   Opening remarks
            *Assoc. Prof. Kamjorn Tatiyakavee*, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education, Thailand
9:25-9:40   Group photo
9:40-10:00  Introduction to situations of education for Myanmar migrant children in Thailand
            *Mr Ichiro Miyazawa*, Programme Specialist in Literacy and Lifelong Learning, UNESCO Bangkok

10:00-10:15   COFFEE BREAK

10:15-10:35  Basic Education for Myanmar children in Thailand
            *Ms Manida Adisaisakul*, Deputy Director, Tak Education Service Area Office 2, Office of the Basic Education Commission (OBEC), Ministry of Education, Thailand

10:35-10:55  Non-Formal Education for Myanmar children in Thailand
            *Mr Prayut Lakkum*, Director, Non-Formal and Informal Center for Special Target Groups, Office of the Non-Formal and Informal Education, Ministry of Education, Thailand

10:55-11:15  Education for migrant children in Border Patrol Police Schools
            *Pol.Lt.Col. Ladawan Chatthai*, Border Patrol Police Bureau, Royal Thai Police, Thailand

11:15-12:00  Questions and Answers
12:00-13:00  **LUNCH**

13:00-15:00  **Dialogues on possible policy framework on education provided by governments (basic education and non-formal education)**

- Current practices of education for migrant children and related statistics by Myanmar Ministry of Education
- Recognition of education systems of Thailand and Myanmar through establishment of Framework Agreement and Working Group
- Possible proceedings for educational transfer for Thailand and Myanmar children

15:00-15:15  **COFFEE BREAK**

15:15-16:30  **Wrap-up on the dialogues and way forward**

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**THURSDAY, 3 DECEMBER 2015**

**(MYANMAR MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND NGOS SESSIONS)**

8:30-9:00  **Registration**

9:00-9:15  **Overview of situations on education for migrant and refugee children**

*Mr Patrick Kearns*, Country Director, World Education Thailand

9:15-9:30  **Current challenges and findings on education for migrant children**

*Mr Kyaw Kyaw Min Htut*, BEAM Education Foundation/Migrant Education Integration Initiative (MEII)

9:30-9:45  **Current challenges and findings on education for refugee children**

*Ms Matumon Katerenchuk*, Education Project Coordinator, Save the Children Thailand

9:45-10:00  **COFFEE BREAK**
Dialogues on possible policy framework on education provided by private institutions

**Moderators:** UNICEF Thailand Country Office and UNESCO Bangkok

- Feasibility of the Ministry of Education, Myanmar on recognition of education provided by migrant learning centres (MLCs) in Thailand and support
- Possible collaboration between the Ministry of Education, Thailand and the MLCs

**11:15-11:30** Wrap-up on the dialogues and way forward

**11:30-11:45** Closing Remarks

*Mr Zaw Win, Deputy Director General, Department of Basic Education, Ministry of Education, Myanmar*

**11:45-12:30** *LUNCH*

**Excursion to Migrant Learning Centres**

**12:30-14:00** Departure from Hotel to Samutsakorn province

**14:00-16:00** Field visit at Marist and St. Ann Catholic Centers for Migrants and classroom observation

**16:00-17:30** Departure from Samutsakorn to Bangkok

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**FRIDAY, 4 DECEMBER 2015**

Departure of participants to Yangon, Myanmar (Evening)