

LEARNING PIONEERS PROGRAMME INNOVATION CAMP 2025

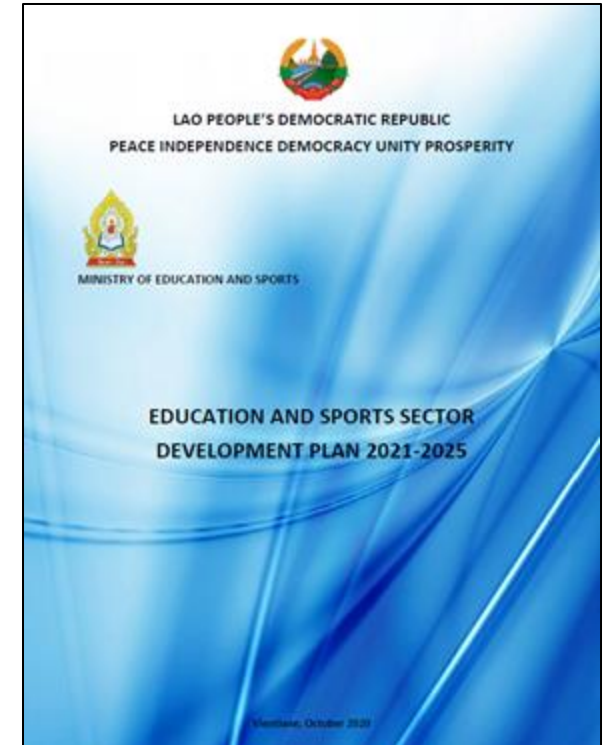
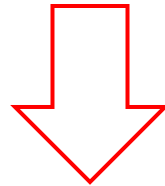


Ministry of Education and Sports, Lao PDR



Lao PDR: Education and Sports Development Plan

Overall Goal 2021-2025 “The Education and Sports Sector in Lao PDR is appropriately structured, managed and resourced to create opportunity for all Lao citizens to have equitable access to quality education and sports and to contribute to, and benefit from socio-economic development and support Lao PDR graduating from Least Developed Country status by 2025 and support progress towards attainment of SDG-4.”



Overall Goal the 10th ESSDP 2026-2030 (draft)

Equitable provision of universal basic education, and expansion of opportunities for further education, to support improved learning and skills acquisition to contribute to national social and economic development, and attainment of SDG-4.”

Main challenges in education linked to learners and teachers

 **Most Lao primary students lack foundational literacy and numeracy skills.**

Reading:

- **49.6% of Grade 5 students** (SEA-PLM 2019) are at the lowest proficiency band - can only recognize familiar words, not understand a simple story.
- **23.4%** of students (ASLO 2023) are proficient in reading.

Writing:

- **63%** of Grade 5 students (SEA-PLM 2019) can write only a few simple sentences with limited vocabulary.
- **15.9%** (ASLO 2023) demonstrate writing proficiency.

Mathematics:

- Only 8% of Lao students (SEA-PLM 2019) reach minimum proficiency — far below Malaysia (64%) and Viet Nam (92%).
- Just 1.1% (ASLO 2023) are proficient in mathematics.

Foundational Skills (LSIS III):

- Only ~40% of children aged 7–14 have basic reading or numeracy skills

Main challenges in education linked to learners and teachers (cont..)

⚠️ **Teacher shortages, low content knowledge, and limited training are undermining education quality.**

🏫 **Teacher Shortage and Deployment:**

- Retirements and resignations outpace new recruits due to civil service downsizing and low incentives (World Bank & Australia, 2023).
- Severe understaffing in many provinces - 2,000 soldiers to be trained and deployed as substitute teachers (Laotian Times, June 2025).

⚖️ **Unequal Teacher Distribution:**

- 59% of primary schools have a surplus or shortage of civil servant teachers.
- Redeployment could cover 85% of the deficit; most deficit schools are small, rural, and poor (World Bank & Australia, 2023).

🏠 **Multigrade and Rural Challenges:**

- In 40 priority districts, ~50% of primary classes are multigrade; nationwide, over one-third (ESSDP MTR 2024).
- Teachers in multigrade settings often lack specialized training.

💻 **Limited ICT Use:**

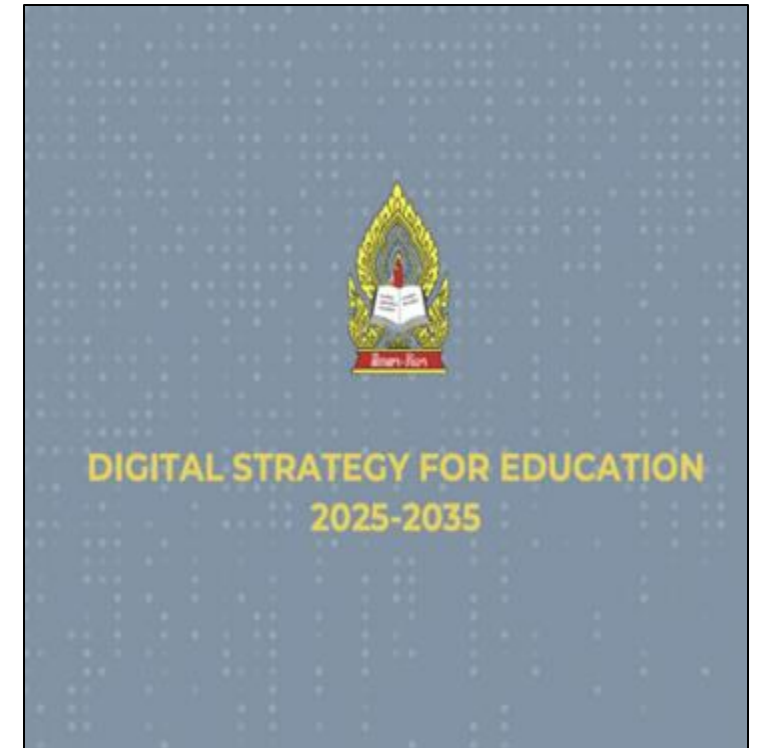
- 87% of teachers received no ICT training in two years; most rarely use technology in teaching.
- Many teachers doubt the benefit of ICT in classrooms (UNESCO SitAn 2023).

The role of digital in education in the Lao PDR

Digital Strategy for Education 2025-2035

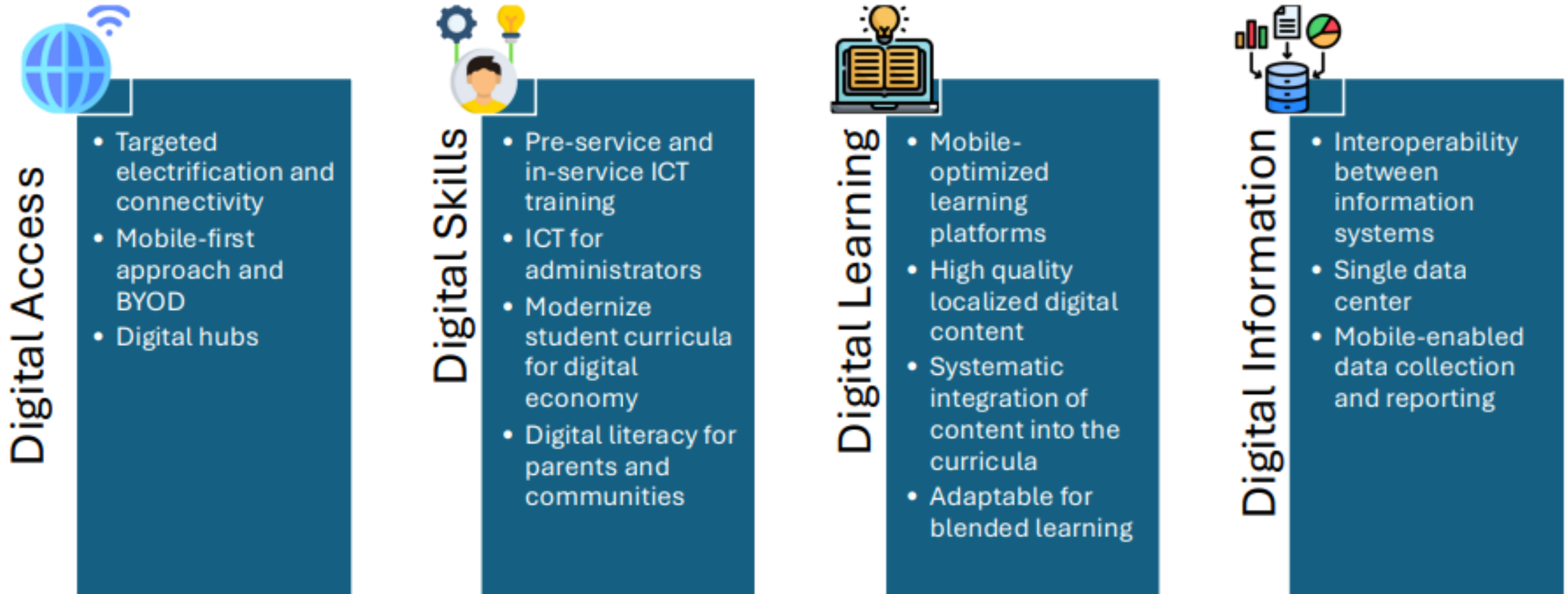
Vision: “Utilise digital technology to enhance education, ensuring inclusive access, equity, and lifelong learning opportunities for all.”

Mission: “We strive to drive education transformation in Laos, enabling every individual to embrace learning throughout their lives via inclusive digital solutions.”



What does it mean to go beyond digital as usual in education?

Focus **4 Strategic Priority Areas** to leverage technology to ensure enabling governance and system foundations to support every individual to embrace learning

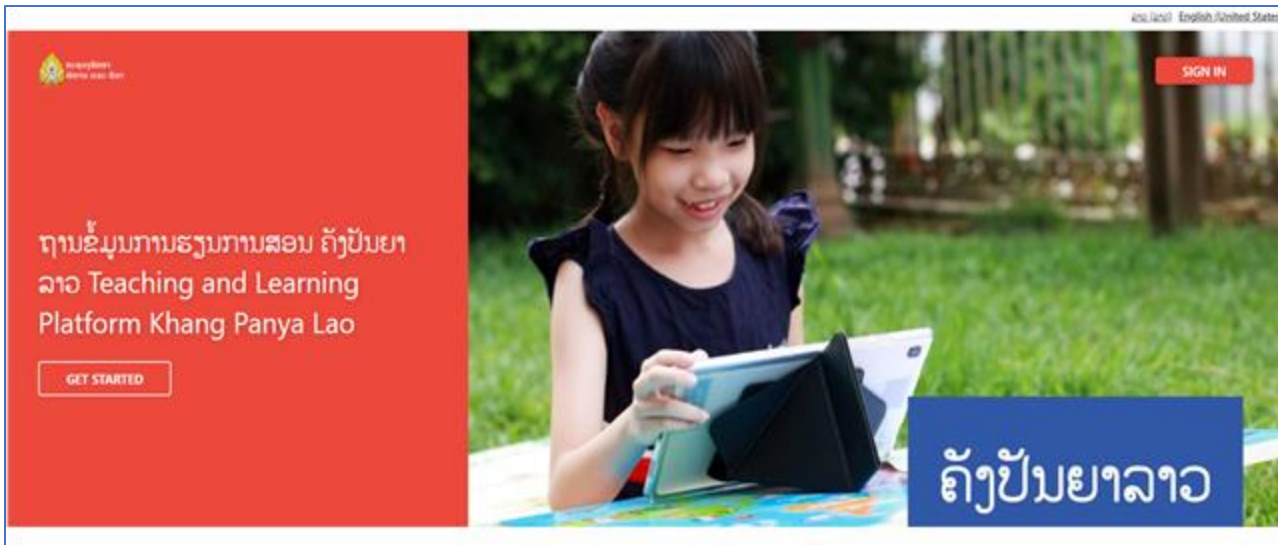


Share what you're most proud of in your digital education work

Khang Panya Lao

- Online & Offline Access Model
- Centralized National Resource

- **Lao PDR has accumulated significant experience piloting digital learning platforms across all education levels, demonstrating institutional capacity.**



- Khang Panya Lao (KPL) is one of Lao PDR's most recognized digital learning platforms, hosting over 378 courses and 6,500 lessons spanning pre-primary to TVET levels. Launched during COVID-19 with support from UNICEF, GPE, and the EU, the platform rapidly scaled to reach 111,000 registered users and an estimated 333,000 users, demonstrating a proof-of-concept for large-scale digital deployment in Lao PDR and expanding access to the curriculum in digital format.

Share what you're most proud of in your digital education work (cont.)



- ❖ Eduten is a **digital math learning** platform developed in Finland.
- ❖ Focused on improving the numeracy skills of Grade 3 & 4 students.
- ❖ use as a remedial learning tool in Lao schools.
- ❖ supports teachers by providing real-time learning analytics to track student progress.
- ❖ It includes personalized and pedagogical exercises for the students and learning analytics and support for teachers

- 1st Pilot completed in Vientiane Capital covered 2 districts with 10 primary schools, Grade 3 (School Year 2023-2024) - identify the improvement of student's learning.
- 2nd Scaling Pilot (on-going) in 5 provinces, 12 districts with 35 primary schools, Grade 3 and Grade 4 (School Year 2025-2026) - expecting in-depth analytical data and evidence contributing to student's learning and improvement.



LEARNING PIONEERS PROGRAMME

INNOVATION CAMP 2025

**BEYOND
DIGITAL AS USUAL**

Lao PDR: Discussions

Country Voices: Why we're here session 11:00-11:45, 20 Oct: Country teams will be asked to share their answer to the 3 questions below. This is shared verbally (no presentation slides needed). Sharing the questions in advance so participants can start thinking about these points:

1. **Why did your country join the Learning Pioneers programme?**

Answer:

- Lao PDR have already enacted with 20 years (2021-2040) , 10th years strategy (2021-2030), and the 5 years action plan (2021-2025) on digital economy to facilitate the transition towards digital economy, that guided the development of the 10 years ICT strategy for education in Laos with its ongoing 5 years action plan.
- Exploring global, regional and national education challenges and to clearly define through the lens of learning equity, evidence, and system transformation that would be benefit to the Lao PDR to develop and implementation of digital education strategy and its action plan including any example of costing plan.

1. **What change do we [country team] wish to see for children and teachers ?**

- Improving foundation learning and outcomes by personalized and pedagogical exercises for the students and learning analytics and support for teachers using adaptable and appropriate digital approach for the Lao context.
- transforming education system using digital step-by-step with effective partnerships for each stage such as *building foundation, scalability, and innovation*.

1. **What do we [country team] hope to gain and contribute during this week's Innovation Camp ?**

- Learning about trends, good practices and lessons around digital learning and the use **EdTech** to improve learning outcomes, particularly foundational learning; and more broadly around AI in Education, including human-centered approach for applying digital transformation in education at all level.
- With guidance by the Camp and experts to identify further areas of challenges and ambitious and how to define and set clear practical and implementable at country level.