



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
REGION VIII - EASTERN VISAYAS

September 28, 2021

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

No. **000485** s.2021

To: OIC-Chief, CLMD, DepEd Regional Office VIII
Schools Division Superintendents
Divisions of Leyte and Tacloban City
All Others Concerned

**PARTICIPATION TO THE ONLINE INTERNATIONAL TRAINING ON THE
JOINT UNITED NATIONS WEBINAR ON SAFE SCHOOL RE-OPENING
IN SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST ASIA, SESSION 2**

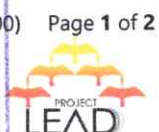
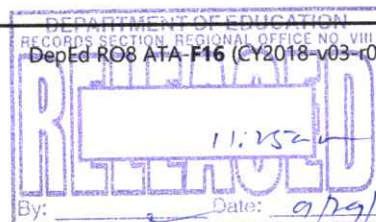
1. This Office has received official communication from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) inviting the same group of participants who attended during the first session, found in the enclosure, to attend the **Online International Training on the Joint United Nations Webinar on Safe School Re-Opening in South and Southeast Asia, Session 2** on **October 6, 2021** via Zoom through a link which will be emailed after the registration.
2. There is **no registration fee**. All expenses incurred relative to the management of the training shall be shouldered by the organizer.
3. All other details of the activity are found in the above-mentioned official communication.
4. For queries, Mr. Alfredo P. Café, EPS, ALS Focal Person, may be reached at alfredo.cafe@deped.gov.ph.
5. Immediate dissemination of and compliance with this Memorandum are desired.


MA. GEMMA MERCADO LEDESMA
Regional Director

CLMD-APC



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Enclosure No. 1 to OM **000485**, s. 2021 dated September 28, 2021 re: **Participation to the Online International Training on the Joint United Nations Webinar on Safe School Re-Opening in South and Southeast Asia, Session 2 on October 6, 2021 via Zoom.**

Official Participants

No.	Division	Position	Name of Participant
1.	Curriculum and Learning Management Division, DepEd Regional Office VIII	OIC-Chief	Dr. Rosemarie M. Guino
2.		EPS	Alfredo P. Cafe
3.	Leyte Division	EPS	Marie Joy A. Arias
4.	Tacloban City Division	EPS	Ranulfo I. Baay
Total			4



Joint UN Webinars on Safe Reopening of Schools

UN organizations collaborating for the webinar: WHO, UNICEF, UNESCO, UNFPA; WFP

Purpose

Knowledge and experience sharing among countries to identify good practices, challenges and gaps in preparedness for safe school reopening (or sustaining safe operations), and preparedness to resume and expand non-educational school-based services: WASH in school, health, nutrition, child protection and well-being.

Rationale

Over last 18 months the COVID-19 pandemic has been associated with overwhelming challenges for countries' health, education and economic activities. The response to addressing the pandemic, including measures like strict lockdowns, puts many restrictions on social and economic activities, and has led to the prolonged closure of educational institutions at all levels. Such disruptions have had dire consequences on the learning, health and overall wellbeing of children and adolescents and has created multiple challenges for their parents, caregivers and teachers. Countries in South Asia have been highly affected, with children and adolescents having been away from school for more than a year in countries like Bangladesh, whilst all countries have experienced serious disruptions to learning despite attempts by government and others to reach them through remote learning. Remote learning has been variable in quality and reach, and many of the other benefits that schools offer such as school feeding; counselling, and access to health and protection services have also been seriously compromised by school closures.

With evolving knowledge on risk-benefit analysis and recognition of the potentially high risk of harm to the wellbeing of children and adolescents owing to prolonged school closure vis-a-vis the risk of the infection, the recommendation from UN agencies is to prioritize school reopening as soon as the local outbreak and transmission conditions allow the resumption of routine activities.

Since April 2021 it has also become apparent that there may be new waves of COVID infection and new variants with the possibility of continuous or repeated disruption to education and other services over the next year and beyond. Slow expansion in coverage of COVID-19 vaccination is an additional risk factor. The need to engage with several key actors, parents and caregivers and students themselves has also become increasingly apparent to address their concerns about safety in school setting. The government and stakeholders need to address adequate provisions for infection prevention and control and adherence to protocols to ensure a successful and sustainable return to school. It is also clear that authorities need to look at ways of delivering other school-based services such as school feeding and health even if schools need to be closed from time to time.

Fortunately, all countries are showing a commitment to safe school re-opening and are at different stages of planning and / or implementation. It is critical to follow public health and social measures and to practice recommended protocols for prevention and early detection of infection before and during the resumption of school operations. A range of partners has supported planning processes with government counterparts in the Ministries of Education and Health and have committed to continue the support going forward.

The proposed webinars build on an earlier set of webinars on safe school reopening organized by WHO, UNICEF, UNESCO and UNFPA in October-November 2020 for the countries of South and South-East Asia Regions to share technical guidance and resources, and country-experiences among multiple stakeholders including officials from ministries of education and health. This collaboration has recently expanded, with the inclusion of additional partners with the establishment of a new network for School Health, Nutrition and Well-being under the Learning and Education 2030+ technical Working Group.

UN agencies in the Region in collaboration with partners propose a new set of webinars on safe school reopening with the following objectives:



- Discuss current situation, common challenges and share technical updates on latest guidance and recommendations to address these.
- Facilitate sharing of significant achievements and innovative experiences from selected countries in South Asia and South-East Asia for possible adaptation by other countries
- Identify key actions for the safe reopening of school and collaborative actions that can expedite these processes at the country and regional levels.

Target audience

- Programme Managers (Policy and Technical) from Ministries of Health and Education in member countries
- UN staff in health and education, as well as experts in child protection, WASH, nutrition and school feeding, and gender from regional and country levels
- Representatives from relevant partners agencies working in health and education and allied areas.

Session 2: Joint UN Webinar on Safe School Reopening – Country Experience Sharing

Date and time: 06 October 2021, 10:00-12:00 (Indian Standard Time)

Registration: <https://bit.ly/JointUNWebinar2>

Overall Moderator: UNICEF EAPRO

1. **Welcome and opening remarks:** Jim Ackers, UNICEF (5 min)
2. **Zoom poll** on school reopening readiness, and readiness to resume school-based services: Ivan Coursac, UNICEF (10 min)
3. **Recap on first webinar, sharing key take-aways and updates:** Dr Rajesh Mehta, WHO (5 min)
4. **Country experience sharing 3 presentations** (30 min) and Q&A (5 min)
 - **Theme:** Comprehensive approach to school reopening: **Thailand** (10 min)
 - **Theme:** Health protocols, Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) in schools: **Maldives** (10 min)
 - **Theme:** Mental Health and Psycho-Social Support (MHPSS): **Bhutan** (10 min)
 - Q&A: Other country Government representatives and participants ask questions to the presenters (5 min)

Panel Moderator: Jenelle Babb, UNESCO

5. **Panel discussion on good practices, challenges and critical gaps in WASH in Schools and Nutrition Programmes within country responses and recovery during and after school reopening (20 min):** Government participants from **Indonesia, Timor-Leste, Nepal, Bhutan**, WASH and Nutrition experts from UNICEF and WFP
6. **Country experience sharing 3 presentations** (30 min) and Q&A (5 min)
 - **Theme:** Communication and engagement with students, parents, communities, teachers to gain support for reopening: **Pakistan** (10 min)
 - **Theme:** Real-time data monitoring and mechanisms: **Bangladesh** (10 min)
 - **Theme:** Preparedness for future outbreaks (contingency planning and resilience building): **India** (10 min)
 - Q&A: Other country Government representatives and participants ask questions to the presenters (5 min)
7. **Closing remarks:** Margarete Sachs-Israel, UNESCO (5 mins)



Alfredo Cafe <alfredo.cafe@deped.gov.ph>

[Register now!], the 2nd Joint UN webinar on Safe School Reopening, 06 October, 10:00-12:00 (IST)

Education 2030 - Bangkok <ed2030.bgk@unesco.org>

Mon, Sep 27, 2021 at 2:14 PM

Dear colleagues,

On behalf of the Chief of Section (IQE, UNESCO Bangkok) and Regional Education Advisers (UNICEF ROSA and EAPRO), you are invited to join the second of a 2-part webinar series supported by WHO, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNFPA and WFP on Safe School Reopening.

This webinar will focus on experience sharing between countries of South and Southeast Asia. Select government representatives from Ministries of Health and Ministries of Education will share best practices, challenges and gaps encountered in safely reopening schools, with a particular focus on non-education services delivered in schools, such as WASH, health, nutrition and well-being.

The webinar will be held on **06 October from 10:00-12:00 (IST)** – [Register here](#)

With evolving knowledge on risk-benefit analysis and recognition of the potentially high risk of harm to the health and well-being of children and adolescents due to prolonged school closures, not least in terms of long-term learning loss, this second webinar will be an opportunity to listen to various country experiences with regards to safely reopening schools, highlighting good practice and common challenges in the following areas:

- WASH in school, school feeding, ensuring health protocols are followed in schools and addressing mental health needs of students and staff.
- Gaining support from students, parents, communities and teachers for reopening.
- Finding solutions to collect real-time data to monitor implementation of safe school operations.
- Addressing the risk of future outbreaks: building system resilience through preparedness and contingency planning.

This second session of the 2-part webinar series builds on an earlier set of webinars on safe school reopening organized by WHO, UNICEF, UNESCO and UNFPA in Oct-Nov 2020 for countries of South and South East Asia Regions. You are receiving this webinar invitation as you have participated in the previous Joint UN webinar series.

Looking forward to your participation in this upcoming webinar.

9/28/21, 9:42 AM

Department of Education Mail - [Register now!], the 2nd Joint UN webinar on Safe School Reopening, 06 October, 10:00-12:00 (IST)

Warm regards,

on behalf of the co-chairs of the School Health, Nutrition, Well-being Working Group

Learning and Education2030+ Secretariat

Regional Coordination Group on SDG4-Education
2030 in Asia and the Pacific



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