

The program targets districts that have 75 per cent of school aged children not attending school—of which there are significantly more girls than boys.

The program aims to ensure that by 2013 over half of these children will be enrolled in quality basic education. The long-term goal of the program is to ensure children remain at school through to Grade 5. Children will be studying in safe, protective and healthy environments, with access to water and appropriate sanitation.

Active Village Education Development Committees will improve local ownership, leading to higher community involvement in school management. Schools will also be able to access small grants to implement plans for school improvement. For example, committees might choose to improve the school grounds, build playgrounds or buy additional learning materials or sports equipment.



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### Expected outputs by the end of the Education for All—Fast Track Initiative program:

- More than 1,500 schools will be built or renovated
- Over 8,000 teachers will be trained
- Over 170,000 children who currently do not go to school will have access to a quality education.

The program aims to ensure that by 2013 over half of the out of school children in targeted districts will be enrolled in quality basic education.



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In 2010-11, Australia also partnered with UNICEF, WFP and UNESCO to support the Ministry of Education in planning and preparation for the implementation of the Education for All—Fast Track Initiative program—particularly the Schools of Quality approach, the community-based school readiness program, the home grown school feeding program and the mobile teacher approach.

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## Australia's Support to the Education For All—Fast Track Initiative Program in Laos



The EFA-FTI program is largely based on two basic education projects supported by Australia that successfully improved enrolment and completion rates through improved school quality, school feeding and classroom construction.

## A Global Partnership

The Education for All–Fast Track Initiative is a global partnership of developing and donor countries, multilateral agencies, non-government organisations and the private sector, dedicated to ensuring quality basic education for all children.

This partnership provides financial assistance to countries where governments and donors have jointly developed credible education sector plans. Australia worked with the Lao Ministry of Education and other development partners to apply to the Fast Track Initiative process in 2009. In 2010, Lao PDR successfully secured USD30 million from the Fast Track Initiative–Catalytic Fund to support implementation of the sector plan.

AUSAID and the World Bank are each providing additional funding to supplement the catalytic fund, combining in a joint program of approximately USD65.5 million.

The Education for All-Fast Track Initiative in Laos supports an Education Sector Framework towards education for all at pre-primary and primary school levels.



Photo by: Bart Verweij



Photo by: Jim Holmes

## Education For All–Fast Track Initiative Program in Laos:

- Australia contributes an estimated AUD21 million
- Program duration: 2011–2013
- Key partners: Lao PDR Ministry of Education, World Bank

The Education for All–Fast Track Initiative program in Laos is a comprehensive pre-primary and primary education program being implemented in 60 of Lao PDR’s most educationally disadvantaged districts. The program is being managed by the Ministry of Education.

The program aims to ensure that by 2013 over half of the out of school children in targeted districts will be enrolled in quality basic education. More than 1,500 schools are planned to be built or renovated and over 8,000 teachers trained.

Australian funds combined with the USD30 million from the global Fast Track Initiative Catalytic Fund and USD15.5 million from the World Bank will support:

- **Community-based construction:** The program will construct new schools or renovate classrooms in 1,500 villages.
- **Schools of quality:** The program will scale-up the Lao Government’s ‘Schools of Quality’ approach—incorporating teacher training, the provision of learning materials, and community participation.
- **Mobile teachers:** The program will deploy mobile teachers to villages without a school. This approach will ensure an equivalent primary education for out of school children in the target districts.
- **Home grown school feeding:** The program will provide school lunches, using food grown and purchased locally, as an incentive for children to attend and stay in school.

- **System strengthening at all levels:** Improved capacity and coordination at all levels of the education system will ensure quality education beyond the life of the program.

**An inclusive approach:** The program will build on the Lao Government’s commitment to providing a safe environment for girls, ensuring a supportive education for children with disabilities, and reaching the poorest children in the community.



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