

6-Monthly Progress Report: Enhancing Civil Society Capacity to Effectively Engage Governments on Education Policy, Budgets and Programs in the Asia Pacific Region

Strategies Implemented in the last 6 Months:

<p>Strategy 1.a) Continuing the employment of in-country Mentoring and Advocacy Support Officers in PNG, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Timor Leste.</p>	<p>Mentoring and Advocacy Support (MAS) Officers are currently employed in each of the 4 coalitions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vanuatu: Ms Anne Pakoa has continued working as the MAS Officer for VEPAC (Vanuatu Education and Policy Advocacy Coalition). • Solomon Islands: Ms Mary Haridi has continued as MAS officer with COESI (Coalition for Education Solomon Islands). • PNG: A new MAS Officer, Ms Loraine Siraba was appointed in October 2011, located at the offices of PEAN (PNG Education Advocacy Network). Her strong media connections have lifted the profile of PEAN's work through a number of public advocacy events. • Timor Leste: Mr Joao Pequinho has continued working as MAS officer for TLCE (Timor Leste Coalition for Education).
<p>Strategy 1.b) Strengthening the Capacity of the South Pacific office of ASPBAE to play its mentoring role by contracting a Sub-regional Mentoring and Advocacy Support Manager and increasing the office's financial management support capacity.</p>	<p>The ASPBAE Program Manager (PM), Program Officer (PO) and Sub-regional Capacity Development and Advocacy Support (CDAS) officer are jointly undertaking the role of Sub-Regional Mentoring and Advocacy Support. In addition ASPBAE's Finance Officer provides on-going financial management support to Coalitions directly and through the PM and PO.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASPBAE staff have undertaken the following capacity support visits to coalitions: 4 visits to VEPAC, 2 to COESI, 3 to TLCE and 2 to PEAN. ASPBAE has drawn on other resources to augment AusAID funding support. Each visit involves working closely with MAS staff, reviewing progress, jointly meeting with coalition staff and Board members, and collectively dealing with issues that arise. • ASPBAE's Sub-Regional Mentoring and Advocacy Support staff also provide ongoing capacity support to in-country MAS Officers, coalition staff and coalition Boards through regular email, phone and Skype contact. • Structured Training: ASPBAE's PO worked with VEPAC's MAS and Board chair to plan and facilitate

	the 2-day induction training for the new VEPAC Board members and staff in April 2012.
Strategy 2. Ensure effective documentation, analysis and reporting of the in-country and regional CSO engagement by continuing to employ a Research and Documentation Officer.	<p>The Research and Documentation Officer during this period has been:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalising reports on coalition engagement, including lessons learned, best practice and a results framework from coalitions in the region • Acted as a resource for technical training to TLCE on how to conduct its first statistically significant research surveys and literacy assessment.

Achievements in the past 6 months by Country: Achievements are grouped below in 6 key areas:

	Vanuatu	Solomon Islands	Timor Leste	PNG
1: Coalition Institutional Capacity Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ASPBAE PO and MAS Officer supported VEPAC's AGM in February 2012, which included a review of the constitution and election of a new board. - ASPBAE's PO worked with VEPAC's MAS and new Board chair to plan and facilitate the 2-day induction training for the new VEPAC Board members and staff in April 2012. - ASPBAE PO assisted with project proposal writing. - PO support VEPAC staff to successfully complete final financial reports for CSEF and an external audit. - PO worked with VEPAC to develop a Work Plans for 2012 and the successful proposal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MAS Officer led the development of joint feedback on the National Education Action Plan 2013-15 on behalf of the COESI membership and INGOs. - MAS Officer continued her participation in a multi-year capacity development workshop run by AusAID in Honiara. - ASPBAE PM supported the COESI Board to conduct performance appraisals for its 3 full-time staff. It was agreed by the Board that appraisals be instituted on an annual basis. - CDAS supported the development of work plans for 2012 and successful proposal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -A Financial Procedures Manual has been developed, and is in final stages of editing and approval by Board members. -MAS and CDAS officers have worked to finalise and edit English versions of all draft proposals and reports. During this period TLCE was successful in gaining funding from US Embassy, CSEF and in-country AusAID (ECTAS Program). - MAS assisted TLCE to follow-up on submitted proposals. - MAS has supported the updating of a donor database and monitor in-country call for proposals. -CDAS supported the development of work plans for 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ASPBAE PM has continued her role as mentor to the MAS Officer and PEAN Chairman as part of ASPBAE's NeXT Advocacy Program. - PM supported PEAN's recruitment process for a new Finance Officer, including participating in the selection panel. - CDAS supported the development of work plans for 2012 and successful proposal for CSEF bridge funding

	for CSEF bridge funding.	for CSEF bridge funding	2012 and successful proposal for CSEF bridge funding.	
2: Coalition membership expansion & member capacity development	<p>-MAS Officer began a monthly newsletter in January, which is distributed to members and stakeholders. Four Newsletters have been sent out this year. These have been posted on the GCE website and VEPAC has received positive feedback from other country coalitions</p> <p>- 2 half-day stakeholder meetings have been conducted by VEPAC, with support from the MASO</p> <p>- A 2-day training for member organisations and VEPAC staff on Policy Analysis and Budget Analysis was held in late 2011.</p> <p>-As part of GAW, MAS conducted training for 10 local volunteers on importance of early childhood care and education. Volunteers passed on knowledge to the kindergarten teachers and child care centre teachers as well as chiefs and community leaders.</p>	<p>- MAS Officer finalised the first COESI Members' Newsletter, to be launched at the AGM in May.</p>	<p>-MAS Officer attended regular Board meetings as a support person. The board approved MAS's suggestion for division of work among members and formed 3 sub-committees within the Board. This has proved a more efficient way of working.</p> <p>-MAS supported meetings with embassies, agencies and NGOs and assisted TLCE in ensuring that education issues and concerns are included in the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) for Timor Leste submitted to the United Nations Human Rights Council.</p>	<p>ASPBAE organised for an Australian Master's student from RMIT to do a volunteer field placement with PEAN for 2 months. She has worked closely with MASO to develop a membership expansion and constituency strengthening plan.</p> <p>- PEAN, through its GAW activities focused on ECCE, expanded its membership with a number of ECCE providers becoming members. A number of these new members expressed an interest in taking governance roles with PEAN in the future.</p>
3: Successful conduct of relevant research & production of	<p>-MAS officer consulted with senior policy analyst of the PM's office about Vanuatu's context of policy review and analysis.</p> <p>-PO and MAS Officer held</p>	<p>- The Central Islands Province research has been completed and the draft report is currently being finalised.</p> <p>- A 5-Province literacy report is</p>	<p>-MAS provided translation into English of brochures of EFA and TLCE profile, and CDAS provided final edits, ready for printing by 2012.</p>	<p>- PEAN conducted school budget tracking research in 3 provinces to better inform discussions on school financing. The draft report will</p>

quality education policy analysis	discussion to develop plans for policy positioning e.g. on the issue of making education compulsory. -VEPAC's literacy report findings were discussed in parliament.	being developed and is planned to be launched next quarter. - COESI's project officer, with support from ASPBAE PM, has been analysing results from COESI's school budget tracking research conducted in 2011.	-During this time, MAS task was also to assist with TLCE's annual report and financial auditing, and conduct Tetum editing for TLCE survey on youth learning needs report.	be available in coming months. - In May 2012, PEAN launched the NCDC Literacy Providers' Directory, which publicises the important work of non-formal education providers.
4: Advocacy and engagement with government and ministry officials and with other key stakeholders on aspects of education policy, budgets and programs.	- PO and MAS met with the MoE Director of Education Services to plan VEPAC's involvement in the implementation of the 'Minimum Quality Standards for Vanuatu Primary Schools'. - ASPBAE'S PO with the MAS officer met with the Prime Minister's Office Senior Education Officer, to discuss the survey findings and VEPAC's work more broadly. -MAS officer contributed effectively to the SBM (School – Based Management) consultation and training with the MoE and donor partners in education services.	- The MAS Officer and COESI continue to participate in the Government's Technical Working Group on Literacy and Monitoring. - COESI submitted the joint feedback on the National Education Action Plan. - The MAS Officer and COESI Project Officer met with AusAID post to discuss a concept note on School Based Management.	- MAS assisted TLCE in the meeting with GPE and presented to the GPE the TLCE engagement with ASPBAE and GCE. -MAS provided support to the work of TLCE in the provision of education budget analysis. - Meetings with embassies, UN agencies, NGOs, media, Government and MPs completed. -MAS presented issue of education in the recent Development Partners Meeting in Dili.	- PEAN signed a MOU with the Department of Education. - MAS worked with PEAN coordinator to publish PEAN's annual report for 2010 & 2011 highlighting its key achievements and demonstrating financial transparency. - PEAN has continued to work closely with the Department of Planning and Finance who have been instrumental in influencing the Department of Education to prioritise its engagement with PEAN and civil society.
5: Gaining and maintaining civil society representation on important education	- Continued to participation in EPG meetings. -MAS officer has been appointed to the National Advisory Council to the Minister for Education for a 2 year term.	- COESI staff and MAS Officer continue to actively participate in TWGs. -COESI have inputted into the planning process of NEAP (National Education Action Plan)	-MAS and TLCE staff participated in the local education group to share TLCE position on education in TL. -MAS provided support to TLCE on its involvement in the	- The PEAN Coordinator and MAS Officer continue to be involved in quarterly Education Sector Improvement Program (ESIP) meetings. -PEAN is on the Census

policy/ budgeting committees.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MAS Officer participated in the FEDEMM and was invited to set up a booth to display its publications. This allowed MAS to meet and consult with many participants. -The MAS officer participates actively in the VHT (Vanuatu Humanitarian Team). 		Transparency Working Group.	Working Group.
6: Contributing to positive changes in education policy or practice, securing an education budget increase with positive allocations for disadvantaged sectors, or improvements to education governance systems and programs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -MAS officer supported VEPAC to contribute to the review and finalising of the MQS (Minimum Quality Standards), with several of VEPAC's suggestions being adopted in the final document. -The MAS officer has approached several national major and strong political parties to put the following issues their policy platform ; 1) Government to pay for kindergarten teachers' salaries and 2) free education up to year 10, and 3) compulsory primary education. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - COESI's input into the NEAP resulted in the ministry making some amendments to the draft NEAP. -COESI was part of the drafting team that drafted a National Literacy Policy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MAS provided support to TLCE to advocate for increasing state budget for education to 20% through TLCE's participation in the Transparency Working Group. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -It's been a very difficult time to lobby the government with the political instability in PNG. The PEAN office has had to close several times in the past few months due to civil unrest. - PEAN had planned to do a pre-election policy advocacy campaign; however politicians have only just started campaigning in the last week – only 4 weeks out from elections.

Implementation Strategy and Work Program for the Coming 6 Month Period: Through continued implementation of Strategy 1a, 1b and 2, the following program is planned in the coming period;

	Vanuatu	Solomon Islands	Timor Leste	PNG
1: Coalition Institutional Capacity Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 4-day Finance Officer training and on-going mentoring from ASPBAE's own Finance Officer. - PO to provide continued assistance with development of a resource mobilisation strategy, and support enacting the strategy. - 5-day Sub-regional Meeting (VEPAC, COESI and PEAN) to be held in Port Vila, will allow sharing of good practice and lessons learnt, and will be an opportunity for Pacific Region strategic planning around education advocacy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 4-day Finance Officer training and on-going mentoring from ASPBAE's own Finance Officer. Louise will support the new Board's induction retreat in June. - AGM to be held in late May 2012, new board elected. - Continue mentoring role with MAS officer as part of NeXT. - 5-day Sub-regional Meeting (VEPAC, COESI and PEAN). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -4-day Finance Officer training and on-going mentoring from ASPBAE's own Finance Officer. -MAS and CDAS to support TLCE members with proposal writing. -MAS to advise board members and National Secretary on the issue of education law, education policy, and budgeting. -MAS and CDAS to support TLCE to undertake budget tracking, implementation, evaluation and reporting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -4-day Finance Officer training and on-going mentoring from ASPBAE's own Finance Officer. -PM to support the AGM preparations. - PM to assist Board in finalisation of draft PEAN financial policies and procedures. - Support the new finance officer to transition PEAN's Financial Management System to MYOB. - 5-day Sub-regional Meeting (VEPAC, COESI and PEAN).
2: Coalition membership expansion & member capacity development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continued production and circulation of monthly newsletter – in addition to the e-version, this will also be provided in a hard copy to allow access to those members who don't regularly access the internet. -Stakeholder meetings. -Advocacy Training workshop for members. - Policy awareness workshop 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MAS Officer to support production of monthly members' newsletter and also provincial member recruitment in 2012 through visits aligned with other project activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support TLCE staff to conduct membership registration and expansion of membership to reach all districts by 2012. - MAS to design planning workshop of TLCE Strategic planning to be conducted in August 2012. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MAS Officer to support membership drive and follow up on non-active members. -PEAN to work collaboratively with members to follow up on interest shown during GAW.

	for members.			
3: Successful conduct of relevant research & production of quality education policy analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Aim to find funding to conduct literacy survey in other provinces. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Publication of CIP report. - Drafting and publication of analytical report on school budget tracking research, supported by MAS Officer and PM. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MAS to play supporting role in TLCE survey on youth learning needs report translation in English. - Preparation to conduct literacy survey in Lautem district from June – December 2012. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Publication of analytical report on school budget tracking research, supported by MAS Officer and ASPBAE PM.
4: Advocacy and engagement with government and ministry officials and with other key stakeholders on aspects of education policy, budgets and programs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Production of a short advocacy film on girls' education. - International Literacy Day - National workshop to showcase non-formal education providers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - COESI's role within literacy and monitoring TWGs shifted to become more focused on providing input to and from constituency, being led by MAS Officer. - COESI will lead preparation of Joint statement for AJR to be held in July. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -MAS successfully linked TLCE with Minister of education, Parliament Committee for education and local education group. TLCE will continue this relationship. -MAS to support TLCE to lobby for increased of budget for education to 20% and provide legal framework to ensure increase in education budget. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PEAN to enter into partnership cooperation agreement (PCA) with UNICEF.
5: Gaining and maintaining civil society representation on important education policy/budgeting committees.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continued involvement in EPG meetings. -MAS officer will participate in National Advisory Council to the Minister for Education. - Continued participation in the VHT (Vanuatu Humanitarian Team). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Will continue to participate in TWGs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continued participation in the local education group to share TLCE position on education in TL. - MAS to provide support for TLCE involvement in the transparency Working Group. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Will continue to participate in TWGs.
6: Contributing to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - VEPAC to hold a members' 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - COESI will continue to work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - TLCE will continue to conduct 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Post elections, PEAN will be

positive changes in education policy or practice, securing an education budget increase with positive allocations for disadvantaged sectors, or improvements to education governance systems and programs.	and stakeholders' meeting to develop policy stance leading up to November election, and to advocate for this with candidates. - MAS to support VEPAC to meet with those who are running for parliament to discuss their policies on education and monitor their progress on these policies when they get into parliament.	with Government to ensure that the National Literacy Policy is implemented.	socialisation/awareness raising on 6 EFA Goals to reach districts that have greater education problems. - Lobby Parliament and elected President to formally respond to TLCE findings about education issues. - MAS to continue supporting TLCE in its engagement in the UPR process up to the submission of the UPR report to the UN Human Rights Council.	meeting with Ministers and Government Officials to clarify policy positions.
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Annex 1:

Some Key Lessons Learnt:

- PEAN's Annual Report has been very valuable as a resource mobilisation and profile raising tool for PEAN.
- There is much value in multi-stakeholder engagement, e.g. Engagement with Ministry of Finance and Department of Planning as well as Ministry of Education in PNG.
- The national coalitions learn much from each other. For example, VEPAC's Board Induction was a great success and has already resulted in a much more aware and engaged Board. The idea for the Induction training came from PEAN.
- It is important that coalitions allocate funds in proposal budgets to cover the financial and time costs of coalition staff attending workshops, meetings and working groups. This is where much of the 'advocacy' and decision making happens, and coalitions need to have the resources to have people sitting at the table during these important discussions.
- The political situation of a country plays a large role in the development of a coalition and the extent of its advocacy success. While TLCE is a new coalition compared to other national education coalitions in the region, it is currently a crucial time for political and social development in Timor Leste. Education has become a national issue, which is being discussed by Government, Parliament and the President. TLCE has found valuable opportunities to get involved at the 'ground level' of decision making. It is vital that the voice of civil society be heard at this time, and TLCE is providing a forum through which civil society can stand together to advocate for better education in Timor Leste.

Annex 2:

Financial Expenditure Report: May 23, 2011 to May 23, 2012

	Year 1 Budget AUD\$	Exp. Y1 TD AUD\$ to 23/05/12	Implemt. Rate
<u>1. Targeted In-country Mentoring and Advocacy Support</u>			
1.1 PNG	29,200	25,270	87%
1.2 Solomon Islands	28,200	20,998	74%
1.3 Vanuatu	25,700	18,577	72%
1.4 Timor Leste	40,580	27,399	68%
S. Total 1	123,680	92,244	75%
<u>2. ASPBAE Australia direct support</u>			
2.1 Mentoring and Advocacy Support Manager			
Salaries, Superannuation, PAYG	76,300	66,431	87%
Travel	16,920	12,175	72%
2.2 Regional Research and Documentation			
Salaries, Superannuation, PAYG	36,550	17,212	47%
Travel	8,460	8,960	106%
2.3 Bookkeeping Support			
Salaries, Superannuation, PAYG	14,000	11,256	80%
Travel	1,700	0	0%
Rent	3,000	4,346	145%
Communications	3,900	3,702	95%
Office Equipment & Supplies	1,900	3,611	190%
2.4 Report Production, Printing, Mailing	5,000	0	0%
S. Total 2	167,730	127,692	76%
<u>3. ASPBAE Coordination & Mgt Fees</u>	34,969	34,969	100%
Project Total	326,379	254,905	78%