

Development Partners' Endorsement of the National Education Development Strategy 2021-2030 and Mid-Term Education Action Plan 2021-2023 of the Republic of Tajikistan

The UNICEF Tajikistan Country Office, UNESCO Almaty Cluster Office for Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, Delegation of European Union in Tajikistan and members of the Development Coordination Council (DCC) comprising of Development Partners, signing to this joint letter, have positively appraised the National Education Development Strategy (NEDS) until 2030 and Mid-Term Education Action Plan (MTEAP) 2021-2023 of the Republic of Tajikistan. The documents were developed by the Ministry of Education and Science with financial and technical support from the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), UNICEF, UNESCO and EU, and in close consultation with DCC Education and Local Education Group (LEG) partners and other education sector stakeholders in Tajikistan. Following extensive consultations and reviews conducted during the joint development of the NEDS 2021-2030, additional endorsement took place via poll during the DCC/LEG virtual meeting and mail poll due to the limitations imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic (minutes of the meeting are attached).

The Development Partners agree that the NEDS 2021-2030 and MTEAP 2021-2023 were developed in a very consultative and participatory manner securing strong commitment from various stakeholders to support the government in the implementation of the strategy. The process served as a capacity building opportunity for the Ministry of Education and Science and other relevant government bodies in result-based planning and monitoring.

While the NEDS 2021-2030 will continue what has been left uncompleted from the previous strategy, it is important to mention major policy shifts, which include prioritization of the following areas:

- Assessment of Learning Outcomes through development of National Assessment Concept, creation of National Learning Assessment System and participation in the national standardized literacy and numeracy including international assessments;
- Teacher preparation and professional development with new approaches to modernize the education system;
- Early Childhood Education including focus on one-year of pre-primary education as part of 12-year education reform, and recognition of alternative and inclusive forms of pre-school education;
- Focus on quality education, digital learning and competency building programmes, including the 21st century skills and Technical Vocational Education and Training;
- Inclusive Education with focus on mainstream education and inclusive practices across all levels of education;
- School safety with the expansion of Disaster Risk Reduction programmes and integration of a comprehensive school safety into sustainable development and disaster risk reduction policies.

The Development Partners hereby endorse the NEDS/MTEAP and are strongly committed to support the Government of Tajikistan in its implementation.

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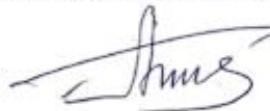


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Iltom Abdulloev, Executive Director, Open Society Institute Assistance Foundation



Shovcat Alizadeh, Country Director, Oxfam in Tajikistan



Krista Pikkat, Director of the UNESCO Cluster Office in Almaty and UNESCO Representative in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan



Yu Yu, UNFPA Country Director for Tajikistan

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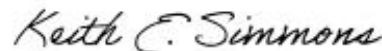
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