

**Asia-Pacific Mid-term evaluation of LIFE
Questionnaire for LIFE focal points
QUESTIONNAIRE**

1. Awareness and visibility of LIFE in your country

How was LIFE launched and publicized?

Many participants could not recall how LIFE was launched in PNG. Some participants said the initiative was launched during the launching of CapEFA Project last year (2009). National Literacy and Awareness Secretariat staff explained that they recalled Education Adviser from UNESCO Apia collecting data to prepare the proposal for LIFE but were unclear of the actual launching of LIFE project.

Please explain how LIFE has been used to bring the literacy issue more prominent in the national policy agenda in your country. Please list the reference documents, if any.

Participants were not clear of the impact of LIFE in bringing literacy issues more prominent in the national policy agenda.

The reference documents which has brought the literacy issues to more prominence are the following: (i) National Education Plan (2004-2014); (ii) Universal Basic Education Plan (2009); (iii) Medium Term Development Strategy (2004-2010I) and PNG Vision 20-50 Plan.

Did you create a coordination structure for LIFE.

The previous coordination structure consisted of the National Literacy and Awareness Council (NLAC) - the body consisting of representatives from all the core literacy providers. This body is also recognised as the highest policy making body. However, the NLAC has been defunct over the last few years and in its place Secretary for Education established a National Task Force for Literacy and tasked it to review the Literacy Policy and develop the legal framework for the establishment of National Literacy and Awareness Institute. Moves are under way to reactivate the NLAC.

What difference has the creation of the coordination structure made to literacy work in your country?

No difference has been made because the former structure is still being used.

2. Advocacy and communication

Did you develop an advocacy and communication strategy around LIFE to reinforce national commitment to literacy?

No advocacy and communication strategy has been specifically established around LIFE to reinforce commitment to literacy. The absence of this strategy is seen as one of the main causes of LIFE not being given the special attention it deserves.

What are the strategies and activities that you utilized to develop partnerships or an alliances around LIFE at the country level to mobilize political and financial support for literacy?

Currently, the only strategies used to develop partnership around LIFE is through the National Task Force on Literacy and Awareness. The reactivation of NLSC will go a long way in mobilising political and financial support for literacy.

3. Policy for sustainable and empowering literacy

What are the concrete actions for strengthening capacities for the development of policies for sustainable literacy begun by different stakeholders (e.g. government, civil society, private sector, bilateral and multilateral donors, etc.)?

The biggest challenge for PNG is the development of a policy for NFE and Literacy. In the absence of the policy the national government is not really committed in supporting literacy programmes. The lead agency tasked to coordinate literacy activities, NLAS is under staff and lack adequate resources to carry out its functions properly.

Further, it is uncertain which government agency is the lead agency responsible for coordinating NFE/literacy activities. This problem has lead to literacy programmes not being co-ordinated properly.

4. Delivery of empowering literacy programmes/extent of national ownership

In your country, has there been an assessment of needs, technical support requirements, and identification of capacity gaps to design, manage and implement LIFE-related programmes?

The intervention through CapEFA Project is taking care of the needs assessment, technical assistance requirements and identification of gaps.

Does your country have a human resource development plan for LIFE-related programmes ?

No

Did the financial allocation to LIFE-related activities increase since 2005?

No, support in terms of financial allocation for LIFE have been on the decline over the years. The budget for the National Literacy and Awareness Secretariat which is tasked to coordinate literacy activities in the country has remained at 3 to 4% annually of the Department of Education budget.

Did your country increase staff for LIFE-related activities since 2005?

No, the staff numbers for National Literacy and Awareness Secretariat (NLAS) has not increased. Initially, it was anticipated that NLAS staff would increase by 2 to cater for LIFE activities however this has not eventuated. At the provincial level the situation is of particular concern. With the introduction of the Organic Law on Provincial and Local Level Government in 1995, the position of Provincial Literacy Coordinators (PLC) have been abolished. Currently there are only 5 provinces with active PLCs.

What is the impact of LIFE in the implementation of literacy policy? State some examples of some aspects (e.g. with regard to political impact, resource mobilization, gender equality, etc.) ?

It is difficult to assess the impact of LIFE in the implementation of literacy policy. Participants were not clear if a particular Literacy programme or activities were the result of LIFE intervention or other recurrent or donor activities.

The issue with regards to resource mobilisation and gender equity are not being addressed in a systematic manner. The lack of effective coordination at the national level is a problem. Further, the uncertainty in establishing which government agency is the lead agency for NFE and LIFE related activities adds to the complications.

5. Innovation

How has LIFE been used to identify, document, and share knowledge and inspire innovations?

Only Church groups share results of their literacy activities with their donor agencies overseas to attract funding.

5. How do you evaluate the contribution and results of LIFE as a catalyst for action and partnerships around the literacy and non-formal education strategies? (At the political level, at the level of literacy and non-formal education strategies?)

<i>What are the achievements?</i>	<i>What are the difficulties/challenges in the implementation of LIFE related works?</i>
<i>Government is now beginning to recognise the importance of literacy and has made a commitment to increase NLAS budget in 2011.</i>	<i>Importance of literacy is reflected in many policy and planning documents but no real government commitment and as the result little financial support is provide for LIFE related activities</i> <i>There is no official government policy on NFE and it is not clear which government agency is the lead agency when it comes to LIFE activities.</i>
<i>Efforts being made through the CapEFA Project to develop a policy on NFE and Literacy</i>	<i>The annual budget for NLAS is only 3 to 4% of the Department of Education budget.</i>
<i>A combined NLAS and CapEFA Project information paper on the Literacy Situation in PNG was presented during the annual Senior Education Officers Conference. As the result of this, DoE has asked NLAS to prepare budget submission to increase its budget by three times.</i>	<i>The annual budget for NLAS is only 3 to 4% of the Department of Education budget. Work by NGO and Churches is hampered by lack of funds.</i>

Have any programmes from your country been shared as example of effective practice? If yes, which ones and on what occasions?

None

6. What evaluation do you make of the support of the UNESCO for LIFE? What would you propose for its improvement?

The support by UNESCO for LIFE is in order. However, to ensure maximum output from the intervention a more strategic approach in assisting countries is suggested. The development of a communication strategy to ensure better coordination among all literacy providers is important. Further, the development of action plans with specific activities, budget and timeframe would guide countries in moving literacy forward. In the case of PNG, it is obvious that the development of a formal policy on NFE/Literacy would take emphasis over other activities because it is the basis of literacy development in the future.

7. Are there upcoming opportunities in your country in which LIFE can be further promoted? Please provide details.

A number of planning documents are in the process of being developed including the PNG Vision 20-50 and the MTDS. To argue for literacy programmes, because no government agency is seen as the lead agency, a possibility of NGO's and Churches taking the lead should be investigated.

8. How can LIFE position itself better to play its role in your country, as a platform for strengthening partnerships, as a catalyst to further promote literacy in your country?

The development of a specific policy on NFE and literacy is the catalyst to strengthening partners. A development of concept paper on how the private, public and public partnership can be enhanced to strengthen partnership is proposed.

In addition to this, the strengthening National Literacy and Awareness Secretariat through the support provided by CapEFA Project is anticipated to provide a better coordination of literacy providers.