



Asia South Pacific Association  
for Basic and Adult Education

Learning Beyond Boundaries

# Education as Critical Stimulus to the Recovery Package

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## Financial Impact of Covid-19 Health Emergency

- ❑ Global economy to contract 3% in 2020 (IMF)  
→ *Most countries project deep recession*
- ❑ Job/livelihood losses, salary cuts, reduced work hours,  
Returning migrants (Nepal 1.5M, Phils ~.5M); reduced remittances  
→ *increase poverty, dropouts, child labor, reduced enrolment*
- ❑ Large informal economy in Asia-Pacific  
→ *Hit hardest by lockdown and recession*
- ❑ Commodity prices at historical lows
- ❑ Continuing social distancing → *reduced economic activity*
- ❑ Expected decline in ODA

## Shrinking fiscal space threatens education budgets

- Huge spending to fight Covid 19
- Expected contraction of the economy
- Tax relief for affected businesses
- Reduced tax revenue due to income losses

→ Tremendous pressure on education budgets

*Ex: Philippines*

*\$100 M for Last Mile School budget realigned for Covid-19 emergency*

*10% of 2020 Budget to be reserved for Covid response*

- ✓ Protect the Education budget
- ✓ Assert Education as critical stimulus for recovery
- ✓ Build back education systems that are equitable & inclusive

# But Education not factored in most Recovery Packages

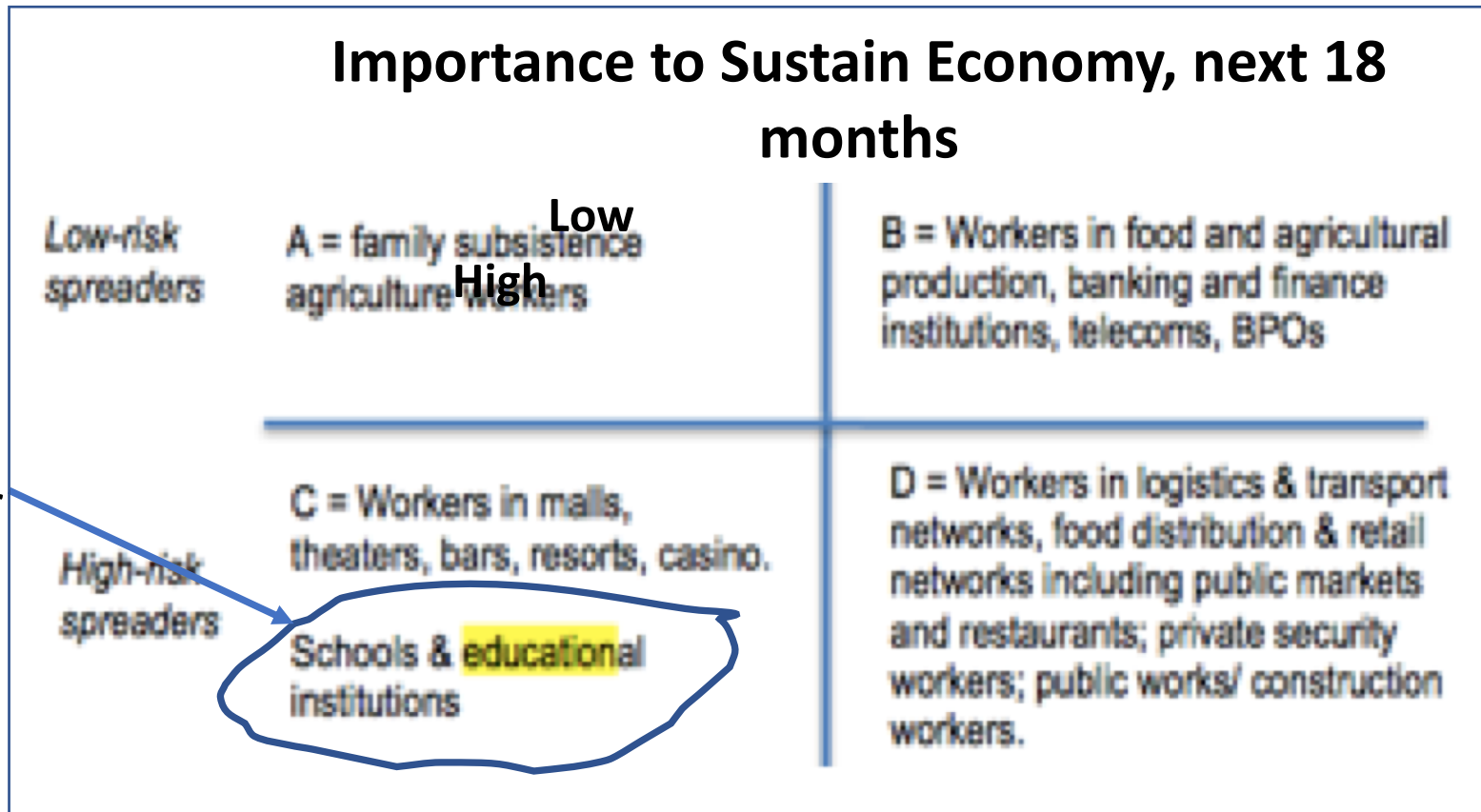
- Most Stimulus/Recovery Packages ignore education
  - *See discussions organised by UN DESA, ESCAP, SDSN, etc.*
- Most country stimulus packages do not mention education
- Only few countries mentioned education in recovery programme
  - ✓ Algeria – cut spending by 30%, but keep wages intact; protect health & education
  - ✓ Australia - free childcare and targeted support to education system
  - ✓ Sweden - more funding to media, cultural and sports sectors, education and training
  - ✓ Tonga - a third to health, while the rest - tourism, transport, agri, education, security

[Source: IMF Policy Tracker](#)

# But Education not factored in the Recovery Packages

- **Ex: Proposed Recovery Framework, Philippines**  
(UP School of Economics)

*Schools & Educational institutions as **LOW** priority in recovery plan and **HIGH** Covid Spreader*



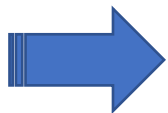
- **Quotes - Sample Covid Responses ASEAN countries:**

"Singapore... finally closed schools and all non-essential businesses on April 3..."

"As of April 1, Cambodia's more than 157 casinos and schools have closed."

# Inclusive & Equitable Education as Critical Stimulus in the Recovery

- ✓ Expand/Upgrade school feeding/community food distribution  
*With parents & community involvement to spur local economy*
- ✓ Accelerate/Upgrade CLC hubs, Community ICT Centers & Libraries, ALE programs  
*Generate local employment and skills upgrading*
- ✓ Upgrade & expand Alternative delivery mode, esp. mobile teaching where teacher better trained and more confident
- ✓ Mass hiring of teachers - fill-up vacancy; to maintain social distancing (lower PTR); more mobile teachers for home-/community-based learning
- ✓ Invest in teachers & parents training in education in emergencies, SHN, WASH, psychosocial support, distance learning, among others
- ✓ School & learning materials for marginalised areas, PWDs, displaced children
- ✓ Massive training and re-skilling to adapt to new normal
- ✓ Invest in research, data, communications, digital literacy



**Prioritise investment in human capabilities & well-being, on community resiliency, solidarity and a green economy**