

VIRTUAL LEARNING COLLABORATIVE ON EDUCATION FINANCING

FROM COMMITMENTS TO ACTION: ADVANCING EQUITABLE AND SUSTAINABLE FINANCING FOR EDUCATION

9 JUNE 2026 | 1:00-4:00 PM MANILA TIME (GMT8+)



Virtual Learning Collaborative on Education Financing “From Commitments to Action: Advancing Equitable and Sustainable Financing for Education”

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Registration link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/ZDMbK5LtRcyvBd7A22lBow>

Draft Concept Note

Context

The overall progress towards the SDGs has been slow and constantly at risk of reversal. Where progress has been made, it has been generally uneven and inadequate. Progress has stalled and even regressed in several countries and contexts. On its current trajectory, the world will not meet any of the 17 SDGs by 2030. Amidst persisting poverty, widening inequality and deepening climate vulnerability and waning multilateralism, current developments point to the further intensification of the global crises fueled by wars, rising geopolitical tensions, extreme inflationary pressures and energy insecurity.

The world faces a financing crisis that impacts key public services. In education, it is expected that only 17 per cent of the SDG 4 targets will be reached, with significant regression noted in SDG 4.5 on eliminating gender disparities in education and ensuring equal access to all levels of education. We are failing to reach the most vulnerable and the excluded, which are the key promises of governments and the international community when they adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Evidence shows that the pledge to “leave no one behind” is a missed ambition of the SDGs, as seen in setbacks on gender equality and social inclusion. Despite strong commitments made by governments towards fulfilling the SDGs, key development targets remain severely and chronically underfunded. This is one major factor that accounts for the slow and missed targets of the SDGs.

The proposed LC on Education Financing, therefore, aims to mobilise NECs and partners to call on their respective governments and development partners to invest boldly in education with concrete actions to address the financing gap in education. This event will be a good follow-through of the GAWE 2026, which focuses on Education Financing, and the FFD Week to push for the implementation of the Seville Commitment on Financing.

The forthcoming High-Level Steering Committee (HLSC) Leaders Meeting and the Transforming Education Summit (TES) event on 10 July 2026, alongside the preparatory meetings of the HLSC Sherpa Group, offer timely opportunities to consolidate and advance key policy messages and action points on education financing.

The annual High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) will convene from 7 to 15 July 2026 with the theme: *“Transformative, equitable, innovative and coordinated actions for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals for a sustainable future for all.”* Although education is not one of the SDGs under in-depth review, the forum provides an important space to link education to climate and financing issues within the broader sustainable development agenda.

Specific Objectives:

1. Familiarise ASPBAE members and NECs with the regional trends and emerging issues in education financing.
2. Share education financing issues within their respective context, particularly on budget and financing gaps, privatisation trends, innovative financing mechanisms, and domestic resource mobilisation/tax justice issues.
3. Solicit comments and recommendations to strengthen the three country studies on education financing.
4. Develop shared recommendations and action points linked to SDG 4 and the post-2030 education agenda.

Concrete actions must be taken to address persisting structural barriers that widen the financing gap, such as tax abuse, illicit funding flows, massive and unabated corruption, and declining development assistance. There is a need to institute measures to ensure effective debt relief through transparent, participatory and rights-based approaches to address the debt burden. The current international financial architecture must be reconfigured into one that is more democratic, participatory, inclusive, and transformative, and guided by a vision of sustainable development for all. These recommendations and action points provide a broad framework for collective action and can be further sharpened and operationalised according to regional realities and national development contexts.

PROGRAMME

Time	Agenda	Resource Person
1:00-4:00 PM (13:00-16:00) PST, Manila		
13:00-13:05	Welcome Remarks	Florence ‘Maya’ Cortina EOL Coordinator
13:05-13:20	The Global Education Financing Terrain	TBC

13:20-14:00	Mapping and Navigating the Education Financing Landscape in Asia-Pacific	Facilitated by Rene Raya Regional Advocacy Coordinator and Lead Policy Analyst, ASPBAE
14:00-14:40	Highlights of the Three Country Studies on Education Financing Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Philippines – Education Budget Trends • Nepal – Education Privatisation • Sri Lanka – Education Crisis & Financing Reforms 	ENet - Philippines NCEN - Nepal CED - Sri Lanka
14:40-15:20	Breakout Sessions with Health Break	Facilitated by Enam Hoque
Breakout session 1	From Budget Analysis to Budget Action in the Philippines Guide question: Cite effective advocacy strategies in protecting and increasing education budgets (Top 3)	Facilitator Documenter/Rapporteur
Breakout session 2	Who Benefits? Examining Education Privatisation in Nepal Guide question: What policy reforms are needed to strengthen education as a public good? (Top 3)	Facilitator Documenter/Rapporteur
Breakout session 3	Exploring Financing Reforms amidst Debts, Austerity and Education Crisis in Sri Lanka Guide question: What concrete strategies can help reverse the education financing crisis? (Top 3)	Facilitator Documenter/Rapporteur
15:20-15:40	Report Back	Session Rapporteurs Moderate: Batja Batkhuyag
15:40-15:50	Next Steps	Batja Batkhuyag
15:50-16:00	Vote of Thanks and Closing	Shirley Abraham ASPBAE EC Member