



## Promoting the Professionalization of Teaching in Asia-Pacific and Africa through the Development and Operationalization of National Teacher Competencies and Teaching Standards Frameworks (Shanghai-FIT).

Meeting report

UNESCO IICBA, UNESCO HQ, UNESCO Bangkok

June 22, 2021, 14:00-15:15 (Addis Ababa time)

Venue: Zoom

Participants: 30

### Summary

Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> of June, 2021, IICBA in collaboration with UNESCO HQ and UNESCO Bangkok facilitated a virtual meeting to launch a new project titled “Promoting the Professionalization of Teaching in Africa and Asia-Pacific through the Development and Operationalization of National Teacher Competencies and Teaching Standards Frameworks”. This new project, which is being funded by the Shanghai Municipal Government of the People’s Republic of China, aims at ensuring that qualified teachers enter the profession in the Africa and Asia-Pacific regions, thereby contributing to achieving access to quality education in both regions. The new project is also known as “Shanghai Funds-in-Trust” or “Shanghai-FIT” project in short.

The purpose of the Shanghai-FIT project is to develop regional ‘Technical Guidance for Developing and Operationalizing National Teacher Competencies and Teaching Standards Frameworks’ and use them as entry points and tools to inform and improve teacher policy and teacher training in the two regions.

The main expected outcomes and outputs are the aforementioned Technical Guidance frameworks (one for each region), enhanced and operationalized National Teacher Competencies and Teaching Standards Frameworks (one for each beneficiary country), improved teacher training and teaching practices in the countries, as well as strengthened South-South dialogues and cooperation on teacher development and quality education issues.

The Technical Guidance frameworks will be developed based on extensive regional mappings, national situational analyses and comparative studies, stakeholder consultations, validation, regional and inter-regional experience sharing, and feedback collection. In accordance with the Technical Guidance frameworks, the beneficiary countries will each develop National Teacher Competencies and Teaching

Standards Frameworks. The final publications and beneficiary countries' success stories, will be widely disseminated to benefit other countries and regions as well.

Key objectives of the launch meeting were to:

- Introduce key project stakeholders at global, regional, and field levels;
- Present the project objectives, theory of change, and timeline;
- Present the project management process and the roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders at regional and country levels; and
- Provide an opportunity for all project stakeholders to discuss and ask questions.

Expected results:

- Target countries are fully aware of project goals, objectives and expected results, and theory of change;
- Country-level stakeholder buy-in is ensured through great project ownership; and
- Roles and responsibilities pertaining to project design, implementation, and reporting are understood.

In attendance were 30 participants including colleagues from UNESCO offices at the HQ, Bangkok, Abuja, Nairobi, UNESCO Category II Centre for Teacher Development, and IICBA. Other participants included top government officials from Sierra Leone – lead by Hon. Dr. David Moinina Sengh, Sierra Leone Minister of Education; South Sudan – lead Hon. Dr. Abol Kuok, Undersecretary of South Sudan Ministry of General Education and Instructions (MOGEI).

### **Welcoming remarks and Introduction**

Mr. Carlos Vargas Tamez, Chief, Section of Teacher Development, UNESCO opened the meeting by introducing the agenda, participants and highlighted the importance of the meeting, then he gave the floor to Dr. Yumiko Yokozeki, Director, UNESCO-IICBA.

In her welcoming remarks, Dr. Yumiko expressed her gratitude to Sierra Leone and South Sudan for their collaboration with UNESCO-IICBA in the new project. She explained that the objectives of the Shanghai-FIT project are in line with the mandate and strategic objectives of IICBA to improve the teaching profession in Africa. As a facilitator of this project, IICBA will provide technical support and expertise to the project in collaboration with UNESCO Bangkok colleagues, who are running the Asia part of this project. She also stressed the direct benefit of these two participating countries which are as follows:

- Technical support to develop and to improve or update national teacher competencies and teaching standard frameworks;
- Capacity building training for teachers, teacher educators and the teacher policymakers in line with a newly developed framework;
- Improve the teacher training and the teaching practice; and
- Exchange of ideas with other countries in Africa and Asia

Other Member States will also benefit from this project since the resulting product can easily be used in other countries, with a few adjustments into specific circumstances of those countries.

## Shanghai Municipal Government of the People's Republic of China

During the meeting, Dr. Wu Yingjun, Director of Shanghai International Cooperation and Exchange Division, Municipal Education Commission, was invited to deliver a speech. Dr. Wu emphasized their strong willingness to support the project by providing financial as well as technical support. He highlighted their interest on teacher training and their willingness to provide support in other teacher-related areas. As he finalized, he emphasized the importance of regular update on project progress and use of funds, which helps to achieve deeper understanding and trust between the funder and the beneficiaries.

## UNESCO Category II Centre for Teacher Development

In his comments, Professor Minxuan Zhang, from UNESCO Category II Center of Teacher Education Center and Shanghai Normal University, mentioned his gratitude to attend the meeting, and warmly welcomed all colleagues from IICBA, Sierra Leone, or South Africa and South Sudan to visit Shanghai, China.

He gave his suggestions on how to effectively implement the new project, including:

- Setting-up some liaison mechanisms among the beneficiary countries, and also IICBA and Bangkok, and
- Dividing the project into several parts – so as to make it easier to monitor and implement.

## Presentation of the Project

**Libing Wang**, Chief of Section for Educational Innovations and Skills Development (EISD) and Senior Programme Specialist in Higher Education.

In his presentation, Mr. Libing Wang highlighted the key features of the Shanghai-FIT Project. He also shared the key factors that can contribute to the success of the project - importantly, country ownership.

**Natalie Hong**, teacher Development, EISD.

In her presentation, Natalie Hong introduced the details of the project – which included project objectives; theory of change and major activities; and timelines and key deliverables. She summarized the key preconditions of the project as:

- i) Sufficient funding and good donor relationship;
- ii) Strong support throughout the project from all the participating countries' governments, National Technical Working Groups, teacher education institutions, schools and other key entities;
- iii) Smooth and efficient coordination and collaboration between UNESCO HQ, UNESCO Asia and the Pacific Regional Bureau for Education, UNESCO-IICBA and the concerned Field Offices in both regions;
- iv) Productive collaboration with and expert support from the UNESCO Category II Centre for Teacher Education in Shanghai;
- v) COVID under control and no other major emergencies affecting the participating countries.

## National Technical Working Groups

**Dr. Njora Hungi**, Senior Project Officer, UNESCO-IICBA

In his presentation, Njora Hungi introduced the National Technical Working Groups (NTWGs) - which will be responsible for the implementation of the project at country level in close collaboration with UNESCO. He described the composition of the NTWG with members drawn from various education sectors including the relevant government ministries or departments, National Commissions for UNESCO (NatCom), teacher educators, education researchers, school leaders and teachers.

## Participating countries

Under the moderation of Dr. Sonia Guerriero, Senior Education Specialist, UNESCO HQ, both Sierra Leone and South Sudan expressed their interest and support for the new project.

**Hon. Dr. David Moinina Sengeh**, Minister of Education, Sierra Leone

Dr. David Moinina Sengeh shared the situation of education in Sierra Leone, the challenges facing the sector including the shortage of qualified teachers in the profession, as well as the different policies and frameworks put in place to improve the delivery of educational services. He highlighted the changes that the project will bring in his country. "The proposed Technical Guidance for the development of teachers' skills and educational standards frameworks developed under the Shanghai-FIT project will help Sierra Leone to update and to operationalize its national frameworks of teacher competencies and teaching standards both with particular emphasis on distance learning through multimodal methods," said Dr. Sengeh. He finished his comments by expressing his strong will to collaborate for this project.

**Hon. Dr. Abol Kuok**, Undersecretary of Ministry of General Education and Instructions, South Sudan

Dr. Kuyok Abol outlined the challenges South Sudan faced in all aspects of education - access, equity and quality, and how South Sudan continues to strive to improve its education system. He also underlined the importance of this new project for his country. "South Sudan will use the proposed Technical Guidance to review the existing National Teacher Competency Framework to reflect the new curriculum and, more importantly, to reflect global standards. The Technical Guidance will also be used to develop a National Teaching Standards Framework. In addition, these frameworks will help us define the scope of the teachers' continuing professional development (CPD) program," said Dr. Kuyok Abol. He expressed his appreciation to the partners and his willingness to collaborate.

## Discussions and Closing

During this session, participants echoed the importance of this project and their enthusiasm for wanting to be part of this project. Dr. Sonia Guerriero, closed the meeting by thanking all the organizers, donors, and participants for their collaboration. There will be follow-up meetings with country teams on the implementation plan and project activities.

## Annexe 1

### Meeting Agenda

**Chair:** Carlos Vargas Tamez, Chief, Section of Teacher Development, UNESCO

<b>14.00-14.05</b>	<b>Opening (Chair)</b> - Review of meeting agenda	
<b>14.05 – 14.10</b>	<b>Welcome &amp; Quick Remarks</b> by Yumiko Yokozeki, Director, IICBA	
<b>14.10 – 14.15</b>	<b>Remarks by Development Partner</b> Dr. Wu Yingjun, Director of Shanghai International Cooperation and Exchange Division, Municipal Education Commission	
<b>14.15 – 14.25</b>	<b>Self-Introductions</b> - Director, UNESCO Abuja - Director, UNESCO Nairobi - UNESCO Category II Centre for Teacher Development	
<b>Presentation of the Project</b>		
<b>14:25 – 14:35</b>	Project objectives Theory of change and major activities Project timelines and deliverables	UNESCO Bangkok: Wang Libing, Chief of Section for Educational Innovation and Skills Development (EISD) Hong Natalie, Teacher Development, EISD
<b>14.35 – 14.40</b>	National Technical Working Groups - Composition - Roles and responsibilities	UNESCO-IICBA: Saliou Sall, Senior Programme Coordinator Njora Hungi, Senior Project Officer
<b>Remarks by Participating Countries</b>		
<b>14.40 – 14.50</b>	Sierra Leone: Minister of Education; <b>Hon. Dr. David Moinina Sengeh</b>	
<b>14:50 – 15:00</b>	South Sudan: Undersecretary of Ministry of General Education and Instructions; <b>Hon. Dr. Abol Kuok</b>	
<b>Discussions &amp; Closing</b>		
<b>15.00 – 15.13</b>	Q&A with Participants	
<b>15.13 – 15.15</b>	Closing remarks by Sonia Guerriero, Senior Education Specialist, UNESCO HQ	

**Note-taker:** Kevine I. Uwingabiye, UNESCO-IICBA

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