



কোভিড-১৯ লার্নিং, এভিডেন্স  
অ্যান্ড রিসার্চ প্রোগ্রাম



Covid-19 Learning, Evidence  
and Research Programme

## Research Project Summary

### Education Watch 2023

#### Project lead

Dr. Manzoor Ahmed, Vice-Chairperson and Advisor, Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE) / Gono Shakkhorata Obhijan

#### Key personnel

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#### Expected project outcome

The proposed study (which will be called Education Watch 2023 (following Education Watch 2020, '21 and '22) aims to address the real scenario of dropout/missed children, prepare a policy brief on the learning loss based on the existing study findings and look ahead to recovery, renewal and enhancing resilience in the system.

#### Setting the scene

The impact of school closures on learning has been devastating.

In Bangladesh, schools remained closed due to the pandemic for more than 500 consecutive days, the longest in the world. The good progress in vaccinating post-primary age children makes it possible to restart schools in relative safety, though measures for health and safety still have to be maintained. The impact on learning, however, is likely to be most devastating with already prevailing pre-COVID low learning outcomes, high dropout rates and low resilience to shock. The most vulnerable children and those unable to access remote learning were at increased risk of never returning to the classroom and even being forced into child marriage or child labour.

The critical questions now are about the quantum of the learning loss caused by the long school closure and the necessary remedial action. Is there a need to assess the student's learning level and readiness, and what should be done to help them recover the losses through remedial action before 'normal' instruction can begin? Will those who enrolled at the beginning of the school year 2020 return to school?

#### Methodological approach

The study will follow the mixed method of research comprising both qualitative and quantitative techniques. The nationwide sampling, which is the study's

methodological strength, will be designed to allow for assessment and comparison of geographical diversity and ethnicity. The approximate sample size would be 5,108 respondents and 128 schools for dropped-out assessments. Data will be collected through a structured questionnaire survey complemented by FGDs, KIIs, stakeholder workshops, case studies and field-level observation.

### **Research activities**

- Sample basis mapping of the students enrolled in 2020 at grades III, V, VI, and VIII and their present attendance status.
- Compile the learning loss and gaps status of primary and secondary students with a special focus in Bangla and Maths at the primary level and Bangla, English, Maths and Science at the secondary level that needs to be covered to meet the standard-level of learning competencies.
- Examining plans and activities considered to support and assist teachers and schools in implementing recovery and remedial plans.
- Evaluating preparation taken and progress made in using distance education technologies and moving towards a 'blended approach.

### **Stakeholder engagement activities**

CAMPE will engage the relevant stakeholders, i.e. relevant government officials, the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Primary and Mass Education, Directorate of Primary Education, Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education, Bureau of Non-formal Education and representatives of Teacher Associations, CSOs, representatives from media houses, researchers, and academics.

- Local-level educational officials and other stakeholders will be engaged through the divisional workshops in the data collection stage and the findings sharing in the data validation and dissemination stages.
- Research technical and advisory committees will be composed of key stakeholders, including professionals from the government (in personal capacities, if necessary). They will be involved in refining the research design and tools, reviewing drafts, and commenting on provisional recommendations. In the data collection stage, the study will engage the field-level (divisional district and sub-district) education officials and other stakeholders and also engage them in the dissemination of findings.
- The public launch of the research report usually involves Ministers and/or Secretaries of the government and receives wide media coverage. A Bangla summary of the report is made widely available and used for subnational-level dissemination events with education officials, academics, teachers' organizations, NGO representatives and concerned citizens. The reports are made available on the CAMPE website and are accessible to the public. CAMPE designed its year-long advocacy and campaign program based on the study findings and engaged its network member in raising voice support for the advocacy viewpoint.

**Primary CLEAR theme: Service delivery, accountability, and governance**

**Secondary CLEAR themes: Poverty and vulnerability, Protection of rights**