

## **ENSURING CONTINUING OF LEARNING FOR LEARNERS WITH DISABILITIES**

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### **Abstract**

The devastating impact of COVID-19 has impacted the education sector as schools are no longer operating as usual. Most of the countries have experienced numerous times of school closures and reopening since 2020. However, as the situation gets better, some countries have implemented hybrid learning and face-to-face classes that still need to adhere to health protocol; social distancing and wearing masks. The State of the Global Education Crisis: A Path to Recovery (2021) reported that as of 2021, there are still schools that remain closed, and a high number of students are not returning to school. The education system needs to accelerate learning recovery in order to mitigate the learning loss, which will lead to learning poverty. Therefore, the need to have a renewed focus and preparation to respond to crises while attending to students' academic needs is highly emphasised. A report on Mission: Recovering Education 2021 by World Bank, UNESCO, and UNICEF, recommend three important elements that need to be focused on during the post-pandemic phase, which are bringing all children back to schools, recovering learning losses, as well as preparing and supporting teachers. Responding to the recommendation given, UNESCO Bangkok, in collaboration with the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organisation (SEAMEO) Secretariat, funded by Global Partnership for Education (GPE), has initiated an online learning course, the Disability-Inclusive Teaching in Emergency (DTeEm) Course for teachers entitled Responding to Educational Needs of Learners with Disabilities in Emergencies. The SEAMEO Secretariat also commissioned SEAMEO SEN to provide experts for the development of the module. As a regional center for special educational needs, SEAMEO SEN plays its role in ensuring teachers are able to deliver the educational services that the learners with disabilities require despite unprecedented situations. Therefore, SEAMEO SEN has organised online training for pre-service and in-service teachers from SEAMEO member countries to promote the DTeEm Course at the same time sharing the best practices on delivering educational services during and after the pandemic. This training is in line with one of the topics discussed in the online course, Module 4: Continuity of Learning. As a result, teachers will be able to grasp knowledge on ways to elevate the quality of teaching in unprecedented disruptions and facilitate the transition of returning to school for learners with disabilities.

**Keywords:** learners with disabilities, continuity of learning, learning loss, learning recovery, Disability-Inclusive Teaching in Emergency (DTeEm)