



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION
SCHOOLS DIVISION OFFICE OF MUNTINLUPA CITY

Office of the Schools Division
Superintendent

NOV 24 2025

MEMORANDUM

No. 609, s. 2025

**PROJECT FOR LEARNING UPGRADE SUPPORT AND DECENTRALIZATION
(PLUS-D) FOR WORLD BANK FINANCING**

To: Assistant Schools Division Superintendent
Chief Education Supervisor, Curriculum Implementation Division
Chief Education Supervisor, School Governance and Operations Division
Public Elementary and Secondary School Heads/OICs
All Others Concerned

1. In reference to Memorandum OM-OUSM-2025, dated November 7, 2025, this Office formally informs Field Offices that the Official Development Assistance (ODA) financing for the **Project for Learning Upgrade Support and Decentralization (PLUS-D)** has been approved during the 5th meeting of the Economy and Development (ED) Council.
2. Particular attention is invited to the following:
 - I. Project Overview
 - II. Next Steps for Project Preparation
3. In light of this milestone, all concerned Offices are respectfully requested to extend their full cooperation and leadership in the forthcoming preparatory and coordination activities prior to project implementation. **Detailed guidance on each engagement will be issued accordingly.**
4. Immediate and wide dissemination of this Memorandum is desired.


VIOLETA M. GONZALES CESO VI
Assistant Schools Division Superintendent
Officer-In-Charge
Office of the Schools Division Superintendent

Enclosure: As stated

Reference: As stated

EMB/ PROJECT FOR LEARNING UPGRADE SUPPORT AND DECENTRALIZATION (PLUS-D) FOR WORLD BANK FINANCING

609/November 20, 2025

NUM-2025-609



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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
OFFICE OF THE UNDERSECRETARY FOR STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT
(PLANS, POLICY, AND MONITORING AND EVALUATION)

MEMORANDUM
OM-OUSM-2025-

FOR : **UNDERSECRETARIES**
ASSISTANT SECRETARIES
BUREAU AND SERVICE DIRECTORS
REGIONAL DIRECTORS
SCHOOLS DIVISION SUPERINTENDENTS
ALL OTHERS CONCERNED

FROM : 
RONALD U. MENDOZA, PhD
Undersecretary

SUBJECT : **PROJECT FOR LEARNING UPGRADE SUPPORT AND**
DECENTRALIZATION (PLUS-D) FOR WORLD BANK FINANCING

DATE : November 7, 2025

This is to formally inform all DepEd Central and Field Offices that the Official Development Assistance (ODA) financing for the **Project for Learning Upgrade Support and Decentralization (PLUS-D)** has been approved during the 5th meeting of the Economy and Development (ED) Council.

The approval of PLUS-D marks a significant milestone for the Department, reflecting strong national support for education reform and renewed investment in our learners, teachers, and the basic education system.

I. PROJECT OVERVIEW

PLUS-D aims to strengthen foundational literacy and numeracy among Kindergarten to Grade 6 learners and improve learning outcomes in reading and mathematics for Grades 7 to 10 in public schools nationwide. The project also supports DepEd's broader transformation through decentralization, which serves as a key strategy under the Quality Basic Education Development Plan (QBEDP) to modernize and strengthen the basic education system.

The project has a total project cost of PHP 38.27 billion, composed of PHP 34.79 billion in Investment Project Financing (IPF) from the World Bank and PHP 3.47 billion from the Government of the Philippines (GoP) as counterpart funding. The project is expected to benefit around 21.2 million K-10 learners nationwide and will be implemented over a six-year period (2026-2032).

At the core of PLUS-D's design is a balanced approach that combines system-wide reforms with targeted, localized interventions to drive meaningful and lasting



learning improvements. It seeks to empower field offices as active partners and agents of change in delivering quality education.

The project consists of three components, each designed to address specific areas of learning recovery, decentralization, and system strengthening:

- **Component 1 – System-Level Interventions**

(PHP 16.7 billion including PHP 132.22 million from the GoP counterpart)

This component will focus on helping schools recover and accelerate learning in early grades, while also improving the quality of lower secondary education. These efforts will complement DepEd's priority learning recovery programs, directly supporting the rollout of the Academic Recovery and Accessible Learning (ARAL) Program.

In addition, this component will also strengthen teacher qualifications and school leadership by promoting coaching and mentoring, supported by regular classroom observations using an adapted version of the World Bank's Teach Secondary Tool. It will further introduce innovative learning assessment such as the socioemotional skills assessment and annual administration of PISA for Schools, improve teaching and learning conditions, and build stronger system capacities to sustain continuous improvement across schools.

- **Component 2 – Targeted Interventions**

(PHP20.51 billion including PHP 3.35 billion from the GoP counterpart)

In line with DepEd's ongoing decentralization efforts, the PLUS-D seeks to empower field offices with greater resources and flexibility to drive localized learning improvements, teacher training, leadership development, and digitalization initiatives.

Under this component, the project will implement the Regional Office Grants Program (ROGP) and School Grants Program (SGP) to help accelerate learning recovery and improvement in selected regions and schools. The initial rollout will be led by the ten Regional Offices with the highest decentralization readiness, based on the DepEd Decentralization Readiness Index—namely Regions III, I, VIII, CAR, IX, VII, XI, V, X, and II. The addition of regions follows guidance from the Investment Coordination Committee (ICC) to expand the scope of Component 2.

Through this approach, DepEd aims to institutionalize performance-based financing, encouraging stronger efficiency, accountability, and innovation in education service delivery.

- **Component 3 – Monitoring & Evaluation, and Project Management**

(PHP 1.04 billion)

This component will strengthen DepEd's monitoring and evaluation (M&E) systems, advance the Department's decentralization agenda, and ensure efficient and transparent project management. It will provide resources for strategic M&E initiatives, service delivery improvements linked to decentralization, and policy and impact evaluations to inform evidence-based decision-making.

In addition, the component will support the operations of the Project Management Office (PMO), including staffing and essential operating expenses. It will also finance the establishment and enhancement of grievance redress and citizen engagement mechanisms, as well as project-related studies to sustain continuous learning and accountability throughout implementation.

II. NEXT STEPS FOR PROJECT PREPARATION

Following the approval of PLUS-D, preparatory activities will now move forward to ensure the project's smooth transition toward implementation. These next steps will focus on laying out the groundwork for operational readiness and close coordination among concerned offices and stakeholders to ensure that all preparatory actions align with the project's objectives and implementation timeline.

In view of the foregoing, the Strategic Management Strand, through the Project Management Service (PMS), will undertake the following preparatory activities that will require close coordination with concerned Offices, such as:

Activity	Description	Indicative Date
Preparation of the Project Operations Manual (POM)	The key reference document that outlines the detailed arrangements, procedures, and responsibilities for implementation. It serves as the operational guide for all implementing units, from the Central Office to the Field Offices, covering aspects such as project management structure, financial management, procurement, monitoring and evaluation, safeguards, and reporting.	November – December 2025
Conduct of the Project Appraisal Mission	The formal review to be conducted by the World Bank, in close coordination with concerned DepEd Offices and other oversight agencies, to finalize and assess the project's readiness for implementation.	December 2025
Conduct of Orientation and Coordination Meetings	To cascade key information on the project's implementation arrangements and other preparatory requirements	November 2025 – January 2026

In light of this milestone, all concerned Offices are respectfully requested to extend their full cooperation and leadership in the forthcoming preparatory and coordination activities prior to project implementation. **Detailed guidance on each engagement will be issued accordingly.**

We acknowledge the continued commitment and cooperation in advancing our shared goal of improving the quality of basic education. Through our collective effort and collaboration, we can ensure that all ongoing initiatives translate into meaningful and lasting improvements in learning outcomes nationwide.

For coordination and/or clarifications, your staff may contact the PMS-Project Development Division (PMS-PDD), Attention: Mr. Lorenzo Miguel S. Victor and/or Ms. Faith B. Morada, through email: pms.pdd@deped.gov.ph.

For your guidance.

Thank you.

[pms-pdd/lmsvictor]