Alternative Delivery Modes for Education in Emergencies

SEAMEO INNOTECH provides innovative and technology-oriented learning services and research-based solutions to enable the education community in Southeast Asia to effectively respond to current and emerging needs and concerns.
Background:

The Philippine Department of Education currently recognizes several Alternative Delivery Modalities (ADMs), also known as Flexible Learning Strategies (FLS), to provide education to students for whom the traditional mode of delivery is not possible, available, or effective. Some examples of Alternative Delivery Modalities in the Philippine education system are IMPACT (Instructional Management by Parents, Community and Teachers), MISOSA (Modified In-School Off-School Approach), OHSP (Open High School Program), among others.

ADMs/FLS are implemented in response to a variety of challenges, such as overcrowding, teacher shortages, lack of instructional materials, and remoteness/inaccessibility of schools. In the aftermath of a calamity, communities may suffer any and all of the above, which points to the potential of ADMs to sustain education in emergency contexts. Indeed, teachers are often forced to innovate the way they organize learning after a calamity, even if they are not formally trained in using a particular Alternative Delivery Mode.

Project Aims:

This project explores the potential of Alternative Delivery Modes as mechanisms to sustain education in emergencies and during the recovery period. Specifically, the project aims to:

- Identify ADMs/FLS programs and implementers in the Philippines, both elementary and secondary levels;
- Identify divisions and schools in select regions that have experienced major disruptions due to natural or manmade calamities.
- Collect and share the experiences of education stakeholders in these disaster-affected areas, with special interest of those who have implemented ADMs (officially or unofficially);
- Identify the strengths and weaknesses of various ADMs/FLS during emergencies and in the post-disaster recovery phase, as compared to the “business-as-usual” school system;
- Discover and describe innovative efforts to sustain instruction/learning in the areas of study;
- Prepare a guide booklet containing instructions, recommendations, and examples on the use of ADMs/FLS in disaster-affected areas, and how they may complement existing education-in-emergency interventions.

Activities conducted:

The ADM-EIE guidebook will be a useful and timely resource for educators and education coordinators. While primers already exist for the ADMs that the Department of Education endorses, the new guidebook will provide specific directions on how to implement such ADMs in the context of emergencies.

Upcoming activities:

A workshop will be held in December 2016 involving teachers, principals, and supervisors who have had direct experience with implementing Alternative Delivery Modes in emergency contexts. The workshop participants will brainstorm and produce a range of tips, strategies, and tools that will be featured in the planned guidebook.