A GUIDE TO EDUCATION IN EMERGENCIES

VOL 2

IDENTIFYING ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAMS

WHAT EDUCATION PROGRAMS CAN BE DONE AMIDST EMERGENCIES?

EiE programs are crucial when the usual means of learning are not probable. Baxter and Bethke (2009) identified two broad types of alternative education: **Alternative Curriculum Programs** and **Alternative Access Programs**.

ALTERNATIVE CURRICULUM PROGRAMS offer non-traditional or alternative subjects within traditional formal curricula or parallel to the formal system. Some alternative curriculum programs are handled by governments, while others are spearheaded by non-government agencies, individual schools, and private bodies.

Some examples of these programs are the Rural Farm School (Philippines), Alternative Learning System (Philippines), Bangladesh Rehabilitation Assistance Committee (BRAC) Education Program, Non-Formal Education Equivalency Program (Cambodia and Thailand), Equivalency Program (Lao PDR), Home School Program (Thailand), and the Secondary Education Affirmation Program (Indonesia).

ALTERNATIVE ACCESS PROGRAMS provide alternative methods of delivery to 'fill the gap' of education provision for children who are not enrolled in the formal system due to age, gender, ethnicity, or geographical location.

Some examples of these programs are Night High School (Philippines), Open High School Program (Philippines), Homeschooling Program (Indonesia), Instructional Management of Parents, Teachers and Community (IMPACT, Philippines) and Modified In-School, Off-School Approach (MISOSA, Philippines), Multigrade Education (Philippines).

HOW ARE THE TWO PROGRAMS DIFFERENT?

Alternative access programs generally follow the regular curriculum but differ in the way the curriculum is delivered. Since they follow the regular curriculum, they are typically classified as "formal." Meanwhile, alternative curriculum programs differ in the curriculum they use. They are often classified as "non-formal." Each country has its own set of available alternative education programs. Check with your local education ministry for more information.

TRY THIS! To choose the best alternative education programs for your school community, it is helpful to first assess its needs and demand for learning continuity. Using the tool below, assess your learners' profile and the nature of your school community. Afterwards, plan for your community's needs so education may continue.
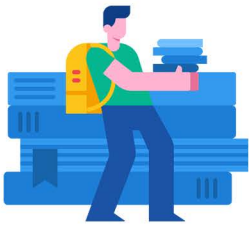
1. **What is the education level of the learners?**
   Please select all that apply.   ◯ Preschool   ◯ Primary/ Elementary   ◯ Secondary

2. **What type of community was disaster-affected?**   ◯ Rural   ◯ Urban

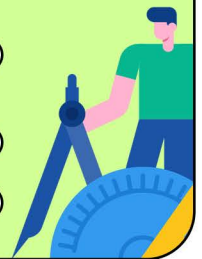|	YES	NO
3. Are the learners capable of self-directed learning (example: use of modules for independent study)?	◯	◯
4. Can the learners go to school or the learning facility?	◯	◯
5. Are there enough teachers for the learners in the school community?	◯	◯

6. **Are these resources still available and usable?**

- Electricity   YES ◯   NO ◯
- Water   YES ◯   NO ◯
- School infrastructure   YES ◯   NO ◯
- Learning resources like books, equipment, etc.   YES ◯   NO ◯
- Roads, bridges, etc.   YES ◯   NO ◯
- Means of transportation   YES ◯   NO ◯

	YES	NO
7. Is there support from the community to continue education in emergencies?	◯	◯

8. **What type of capacity building do the teachers need?**
   _____

9. **What kind of support is needed by the learners and their families?**
   _____

10. **Given the current situation of the community, what alternative education program(s) would you recommend for the learners?**
    _____
    _____
    _____
    _____

KEEP IN MIND 💡

Alternative education programs are very helpful in continuing education in emergencies. Explore the available options that suit the needs of your school community.