

Webinar 4: Handout 3

Benefits of instruction in a familiar language

Instruction in languages children and teachers understand has numerous advantages:

- Increases education access (children are more likely to come to school if they understand the LOI)
- Improves learning outcomes (children are more likely to learn curricular content that is taught in a language they understand)
- Supports child-centered learning and gender equity
- Facilitates more accurate assessment of student learning (students' knowledge not confounded with their L2/Lx ability)
- Increases cost-effectiveness (fewer drop-outs, better learning outcomes)
- Greater parental and community involvement in education (parents better able to support literacy and learning if home and school language match)
- Validates and preserves culture



Photo: Cambodia (USAID)

Read more about these benefits and the evidence behind them in Pflepsen, A., Benson, C., Chabbott, C., & van Ginkel, A. (2015). *Planning for Language Use in Education: Best Practices and Practical Steps to Improve Learning Outcomes*. Washington, DC: U.S. Agency for International Development. Available at <https://tinyurl.com/languageuseineducation>