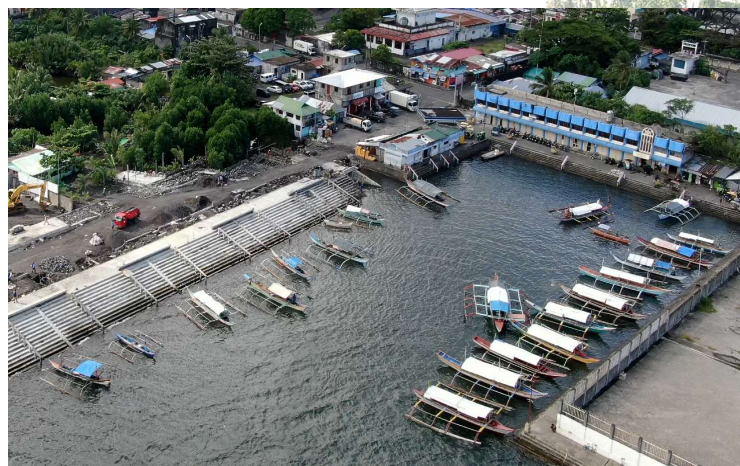




Education Sector Mechanism (ESM) The Tabaco City Experience

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ABC+: Advancing Basic Education in the Philippines

ABC+ is a project of the Department of Education (DepEd) in partnership with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented by RTI International, together with The Asia Foundation, SIL LEAD, Florida State University, and UP NISMED.

ABC+ project aims to benefit up to 2.5 million students in its target implementing areas.

Regions 5,6 and BARMM are the pilot areas of the ABC+ project. Tabaco City, one of the 7 cities of Region 5, started the project in 2021.

GOAL: Contribute to DepEd's efforts in improving education outcomes in the early grades in the areas of literacy, numeracy, and social and emotional learning.



Timeline: July 2019 – June 2026





The importance of early grade learning

Studies have shown that early childhood is a time when developmental changes are happening that can have profound and lasting consequences for a child's future.

“As a society, we cannot afford to postpone investing in children until they become adults – a time when it may be too late to intervene. The best evidence supports the policy prescription: invest in the very young and improve basic learning and socialisation skills.” – [James J. Heckman](#)

ESM

Education Sector Mechanism

A multisectoral approach for DepEd, LGUs, and other stakeholders to plan, strategize, and design interventions to support basic education and EGL in their province/city.

- Strengthening local education governance
- Introducing a bigger-tent approach to education investments
- Harmonizing different education plans and mechanisms





Picture in picture



Tabaco City's **Situationer**

- Many of Tabaco's young learners come from farming and fishing families struggling to make ends meet.
- During the heightened restrictions, some learners have **limited access to gadgets and the internet** to participate in online learning and have become at risk of dropping out from school.
- It was also reported that learning modules needed improvement to address students' comprehension.

Key Challenges Identified during the ESM Workshop

- **Poor performance in distance learning** caused by poor quality and quantity of learning modules and poor implementation of distance learning resulting in learners' low performance in literacy and numeracy assessment tests.
- **Lack of access to quality basic education** as seen in low participation in Kinder to Grade 3, lack of readiness for Grades 4-6 and high dropout rates in Grades 7-10.
- **Unprepared education sector** for potential problems associated with the transition from distance learning to face to face learning and to deal with learning loss.

Priority Programs Identified for Investment Programming and Inclusion in Development Plans

- **School building program** – includes construction, rehabilitation of various pre-schools, child development centers and school classrooms.
- **Support to schools' literacy and numeracy programs** – includes plan for acquiring gadgets for distance learning, TV sets for TV based instruction, reproduction of contextualized learning materials and the deployment of reading tutors.



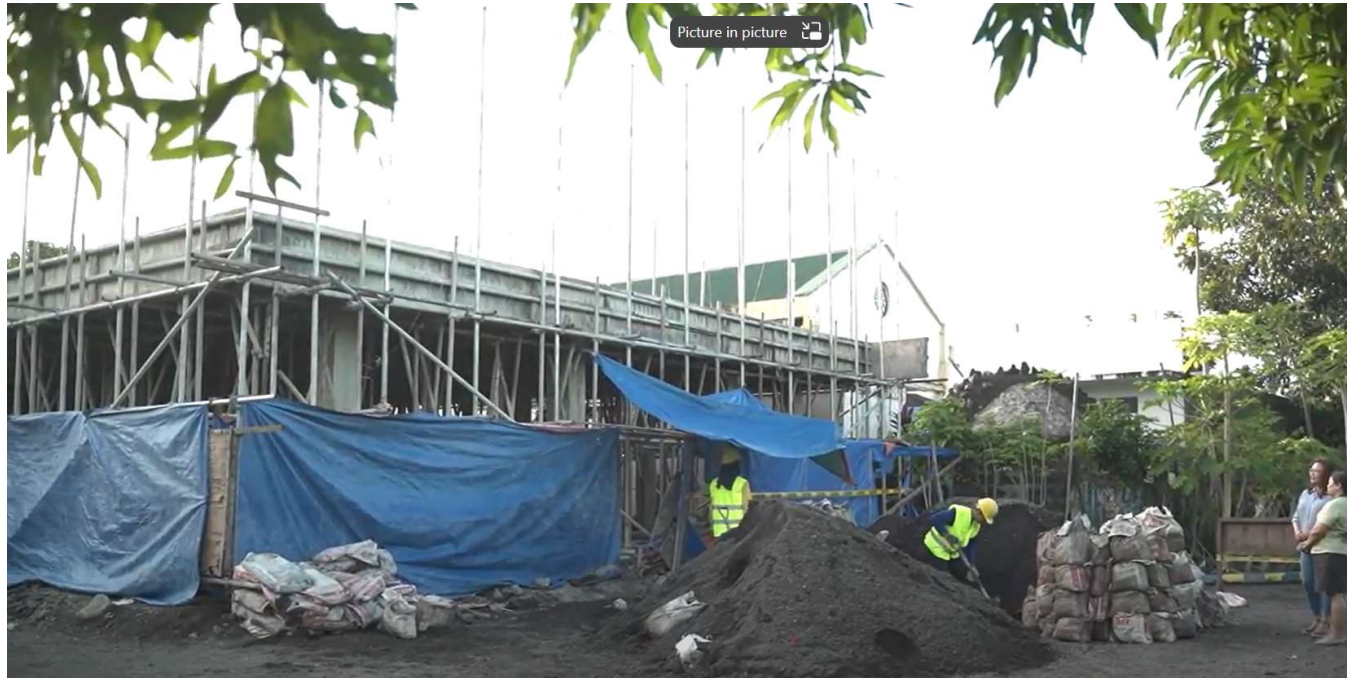
The Tabaco City's **ESM** Experience

The ESM process allowed

- the expansion of sources of support beyond the DepEd budget and the special education fund or SEF.
- the commitment of the private sector to work hand-in-hand with the LGU and DepEd in seeking to provide ample learning materials such as books and school supplies as classes return to face-to-face learning. The private sector and other civil society organizations have become institutionalized partners through this mechanism.

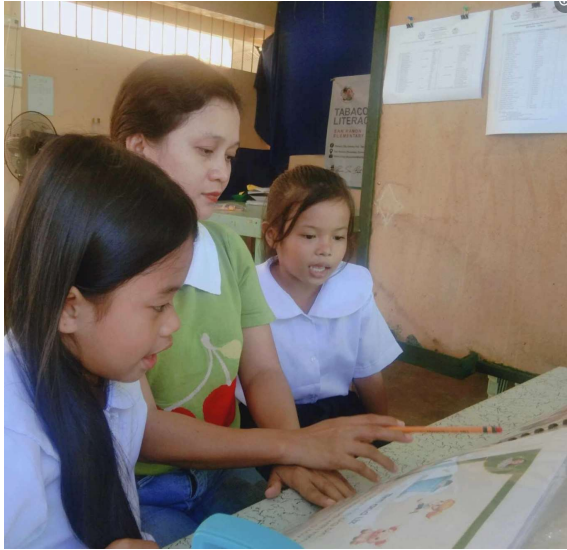


The Tabaco City's **ESM** Experience



P300 M for repair of 71 classrooms and construction of 76 new typhoon proof classrooms

The Tabaco City's **ESM** Experience



School Year 2022-2023:

Deployed 126 volunteers for reading remediation
Supporting 14 schools
And supporting 1,034 learners who are non-readers

School Year 2023-2024:

Deployed 192 volunteers for reading remediation
Supporting 27 schools
And supporting 1,568 learners who are non-readers

The Tabaco City's ESM Experience



Moving up from non-readers to readers.

From 39 % non-readers to now below 4% !!

