

Teachers Training Report

Training On the Effective Implementation of Accelerated Learning Program (ALP) and Social Emotional Learning (SEL) For Primary School Teachers Drawn From Central and Northwestern Zones of Tigray



Sep 2024

Axum

Training Report

Training On the Effective Implementation of Accelerated Learning Program (ALP) and Social Emotional Learning (SEL) For Primary School Teachers Drawn From Central and Northwestern Zones of Tigray

Background

The project titled "Enabling Local Ingenuity through Catch-Up and Life Skills for Young Girls in the War-Affected Tigray" focuses on providing educational opportunities to children in Tigray who have been affected by conflict. A critical component of this initiative was the training entitled "Training on the Effective Implementation of Accelerated Learning Program (ALP) and Social Emotional Learning (SEL)" for primary school teachers drawn from Central and Northwestern Zones of Tigray. This training was conducted from September 6 to September 8, 2024, at the Sabean International Hotel in Axum.

The training brought together a total of 24 participants, comprising 15 females and 9 males. The selection of participants was based on a needs assessment that identified General Science, and Math teachers as key stakeholders. The small size of the group facilitated effective training, allowing for more personalized interaction and engagement.



Furthermore, a discussion was held with six school directors who were unable to attend the initial program launch. The purpose of this meeting was to familiarize the directors with the objectives and scope of the project, ensuring they are fully informed and engaged in its

implementation. This dialogue aimed to align their understanding with the project's goals, fostering collaboration and support from their respective schools.



Introduction

Education is widely recognized as a vital driver of socio-economic development in Ethiopia. However, numerous children face barriers to accessing education due to a combination of conflict, drought, pandemic-related challenges, and violence. This situation has exposed the need for a resilient educational system capable of withstanding such adversities. In recent years, both governmental and non-governmental organizations have made significant strides in engaging out-of-school youth, dropouts, and children unable to attend school due to closures caused by protracted conflict. These initiatives aim to provide alternative learning opportunities tailored to the specific needs of these populations.

The Tigray conflict has precipitated a humanitarian crisis, severely impacting students and teachers in affected regions. The consequences include disrupted learning, psychological distress (such as fear and stress), physical disabilities, instances of gender-based violence, disease, displacement, economic hardships, and even loss of life. To mitigate these educational gaps, the Accelerated Learning Program (ALP) has been established to assist students in catching up on missed educational milestones. The effective implementation of this program relies on well-trained teachers equipped with the necessary tools and resources. Consequently, a comprehensive three-day ALP training was conducted for selected teachers from the target schools involved in the project.

Objectives of the Training

The training aimed to equip teachers with the following competencies:

- Understanding the concepts of ALP and SEL
- Explaining the principles and action points of ALP and SEL
- Identifying challenges and potential solutions related to ALP and SEL
- Reflecting on the implementation of ALP and SEL within their schools and communities
- Outlining next steps for developing ALP and SEL activities in their respective institutions

Progress and Achievements

The training commenced with opening remarks from Daniel Mekonnen, the project coordinator. In his address, Daniel expressed optimism regarding the training's potential to enhance the service and effective implementation of ALP in the region. He encouraged participants to engage attentively, emphasizing the importance of acquiring the knowledge and skills necessary to address the challenges they face in implementing ALP.



The training placed a strong emphasis on instructional strategies that enhance the effectiveness of the ALP. The facilitator employed a blend of short presentations and extensive engagement in individual and group reflective activities, discussions, and presentations. All participants were given the opportunity to engage in various activities, fostering an interactive learning environment. Throughout the training, participants raised questions that compared the topics covered to the realities in their schools and communities, prompting detailed clarifications from the trainers and project staff.

The topics covered during the training included:

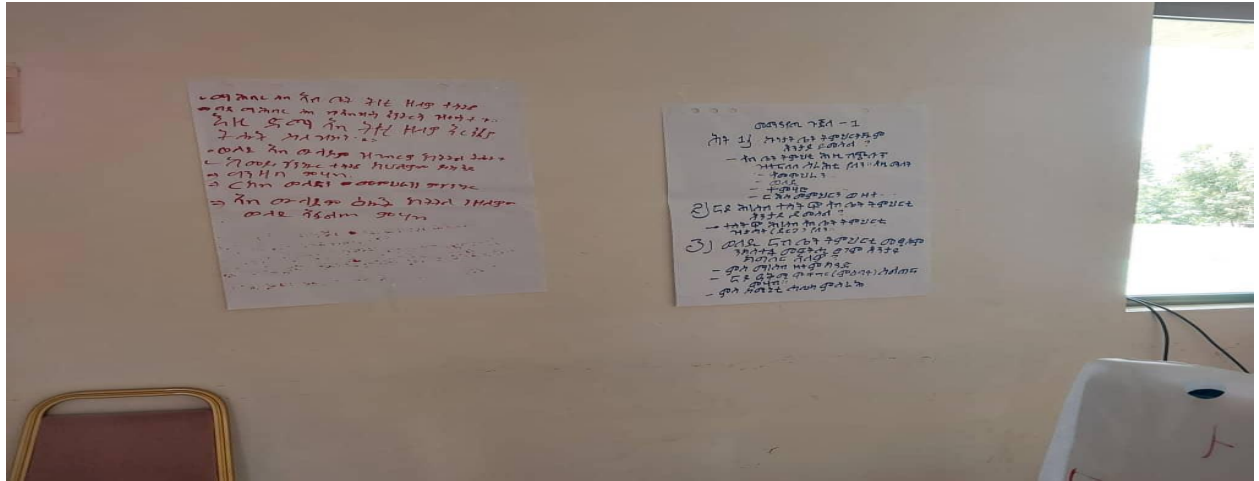
- Definition and overview of Accelerated Learning
- Benefits of ALP
- Examples and approaches related to ALP
- Clarifying misconceptions about accelerated learning
- Strategies for enhancing student learning

- Effective instructional strategies
- The ten principles for effective practice in accelerated education
- Challenges faced by accelerated education programs
- Addressing resource constraints in education
- Ensuring quality in ALPs despite resource limitations
- Engaging communities in the educational process
- Providing psychosocial support and promoting Social Emotional Learning

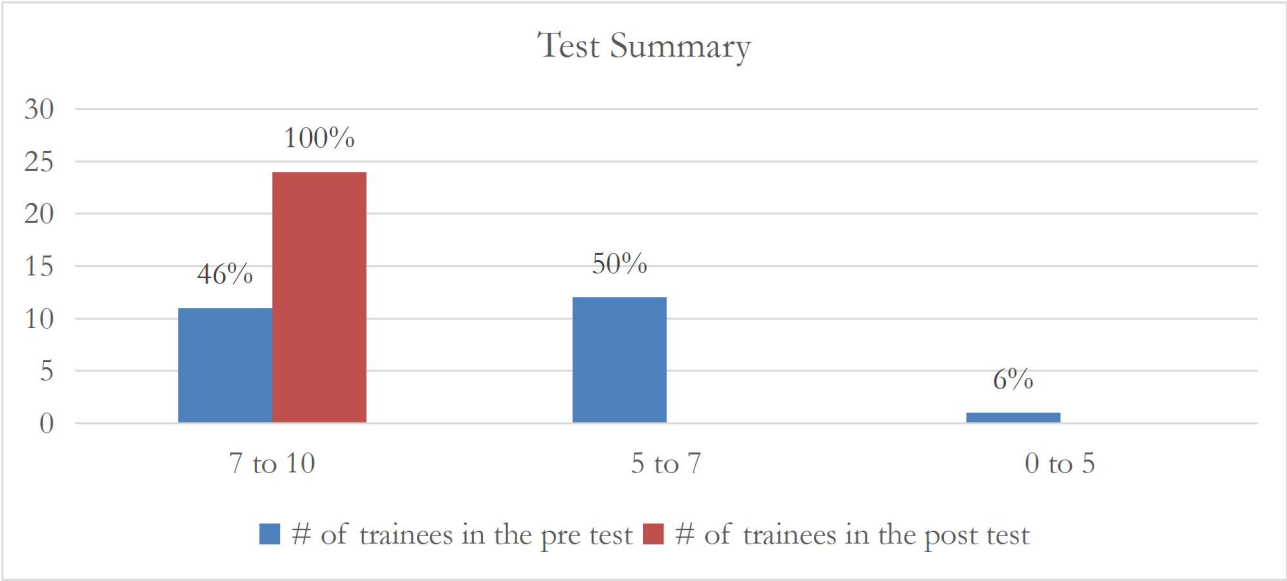
Achievements of the Training

Several notable achievements were recorded throughout the training:

- All necessary training materials were made available in a timely manner.
- Participants arrived punctually at the training venue.
- Coordination among training facilitators, including trainers, project focal persons, and service providers, contributed to the smooth delivery of the training.
- Progress was monitored through daily discussions with trainers, and feedback was collected from participants via training evaluation forms.
- Reflections on the quality of the training and the capacity of the facilitators, as evidenced by daily evaluations, indicated that:
 - The trainers demonstrated excellent preparation and capacity.
 - Approximately 96% of participants reported a strong understanding of the training content.
 - Participants highlighted lessons on instructional strategies, barriers to effective implementation, and principles and action points as the most valuable aspects of the training.



Generally, based on the summary analysis of the pre and post-test results the participants have strengthened their knowledge and skills on ALP/SEL.



In conclusion, the training successfully provided participants with the knowledge and tools necessary to implement the Accelerated Learning Program and Social Emotional Learning effectively, ultimately contributing to the educational recovery efforts in war-affected regions of Tigray.

Training Agenda

Training on Accelerated Learning Program (ALP) for Teachers and School Principals

6 - 8 Sep 2024 – Axum, Sabian Hotel

DAY 1 [Friday, 6 Sep 2024]

Timeline	Activity	Responsible	Facilitator
08:00-08:30	Registration of participants	Daniel Mekonnen & Birhanu Gidey	
08:30-8:40	Welcoming and opening remark		
08:40-8:55	Brief Overview of Initiative Africa Interventions in response to Tigray Response		
8:55-9:05	Objectives and expected outcome of the ALP training		
09:05-9:10	Pre-test		
09:10-12:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EiE and Accelerated Education Program – Concepts, benefits Accelerated Education Program Guideline (revised) Group work & discussion 		
12:30-1:30	Lunch	Private	
1:30-3:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accelerated Education Program –Effective instructional strategies for accelerating students' learning Group work & discussion 	Birhanu Gidey	

DAY 2 [Saturday, 7 Sep 2024]

Timeline	Activity	Responsible	Facilitator
8:30- 12:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Principles of ALP Accelerated Learning Pedagogy and Practices 	Birhanu Gidey	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group work & discussion 		
12:30-1:30	Lunch	Private	
1:30-3:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategies to facilitate accelerated learning Group work & discussion 	Birhanu Gidey	

DAY 3 [Sunday, 8 Sep 2024]

Timeline	Activity	Responsible	Facilitator
8:30- 12:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Challenges and in implementing Accelerated Learning program (ALP) Ways to mitigate these challenges 	Birhanu Gidey	
12:30-1:30	Lunch	Private	
1:30-3:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Post-test General Discussion and Closing Remark 	Daniel Mekonnen & Birhanu Gidey	

NB. Health Break

- Morning10:30 – 10:50
- Afternoon3:30 – 3:50