

### Brief information about the project

The project “Distance Education to Improve the Quality and Access to School Education in Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, and Tajikistan” (2021-2023) was implemented in the countries by a Consortium of three organizations with the leading role of the public foundation “Taalim-Forum”, Kyrgyzstan. The project was implemented within the framework of the Knowledge and Innovation Exchange (KIX) program with the support of the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) and the International Development Research Center (IDRC), Canada.

The overall goal of the project is to promote innovative approaches to distance education that ensure equal access and improve the quality of education for vulnerable groups. Project Objectives: (1) Identify issues and factors, including the COVID-19 pandemic, that have impacted access to quality education for students from remote rural communities, ethnic minorities, girls and boys; (2) Strengthen the capacity of education stakeholders and key partners to implement new initiatives through knowledge sharing and innovation in distance education; (3) Develop practical resources and recommendations for decision-makers aimed at improving the quality, equitable access, and sustainability of distance education.

To achieve the objectives of the project, large-scale research was carried out in three countries. The research included focus group discussions with parents and students, semi-structured interviews with independent experts, representatives of government and development agencies, local authorities, observations in students' families, and a questionnaire survey. The study identified various aspects of readiness for online learning, including an index of teacher and student readiness for distance education; assessing satisfaction with the distance education experience; degree of understanding of the needs of different vulnerable groups of students and their families; level of readiness of teachers and educational institutions for innovation.

To actualize the issues of distance education and digital transformation of school education, round table discussions, and seminars with the participation of teachers and school principals were held. A joint working meeting was held in Kyrgyzstan with the participation of specialists from the Ministry of Education and Science, and its sun institutions, experts, and representatives of educational institutions, as well as two scientific and practical conferences with the participation of partners from Mongolia, Tajikistan, and other countries.

To strengthen teachers' capacity to work in digital learning environments, online ICT skills courses were developed and piloted in three countries.

Project information:

<https://kix.taalimforum.kg/>

<https://www.facebook.com/TaalimForum/>

<https://www.youtube.com/@TaalimForum>