Bridging Knowledge and Policy for Systemic Transformation

Presented by

Asst. Prof. Sahawarat Polahan, Ph.D.

Director, Equitable Education Research Institute (EEFI)

Equitable Education Fund (EEF)



Research and Data Behind CCT Program

EEF's Conditional Cash Transfer Program

National Education Account (NEA)

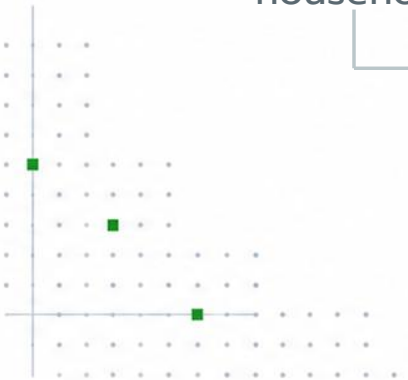
High education cost burdens on low-income household

Proxy Means Test (PMT)

Poverty Screening Tool

Household data

Teachers collect and verify data through home visits



CCT program

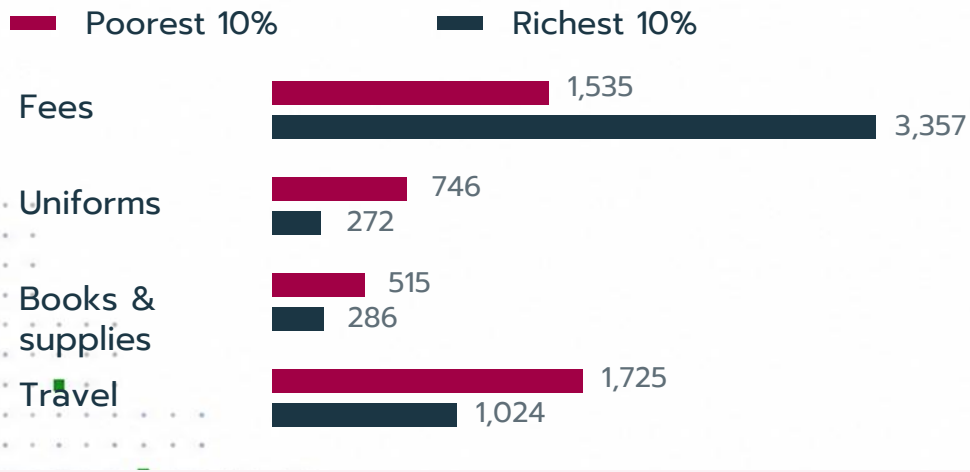
Sources: EEFI research; EEF CCT program and screening guidance

National Education Account (NEA)

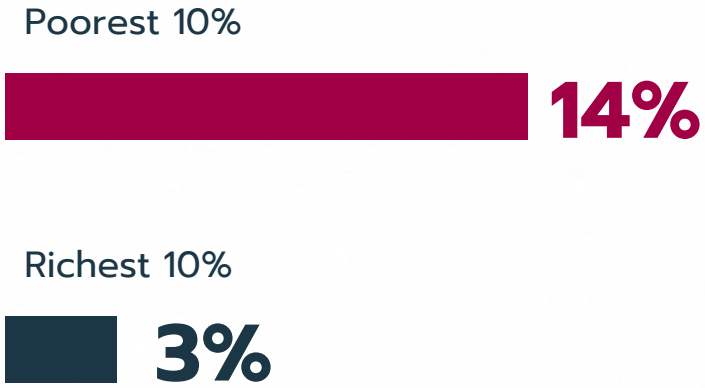
Tracks public and private education spending.

Household education costs

THB per person/year · 2018



Education spending / household income · 2018



Similar spending. Unequal burden.

Sources: EEFI research; National Education Account of Thailand (2018)

Proxy Means Test (PMT)

Using household conditions to assess economic need.

Household indicators



Housing



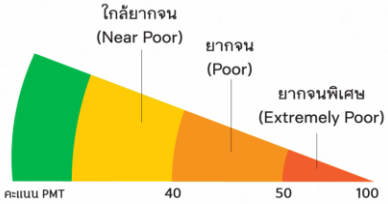
Dependants



Electrics/Water

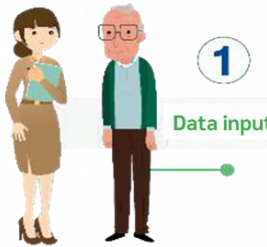


Assets



เกณฑ์การคัดกรองนักเรียนทุนเสมอภาค

	1-39	ใกล้ยากจน (Near Poor)
	40-49	ยากจน (Poor)
	50-100	ยากจนพิเศษ (Extremely Poor)



Teachers and Parents

1 Data input



Mobile Application

Import data into the database

Database



4 Local administrators certify the household status





Data 2

Photo of home

Location 3





The Economic Cost of Out-of-School Children in Southeast Asia

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH · UNESCO BANGKOK, 2015



Milan Thomas with Nicholas Burnett (R4D)

Studies the economic costs of primary-school-age children being out of school in seven Southeast Asian countries, including Thailand.

1.7% of GDP

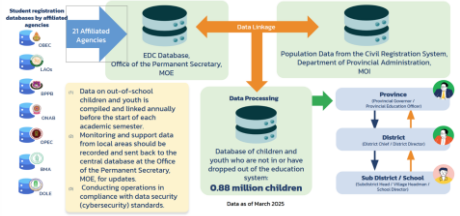
Estimated economic loss for Thailand

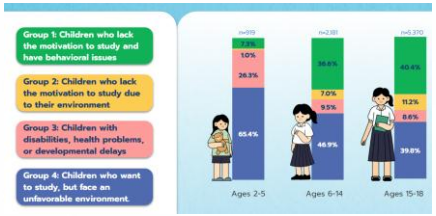
Lower future earnings and productivity;
losses fall disproportionately on poorer families.

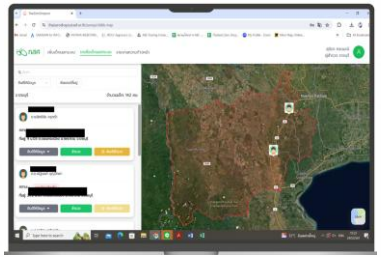
Source: Thomas with Burnett, UNESCO (2015), Table 6, p.10. Historical macro model; not a TZD impact estimate.

Thailand Zero Dropout (TZD)

1 Identify → 2 Understand → 3 Reconnect → 4 Sustain









Match records and verify cases through home visits	Conduct research to understand learning barriers	Develop individual care plans and coordinate support	Offer flexible learning with ongoing follow-up
Education agencies and local teams	Researchers and local teams	Case managers and local support teams	Learning providers and DOLE centres

Equity-Based Budgeting Project (EBB)

Allocates education funding according to the different needs of learners and schools.

Analyse school costs → **Design funding formula** → **Inform decisions**

Based on size, location and student disadvantage.

Translate evidence into needs-based top-ups.

Pilot the approach and evaluate the implementation.

RESEARCH OUTPUTS

Cost estimates **Funding formula proposals** **Budget scenarios**

Sources: UNICEF, Equity-based budgeting: School funding formula; EEFI EBB research programme.

From EBB Research to a Funding Formula

Proposed school funding = A + B + C

A

Basic Needs

Per-student funding for core teaching and learner-development activities.

B

Additional Needs

Targeted supplements for disadvantage, small schools and geographical hardship.

C

Performance

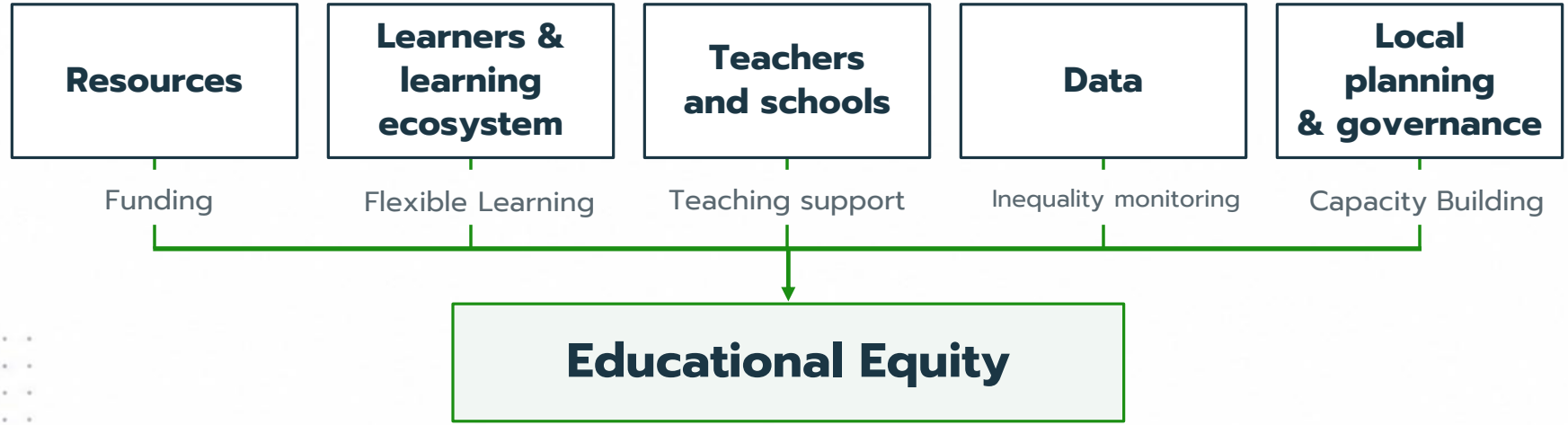
Outcome-based grants to support school improvement and excellence.





School-funding dialogue

EEFI's Five Systems, One Shared Goal



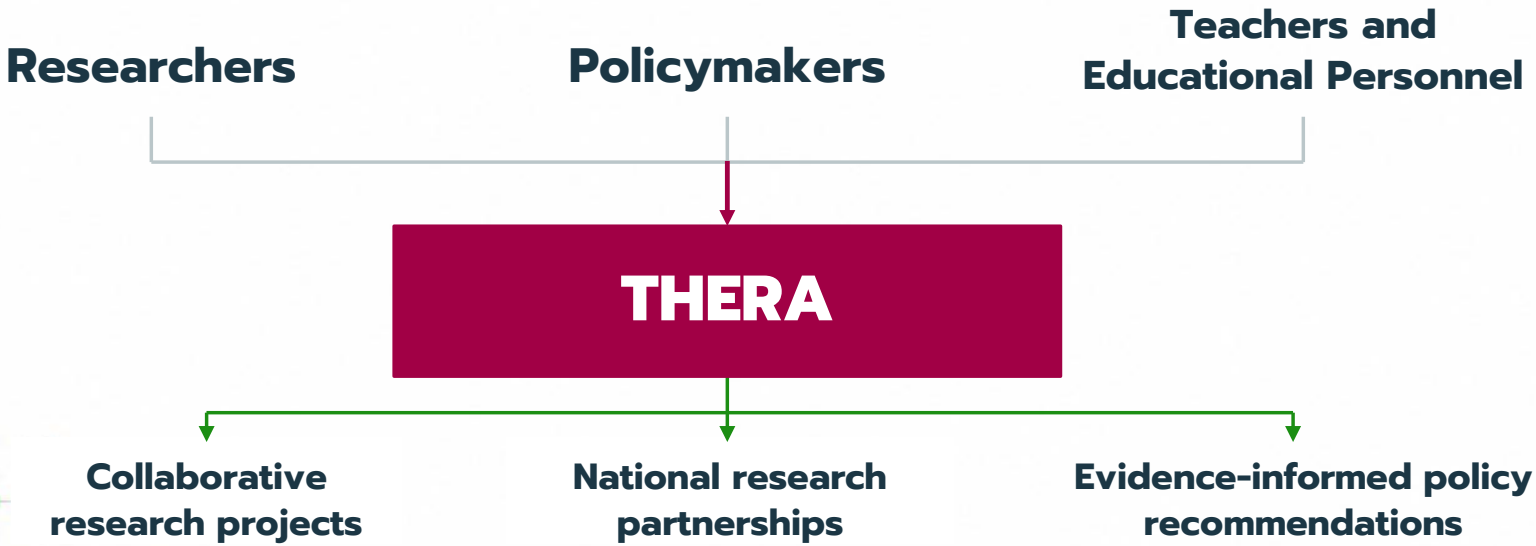
Listen to partners and stakeholders → **Define shared outcomes** → **Drive systemic change through research**

Source: EEFI, 5 systems framework

Thailand Education Research Association (THERA)

Established through collaboration among the Equitable Education Fund (EEF), the Office of the Education Council (OEC), and our partners with strong research capacity.

OPERATING MODEL



Connecting Thai and Global Education Research

World Education Research Association (WERA)

THERA
Thai education research community



WERA
Global education research community

International research collaboration

Joint studies and research networks

Research capacity development

Mentoring and researcher development

Knowledge exchange

Sharing research findings and experience

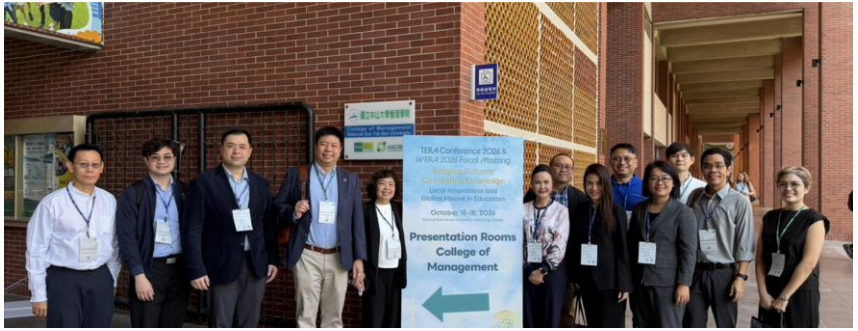
THERA launch · Thailand





WERA research exchange · Taiwan





Lessons from EEF's Experience

01 Base policy decisions on evidence

Use data and research findings to guide policy design and decision-making.

02 Communicate with policymakers

Maintain two-way dialogue to understand policymakers' needs and provide research and evidence when decisions are being made.

03 Create shared spaces for dialogue

Provide platforms where researchers and policymakers can exchange perspectives and explore policy solutions.

All For Education, Education For All

Thank You

EEF

Equitable Education Fund (EEF Thailand)
388 S.P. Building 13th Floor Phaholyothin Road,
Samsennai, Phayathai, Bangkok 10400, Thailand

www.eef.or.th | EEF THAILAND