PRESENTATION AT THE TEACHER TASK FORCE REGIONAL WEBINAR FOR SUB-SAHRAN AFRICA ON TEACHING AND TEACHER ISSUES RELATED TO DISTANCE EDUCATION AND RETURN TO SCHOOL—THE UGANDA CASE

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INTRODUCTION

• Uganda is home to a total population of close to 42m people.
• COVID-19 has affected 15m learners, 73,000 schools, and 538,000 teachers.
• All education institutions closed on 20\textsuperscript{th} March 2020 to-date.
• To-date 253 cases of COVID-19 infected persons have been reported with no deaths
• Plan for re-opening of schools are now underway
CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR RE-OPENING OF SCHOOLS

• Managing anxiety and fears for return to school
• Ensuring safety of learners and education personnel
• Providing psychosocial support to learners and educational personnel
• Ensuring public confidence in the school system
TRAINING AND SOCIO-EMOTIONAL SUPPORT TO IN-SERVICE TEACHERS

- Ensure advance preparation of lessons by teachers
- Involve teachers in preparation for re-opening
- Provide psychosocial support and training to teachers
- Provide close monitoring and support supervision by education managers
STATUS OF DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING

• On-line and digital lessons are going on, mostly benefiting urban-based learners

• Rapid survey of e-learning needs for teachers is urgently needed

• Training of teachers on e-learning methodologies is planned as a must

• Training of teachers of Radio and TV lesson delivery techniques is planned

• Training of teachers on preparation of digital learning materials is planned

• Provision of simple e-learning gadgets to support rural teachers is in plan
MEASURES TO SUPPORT VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

• Focused back-to-school campaigns for girls and other vulnerable groups
• Provision of specialized teaching/learning materials for learners/teachers with special needs
• Supply of self-study materials to technologically disadvantaged populations
• Special focus given to teachers and learners in refugee communities
CONCLUSION

• Teachers need to be paid their salaries to meet their personal needs
• Teachers need to be included in planning for school
• Teachers need psychosocial and professional support
• Teachers need to be trained in distance learning technologies

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION