



RWANDA EDUCATION BOARD

P.O Box 3817 KIGALI

TELEPHONE : (+250) 255121482

E-MAIL: INFO@REB.RW

WEBSITE: WWW.REB.RW

Supporting teachers in distance learning and school re-opening in relation to COVID-19




INTRODUCTION

- The development of any educational system depends on the quality of teaching and the teacher;
- Teachers play a crucial role in promoting the quality of education hence the advancement of innovative teaching and learning practices is vital;
- The spread of COVID-19 has disrupted teaching and learning systems in all countries affected;
- Countries Rwanda inclusive have taken measures to curb the spread of COVID-19 by countrywide closure of schools;


MEASURES BEING TAKEN DURING THE COVID – 19 LOCKDOWN

- Draw response plan by Ministry of Education to the COVID -19 outbreak;
- Ensure continuity of learning for students mainly through Radio, TV programs and e-learning platforms;
- Create and raise public awareness on remote learning;
- Plan for schools re-opening with appropriate services and measures in place;
- Ensure continuity of Continuous Professional Development (CPD) courses for teachers;

CHALLENGES

- Lack of facilities to learn remotely by majority of the teachers, school leaders and learners;
 - Lack of ICT skills, which hinders online CPD trainings for teachers and school leaders;
 - Some parents are not able to support children's learning from home;
 - Some private schools are unable to pay salaries of teachers until re-opening of schools;
 - Feelings of Isolation due to lack of routine direct supervision. This may create negligence;
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ROLE OF GOVERNMENT IN SUPPORTING TEACHERS


- Continuity of learning during school closure, through Radio, TV and e-learning platforms;
 - Support delivery of Continuous Professional Development (CPD) courses to teachers and school leaders;
 - Support the welfare of teachers;
 - Ensure readiness for school reopening;
 - Involve development partners to support education initiatives;
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GENERAL NEEDS TO SUPPORT TEACHERS IN DISTANCE LEARNING


- Budgetary provisions for capital and operational costs of ICT facilities;
- Promoting Public-Private-Partnership to enhance ICT in schools in form of infrastructure, content development and capacity building;
- Technical support and maintenance with adequate staff and budget to service the needs of education;
- In-service professional development opportunities for teachers to support integration of ICT in teaching and learning and utilization of digital content;

OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORTING TEACHERS IN DISTANCE LEARNING


A number of opportunities can be utilized to support teachers:

- Training materials available on e-learning platforms;
 - Smart classroom in schools;
 - ICT in education policy;
 - Education response plan to COVID-19 outbreak;
 - Development partners support to capacity building of teachers.
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STRATEGIES TO PROMOTE DISTANCE LEARNING

- Develop and digitalize teaching and learning materials;
 - Use e-learning platforms to increase accessibility;
 - Avail ICT infrastructure in schools and TTCs;
 - Train teachers in integration of ICT in teaching and learning process;
 - Conduct regular assessment to keep track of teachers' and students' performance.
 - Prioritize and allocate resources in ICT led education;
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MEASURES TO MITIGATE DROPOUTS

- Free access to basic education (9 & 12 YBE);
 - Construct new classroom blocks and schools to reduce overcrowding and long distances;
 - Create a conducive learning environment enjoyed by all learners;
 - Involve parents and learners in school management decision making;
 - Create an accessible and conducive learning environment to learners with disabilities;
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- Establish female learner health rooms (girls room);
- Enhance career guidance and counselling in schools.
- Sensitise all learners and teachers to report back on schools reopening;

End

