Supporting teachers in distance learning and school re-opening in relation to COVID-19
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;
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;
**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.
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;
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 leaners in school management decision making;
- Create an accessible and conducive learning environment to learners with disabilities;
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