UNESCO IICBA WEBINAR:
How can educators respond to the learning needs of children, including fostering resilience and ensuring their well-being during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Click here: https://tinyurl.com/ydgoh4ly or https://bit.ly/3ft0Xg6

Close to 90% of the world’s schoolchildren are not attending school at present and are being confined at home and places of shelter.

While the education sector has responded to school closures by setting up online learning spaces and other innovative practices to support home-schooling, half of all students of the world are currently out of the classroom without access to a computer, and more than 40 per cent of children have no internet access at home. Many children are being left behind with increasing disparities in access to education and learning, compromising their safety and well-being.

This is happening in a context where socio-economic inequalities are being exacerbated as the economic consequences of the pandemic are having a dramatic effect on the most vulnerable and marginalized children.

According to the United Nations University World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER) more than half a billion people — almost 8% of the global population — could be pushed into poverty as a result of the pandemic.

The impact on African economies could be the slowing of growth to 1.8 per cent in the best case scenario or a contraction of 2.6 per cent in the worst case. This has the potential to push 29 million people into extreme poverty.

According to the Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA) and the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), education is one of the sectors most heavily affected, with the closure of learning institutions in many African countries likely to negatively affect education in terms of access, quality and investments. In the last few weeks, African governments and key

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2 https://www.wider.unu.edu/publication/will-covid-19-lead-half-billion-more-people-living-poverty-developing-countries
3 COVID-19 in Africa: Protecting Lives and Economies by the Economic Commission for Africa
education stakeholders have instituted some measures to promote the continuity of education from home. These have been successful in some ways, but challenges remain. After the pandemic, millions of learners will go back to school finding themselves poorer, more vulnerable and in some cases victims of violence. Even if not affected directly, learners will witness changes in their environment and ethical challenges arising in their contexts as a consequence of the pandemic.

As the world rallies to meet the challenge posed by the Covid-19 pandemic, extremist groups including those from West Africa have continued to carry out large-scale attacks and conduct cross-border activities. There is a risk the current situation might undermine gains on peacebuilding and prevention of violent extremism including those made by the education sector.

How can the education sector and teachers as first-line responders support learners to cope with these challenges arising during and after the pandemic and the effects on their socio-emotional, mental and spiritual well-being?

Education should respond to the needs of the learners, empower children to be resilient and equip them to cope with the context around them and positively respond to the challenges they face.

The pandemic can present opportunities to empower learners to meaningfully address some of the issues at hand. In fact, while COVID 19 has put pressure on the education and has left millions out of school, the pandemic has also shown our interconnectedness and the power of human solidarity. Educators can build on this as a learning opportunity and support learners to strengthen their sense of belonging to a larger community and encourage active engagement for community transformation and for reaching out to the most vulnerable.

When the schools re-open it will be critical to provide dialogue opportunities for learners to share how they feel, their experiences, and reflect on what happened and on the ethical challenges their communities and the world are facing. It is equally important for schools to offer spaces for learners to imagine alternatives to contribute to transform their communities.

This webinar will reflect on how educators can empower and transform learners responding to the emerging ethical demands in the era of COVID-19. This webinar is part of a learning module that UNESCO IICBA is offering for educators to support learners during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Date: Wednesday, 13 MAY, 2020**
**Time: 16:00hrs East Africa Time: (16:00-17:30)**
**Duration: 90 minutes**

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Objectives of the webinar:

- Discuss the impact of COVID-19 on the educational needs of children and youth in Africa
- Identify how the education sector and teachers as first-line responders can support learners to cope with and positively respond to the ethical challenges arising during and after the pandemic and its effects on children’s socio-emotional, mental and spiritual well-being.
- Provide recommendations for educators to continue addressing the needs for peace and resilience building and prevention of violent extremism in the current context.

Speakers

- Welcome Remarks and Introduction of Theme (5mins):
  
  Dr. Yumiko Yokozeki  
  Director, UNESCO Institute for Capacity-Building in Africa

- Key Note Speech (10mins):
  
  Ms. Ann Therese Ndong-Jatta  
  Director UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa

- Panel Discussion (20mins)
  
  Ms. Maria Lucia Uribe  
  Director Arigatou International Geneva
  
  Mr. Peter Tabichi (TBC)  
  Teacher, Keriko Secondary School, Kenya  
  Winner of the 2019 Global Teacher Prize

- Q&A and Discussion (40 mins)

Audience

The target audiences for the webinar are Teacher Educators, Teachers, Ministry of Education officials responsible for teacher development and management, government and non-government agents responsible for learning in primary and secondary schools teachers, education researchers, representatives of partner organizations, and UNESCO colleagues.

Technical specifications

The webinar will use Microsoft Teams as a technical platform.