Webinar Concept Note

Open and Distance Learning for Teachers in Africa (ODLTA)

Date: Wednesday, 14 October 2020
Time: 1:30 – 3:00 PM East African Standard Time, 10.30-12.00 AM GMT
Link: Microsoft Teams: https://tinyurl.com/y4y9y3mw or https://shorturl.at/fhjs5

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Education is the fundamental human right that changes the social and cultural status as well as the political, religious and economic lives of individuals and families. For people in Africa education is the key to unlocking the enjoyments of their rights, most notably amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. In other words, the educational process should continue even during widespread school closures. Continuity of teaching and learning is a critical component of school emergency management. It promotes the consistency of education and personal development despite circumstances that interrupt the normal school attendance for students.

The global crisis has confirmed that education is not a time-sensitive and place-bound process. Staying on the frontline of mitigating the pandemic-related education crisis, UNESCO agencies, specifically UNESCO INRULED, IICBA and UNESCO IITE, alongside the most high-profile team of partners and experts from the Smart Learning Institute of the Beijing Normal University and the Open University of China, coordinated by the UNESCO Office in Nairobi, worked out a new online course to guide teachers in Africa through and over the COVID-19 education plunge.
This new online course entitled **Introduction to Online and Distance Learning for Teachers in Africa** aims at helping participants to understand distance education and the potential development of distance education in Africa, to be familiar with how to promote online learning in an effective way by means of information and communications technologies (ICTs), and to master the use of Moodle and Zoom for starting online courses.

**Objectives of the Webinar**
The main goal of this ODLTA webinar is to promote the use of technology-enhanced distance learning in Africa for continuing education during the global pandemic COVID-19. More specifically, the objectives of the webinar are:

1. To demonstrate the contents and features of new online course.
2. To encourage the stakeholders to use and promote online and distance learning during the school closure and beyond.
3. To get feedback on the appropriateness and feasibility of the platform.

**Deliverables of the Webinar**
The deliverables of this ODLTA webinar are:

1. Presentation on the theme.
2. Interaction with various stakeholders on the presentation.
3. Question and answer session (with stakeholder participation).

**Expected outcomes**
The expected outcomes of the webinar are:

1. An awareness of the need to continue education during the pandemic COVID-19.
2. An improvement in the knowledge, attitude and skills of implementing technology-enhanced distance education.
3. Inventories of potential challenges of stakeholders in using online and distance learning in Africa.
Target audience
The Webinar is open to all education stakeholders including school leaders, teachers, teacher educators, partners in education, and education authorities at diverse levels in Africa and beyond that are interested and engaged on open and distance learning.

Technical specifications
The webinar will use Microsoft Teams as a technical platform. Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions, make comments and share relevant information and material through a chat function.

WEBINAR PROGRAM
Program Moderator: Saliou Sall, Senior Program Coordinator, IICBA
Chat (Q&A) Moderator: Temechegn Engida (PhD), Program Officer, IICBA
Timekeeping and Reporting: José Edmond Meku Fotso, Project Officer, IICBA

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<td>1:30-1:35</td>
<td>Program Introduction</td>
<td>Saliou Sall, Senior Program Coordinator, UNESCO-IICBA</td>
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<td>1:35-1:45</td>
<td>Opening Speech</td>
<td>Dr. Yumiko Yokozeki, Director, UNESCO-IICBA</td>
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<td>1:45-2:30</td>
<td>Demonstration of the ODLTA</td>
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<td>2:30-2:50</td>
<td>Question and Answer</td>
<td>Dr. Temechegn Engida, Program Officer, UNESCO-IICBA</td>
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<td>2:50-3:00</td>
<td>Closing remark and way forward</td>
<td>Dr. Yumiko Yokozeki, Director, UNESCO IICBA</td>
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