COVID-19: REIMAGINING EDUCATION – Thinking BIG

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WE ARE IN THE GREATEST
Education Emergency
OF OUR LIFETIME

THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC THREATENS TO CREATE
LOST GENERATIONS OF CHILDREN WITHOUT EDUCATION.

1.6 BILLION
CHILDREN AND YOUTH HAD THEIR EDUCATION DISRUPTED,
WITH MORE THAN 80% OF THESE IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

63 Million
TEACHERS AND THE GLOBAL EDUCATION WORKFORCE ARE
GRAPPLING TO ENSURE THAT LEARNING DOES NOT STOP

$10 Trillion
THE POTENTIAL IMPACT OF LOST SCHOOLING ON THE
GLOBAL ECONOMY

10 Million+
SECONDARY SCHOOL-AGED GIRLS MAY NEVER RETURN TO SCHOOL

13 MILLION
GIRLS COULD BE AT RISK FROM CHILD MARRIAGE

SAVE OUR FUTURE
A global movement to ensure that all kids learn.
www.saveourfuture.world
prathameducation
In the Caribbean

• During the COVID 19 pandemic school closures have affected close to 1.4 million students have been affected.
• In Jamaica, some 30,000 teachers had to adopt new strategies and some 600,000 students accessed some form of content – online, tv, radio, printed packets
Pre – COVID

- Girls way outperform boys in Math and English
- Data indicates a 3 yr grade difference between wealthiest and poorest quintiles in region.
- Learning gaps maintained through high school
- Parental involvement/support varies widely
Learners, facilitators, and education providers face numerous challenges in receiving and providing education.

Examples

GLOBALLY - There is a critical need for better access to quality education and improved learning pathways.

Learners
Facilitators
Education providers

COVID – 19 Pandemic – RAPID CHANGES enabled schooling to continue

• in Policy
• in Learning Tools
• School Leadership
• Collaboration between Teachers & Parents
• Innovative pathways emerged – often using technology
  ✓ videos, songs, games, WhatsApp groups and “zero-rated” education portals.
New Normal – has many different forms
UNICEF Jamaica COVID-19 Response

Risk Communication and Community Engagement

- Parenting tips to protect your family from COVID-19
- How to keep your child safe online
- U-Reporters help shape COVID-19 response
- Activities for children with disabilities
MANAGING CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES
DURING COVID-19: PARENTING TIPS

This is a stressful time for everyone, including your children. It is important to stay positive and to help your children get through this.

PLAY: Play with your children as much as you can. There are lots of games you can play, depending on your child’s disability.

TIME OUT: Take breaks when tired or stressed. Do not hit your children when angry or frustrated.

SELF-CARE: Rest, exercise and eat right.

TALK: Talk with your children about their feelings.

Check out this page on UNICEF’s website for play ideas: uni.cf/covid19disabilities

For more information or assistance:
COVID-19: Call the Ministry of Health and Wellness:
888-ONE-LOVE (888-663-5683) or visit jamcovid19.moh.gov.jm

Services for persons with disabilities: Call the JCPD
1-876-928-0074 or visit jcpd@jamaica.gov.jm.
The JCPD is a Department of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security.
Parenting and Psychosocial Support

- Establishment of parenting support helplines, to support parents to create safe and positive living and learning environments for children at home.
- Virtual academic, psychosocial and parenting support to adolescent mothers
Increased Reliance on Technology...
10,000 U reporters surveyed – age 13+
Challenges and Successes in Accessing Learning -
https://jamaica.ureport.in/

• 90% access online learning
  - 47% online learning
  - 26% what’s app
  - 17% video conferencing

• About 56% daily access

• Some 80% regular contact w/teachers

• Some 85% support from parents

• BUT 45% reported feeling frustrated with distance learning
Rapid changes - demand for skills

• The IV Industrial Revolution, Climate Change and increased life expectancy have changed the demand for skills.

• COVID-19 will too – requires new demands for skills, especially digital, socio-emotional and lifelong skills.
• The challenge is not only how to reopen schools but also when schools reopen, how to reduce inequity by addressing just how far students have fallen behind.
• 411 schools (of over 900) will operate normally.

• **Rotational** – include face-to-face & computer-aided learning.

• **Extended Day** – student groups arrive and depart at different times. Mostly high schools and large primary groups

• **Homeschooling** – Protocols in place using the MOEYI curriculum.

• **Online Learning** – all learning via online platforms; only come to school for labs etc.

• **EC** plans also disseminated

• 1000s of **teachers ongoing training**
Back to School Support

• MOEYI to provide $6.7 billion to support school operations including sanitation and additional staffing
• PATH programmes to continue (nutrition & transportation) & ICT, STEM and TVET grants
• MOEYI to assist with rental/procurement of tents & other temporary spaces as needed and will also assist with furniture.
• PEP workbooks – for the first time.
• 100,000 tablets, mostly for students on PATH & CwD.
REOPEN SCHOOLS STRONGER

• Accelerate implementation of digital strategies – including scientific literacy for students and teachers
• Bolster the EMIS
• Expand connectivity to schools
• Train students and teachers in the use of distance modalities
• Early Detection
• Develop/subscribe to an adaptive learning platform linked to curriculum and other types of certification (badges, etc)
• Update **school infrastructure** - climate resilient; environmentally sustainable
• Ensure feasible **emergency plans**
• Expand relevant/pertinent education and training programs
• Teach **lifelong learning skills**
• Reinforce/strengthen literacy and numeracy
• Equip students with skills to **adapt to the changing labour market**
• Take advantage of **research and development** opportunities
• Establish **strong partnerships**
Partnerships - School leadership Training – Aim to reach 2000 school leaders – CFS/VIL
Partnerships - Donations of Technology to most at risk

- 200 tablets
- 50 phones
Partnerships - Learning Passport - UNICEF and Microsoft designed to enable continuous access to education to enhance learning

NOW IS THE TIME TO THINK BIG...

Provision of quality education

Enablement of learning mobility
LP = new product designed to close the learning poverty gap and improve learning outcomes — ECD, primary & secondary

- Tech platform enabling high quality, flexible learning
- Strong alignment between curriculum framework, content, pedagogy, and assessment
- Supplementary tool supports both formal and non-formal education
- Includes:
  - Digital record of learning
  - Teacher & learner interface
  - Local content
  - Available online & offline
  - Psychosocial support
  - Special Ed support system
  - Peer support
Where is the Learning Passport?

• Officially launched: Timor-Leste

• Pre-launch: Bangladesh, Jordan, Kenya, Kosovo, & Ukraine

• Under discussion: Costa Rica, Lesotho, Jamaica, Guyana, Montenegro, Rwanda, Somalia, Suriname, and Vietnam.
What’s on offer for Jamaica

Learning Passport:
- online
  jamaica.learningpassport.unicef.org
- mobile application
- offline model

Resources to support local Project Management Capacity

Access to UNICEF’s perpetual use license for the Learning Passport

Access to growing supplemental content library

Platform hosting and maintenance, and engineering support
For Education – Many Questions Remain

• How do we minimize inequities in the system?
• How do we regain learning losses?
• Who delivers education? What do we deliver (content)? How do we deliver (blended, face-to-face)? Where do we deliver?
• How do we engage new partners in education (parents, communities, private sector)?
• Is there a role for regional partnerships?
Two Things are Certain

• The well being of children and teachers is paramount
• Science and Technology are CRITICAL
"We must take bold steps now, to create inclusive, resilient, quality education systems fit for the future."

UN Secretary-General António Guterres
4 August 2020

un.org/coronavirus | #COVID19
UNICEF COVID-19 Overall Response

• Please visit our COVID-19 web page and follow us on social media for more information for up to date information:

THANK YOU!