Guide: How to design distance learning solutions under COVID-19 restrictions

The following questions can help you to determine the feasibility of distance learning in your context. It can guide you in designing effective online learning/teaching solutions in a short time, avoiding some of the most common pitfalls.

1. As-is analysis and needs analysis
   a) Analyse goals and needs: What is most important for children/youth, teachers and schools?” (learning goals, curricular objectives, project goals etc.)
   b) Identify key learning activities: How can learners achieve relevant goals?
   c) Analyse your context: Do the teachers have the necessary pedagogical skills and media skills? Does the school management and administration support online teaching/learning activities? Which hardware, software, connectivity and electricity services can the school, learners and teachers draw on?
   d) Which partners can support us? Who could we cooperate with?

2. Define your approach
   a) Which tools, features and content help us best to support which key learning/teaching activities and to address the most important goals and needs?
   b) Risk management: How can we foster inclusion, privacy, sustainability etc.?
   c) Pre-selection: Which project ideas are most promising?

3. Planning: Define and budget core activities of involved actors in a rough timeline:
   a) Setting up/customizing infrastructure: How do we intend to use the tools? Which curriculum aligned e-content do we need?
   b) Information: How do we keep schools, teachers, learners, parents and other stakeholders up to date?
   c) Training and support: How can teachers and coaches be trained and supported hands-on to apply the needed pedagogical, technical and management skills?
   d) Selection: Which projects will be launched?

4. Implementation:
   a) Piloting: Can we test our solution with a small group of “champions”? Which training and support do they need? Which controls will be evaluated to improve?
   b) Up-scaling: How can we improve infrastructure, training & support of all the teachers and learners? How do we launch the offer with all the stakeholders?
   c) Continuous monitoring and evaluation: Which controls will be evaluated to improve the existing solution? How can we transform our solution in a long-term service?

Do you want to discuss your questions, identify possible solutions or draft the next steps with an experienced expert? We offer you an online coaching session of 30-60 minutes to discuss your questions, ideas and next steps (To arrange a time, contact Urs Gröhbiel on WhatsApp +41 78 843 53 81 or urs.groehbiel@snbi.ch).