Strategies for supporting teachers and educators to continue to provide quality education during school closures: The Uganda Case

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Background

- Uganda has a population of about 42m people
- Approximately 15m of these are in the schooling system
- School closure was announced on 18/3/2020 and closure took effect on 20/3/2020
- Schools had one day to prepare for the closure
- Because of abrupt closure, most teachers and learners went unprepared for the shutdown.
Strategies to ensure learning continues during school closure

- Take home packages
- On-line teaching and learning platforms
- Recorded content delivered on TVs, Radios, social media
- Schools were required to retain some staff
- Schools were required to keep communication channels open, especially phone lines open
- Teachers were urged to remain available for learners
- Learners were encouraged to remain in touch with their schools and teachers
- Parents were encouraged to ensure learners continue to engage with the materials provided, the schools, and teachers
Q.1: How has Uganda Government prepared teachers for on-line teaching?

- ICT is a must for all teachers. Included in the teacher education curriculum
- Teacher Education symposium focused on ICT for 21\textsuperscript{st} century teaching and learning
- UNESCO CFIT project established 3 ICT hubs with on-line learner platforms
- Distance learning programs conducted on-line
- Capacity building programs are on-going
Q.2. How are TTIs being deployed to deliver capacity building for teachers without ICT skills?

- Teacher Development and Management System in place
- CPD Framework developed and under implementation
- ICT hubs established to support TTIs
What mechanisms are in place to ensure teacher’s well-being in times requiring social distancing?

- Paying salaries in time to stock essentials
- Decongesting the schools
- Encouraging work at home
- Providing the tools for work where available
- Communication channels with schools, government, and the public remains open for information sharing.
How are teachers in rural areas being supported?

We can only support the teachers through:

• Phones
• Radios
• Social media
Challenges

- Internet connectivity
- ICT capacity of both teachers and learners
- Availability of ICT facilities
- Education levels of parents and caregivers
- Limited communication channels with some stakeholders
Government Commitment

• Committed to ensure safety of the learners both in school and out of school through continuous sensitization of teachers, parents, and learners
• Committed to ensure learning continues even in this time of school closure
• Committed to support innovative approaches/initiatives to support teachers deliver learning
• Committed to support capacity building for teachers to acquire adequate ICT skills to facilitate on-line teaching and enhance pedagogy through digital tools.