

UNESCO

FROM SUB-REGIONAL TO A CONTINENTAL RESPONSE STRATEGY

IN SUPPORT OF MORE RESILIENT AND RESPONSIVE EDUCATION SYSTEMS IN AFRICA

COVID-19 (C-19)

April-June 2020



EDUCATION SECTOR

Education Sector COVID-19 Emergency Plan April – June 2020

Preamble

As the number of confirmed cases of the coronavirus disease surge around the world, governments have taken increasingly stringent measures to control the spread of the virus. Some of the measures have ranged from basic hygiene practice, social distancing including closure of learning institutions, to lockdown status, compelling children to learn and parents to work from home. One of the direct effects of these measures on education has been the disruption of the education system. According to UNESCO, as of 30 March 2020, over 87% of the world's student population – 1.5 billion children and youth – is affected by school closures in more than 180 countries (COVID 19 UNESCO Education Response Strategy Note, 30 March 2020).

In order to minimize the effects of the closures of learning institutions in all 13 countries under the UNESCO Regional office for Eastern Africa, namely, Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda, governments are putting a lot of effort to employ alternative means like distance education and e-Learning technologies – radio, TV, e-Learning platforms and Cloud technologies - to deliver the curriculum. While this approach in delivering education during the closure is a viable one, it raises questions of availability, capacity and coverage of IT infrastructure for online teaching and learning; Internet connectivity and other technical aspects; access to learning platforms by teachers and learners; the extent to which learners engage in interactive learning; online teaching and assessment of learning; technical support to teachers and parents to support student learning. These questions are particularly pertinent in light of the fact that different countries in the Eastern Africa region have different capacities and geographical coverage of national telecommunications and ICT infrastructures and services, availability of devices, availability and quality of content, teacher capacity in using online platforms for teaching and assessment, among other things, will have a strong bearing on access to learning by different groups, especially the marginalized, rural populations refugees, persons with disabilities and pastoralist communities and girls and women in the countries of the region.

Member States in the region are working with the UN System and other development partners, including the private sector operators to secure support to strengthen and expand the quality and coverage of their education response to cover all parts of the country to leave no one behind.

Implementation Strategy

The regional office is closely following the impact of COVID-19 on education in the region to continue to ensure UNESCO's leadership in responding to the crisis and strengthen engagement with RCs to position the organization within the COVID 19 program criticality plan of UN Country Teams. In this regard, the regional office is in the process of organizing a Local Education Partners' e-Meeting in each country following the regional partnership e-Meeting held in early April 2020. This will involve taking advantage of the successful interventions by partners/stakeholders, including UNESCO own institutes such as IICBA (Addis Ababa) and ITE (Moscow), for scale up and support governments through policy dialogue and advice, providing technical guidance to strengthen delivery capacity for both traditional mass media (radio, TV) delivery models and ICT and e-Learning platforms for remote learning and building the capacity of teachers in the use of digital platforms for teaching and assessment of student learning; integrate quality assurance in the implementation of the strategy, develop a Communication system and knowledge management on progress during the period through webinars, and online meetings. While the national level actions will be available to all 13 countries of the Eastern Africa Region, support will immediately proceed with those that are ready.

At present, UNESCO is re-orienting its work plans to respond to the effects of COVID-19 over a 3-month emergency window (April – June 2020). The situation will be reviewed subsequently to determine whether or not to extend the emergency window. Below is the UNESCO Nairobi Emergency Response Plan.

Education Response

No	Programme	Activities	Geographical scope	Budget USD	Timeline	Partners
1	HIV and Health Education	Support KICD in the development of digital health literacy content on coronavirus and digital guide on how to access digital health content for Kenya Education Cloud	Kenya	13,000	April 2020	KICD, UNAIDS, UNICEF, UNFPA, SRHRA
2		Support dissemination of information on coronavirus through RADA and scale up in three institutions of higher learning	Kenya & Sub-regional	26,000	May 2020	UoN SRHRA, UNAIDS
3		Support finalization of digital health content for secondary schools and online course for teachers	Kenya	30,000	June 2020	KICD, UNAIDS, UNICEF, UNFPA, SRHRA
4	Literacy	Develop literacy contents for use by community Radio stations	Kenya	8000	June 2020	MoE
5		Develop literacy contents for use by community Radio stations	Tanzania	8000	June 2020	TIE, MoEST, UN Women
6		Develop literacy contents for use on digital platform	Madagascar	10000	June 2020	Direction de l'Alphabétisation /MENETP
7		Training of trainers on digital literacy to train other teachers	Regional	14000	May 2020	
8	ICT in Education	Rapid mapping of coverage of the mass media and e-Learning platforms and access to devices to engage the alternative channels	Sub-regional	500 000	April 2020	MoE, UNHCR, KICD

		broadcasting the education and training materials				
9		Capacity building of local community radio operators to re-broadcast the national curriculum to the hard to reach populations	Sub-regional	1 000 000	April 2020	MoE, KICD, Media Council of Kenya and relevant institutions in the region
10		Development of tools to support implementation of digital health literacy content for grades 4-8 and to include content on COVID-19	Kenya	1 000 000	June 2020	MoE, KICD
11		Production of recorded voices of STEM mentors to be disseminated through the available technology to enhance continuous learning of the sciences	Sub-regional	700 000	May 2020	MoE, KICD & curricula development agencies/Microsoft
12		Development of a digital platform for repository/database for supplementary on-line learning material on Arts and Culture; host reading and book review, storytelling and art competitions	Sub-regional		June 2020	UN Agencies/ICT Private Sector Operators
13		Capacity building of teachers on the use of ICTs to ensure remote continuous learning and remote engagement with learners	Sub-regional		May 2020	MoE, KICD
14	TVET	Management of ICT in TVET	Sub-regional	3000		MoE, KICD TVETA KEMI
15		Development of tools to support implementation of digital health literacy content for grades 4-8 and to include content on COVID-19	Kenya	35000	June 2020	MoE, KICD TVETA KEMI
16		Capacity building of teachers on the use of ICTs to ensure remote	Sub-regional	20000		MoE, KICD TVETA KEMI

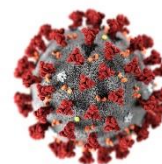
		continuous learning and remote engagement with learners				
17	Develop strategy for a Regional Qualifications Framework (RQF) for 8 IGAD countries	Draft strategy developed for 8 IGAD countries	IGAD countries	5000	April – Sept 2020	MoEs/IGAD/GIZ
18		Support the organization of a e-Meeting of IGAD countries to discuss the strategy/ roadmap for RQF to be presented to the Experts meeting in July & Ministers of Education for endorsement in December	IGAD countries	15,000	July- Sept 2020	MoEs/IGAD/GIZ
19	Support to teachers and teacher education institutions to mitigate the effects of COVID-19	Strengthen capacity of teachers on using digital skills to deliver and manage distance education and e-Learning	Sub-regional	10,000	April – June 2020	MoEs of countries
20		Organise capacity building training on radio/TV programme production for distance learning	Kenya/Uganda/Tanzania	15,000	April – Sept 2020	MoEs/NatCom-Kenya/Uganda/Tanzania
21		Strengthen the application and use of Teacher Management Information System (TMIS)	Uganda	5,000	April – Sept 2020	MoE/NatCom Uganda
22	Higher Education	Develop questionnaire/survey to identify ICT infrastructure and e-Learning capacity in Higher education institutions	Sub-regional & share with all UNESCO regional offices for uniform approach and analysis in partnership with HQ/ Higher Ed Section	10,000	April-June 2020	All UNESCO field offices in partnership with HQ
		Strengthening capacity of university professors in Artificial Intelligence (AI)	Sub-regional	5,000	June	MoEs/Huawei

23	Sector-wide policies and plans	Provide technical support to AUC in the organization of the e-Conference of Ministers of Education, Science and Technology	Sub-regional (all)	5,000	April-June 2020	All UN Agencies & NGOs in the UNESCO & Partners group
24		Support the organization of a Ministerial e-Meeting on the COVID-19 Education response	Sub-regional (all countries)	1,000,000	April-June 2020	MoE, UN Agencies, multilaterals, Private Sector, NGOs

UNESCO CULTURE COVID-19 STRATEGY FOR THE EASTERN AFRICA REGION

Executive Summary

The COVID-19 virus began affecting the Eastern Africa region in February 2020 and by March 2020 all 13 countries covered by our Regional Office (Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda) are facing increasing numbers of infections and some have already reported deaths from the pandemic.



Member States in our region have joined countries around the world to initiate a wave of preventive measures to protect its populations and humanity as a whole, which have led to:

- Closure of museums, galleries, cultural centers, theatres, cinemas and libraries
- Natural and cultural heritage sites closed to the public
- Major concerts, festivals and other cultural performances cancelled
- Art, literary and other cultural fairs, shows, exhibitions and conferences postponed or cancelled
- Suspension of film and television productions
- Professional meetings and training workshops postponed or cancelled
- Exchange programmes interrupted or cancelled
- Staff of cultural institutions asked to stay home or work from home

and other similar measures.

Amidst this crisis, cultural stakeholders around the world have joined forces to offer immediate relief and emergency measures, which include a wide array of educational and cultural initiatives, such as:

- Organization of concerts, biennales, exhibitions and plays on the web and social media platforms
- Sharing of online learning resources by cultural institutions
- Virtual access to cultural institutions and programmes
- Creation of Emergency Funds for Artists
- East African musicians diffused awareness raising music videos on COVID-19 preventive measures
- Global awareness raising social media campaigns on how artists and performers as well as cultural institutions are affected by the pandemic/lockdown and more

In addition to these direct and indirect effects on culture—including the cultural and creative industries, cultural and natural heritage sites, intangible cultural heritage, underwater cultural heritage, museums and their stakeholders—the pandemic has also led to an increase in hate speech, racism, intolerance and division of individuals, groups and communities associated with the virus, especially online and through social media. This situation can be exacerbated by increased poverty brought about by the lockdown and political tensions due to upcoming elections as well as the on going threat from terrorist groups in the region. Therefore, inter-sectoral efforts are needed to promote cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue and tolerance for peacebuilding and sustainable development in the region. For a comprehensive response to protecting and promoting culture during the COVID-19 pandemic and harnessing the potential of culture for a cross-sectoral response to peace

building and sustainable development in the aftermath of the pandemic, a regional strategy and action plan are required to raise awareness, build capacities and strengthen regional networks to use culture for response, recovery and resilience to the COVID-19 pandemic in the Eastern Africa Region. This strategy needs to be informed by national and regional assessments of national measures taken in response to COVID-19 in the culture sector, on-going monitoring of impacts and initiation of measures to minimize impacts. It can be reinforced by information sharing, peer learning and support through the strong network of UN Country teams and UNESCO Member States around the globe.

The work plan developed to implement this COVID-19 Emergency Response Strategy for Culture includes working across the region to provide regional resources/networks with national implementation and support in collaboration with other UNESCO sectors and UN Country Teams in the region. The strategy outcomes will be achieved through close strategic partnerships with national authorities responsible for culture, national, regional and international experts, and other stakeholders who will participate in the implementation of the strategy.

The activities will draw upon the guidance and network of the UNESCO Conventions in the field of Culture as well as other local, national and regional networks in order to create a viable and active network of cultural stakeholders in Eastern Africa region as well as peer-to-peer exchange, awareness raising and capacity building activities. In addition, efforts will be made to empower governments through the development of forward-thinking national plans for COVID-19 response, recovery and resilience using culture. UNESCO Offices in Nairobi, Addis, Dar es Salaam, Juba, Kampala, Kigali, and Antananarivo will closely monitor all project activities with support from the Secretariats of UNESCO Conventions at Paris Headquarters.

All programmes and activities will take into account gender equality and women's empowerment and will also target youth involvement and leadership.

**UNESCO CULTURE COVID-19 WORKPLAN
FOR THE EASTERN AFRICA REGION
APRIL TO JUNE 2020**



<https://about.futurelearn.com/blog/cultural-impact-of-coronavirus>

Summary of outcomes, outputs and activities

Outcome N°1: Raised awareness, increased capacities and strengthened networks for using culture to respond to and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic in the Eastern Africa region.	
Output N°1: Revised 40C/5 work plan for Culture in the Eastern Africa region (March 2020)	
	Activity 1.1: Offer online support for finalization of Periodic Quadrennial Reports on national implementation of the UNESCO 2005 Convention in Ethiopia, Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Tanzania and Uganda by end May 2020
	Activity 1.2: Postpone dates of all other activities to end 2020 or in 2021
	Activity 1.3: Reallocate parts of RP budgets to emergency response actions
Output N°2: Identification and sharing of Cultural Education resources with UNCT (March-April 2020)	
	Activity 2.1: Research and compile list of UNESCO and partners culture educational resources for use by schools and distribute through UNCTs and Education Sector activities as well as through UNESCO web site
Output N°3: Organization of regional Webinars to support culture stakeholders (April -June 2020)	
	Activity 3.1: Drafting of concept notes, identification of partners and panelists in collaboration with sectors and partners, such as CI, EDU, IICBA, ADMF (Africa Digital Media Foundation)
	Activity 3.2: Organization of a regional webinar on Media on Misinformation and Cultural Diversity with CI Sector

Activity 3.3: Organization of a regional webinar on the development of Distance Education Resources for Museums and Heritage sites with IICBA, EDU and Museum Section
Activity 3.4: Participation in a regional webinar on 'Life after COVID - what do African creatives need to weather the impact of COVID-19 on the industry and their livelihoods?'
Activity 3.5: Organization of follow-up activities on a national levels
Output N°4: Regional Mapping / Research and documentation on impact of COVID-ID on culture (April 2020)
<p>Activity 4.1: Contribute to UNESCO HQ global response by collecting information on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information and data on measures taken by the government on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) restrictions of access to cultural institutions and sites; (b) reprogramming of budgets allocated to cultural activities • Initiatives to assess the social and economic impact of Covid-19 on the cultural sector • Public measures and provisions to support the cultural sector and culture professionals (including artists and artisans) to address the economic and social impact of the crisis • Initiatives aimed at sustaining access to culture in the current confinement context, notably through digital cultural platforms • Initiatives to use cultural contents to support health systems and campaigns, digital media, recreation and sports, distance learning, social inclusion and civic engagement. • Initiatives relating to the use of arts education for distance learning purposes in the current confinement context • Links to specific web pages on the response to the Covid-19 crisis in the culture sector created by UNESCO Nairobi or our 13 Member States
Activity 4.2: Support WH Centre in collecting information on WH sites affected and in launching social media campaign to share heritage (female site managers video testimonials)
Output N°5: Development of COVID-19 digital partnership projects/activities for the Cultural and Creative Industries (CCIs) (April to June 2020)
Activity 5.1: Link with partners to support and curate a web portal of CCI material during this COVID19 period – eg. share information on online shows (exhibitions) or insta-meets, Instagram or Facebook events, digital exhibitions, share short 3 minute modular talks on the creative entrepreneurship, share webinars, Mooks, on CCI...
Activity 5.2: Mobilize Eastern African artists to contribute to the #DontGoViral global campaign designed to activate artists and cultural entrepreneurs across Africa as well as 2005 Convention campaign to promote resilience and support the arts #ResiliArt and #ArtConnects

Output N°6: Development of COVID-19 Resource Mobilization Strategy (April to June 2020)	
	Activity 6.1: Drafting of regional resource mobilization strategy with component on COVID-19 emergency response
	Activity 6.2: Identification of potential project proposal areas to respond to COVID-19 emergency response
	Activity 6.3: Drafting of national and regional project proposals
	Activity 6.4: Identification of potential donors
	Activity 6.5: Mobilization of Funds (beyond 3 months)
	Activity 6.6: Implementation of project activities (beyond 3 months)

Executive Summary

The World Health Organization declared the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) a “pandemic” on Mar. 11, 2020, adding that this is the first "worldwide spread" of a new disease that can be controlled. Since the announcement, UNESCO offices worldwide have taken drastic measures in a variety of ways, from restricting nonessential employee travel to canceling large events. The continual spread of infections and the unpredictability of conditions improving in the short-term reveal a dire situation of a pandemic that has the potential to disrupt planned activities of 2020 without a business continuity response plan.

At the UNESCO Regional Office in Nairobi, the Natural Science Sector supports 13 Member States in Eastern Africa and the adjacent Indian Ocean Islands to address daunting development challenges such as climate change, destruction of natural resources, biodiversity loss, water scarcity, food insecurity, natural hazards and disasters etc. to promote sustainable development. In the advent and wake of COVID-19, the sector has with urgency, reviewed and updated its planned activities for 2020 to ensure operational resiliency. In consonant with the International Science Programmes (ISP) of UNESCO: Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP); Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB); International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme (IGGP); and International Basic Sciences Programme (IBSP) relevant activities that can be implemented virtually are defined and shall be implemented in closed collaboration with relevant national and international partners. Some of these include: mapping of online educational resources, developing animations for basic science concepts as extracurricular activities; organizing webinars for knowledge sharing and skill training on disaster risk reduction etc.

Item No	Programme	Activities	Geographical scope	Timeline
1	Science Policy and Capacity Building	Developing animations for basic science concepts as extracurricular activities – <u>We are in the process of identifying the concepts that need to be developed. The team is defining various concepts and doing a shortlist from a compendium of potential activities. The scripts shall be written within our regular work hours. After a series of reviews and finalization, an animator shall be selected following administrative rules.</u>	Global	<p>August 2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April-May identify the concept and writing the script • May-Middle of June review and finalisation of the concept • May-June Identify the contractor • July-Aug finalise animation
2		Working with Huawei, Microsoft and other open resources to offer online training on Higher Education. UNESCO shall do a mapping of all courses and collaborate with other regional offices to get the courses free of charge to various networks of HEI in Africa. E.g. ANSTI, AAU, AAS etc.	Continental (Africa)	<p>April-June 2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We received web links, currently segregating the same by subject area • Using Python code for this we are writing the code • Preliminary list is being populated by third week of June 2020 the list should be ready for distribution by subject area with direct link
3		Ministerial Meeting on STI – recommendations from the meeting to be implemented in collaboration with Member States	Regional (Eastern Africa)	<p>April-June 2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We started to discuss with AUC officers and other contacts • Currently HQs is working only at Directors level we

Item No	Programme	Activities	Geographical scope	Timeline
				<p>don't know how to proceed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The specialists working in AUC also now taking back seat as UNESCO HQs directly speaking to the Commissioner • We are not sure where to start and how to start as now the task is circulating only at HQs and Filed Offices Director level • We shall wait for clear instruction from HQs to proceed further
4	Women in Science	Production of recorded voices of STEM mentors to be disseminated through the available technology	National (Kenya)	<p>April-June 2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • End of May we expect to collect all the voices from Mentors • During June we shall try to send it all the schools to pass it on to the students as we don't have direct contact with the school students
5	MAB – Biosphere Reserves	Organize Skype Meeting with biosphere reserve managers to discuss the conservation of biosphere Reserves in Rwanda and Uganda noted for the Great Apes and prepare advocacy for conservation of the great apes	National (Rwanda, Uganda)	<p>April-June 2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Already established contacts with the IGCP (International Gorilla Conservation Programme Office) and they are getting in touch with the

Item No	Programme	Activities	Geographical scope	Timeline
				<p>three countries (Rwanda, Uganda and DR Congo) park reserve managers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are in touch with IGCP colleagues once we have confirmed dates, we shall update the same
6	Disaster Risk Reduction	<p>Know DRR - developing an edutainment (learning through entertainment) mobile applications on DRR will be imperative for generating simple, creative, engaging ways of connecting and communicating with school children on DRR. A mobile edutainment App shall therefore be developed on the concept of DRR and the full disaster management cycle: prevention, mitigation and preparedness to response, recovery and rehabilitation to educate school children on DRR</p>	Global	<p>Expected date of completion by Sep 2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drafted concept and ToR circulated to AYAB Members to submit the proposal to write proposal the last date is 15 April to receive • By 25 April we shall finalise the potential content writer and start the process of contract • Contract duration will be 1 May to 15 June to finalise the content • In parallel invite proposal from Smart Phone application developer to develop the app and finalise the formalities by May 20 • Contract with application developer

Item No	Programme	Activities	Geographical scope	Timeline
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expect the final app available for Play/App store by Sep 2020
7		Organization of webinar to give orientation to AYAB members on DRR ahead of a planned face-to-face training programme to be scheduled for advocacy on COVID-19	Continental (Africa)	<p>April-June 2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The first joint webinar was organised on 28 March 2020 on introducing AYAB Working with them to do the second Webinar on COVID 19 awareness to AYAB Members in order to give them the knowledge to do their advocacy in their home countries Multi-party is involved once we finalise the dates shall intimate DIR office As well this is not one-time event, we are trying to work with them on several other awareness creation on disaster risk reduction before we have face to face training
8	IHP	Organize a webinar in collaboration with other regional offices and the World Water Assessment programme to popularize the UN World Water Development Report 2020 on Water and Climate Change.	Continental (Africa)	<p>April-June 2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In coordination with WWAP developed a concept Concept note circulated to AMCOW, ECA and other UN Partners to join hands

Item No	Programme	Activities	Geographical scope	Timeline
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AMCOW indicated their willingness to collaborate and waiting for the response from ECA Based on the response from partners the dates will be decided and communicated to the Director Office
9		Turkana Water Security Project – awaiting approval of the contract committee scheduled to meet on 9th April. Contracting processes and implementation shall commence on approval	County level – Kenya	<p>Till end of 2021, will address the immediate need on water supply issues in the first phase</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contract Committee will meet on 9th April and I am not sure when the decision will be conveyed to us When it is approved, we need to create the vendor for the selected partner and go through the administrative process for excursion of the contract After approval of contract committee we will be able to negotiate with the approved contractor to modify the plan in order to accommodate the some of the task on providing local solution for water supply in Turkana

Item No	Programme	Activities	Geographical scope	Timeline
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are not able to provide you the confirmed date as everything depends on the contract committee decision and approval of the partner • Upon approval of partner we shall rearrange some of the task as indicated above

Contribution received from Dar es Salam Office

Natural Science Sector –DAR, COVID-19 Emergency Plan

Item No	Programme	Activities	Geographical scope	Timeline
1	IHP	Support promotion of scientific innovations in research and technology in water supply sewerage and water resources management during Africa WATER WEEK 2020	Bagamoyo	Sept-Dec 2020
2		Support Ministry of Water to review National Water Policy 2002 to integrate current water security challenges	Dodoma	May- July 2020
3		Support and Facilitate Ministry of Water to harmonize the conflicting current available hydrological reserves data and information (through UNESCO IHP-WINS)	Dodoma	April-June 2020
4	Science Policy and Capacity Building	Support Multi-stakeholders Mapping, Data Base development and Capacity Building on UNESCO's Global Observatory of Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Instruments	Morogoro	May –Aug 2020
5	Geosciences	Support Organization of the First International Geo-park Conference	Arusha	Sept-Dec 2020

No response received from Addis Office:



Regional Office
for Eastern Africa

United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

SOCIAL AND HUMAN SCIENCES SECTOR

COVID 19 RESPONSE STRATEGY AND ACTIVITY PLAN

APRIL – JUNE 2020

I. BACKGROUND

The impact of COVID 19 has put states, public health systems, economies, societies, communities, and individuals under utmost pressure, many questions have arisen about the norms and criteria that could help sound decision-making process in response to the emergency. More than 42,300 people have died from COVID-19, while over 859,000 infections have been confirmed in at least 180 countries and territories. More than 178,000 have recovered from the coronavirus.

UNESCO has joined its partners around the world in the global fight against the pandemic, in supporting countries in their efforts to mitigate the immediate impact of school closures, particularly for more vulnerable and disadvantaged communities and to facilitate the continuity of education for all; Promotion of the values that underpin sport and physical education as a unifying force as well as having a significance in the promotion of physical and mental wellbeing in society are clearly reflected in various instruments, documents and programmes that have been developed by the Organization over the years. In addition, UNESCO has also been working with member states to ensure that actions taken by member states are governed by ethical principles and working with the National Bioethics Committees, which ensure that the practices and regulations provided by the states are carried out.

II. THEMATIC/PROGRAMMATIC FOCUS AND DIRECTION

In response to the global health crisis in the Eastern Africa region, the Social and Human Sciences Sector at the UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa will support Member States in the region in strengthening public policy-making based on scientific and humanities evidence, build institutional and human capacities at all levels, to generate, manage and apply knowledge for inclusive development that is founded on ethical values and human rights, with particular attention to the most vulnerable. These proposed actions below should be viewed as immediate and short-term responses, given the urgency of the situation, but equally seen as potentially positioning UNESCO as a leader in this area, in the medium to long term.

Within the next three months in response to COVID-19, the sector will, among others, ensure the following in the region:

- (1) Support communities, particularly the young and vulnerable in the region to adapt to this new situation through resilience building initiatives.
- (2) Promote the use of Physical Education and value based Sport as an integral part of the solution, both in terms of its significance to maintaining a healthy life, and as a vehicle to convey messages about universal values.
- (3) Enhancing the ethical principles and values relating to universal access to health and health care.
- (4) Strengthening the creation, production and distribution of knowledge among cities in response to the global pandemic.

With this strategic context in mind, SHS work in the region during the COVID-19 Response will be structured around five broad thematic areas, including:

- i) Research and Knowledge generation,
- ii) Bioethics and Ethics of Science and Technology,
- iii) Inclusion and Human Rights;
- iv) Youth development and empowerment;
- v) Sports and Physical Education, and are briefly elaborated below.

(1) Research and Knowledge Generation

The Sector will develop a regional knowledge brokering and evidence informed decision making activity to translate knowledge in to action, in the spheres of universal access to health. The activity will target researchers and decision makers in health and related fields.

(2) Bioethics and Ethics of Science and Technology

The sector will continue to build capacities of ethics educators in institutions of higher learning as those in health sectors through Ethics Teacher Training Course (ETTC). The sector will also engage the National Bioethics Committees as well as the Africa Network of Ethics and National Bioethics Committee on the ethical principles relating to universal access to health and health care.

(3) Inclusion and Human Rights;

The sector will engage with cities under the Africa Coalition of Cities (ICCAR Africa Chapter) in sharing good practices and stories through online platforms, particularly how they engage with private sectors, their response case management as well as how they conduct risk communication and social mobilization.

(4) Youth Development and Empowerment

The sector plans to engage particularly the youth through:

- Skill development on supplementary income generation (freelancing),
- Nutrition and Food preservation,
- Hygiene Education - Soap making,
- Online Etiquette and Exposure to online courses
- Social Protection aspects such as health insurance, paid leave, tax waivers etc

(5) Sport and Physical Education

In trying to contribute to the physical and mental wellbeing of the youth to minimize the chances of vulnerability to violent extremism, the sector will promote the engagement of value based indoor and virtual sports, with a specific target of young people in low-income areas.

IV. STRATEGIC CONTEXT

These proposed actions above should be viewed as immediate and short-term responses, given the urgency of the situation, but equally seen as potentially positioning UNESCO as a leader in this area, in the medium to long term. To enhance the proposed actions recommended, it would be important for SHS to leverage its partnership with the Education Sector, in order to maximize UNESCO's outreach to stakeholder audiences and amplify its visibility. The sector will be keen to work with the Line Ministries, National Commissions, UN partners, Youth and Sport Organizations etc.

In summary, SHS' vision and strategy for engagement moving forward responding to the COVID-19 pandemic will be informed and guided by three main instruments/documents (the "whats") and approaches (the "hows") and by a listing of events and activities to completed or implemented. These are:

- An SHS-Africa Strategy developed in Banjul, the Gambia in 2019. The strategy, promotes among others, intersectorality and interregionality, in order to facilitate better coordination, enhance efficiency and above all, truly deliver as ONE UNESCO, within the broader UN-wide System.
- Regular engagement at the UNCT level, with actions and interventions informed largely by specific country priorities, and with relevant regional structures, including R-UNDG, with a view to support implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- More engagement with UNESCO national offices, antennas and other relevant stakeholders, including National Commissions, UNESCO Chairs, academics, youth and civil society organizations, thus complimenting point 2, above.
- Finally, intense public outreach designed to achieve high-level visibility in the media, and other avenues of popular engagement.

KEY ACTIVITIES	PARTNERS	SCOPE	COUNTRY/ LOCATION	APRIL 2020	MAY 2020	JUNE 2020
Activity 1: Physical and Mental health activities 1.1 International Day of Sport for Development and Peace (<i>StayHomeStayActive</i>) 1.2 Youth Engagement on Value Based Indoor & Virtual Sports.	Line Ministries, NATCOMS, PAYCOP & Youth Networks	Regional	Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Djibouti, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Rwanda & Mauritius			
Activity 2: Engagement with the Cities on COVID-19 good practices and stories through online platforms.	City of Kampala	National	Uganda			
Activity 3: Skill Development of Youth on Alternative Income Generation, Nutrition and Food Preservation, Hygiene Education, Social Protection & Online Etiquette Education.	Ministry of Health, Digital Humanitarian, WFP, Kenyatta University	Regional	Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Djibouti, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Rwanda, Somalia, Mauritius			
Activity 4: Engagement with the Network of Africa Ethics and Bioethics on ethical principles universal health and healthcare. 4.1 Reflection meeting with the National Bioethics Committee of Kenya and sub-regional representative of Africa Bioethics Network on response to COVID-19 pandemic in the region.	Ministry of Health, NACOSTI-Kenya, NATCOMS, NBCs, Universities, Hospitals etc.	Regional & National	Africa/ Kenya			
Activity 5: Development of background materials on COVID 19 evidence based policy-action nexus.	Institutions of Higher Learning, Researchers, Policy Makers in the health & related fields, etc	Regional				

TENTATIVE DATES FOR ACTIVITIES

1	International Day of Sport for Development and Peace (<i>StayHomeStayActive</i>) –	6 April 2020
2	Youth Engagement on Value Based Indoor & Virtual Sports. –	Ongoing
3	Engagement with the Cities on COVID-19 good practices and stories through online platforms. –	Ongoing
4	Skill Development of Youth on Alternative Income Generation, Nutrition and Food Preservation, Hygiene Education, Social Protection & Online Etiquette Education. –	10 May 2020
5	Engagement with the Network of Africa Ethics and Bioethics on ethical principles universal health and healthcare.	15 MAY 2020
6	Reflection meeting with the National Bioethics Committee of Kenya and sub-regional representative of Africa Bioethics Network on response to COVID-19 pandemic in the region –	30 May 2020
7	Development of background materials on COVID 19 evidence based policy-action nexus. –	15 June 2020

COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SECTOR

COVID-19 RESPONSE STRATEGY AND WORKPLAN FOR EASTERN AFRICA

APRIL TO JUNE 2020

BACKGROUND

Since its outbreak, the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic has brought the world into a standstill, through various forms of lockdown, social distancing and self-quarantine. In Africa, as in other parts of the world, the pandemic is affecting every sphere of life including travel, education, business, informal sector, religion, health and entertainment. The public demand for information is unprecedented. The pandemic has attracted a huge amount of attention in media.

Accurate, credible media coverage is crucial to stimulating informed public debate and educating the public about the global pandemic, COVID 19. Identifying and responding to hate speech in an appropriate manner and promoting cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue takes experience and training. When hate speech includes the direct incitement of violence or dehumanizes individuals, groups or communities, it is obvious that a line of acceptability has been crossed.

UNESCO has joined its partners around the world in the global fight against the pandemic, in supporting countries in their efforts to mitigate the immediate impact of school closures, particularly for more vulnerable and disadvantaged communities and to facilitate the continuity of education for all. UNESCO is closely monitoring the impact of this crisis on **media freedom, safety of journalists, and the fundamental right to access information**. In a context of unprecedented challenges for the media and digital technology sectors, UNESCO has created a “[resource center of selected responses to COVID-19](#)” with actions to support media, enhance access to information, and leverage digital technologies in the fight against the pandemic.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Communication and Information Sectors support will support **fostering freedom of expressions, safety and security of journalists, access to information**, and through **building knowledge societies through ICTs** to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic in the region. This will be done through strengthening cooperation with governments, media regulatory bodies, media organizations, non-state actors in the Eastern Africa region to;

- ✓ **support enhancement of media pluralism and diversity;**
- ✓ **freedom of expression, safety of journalists and interrelated human rights;**
- ✓ **enhance access to Information and leveraging of digital technologies in the fight against the pandemic;**
- ✓ **combating and tackling disinformation during the COVID-19 pandemic; and**
- ✓ **enhance professional reporting on COVID-19.**

It is fundamental –and now urgent in the current climate of the COVID-19 pandemic–for individuals to understand how, by improving their information, media, and technological knowledge, skills, and attitude as well as by broadening their appreciation of cultural diversity, they can more meaningfully engage in intercultural dialogue, peacebuilding and sustainable development, while respecting human rights and promoting better governance.

LINKAGE TO SDGS

All seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) resonate with these objectives, particularly, **SDGs 4, 5, 11, 16, and 17**.

PARTNERS

The partners to be involved in implementing planned interventions in response to COVID-19 will include Government line ministries (ICTs and Education), Media Organizations, UNESCO NATCOMs, Academia, NGOs, and Other UN Agencies

INTERSECTORAL COLLABORATION

UNESCO will also build on existing synergies among its Communications & Information, Culture, Education, and Social and Human Sciences Sectors.

WORKPLAN

Thematic area	Outputs/outcomes/activities (OOA)		Target countries	Geographical scope	Inter-sectoral collaboration	Timeline
Freedom of Expression, safety of journalists, media pluralism and diversity, media and information literacy	Outcomes1: a) Raised, sensitized and increased awareness of Member States to enhance protection and promotion of freedom of expression online/off-line, right of access to information and safety of journalists, in accordance with international standards during the COVID-19 pandemic b) Media stakeholders empowered through media and information literacy Output: a) Awareness raised among the Media stakeholders including the duty bearers and policy makers along with media organizations and media professionals and citizens at large, on issues related to freedom of expression, press freedom and access to information during the COVID-19 pandemic in Eastern Africa b) Awareness raised among media stakeholders and citizens at large on media and information literacy in response to COVID-19 pandemic					
	Activity:	a) Sensitize media professionals, and citizens on issues related freedom of expression, press freedom, and right to access to information	Kenya, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Uganda	Regional	CI	April to June
		b) Convene Webinar on Deconstructing Misinformation, Hate speech, and Racism for the Promotion of Cultural Diversity, Peace Building and Sustainable Development	Kenya, Rwanda, Seychelles, Mauritius, Tanzania, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Uganda,	Regional	CLT/SHS	14 April 2020
		c) Support strengthening capacities (human and institutional) on radio programming and production by community radios on issues related to COVID-19 pandemic	Kenya, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Uganda	National	CI	April to June
		d) Development and submission of proposal for online training has been adapted for COVID-19 response in Eastern Africa	Tanzania	National	CI	April to June

		e) Development of IEC factsheets on misinformation during COVID-19 pandemic	Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, & Uganda	National	CI	April/May
		f) Monitoring and Documenting Press Violations, safety and security incidences against journalists during COVID-19 coverage	Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda	National	CI	April/June
Building knowledge societies through IFAP and Open Solutions	Outcome2: a) Young people empowered on preventing and combating violent extremism and development of mobile applications using open solutions and ICTs Outputs: b) Awareness raised on development of mobile applications and youth empowered on developing preventing and combating violent extremism using ICTs and media					
	Activity:	a) Development of an interactive Mobile Application for dissemination of COVID-19 IEC materials and respond to FAQ in English and Amharic	Ethiopia	National	CI	April to June
		b) Convene a regional online knowledge exchange and information session (webinar) for Youth on Preventing and Combating Violent Extremism using ICTs and Media	Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Somalia, Uganda	Regional	SHS	April/May