

DIGITAL LEARNING IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION IN AFRICA PROBLEMS, EFFECTS, SOLUTIONS

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24 June 2020

**Webinar: Distance learning in
early grade levels**

Problem – Fragile Education Systems in Africa



The ultimate aim of any EARLY EDUCATION SYSTEM is to equip young children with the numeracy, learning to read, literacy and wider skills that they need to realise their potential - individual and public good

Effect of Covid- 19 – Locking learning in the home

SURVIVAL MODE

Wellbeing & Safety – basic necessities in life

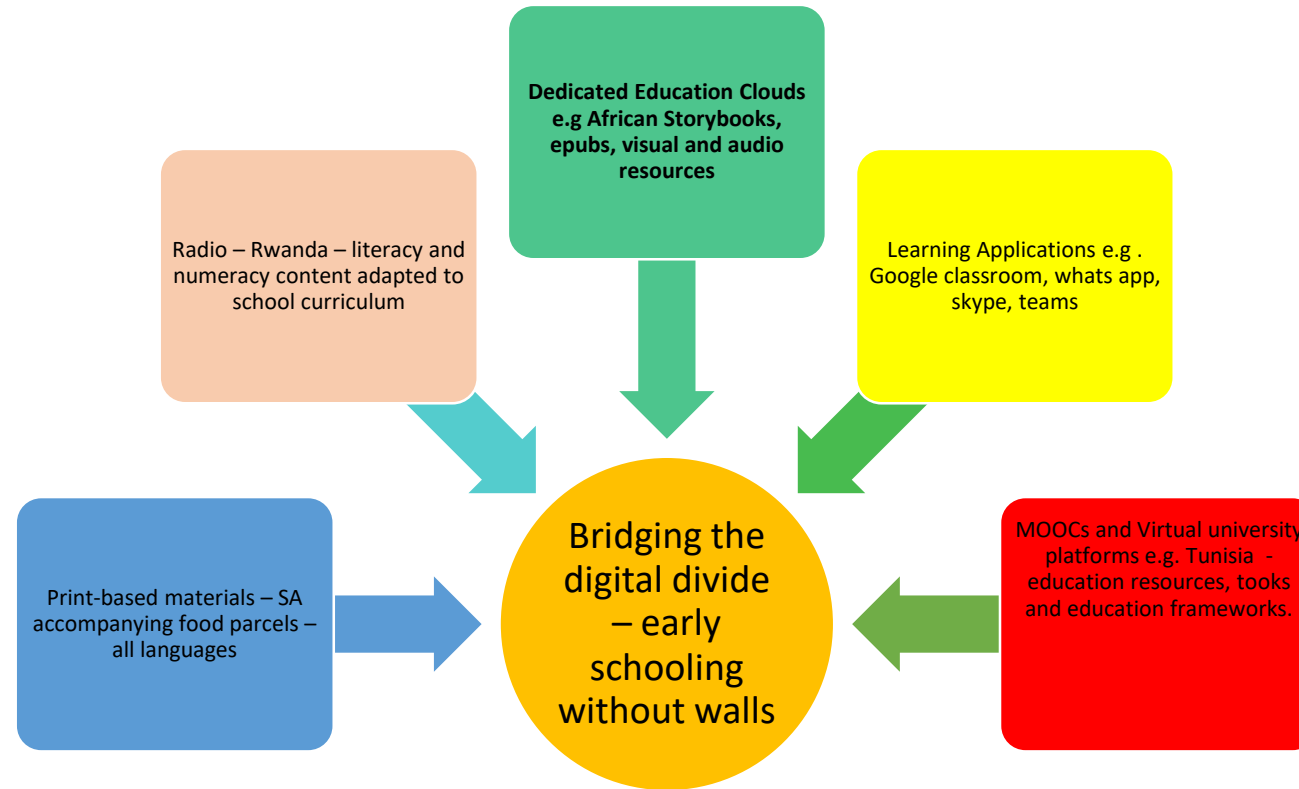
THRIVE MODE

Remote/Digital Learning - more seamless transitions

- Disparities between families impacts on support children receive for early learning.
- Young children living in poverty, girls and those with special needs are particularly vulnerable.
Digital learning - limited access, functionalities & resources

PARENTS ARE NOT TEACHERS. TEACHERS OF YOUNG CHILDREN NEED TO SUPPORT PARENTS TO HELP THEIR CHILDREN

Promising practices so far



Partnerships - supply of devices and data packages – mobile buses supply connectivity to poor communities

Mauritius - beginning with the most vulnerable - plans to provide free internet package to vulnerable households on the social register - children from the poorer households to continue learning.

Solutions for
the future:
“build back
better” (World
Bank, 2020)
“education
reimagined”
(Fullan et al
2020)

Education System for Early Learning

- Funding – staking a claim, priority to most vulnerable – no fee paying quintiles
- Holistic child development, play-based learning, 6 Cs
- Remote to hybrid model - best of in-school and remote learning, with digital engagement that is appropriate for young children – M&E
- Data generation –what works

Teacher Capacity

- Professional development (AAU)– psychosocial support, digital skills, assessment of learning loss and learning recovery strategies, pedagogies of engagement, at risk children, caregivers as partners

Parent Support

- Home-school transitions
- Learning support – learning lifelines

Partnerships for Joint Actions

- AU, ADEA, UNESCO, UNICEF with tech giants, telecommunications, medical and health coalitions