

# Virtual Regional Meeting of the Teacher Task Force for Africa

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# Introduction

- Since the lockdown due to Covid 19 , Education International ( EI) has taken many initiatives at global and regional levels
- Like many other education stakeholders, EI regularly organizes webinars to help share information and experiences on the impacts of COVID-19 on education and on the education personnel, as well as alternative means used to ensure continuity of learning while educators and their learners are confined.
- In addition, EI continues to organise global and regional responses to the crisis, defending rights, offering guidance and support towards a more just, safe, equitable and healthy post-pandemic world.
- On the 18 of May EI Africa had a regional webinar with member organizations. to share experience regarding COVID-19 and to agreed on the prerequisites for going back to schools .



# CHALLENGES

- Members raised concern with regards to the discrepancies and inequalities that the lockdowns were causing with fears that SDGS could be further compromised: E learning initiatives are excluding the poor, vulnerable and learners in remote areas.
- Lack of support for teachers: No capacity building is given by governments to support teachers to provide distance learning
- No access to appropriate resources for the transition to online and/or distance learning.
- Not much is being done with regards to psycho-social support services .
- Temporary contract and private school teachers do not receive their salaries



## PREREQUISITES FOR SCHOOL'S REOPENING

- There are critical issues for governments to take into consideration, as countries gradually begin to re-open education institutions.
- It is imperative that governments communicate transparently and continuously about the plans for reopening onsite education.

For a safe reopening of schools, E Africa Region recommend the following policy considerations and options:



# **Governments should**

1. Ensure the Health and Safety of Students, Teachers and Education Support Personnel including:

- adequate water and sanitation facilities in every school: clean toilets, running water, boreholes, water bowsers personal protective equipment such as face masks. etc.
- Social distancing and the protection of educators and students, through double shift system; phased approach, starting with examination classes

2. Additional measures should be taken to safeguard the health and wellbeing of vulnerable staff and students and pay the salaries for teachers in private schools



3. engage in genuine Social and Policy Dialogue: Involve unions in decisions related to COVID-19 response in education and school reopening. The labour rights of teachers and education support personnel should be respected and decent working conditions maintained or restore
4. provide psychosocial support for students and educators: Ensure that systems are in place to support the wellbeing and mental health of children, students and education staff, including through dedicated psychosocial support and counselling

## **Education unions should**

5. proactively work with governments to ensure that the best interests of teachers, education support personnel and students are considered when decisions on reopening, curriculum, assessment and other measures are taken.



# Conclusion

If it is necessary to reopen schools to ensure the education of students, it is all the same necessary to protect the lives of educators, support personnel as well as learners. Therefore it would be crucial to make sure all the safety and security measures are met, before engaging in the reopening, and there should not be any compromise by the education stakeholders



**THANK YOU**

