KIX Africa 19 Hub

MEETING REPORT
KIX Africa 19 Hub October Virtual Meeting
Reported by the KIX Hub Secretariat

Date: Monday, 19 October 2020

Time: 14:00 – 15:30 EAS

Participants: *41 participants from* Africa Capacity-building Foundation (ACBF); African Early Childhood Network (AfECN); East African Community; IDRC; IFEF; IICBA; UNESCO; UNICEF, VVOB.
Country teams represented: Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, The Gambia, Uganda and Zambia

Meeting Objectives:

The virtual meeting aimed to:
- Present the proposed structure of the Hub's **digital repository** and collect members' feedback
- Discuss upcoming activities in the **Hub's work plan**.

I. Introduction, IICBA

Dr. Tilaye and Chelsea Lavallee welcomed participants and facilitated member introductions. Dr. Tilaye introduced the topics for the meeting: the digital repository and the work plan, and he added that the meeting will allow the members to learn about the Hub's progress since the last meeting and the way forward.

II. The Africa 19 Digital Repository, Chelsea Lavallee, IICBA

Chelsea presented on the Africa 19 digital repository, which is meant to house all relevant education policy and research resources and will facilitate knowledge sharing, dissemination and utilization among the 18 countries in the Hub. The digital repository will contain three main components: 1) a digital library housing policy and research documentation 2) interactive spaces to allow collaboration between members, including Google tools, an online discussion tool, a chat, polling and survey tools, a member directory across all four regional KIX hubs and monitoring, evaluation and learning tools (MEL) and 3) multimedia such as videos, images and infographics.

Through consultations with the Consortium partners and IDRC, the proposed structure will directly link the IDRC's KIX digital platform (gpekix.org) and the IICBA KIX site. The first phase of the KIX digital platform was launched in July 2020. When completed, it will house a document library and multimedia. A team of developers are currently creating the interactive tools. The IICBA site, which already contains Africa 19's announcements, multimedia and documentation, will expand to include a directory of key resources and websites organized by country, which will connect to IDRC's KIX digital platform.

The following timeline was presented:
- Before November 1, 2020: the Secretariat will send 1) a Communications questionnaire to all members in order to understand their communications preferences and needs, and 2) a list of

compiled education documents by country. These resources were compiled to complete the In-Depth Country Mapping. Each country team will be asked to validate the list and contribute further resources to be added to the repository.
- <u>November 1, 2020</u>: the IICBA directory page and the Africa 19 social media will be launched.
- <u>Late November to early December 2020</u>: IDRC will launch the document library, multimedia and interactive tools on the KIX digital platform.

Chelsea encouraged as much feedback as possible from members, as the digital repository and its tools are meant to facilitate countries' knowledge sharing and learning. The idea is to tailor the repository to countries' needs as much as possible.

III. Discussion Question and Answer, Chelsea Lavallee, IICBA

Participants posed the following questions in relation to the digital repository:

Question 1: Many members currently use other knowledge platforms, like the ECDAN platform. How will this KIX digital repository link to other knowledge hubs?

- **Response:** The communications questionnaire, which will be sent out this week, will ask each member to list other knowledge hubs that they currently use. Using this feedback, the secretariat and consortium partners will find ways to create linkages to these platforms.

Question 2: Can you provide more information on the interactive tools on the platform and how it will work?

- **Response:** We will wait until the tools are launched by IDRC before going into too much detail, but it will include the tools already mentioned, like forums, chats, polls, Google tools and others. Once the IDRC launches the second phase of the KIX digital platform, we will do an online demonstration with all our members on how to use the tools, how to log in and how to set preferences. Each member will have an account which can be directly linked to a professional or personal email account. Automatic notifications can be set to notify you when there is new information or when new discussions are going on, and you can participate via email without even needed to log in to the platform, once this feature is enabled.

Question 3: When collecting information and documents for the digital repository, how will we handle ethical issues?

- **Response:** When we collect documents and research to be posted on the digital platform, we will only be re-posting open source resources. We will not be posting copyrighted information without permission. The majority of resources we have collected already, which the country teams will validate, are from the Ministries' website, GPE or the UNESCO International Institute of Educational Planning (IIEP). If there are other copyrighted publications that are not open source, we can look into how to appropriately post those publications on the platform.

Question 4: How will information be synthesized on the portal? How can we do further investigation to include all relevant documentation. There are many long documents but it is important to make the key messages clear and accessible because when there is too much text, no one can utilize the knowledge.

- **Response:** In terms of relevant documentation, we have compiled all the information that has been shared by our country focal points in the past, by country, and the Secretariat is investigating other important data and evidence. We will make suggestions on other documents that we haven't been able to find, but that might exist within the Ministry. In terms of synthesizing key

messages, we agree that we need to make data and evidence readily available. We plan to do so through the chat and discussion forums, which will be utilized once the Hub sets up its communities of practice. With these tools, we can highlight key information and discuss key messages in more detail. In addition to the digital repository, the Hub itself will have a lot of methods for extracting and sharing key messages, for example the In-Depth Country mapping report was accompanied by an infographic that summarized key takeaways.

Question 5: What are the actions expected from countries to prepare for the repository website?
- **Response:** Members will receive a communications questionnaire and a list of resources compiled by country via email this week. We kindly ask all members to respond to the communications questionnaire. We ask each country team to validate the list of resources and to contribute additional resources for the digital repository.

Question 6: Will there be a guide to help countries participate in the repository?
- **Response:** There will be a guide on how to use the digital platform and the Secretariat will conduct a demonstration with all countries on how to use the platform and how to set up individual accounts.

Question 7: Is there a plan to build capacity of country representatives by providing ICT training or equipment. We cannot assume that all countries have reliable internet access.
- **Response:** We will build countries' capacities to use the platform's tools via the demonstration. The Hub will also conduct an ICT needs assessment for all 18 countries during the last quarter of 2020 and first quarter of 2021. The idea is to assess countries' current practices using ICT, ways of collaborating online, the internet connection, common challenges, so the Hub can respond and take countries' contexts into account. The assessment will also collect good practices to be shared amongst the Hub's members. For countries with weak internet reliability, we will try to integrate offline tools as much as possible.

Question 8: How recent should the resources for the repository be, within 3 or 5 years?
- **Response:** Resources should be from approximately the last 5 years. In some cases, older research or documents that are still relevant should be included. We encourage members to share any data and evidence that they think is relevant.

IV. The Hub Work Plan & Upcoming Activities, Dr. Tilaye, IICBA

Dr. Tilaye highlighted the upcoming activities for the 4th quarter, including finalization of the baseline assessment; compiling country factsheets; a rapid assessment survey of capacity strengthening and research needs; capacity strengthening activities based on the rapid assessment results; visibility and communications activities; monthly virtual meetings and launching the digital repository.

The current responses (15 in total) to the rapid assessment survey show that respondents would like further training in policy design and analysis; education planning and projection techniques; project cycle management; results-based management and MEL; transformational leadership training; instructional leadership, mentoring and coaching and student learning during COVID-19. Economics of education and governance of education were additional training areas suggested by respondents.

Most respondents prefer face to face training. However, due to the current pandemic, the trainings will have to take place virtually. When it is safe to meet in person we will do so.

Respondents' reported priority areas for further research include methods for improving girls' school performance and completion; existing good practice on school-based gender-based violence; barriers to effective instructional leadership and teacher support; using ICT in teaching and learning and good practices for developing national learning assessment systems.

The way forward for the Hub should reinforce members' collaboration and cooperation, strong responsiveness and sharing best practices across countries.

V. Discussion Question and Answer, Dr. Tilaye, IICBA

Question 1: What sort of cooperation and collaboration do you have in mind?

- **Response:** The Hub plans to conduct capacity strengthening led by organizations that have expertise in the areas identified by the Hub's members. The Hub's partners are invited to take part in the capacity strengthening initiatives and/or sharing innovations or research outputs via the digital repository. Additionally, we encourage the countries who have not yet nominated their additional four focal points to the country team to please do so. The country team is meant to include three representatives from the Ministry of Education and two representatives from the Local education group (LEG).

VI. Conclusion, Dr. Victoria Kisaakye, IICBA

Dr. Kisaakye thanked everyone for attending the meeting on behalf of the Secretariat. Your engagement and active participation are very important to the KIX Hub. We hope we can meet in person soon. We hope you will remain active in the Hub's activities and send your feedback to the surveys and for the country factsheets.

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