

Education Response to COVID-19: Virtual knowledge-sharing workshop on distance education programmes using radio and television in the Arab States

Tuesday 21 July 2020 (12:00pm – 1:30pm Beirut time / 11:00 – 12:30 CET)

Registration Link: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_XAEhVWLLT4Wd7CTo8vrvxA
Password: 797409

Live transmission via YouTube: https://youtu.be/7gt3LiG_f0g



Organized by

Regional Bureau for Education in the Arab States
Division of Policies and Lifelong Learning Systems, Education Sector, UNESCO Paris
The European Broadcasting Union
The Arab States Broadcasting Union (ASBU)
In the framework of the Global Coalition for Education

Context

The Covid-19 pandemic has caused education disruptions in most countries around the world. Many governments have temporarily closed educational institutions in an attempt to contain the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. These nationwide closures have impacted more than 90% of the world's student population. Several other countries have implemented localized closures impacting millions of additional learners.

Many countries rushed to online distance education to ensure continuity of education. However, some 826 million students (50%) who are kept out of schools due to the COVID-19 pandemic, do not have access to a computer, about 706 million (43%) lack Internet access and 56 million live in areas not covered by mobile networks.

For many teachers, [the use of digital tools is also a challenge](#). In fact, the closure of schools has left them with little time to find solutions to ensure continuity of teaching. As such, many do not have the skills required or digital equipment, while others lack connectivity due to insufficient financial means and/or lack of local supply.

When it comes to the Arab region, where 13 million children and youth are already out-of-school due to conflict, it faces additional challenges owing to the more than 100 million affected learners across the region as per the estimation of Global monitoring of school closures caused by COVID-19 in early April 2020. In a similar manner as countries of other regions, some Arab countries have adopted online learning modalities to provide alternative educational resources for students amid suspension of regular classes. However, given that more than half (51.3%) of the population in the Arab States are not using the Internet nor mobile internet according to ITU's 2019 ICT Development Index, TV-based learning is the most widely adopted measure as opposed to radio-based learning, which is only used in a handful of countries identified by the report of the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Education in the Arab States on alternative solutions to school closure in Arab Countries¹.

Such 'traditional' media were either used on their own to provide education or accompanied with online learning to cover a wider range of learners, including vulnerable and disadvantaged groups who lack the financial means to be equipped with digital devices and broadband connectivity. For instance, the Saudi Arabian Ministry of Education deployed TV along with social media to broadcast lessons for all grades and has designated 127 supervisors and teachers to deliver daily lessons in 112 educational subjects through 19 TV channels (broadcasting nationally from a classroom in Riyadh). In addition, the Lebanese Ministry of Education and Higher Education included issues such as raising awareness on COVID-19 and psychosocial support for parents/caregivers and learners in TV episodes besides educational materials.

As for the radio, which has been distinctly less featured in the region, it is still often a recommended tool for governments in resource-constrained countries worldwide, especially when taking advantages of interactive radio instruction (IRI) techniques and repurposed audio materials to ensure educational continuity of students and to provide the governments with a more accessible and affordable intervention².

The following are some of the questions that are frequently raised across countries and that led Regional Bureau for Education in the Arab States, the Division of Policies and Lifelong Learning Systems in the Education Sector at UNESCO Paris, the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) and the Arab States Broadcasting Union (ASBU) to organize this virtual

¹ For more information, please see [here](#)

² For more information, please see [here](#)

workshop to facilitate knowledge sharing on educational radio and television broadcasts, in the context of school closures during and after COVID-19.

- How can quality audio-visual educational programmes be developed and implemented? What capacities are needed?
- What is the role of educators, communicators and education authorities in supporting TV and radio-based education?
- What are the expected learning outcomes and how can they be measured and monitored?

Objectives and Expected Outcomes:

It is against this backdrop that within the partnership of the Global Education Coalition, and Regional Bureau for Education in the Arab States and the Division of Policies and Lifelong Learning Systems in the Education Sector at UNESCO Paris have joined hands with EBU and ASBU to organize a series of regional virtual workshops in support of expanding the use of audio-visual means to provide quality distance education programmes and experiences as part of a vital education response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Aligned with the global joint efforts, the objectives of the virtual workshop for the Arab region are to facilitate knowledge sharing, exchange good practices in the development of educational audiovisuals and share regional challenges and opportunities of using TV and radio in distance learning in order to strengthen collaboration between educational content developers and audiovisual specialists.

The recordings of these workshops will serve as a basis for the production of modules and other resources for all interested countries. More technical follow-up sessions will be considered according to the needs expressed by participating countries.

At the end of the virtual workshop, participants will acquire:

- A better understanding of strategies and key elements necessary to develop and implement quality audio-visual programs
- Knowledge to enter into and sustain strong partnerships between education content developers and audiovisual specialists

Concretely, the virtual workshop will aim at generating discussions and sharing good practices/models centering around the following questions among others, with a view to recommending a way forward:

- How do audio-visual programmes fit into overall education/ICT policy provision?
- What are key elements for quality programme development? (contents, partners, resources, etc.)
- How can education audiovisual programmes be made attractive and create some interactions with the audience?
- How can viewer satisfaction be monitored, and feedback implemented for quality improvement?
- How can countries measure and monitor learning outcomes?
- How can countries build capacities in Ministries of Education, and Communications governmental agencies (i.e. Ministry of Communications)?

Target audience and panelists

The target audience will include education officials and managers, television and radio broadcasters as well as teacher trainers and teachers involved in the production of educational content.

The panelists will be educators and professionals in public/private service radio and television, with wide experience in the development and dissemination of educational contents through radio and television in diverse contexts, as well as representatives from Ministries of Education.

Live transmission via Youtube

- [Live streaming](#) will be provided for those who might not be able to register in advance or to join due to limited capacity of the platform.

Languages of the virtual workshop

The webinar will mainly be conducted in Arabic. English and Arabic simultaneous interpretation will be provided. Once participants have entered the Zoom platform, they will be able to select language at the bottom of the platform. Those accessing via YouTube live transmission will have access to the webinar in the spoken language.

To activate interpretation services, kindly click on the Interpretation button (as shown in the below picture) and choose the language of your preference.

PS: For Arabic Interpretation, please choose French since ZOOM does not have Arabic as an option in the drop-down menu.



Moderated Q&A

Prior to official launch of the webinar, we collect questions from participants who might have difficulties to register or to join due to limited capacity of the platform. Therefore, if you have questions on distance education programmes using TV and radio, please kindly send us your inquiries a.jang@unesco.org or e.imad@unesco.org.

Registration

- [Registration](#) is free and required in advance. Password: 797409
- Once you register, a unique join URL will be sent to your email.
- Join a series of webinars on [UNESCO's COVID-19 education response](#)