



CALL FOR ABSTRACTS
CONTINENTAL SYMPOSIUM FOR EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH AND INNOVATION
REIMAGINING EDUCATION FOR A BETTER IMPACT ON LEARNING OUTCOMES IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA



CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Submission of abstracts by July 8, 2022

Context

As part of the Knowledge and Innovation Exchange (KIX) Hub project, a joint initiative of the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), the KIX Africa 21 and KIX Africa 19 regional hubs are organizing a continental joint, inter-hub research symposium that will bring together regional and national policymakers, researchers and academics to exchange critical knowledge on innovations, evidence and good practices to improve student learning outcomes amidst contextual challenges in sub-Saharan Africa, particularly after the disruption of education systems related to COVID-19.

KIX operates through two main mechanisms which contribute to strengthening national education systems through relevant and actionable data:

1. Knowledge Exchange: KIX creates spaces for GPE partner countries to share information, innovations, and best practices relevant to their needs and priorities, and disseminates knowledge generated by KIX-funded projects. Knowledge exchange is facilitated by KIX's four regional hubs.
2. Applied Research Projects: KIX projects provide evidence, mobilize knowledge, and build the capacity of education stakeholders on how to adapt and scale up innovations that meet the education priorities of GPE partner countries.

KIX brings together 70 low- and middle-income countries that are members of the Global Partnership for Education to identify common policy challenges and facilitate knowledge sharing and evidence accumulation. KIX is currently funding 36 projects in these 70 countries.

Presentation of the Organizing Hubs – KIX Africa 19 / KIX Africa 21 Hubs

The Africa 19 Hub addresses the challenges faced by sub-Saharan African countries in providing quality, inclusive and equitable education in order to transform their societies and develop. It facilitates cross-country knowledge exchange, knowledge use, learning, synthesis, and collaboration among national education actors in 18 member countries of the Global Partnership for Education in East, South and West Africa.

KIX's Africa 21 Hub brings together countries that have a common history, geography and environmental characteristics in education and language, in addition to similar socio-economic challenges. The Africa 21 Hub facilitates the exchange of knowledge between countries, the use of knowledge, learning, synthesis, and collaboration between national education actors in the member countries of the Global Partnership for Education, which are mainly located in West and Central Africa, as well as in the Indian Ocean.

Both clusters function as regional forums within the framework of the KIX project to bring together countries with similar educational, socio-economic, and linguistic characteristics.

To address educational challenges and bridge the gap between research, policy and practice in the region, KIX Africa 19 and 21 Hubs are organizing a joint research symposium to highlight research and evidence on improving the learning outcomes of students in their member states.

The symposium will take place from October 4th through 6th, 2022, in person at the African Union Conference Center and Office Complex in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Simultaneous online live streaming will take place on Zoom to allow more participants to join.

With a theme entitled "**Reimagining research and innovation for a better impact on learning outcomes in Sub-Saharan Africa**", the symposium aims to:

- Bring visibility to research to improve student learning outcomes with national stakeholders in GPE countries;
- Promote learning and discussion among national policy actors, researchers and practitioners about evidence and research on improving learning outcomes;
- Promote the use of research in policy decision-making by national policy actors in GPE countries;
- Help bridge gaps between research, policy, and practice in GPE member countries.

Call for submission of papers

Proposals for papers are welcome on any of the following 7 thematic sub-themes of the symposium, and in connection with the main theme mentioned above:

- i. Proven innovations in improving learning and teaching in Sub-Saharan African contexts;
- ii. Quality teacher education and professional development programs and support mechanisms, as measured by learning outcomes;
- iii. The quality of national curriculum and assessment (formative, diagnostic, and summative), as measured by student learning;

- iv. Addressing diversity, inclusion, and equity through proven strategies that raise outcomes for marginalized learners such as girls, students with disabilities, and socially or economically disadvantaged students;
- v. The link between languages of instruction (mother tongues, minoritized languages, French, English, Portuguese, etc.) and learning outcomes;
- vi. Remedial or alternative strategies that raise student learning outcomes after disruptions from emergencies, climate change, the COVID-19 pandemic, conflict, and other health and social crises;
- vii. Research to inform leadership, governance, and policy on students' learning outcomes.

Papers may be submitted in one of three languages: **English, French or Portuguese.**

Submission document format

Paper documents include a written article and an oral presentation at the conference where time is divided equally between the PowerPoint presentation and audience questions, with answers provided by the presenter.

Proposals for articles must indicate:

- Title of the article, clearly indicating it as it appears on the paper
- The author's name(s), title(s) and institutional affiliation(s)
- The name, title and institutional affiliation(s) of the presenter if different from the author
- The email address and contact details of the presenting author
- An abstract of 300 to 500 words that covers at least the background of the study including the geographical coverage; the research methods applied; a synthesis of results and conclusions and policy recommendations.

Articles should be submitted by email to the following addresses: kix.iicba@unesco.org and programmekix@francophonie.org

Successful presenters will make an oral presentation at the conference from a PowerPoint file and will be asked to answer questions from the audience.

In addition, please note that submitted papers may be selected for publication on the websites of GPE KIX and KIX partners.

Criteria for submitting abstracts

Papers submitted should focus on one or more of the Africa 19 and Africa 21 countries, and the presentations should be on completed or ongoing research. Presentations are welcome from academic researchers, government representatives, civil society organizations and local education groups.

Papers will be evaluated for acceptance based on the following criteria:

- Relevance to the theme
- Quality of research methodology
- Importance of research results
- Strength of discussion and analysis

- Policy change recommendations

Submission and deadlines for submission of abstracts

Opening of submission: Abstract submission opens **June 3, 2022**

Abstract Submission Deadline: Abstract submission closes **July 8, 2022**

Abstract Acceptance Notification: All applicants will be notified if their abstracts have been selected for the conference by **July 29, 2022**.

Submission of Accepted Papers: Final communications and complete presentations must be submitted no later than **September 2, 2022**.

Any questions relating to this call must be sent by e-mail to the e-mail address below:
kix.iicba@unesco.org and programmekix@francophonie.org

N.B.: Below are the countries participating in KIX Africa Hubs 19 and 21:

The KIX Africa19 Hub comprises the following 18 partner countries in English-speaking Africa: *Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somalia (Somaliland and Puntland), South Sudan, Tanzania (mainland and Zanzibar), Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.*

The KIX Africa 21 Hub includes the following 21 partner countries: 21 partner countries in Francophone Africa: *Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Republic of Congo, Senegal, Togo, Sao Tome and Principe.*