

Session 1: Plenary Session

Overview of the status of Adult Learning and Education (ALE) in Eastern and Southern Africa

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Overview purpose

Contribute towards the Consultation's development of a document that will aid sub-Saharan Africa's input to CONFINTEA VII in Morocco in 2022.

The overview looks at the sub-regional background, context and characteristics; the overall status of ALE, its achievements, challenges, and changes caused by the pandemic (negative and positive).

It serves to inform discussion on key themes and related priorities and opportunities for innovation in ALE policy and practice in the sub-region and assist the participants to specify priorities and recommendations for future action to promote ALE concepts and practice and sub-regional cooperation.

Sub-regional contexts

- Continuing financial austerity
- Universal primary education growth maintained, but quality problems
- Literacy levels rise but adult literacy and adult basic education still needed and prominent
- Full lifelong learning continuum underdeveloped
- Lack of accurate ALE data
- The Covid-19 pandemic



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COVID-19 Impact on ALE in Eastern and Southern Africa

- Devastating impact on education and especially on ALE
- Adult education provision halted and staff laid off
- Funds reallocated to health responses
- Knock on effects – facilities no longer available
- Online learning not practical for most ALE
- Positive contribution to educating people about the virus
- Some materials developed



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ALE Policies Status in Eastern and Southern Africa

- Significant gains
- Some comprehensive plans, e.g. Kenya, Uganda, Malawi
- Most countries involved stakeholders
- Limited legislative action
- Little National Qualifications Framework development



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ALE Governance Status in Eastern and Southern Africa

- Positive about improvements (15 countries)
- In all areas:
 - stakeholder participation
 - capacity building
 - inter-ministerial cooperation
 - decentralization
 - cooperation with civil society
 - monitoring and evaluation.
- Few new developments in information management, accreditation or certification



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ALE Financing Status in Eastern and Southern Africa

- Government funding remains modest with small gains (not much in real value terms)
- Less than 2% of most education budgets (but 4 countries have over 4%)
- Wide range of funding priorities (too many?)
- Five states plan to decreased support



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Status of regional and international cooperation in Eastern and Southern Africa

- Very little evidence of cooperation



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Citizenship education

- New field poorly defined
- Many providers
- Most states claim citizenship education provided on wide range of topics in schools and in literacy and basic skills programmes
- Is there a need for a more coordinated approach?



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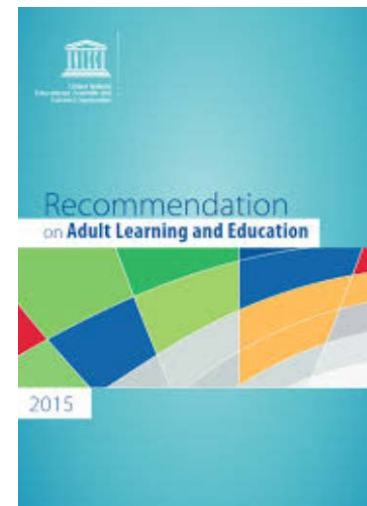
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Impact of the *RALE*

- Some impact in a few countries
- Generally its dissemination seems limited
- Clear scope for more work on this



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Towards conclusions and recommendations

- Some progress in a time of great difficulty
- Some countries developed comprehensive plans
- *Framework for Action* and CONFINTEA VI Mid-Term Review recommendations still valid
- Post-pandemic opening up a chance for a new start and better monitoring and evaluation
- The high value of an informed, active citizenry seen in the context of the pandemic



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Possible recommendations

POLICIES

1. Access to the current policy documents (UIL)
2. More propagation of the Belém message and the new statements on sustainable development, education and ALE
3. Linkages to be forged between ALE and the new SDG and especially SDG 4 goals and targets
4. More comprehensive national definitions of ALE
5. Much more post-literacy and TVET provision



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Possible recommendations (cont.)

FINANCE

6. Ongoing technical support to build capacity to gather more accurate financial data and monitor donor-funding trends

EQUITY

7. Ongoing technical support to build capacity to gather more accurate data on participation

QUALITY

8. Ongoing technical support to build capacity to measure and gather data on quality of provision



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Possible recommendations (cont.)

IMPACT OF ALE

9. Ongoing technical support to develop capacity to research the impact of ALE provision on active citizenship, health, the economy and society.

SUB-REGIONAL COLLABORATION

10. Develop a sub-regional framework for capacity-building on working with different partners and its application monitored.



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Possible recommendations (cont.)

NEW OPPORTUNITIES

11. Capacity building in teaching and learning in new areas – e.g. ICT and Citizenship education
12. Capitalise on post-pandemic new starts to advocate for alternative/innovative solutions and better monitoring and data collection systems



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Thank you



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