



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

## COVID-19 Education Response Webinar 1 Ensuring Equity in Remote Learning Responses to School Closures

Friday 20 March 2020 - 13h00-14h30 GMT+1

Link to connect to the webinar: [http://www.unesco.org/webinar1\\_ensuringequity](http://www.unesco.org/webinar1_ensuringequity)

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### Introduction

As a result of school closures to slow the spread of COVID-19, Ministries of Education are scrambling to provision education remotely and maintain the continuity of learning. The mix of approaches adopted by different countries vary considerably.

Regardless of approach, equity and inclusion must be guiding concerns. While countries are under pressure to open alternative portals to learning to reach students, principles such as equal access and equal opportunity, pillars of international agreements on education, cannot be treated as afterthoughts.

This first UNESCO COVID-19 Education Response Webinar will look at country strategies and responses through the lens of equity.

- What steps are countries taking to ensure that distant learning solutions leave no one behind?
- If a country is rolling out digital learning resources, how is it accounting for gaps in device and connectivity access?
- How are digital learning and access to mass media combined to reach-out to under privileged learners and reduce divide?
- How is teaching staff mobilized to address equity challenges?

### Objective

To share information about how governments are accounting for equity in the planning and management of distance learning strategies to overcome COVID-19 related school closures, now impacting half the world's student population. The webinar will facilitate knowledge exchange across national borders.

## Audience

The target audiences for the webinar are Ministry of Education officials implementing strategies to maintain the continuity of learning in different contexts.

## Technical specifications

The webinars will use Microsoft Teams as a technical platform.

## Agenda

Time	Item
13:00-13:10	<b>Welcoming Remarks and Introduction of the Equity Theme</b> Mr Borhene Chakroun, Director Policy and Lifelong Learning Systems, UNESCO
13:10-13:20	<b>Covid-19 and Implications for Education</b> <b>Ms Catherine Kane</b> Human Resources for Health Policies & Standards Health Workforce Department, World Health Organization
13:20-14:00	<b>Equitable Provision of Distance Learning: National perspectives</b> <b>Mr Michel Reverchon-Billot</b> Inspecteur général de l'éducation nationale Director-General du Centre National d'Education à Distance (CNED), Ministry of Education - France <b>Mr Chaozi Lei</b> Director-General of Department of Science and Technology, Ministry of Education <b>Professor Ronghuai Huang</b> Co-Dean, Smart Learning Institute of Beijing Normal University, China Director, National Engineering Center for Cyberlearning and Intelligent Technology, Director, UNESCO International Research and Training Centre for Rural Education People's Republic of China <b>Mr Hwansun Yoon</b> Education Specialist, Global Cooperation Section Korea Education & Research Information Service (KERIS) – Republic of Korea <b>Prof. Alberto Melloni</b> Advisor to Minister of Education – Italy <b>Ms. Niyizamwiyitira Christine</b> Head of Department of ICT in Education Rwanda Education Board – Rwanda
14:00-14:20	<b>Questions and answers followed by a short discussion</b>
14:20-14:30	<b>Closing remarks</b> Sobhi Tawil, UNESCO