A proposed response to the recent waves of COVID-19 on Education in Asia

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The scenario: COVID and Education in Asia since April 2021

• In April 2021 it seemed COVID was coming under control, a year had been compromised, but children would come back soon.
• Remediation programmes would help resolve a year of compromised learning.
• We could even build back better.
• But new waves and new variants swept through the region.
• Vaccination levels remain low, and compliance to protocols variable.
• Automatic promotion adopted in many countries.
• **Message:** Need to plan for continuous disruptions in the near future.
Reimagining Education in Asia Pacific

Asia Pacific TWG on Digital Transformation in Learning & Education
(14 member organisations, co-chaired by UNICEF + ITU)

**Strategy**
1. Equity focused and scalable
2. Leveraging and aligning strategic partnerships
3. Learning at the centre
4. Global alignment and local adaptation
5. Monitoring and quality assurance

**Implementation**
- World Class digital learning solutions
- Affordable content and data
- Connectivity
- Devices
- Young people’s engagement
- Household connectivity, support
- Teacher connectivity, support, training
- School readiness for digital learning

**Giga:**
A global initiative to connect every school to the internet and every young person to information, opportunity and choice.
Bridging the digital gap: Internet Access Rates in Asia Pacific

Source: ITU
Reach and Effectiveness of Distance Learning

Potential to reach children & youth with effective learning opportunities

- % with access to technology & materials for learning
- % who use technology for learning
- % well-supported by teachers
- % learning effectively

Majority of households have access to some form of tech
Typically, less than half of tech is used for learning
Majority had infrequent or no contact with teachers
Large majority perceive themselves as learning less or significantly less
Reach and Effectiveness of Distance Learning

Potential to reach children & youth with effective learning opportunities →

% with access to technology & materials for learning

% who use technology for learning

% well-supported by teachers

% learning effectively

Potential household reach (approx. order of reach*)

1. Print (100%)
2. Mobile including feature phone (>90% even in rural areas)
3. TV (>60% most countries)
4. Smartphone* (approx. 50% in India)
5. Radio**
6. PCs, laptops, tablets

*data n/a for most countries
**varies greatly by country
Focus on realistic near-term learning outcomes that can bridge to a full recovery in the longer term:

1. **Tailor measures which reach all children and youth** asap so we can remediate learning loss.
2. **Minimum standards** to ensure learning recovery based on what can feasibly be delivered in the short term.
3. **Modalities and tools should be integrated and ‘packaged’**, while ensuring teachers and other key actors are capacitated to ensure that learning is delivered at the right level.
Ensuring Continuity of Learning During School Closures

TRAINING PACKAGE
- Teachers/Parents/Learners
  - ICT Skills
  - Online safety
- Teachers
  - Teaching with low & high tech
  - MHPSS Assessment
  - Teaching at the right level

LEARNING PACKAGE
- Self-learning
  - Learning Kits, Reading/Textbooks
- Teacher guided
  - Calls, SMS
  - Broadcast Programmes
  - Messaging Apps & Digital Platforms

Feedback loop: Assign -> Submit -> Correct -> Reflect

Free phone credit
Free access to online educational resources

MONITORING
- Monitor (schools, teachers, students) and adjust
- EMIS & SMIS (Education & School Management Info System)

Communications
Adapted Curriculum

TRAINING PACKAGE
LEARNING PACKAGE
MONITORING

Teachers/Parents/Learners
ICT Skills
Online safety

Teachers
Teaching with low & high tech
MHPSS Assessment
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Self-learning
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Monitor (schools, teachers, students) and adjust
EMIS & SMIS (Education & School Management Info System)
Planning for disruption

A safe return to school and re-imagine education are critical, but we must also plan for future disruptions by:

1. Remediating learning loss, especially for most excluded.
2. Providing what can be accessed by disadvantaged.
3. Training and motivating teachers and others.
4. Engaging parents, volunteers, CSOs and private sector.
5. Prioritising flexible responses NOW
Thank you.