



Organización
de las Naciones Unidas
para la Educación,
la Ciencia y la Cultura

GRUPO REGIONAL DE EDUCACIÓN
AMÉRICA LATINA Y EL CARIBE

Gestión del Riesgo - Desastres - Migración



Web Seminar Series for Latin America and the Caribbean

Leaving No One Behind in the Time of the COVID-19 Pandemic

ODS-Educación 2030

Thursday, August 27, 2020

11:00 hours (Santiago de Chile GMT-4)

Background

According to UNESCO, as of early August 2020 and as a result of the closure of educational institutions to stop the rapid spread of COVID-19, more than 1,058,824,335 students are out of school worldwide. Of these, more than 160,000,000 are students from Latin America and the Caribbean2.

This situation has meant an unprecedented emergency for national education systems. Governments of the region, led by ministries of education, have rapidly implemented distance learning modalities, supporting educational personnel and mobilizing parents, caregivers and communities, with a view to ensuring the continuation of learning.

At the regional level, multiple instances of technical and political dialogue have been convened, highlighting three common central themes that require immediate and longer-term political and programmatic support:

- (1) Important advances and innovation in the area of distance education, with technologies during the last weeks, more than at any other time. However, there are still important challenges to guarantee equity and inclusion, considering the most vulnerable and marginalized population groups;
- (2) The need to move towards resilient and flexible education systems, with a focus on preparedness; and
- (3) New mindset and paradigm shift: towards interdisciplinarity and intersectionality that goes beyond sectoral thinking and actions focused on education, where the unprecedented opportunity to transform national education systems is highlighted. This spirit of transformation makes the SDG-Education 2030 Agenda more relevant and necessary than ever.

Considering these areas, UNESCO, with the collaboration of the Regional Education Group for Latin America and the Caribbean, is launching a fortnightly series of knowledge and information exchanges to respond to the pandemic, focusing on the four pillars of the SDG-Education 2030: equity, inclusion, quality, and lifelong learning. The objective of this initiative is to support the Ministries of Education and the different educational actors for the development, management and dissemination of relevant evidence that will inform the immediate response, as well as the medium- and long-term actions.

Regional web seminar n°17: "Presentation of guidance notes to support planning, preparation of school reopening processes in the context of COVID-19".

In Latin America and the Caribbean, where most students remain outside the classroom, UNICEF, UNESCO and the World Food Programme (WFP) are calling on the region's governments to intensify the preparation of all schools for eventual safe reopening and to assist them in this process with two new tools.

The three United Nations agencies are making available to the ministries of education and to the administrators and directors of educational centers, two new orientation guides that contribute to facilitate the planning and implementation of a safe reopening process of educational institutions in accordance with the regulations and protocols developed by the health authorities of each country.

With these tools, the three United Nations agencies reaffirm their conviction that the return to school must be safe, planned, gradual and inclusive without discriminating against anyone or exposing students, teachers and other educational personnel to health risks.

The region stands out for the significant efforts made to guarantee educational continuity through distance education, whether online, via television and radio, and the distribution of printed materials. Some countries have even begun to prepare protocols for the return to the classroom, and a few have also begun to progressively reopen schools through mixed modalities that combine attendance with distance education, initiatives that are gradually being adjusted according to the evolution of the pandemic

However, it is a priority for educational authorities, decision makers in health and basic social services at the national and local levels, as well as administrators, principals and teachers, to undertake planning for the return to face-to-face classes with a view to strengthening education systems in accordance with adequate health conditions. This process is particularly critical for the most vulnerable, those who were already out of school or at risk of dropping out before the pandemic, and those who are most marginalized due to poverty, disability, residence in distant rural areas, membership in indigenous and Afro-descendant communities, migrants and refugees, and those living in contexts of humanitarian crisis.

In this context, the two guides offer both a strategic and practical perspective. They provide recommendations and technical inputs for planning, preparing, and implementing safe school reopening, as well as practical actions that are adapted to each context to meet the learning, health, nutrition, and safety needs of each child and adolescent.

The guides will be launched at the seventeenth session of the web seminar series "Leave No One Behind in the Time of COVID-19", which will be facilitated by UNICEF, UNESCO and WFP, and organized jointly by the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Education Group (REWG), Risk Management, Disasters and Migration, and the Regional Office of Education for Latin America and the Caribbean (OREALC/UNESCO Santiago). The event is aimed at professionals from the Ministries of Education who work in the educational response, key actors in the reopening of schools and the humanitarian and educational sector in general. The session will be broadcast on ZOOM and YouTube in Spanish with simultaneous interpretation into English.

Objective:

To present the following tools:

- Guidance Notes on Reopening Schools in the Context of COVID-19 for Ministries of Education in Latin America and the Caribbean
- Guidance Notes on Reopening Schools in the Context of COVID-19 for School Administrators and Principals in Latin America and the Caribbean

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Facilitating institutions: UNICEF, UNESCO and WFP

Moderation: Paula Klenner-Forttes Coordinator of the Education 2030 Program, Migration, Displacement and Emergencies OREALC/UNESCO Santiago

11:00 – 11:05	Welcome
11:05 – 11:10	Introduction to the Guidance Notes - objectives Ruth Custode -Regional Emergency Education Specialist, UNICEF LACRO
11.10 - 11.30	Presentation of the Contents of the Guidance Notes Mary Guinn Delaney , Regional Advisor for Health and Welfare Education, UNESCO Regional Office for Education in Latin America and the Caribbean Margarete Sachs-Israel , Regional Education Advisor, UNICEF Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean
11:30 – 11:56	Sector presentations: Key recommendations for safe return to schools: - Health Alejandro Santander- Regional Advisor of the Emergency Program (PAHO) - Nutrition and school feeding programs Giulia Baldi-Regional Advisor for Social Protection (WFP) - Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Sunny Guidotti - Regional WASH-LAC Coordinator (UNICEF) - Child Protection and Psychosocial Support Catalina Fernandez- Regional Child Protection Specialist (UNICEF)
11:56- 12:00	Video: Back to school recommendations
12:00 – 12:25	Questions and Answers
12:25 – 12:30	Summary, core messages and closure UNICEF