WASH, school reopening and continuity of learning

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COVID-19 impact: disrupted learning

Global monitoring of school closures caused by COVID-19

- 1,091,439,976 affected learners
- 62.3% of total enrolled learners
- 123 country-wide closures

source: https://en.unesco.org/covid19/educationresponse
Data at 21 June 2020
COVID-19 impact: the most vulnerable learners

- **Direct education costs**
  - Learning stalls
  - Learning inequality increases
  - Attachment to schooling falls

- **Health and safety impacts**
  - Student nutrition worsens
  - Student mental health declines
  - Student vulnerability increases

- **Education demand side**
  - Dropout rate increases, especially for disadvantaged
  - Child labor, child marriage, transactional sex increase
  - Education investment by parents declines

- **Education supply side**
  - Government spending on education falls
  - Quality of education declines
  - Teaching quality declines
  - Private schools close

- **Long-run costs**
  - Learning Poverty Increases
  - Human capital declines
  - Overall poverty increases (due to dropout)
  - Inequality increases
  - Social unrest increases
  - Intergenerational cycle of poverty and low human capital is reinforced

*Source: The World Bank 2020*
COVID-19 impact: harms to health and wellbeing

Global Monitoring of School Meals During COVID-19 School Closures

310M
Children missing out on meals at school globally (47% are girls)

163
Countries with school closures

Source: https://cdn.wfp.org/2020/school-feeding-map/ Data at 22 June 2020
School reopening: health and education considerations

1. **Protect** from infection
2. **Care** for mental and psycho-social wellbeing
3. **Support** quality and inclusive learning
4. **Prepare** for resurgence and future crises
School reopening: WinS and preventing infection
WASH in schools: challenges and opportunities

- A learning platform to equip school personnel with knowledge and skills to reopen healthier schools has been established by Thailand’s Safe School Network.

- In Lao PDR information on physical distancing to use with teachers, students and parents is being distributed via social media and WhatsApp groups.

- In Syria, with UNICEF support, schools are being equipped with sanitation materials, water trucking, school cleaning kits and awareness raising materials.

- Many countries are organizing communities to take water to schools without water points, to enable handwashing.
Emerging perspectives: integrated school health approaches

What is SHN?

- School health policies and community support
- Increased access to health & nutrition services
- To be healthy to learn and learn to be healthy
- Safe Environment (Water and Sanitation)
- Skills based health, hygiene, nutrition & comprehensive sexuality education, including HIV prevention

Stepping up effective school health and nutrition:
A partnership for healthy learners and brighter futures
## Building back better

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### 2 Zero Hunger
- Prevent all forms of malnutrition in learners: undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies, and overweight and obesity
- School food and nutrition education encourages lasting healthy eating habits
- Demand for diversified foods stimulates agricultural diversification and production and contributes to shape sustainable food systems

### 3 Good Health and Well-being
- Enable safe, non-violent, health-promoting learning environments that prevent and mitigate risks and vulnerabilities to ill health
- Increases access to basic health services and referral for health services
- Skills-based education promotes healthy lives: e.g. comprehensive sexuality education linked to sexual and reproductive health services prevent early and unintended pregnancy in adolescent girls and HIV infections in young people

### 4 Quality Education
- Positive impact on both school participation (enrolment, attendance and retention) and learning outcomes
- Build safe, non-violent and inclusive learning environments

### 1 Safe Learning Environments
- Act as a safety net and contribute to reduce poverty. School feeding assists low-income families with children by transferring them the value of the food distributed
- Improve access to basic health services for children from low-income families

### 5 Gender Equality
- Enhances equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water and adequate sanitation and hygiene
- Support girls’ enrolment, attendance and well-being in school
- Promote attitudes, values and skills that support gender equality and tackle harmful gender norms, including gender-based violence
- Health education, particularly comprehensive sexuality education, supports the empowerment of girls and the promotion of gender equality through knowledge and skills for all learners

### 6 Quality education
- Major investment in human capital development through improved access to education and learning, and enhanced nutrition and health, which lead to increased productivity and higher incomes

### 8 Gender Equality
- Contribute to level the school playfield: effects are particularly important for the most deprived children, and for girls
- School-based education develops the attitudes, values and skills for tolerant and inclusive societies

### 10 Quality education
- Safe and supportive learning environments that are free from violence and discrimination provide a model for later life and instill respect for rights, diversity and equality
- Interventions such as school meals can reduce the sense of marginalization and contribute to building social cohesion and restoring state legitimacy.

### 17 Quality education
- Connect by definitions multiple sectors and partners around common goals
- The coalition for Stepping-up effective school health and nutrition strives to enhance partnerships and cross-sectoral collaboration at all levels
Further technical and operational resources

- Education International Guidance on Reopening Schools and Education Institutions
- Guidance on COVID-19 Prevention and Control in Schools (AR, ENG, FR, SP) Mar 2020
  https://www.unicef.org/reports/key messages and actions coronavirus disease covid 19 prevention and controls schools
- Framework for Reopening Schools (AR, CH, ENG, FR, SP, PO) Apr 2020
  https://www.unicef.org/documents/framework reopening schools
- World Health Organization, Considerations in adjusting public health and social measures in the context of COVID-19 Interim guidance: Consideration for Schools May 2020
  https://www.who.int/publications detail/considerations for school related public health measures in the context of covid 19
- Global Education Cluster
  https://educationcluster.net/COVID19
- INEE
  https://inee.org/collections/coronavirus covid 19

...and others. Visit UNESCO Bangkok SDG4 Knowledge Portal
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[https://apa.sdg4education2030.org/covid19](https://apa.sdg4education2030.org/covid19)

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