

NEWSLETTER

Quarter 2, 2021



Preamble

Welcome to GESCI's Updates on ICT integration in Education and Training, activities, events, research and resources. As coordinator of the African Union's ICT integration in Education Cluster for the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA), we seek to promote catalytic and innovative approaches in this sector. We continue to work with schools, ministries of education and partners to promote online teacher professional development, aligning open educational resources to national curricular standards and supporting the development of applications that allow for independent and autonomous learning among youth. This update gives detail on activities GESCI has taken part in from April – June 2021.

GESCI Activities

April – June

Education Development Partners Coordination Group (EDPCG) Meeting- Nairobi, Kenya

April, 2021. The EDPCG held meeting held a meeting to discuss school reopening and measures put in place to ensure a smooth phased approach in school reopening after closure in March 2020 to prevent the spread of the corona virus. At this meetings, frameworks and guidelines on school reopening in the wake of the pandemic were shared. *For further information contact: jerome.morrissey@gesci.org*

African Union Commission CESA TVET Cluster Meeting

June 2021. The purpose of this meeting is to brief senior policy makers on the work of the TVET Cluster and seek guidance from the Member States on how to scale up efforts in line with national-regional emerging priorities in advancing implementation of the TVET cluster workstreams. The TVET Cluster is a coalition of partners on TVET, and of the 12 Clusters aimed at accelerating transformation in the Education and training sector in Africa. In line with the Agenda 2063, the work of the TVET Cluster is to, among others; advocate for the acceleration of the digital transformation in TVET, as well as to enhance demand oriented skills delivery through private sector engagement as part of improving the image and perceptions of the TVET Sector. GESCI, through its work on Digital skills development among the youth is a member of this cluster which is coordinated by the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD. *For further information contact: angela.arnott@gesci.org*

African Union Commission CESA STEM Cluster Meeting

The advent of COVID-19 has exacerbated challenges in Africa's education systems and reinforces the need for fit for context and innovative measures to ensure that STEM Education is preserved and strengthened. While African governments are already doing their best to contain the threat and impact of COVID-19 including implementing various initiatives to ensure that learning continues at all levels, the evolvement of the situation requires a concerted effort for experience sharing across Africa, and translation of the data into meaningful knowledge products and tools to inform policy. Against this backdrop, the STEM Education Cluster has embarked on the development of a policy brief on the Status of STEM Education in Africa to provide a much-needed snapshot of the context of STEM Education amid the shifts in education delivery and management due to the COVID-19 pandemic. *For further information contact: angela.arnott@gesci.org*

Events – Past & Upcoming

Comparative and International Education Society (CIES) Annual Conference

25th April – 2nd May, 2021. Under the theme '**Social Responsibility within Changing Contexts**' the 2021 conference focused on the work CIES does and how others in the field experience their work, in a changing environment with a growing variety of actors who may or may not share the same visions for the future. As we enter the third decade of the 21st century, we see rapid changes in political, economic, environmental, cultural, and social spaces. Along with these changes is an increasing variety of actors, including non-state actors who are now more involved. These changes influence education globally and locally. This calls for revisiting the relationships among context, actors, visions, and action, and our own collective social responsibility. For further information visit: <https://bit.ly/3xhMnQn>

Webinar on Education Financing, Teacher and Learner Well-being and School Reopening

29th April, 2021. This webinar was hosted by the KIX Observatory Consortium, composed of the Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA) and the African Union's International Centre for Girls' and Women's Education in Africa (AU/CIEFFA) with the overall aim of sharing information and experiences regarding educational policy and practice interventions in the 40 Global Partnership for Education partner countries in Africa. For details visit: <https://bit.ly/3iphup7>

The transforming power of education in Africa Meeting

25th May, 2021. This meeting was co-organised by ProFuturo, Casa África, UNHCR, Empieza Por Educar, Entreculturas, Save the Children and World Vision, with the support of Planeta Futuro and Mundo Negro. The meeting featured a dialogue on the challenges and opportunities of education on the African continent. For details visit: <https://bit.ly/3leEdWs>

Two-part learning series on inclusive education for girls with disabilities

25th May, 2021. In the lead up to the G7 and the Global Education Summit convened by the Global Partnership for Education, the UN Girls' Education Initiative (UNGEI), UNICEF, UNESCO International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP-UNESCO), Sightsavers and Humanity & Inclusion launched a two-part webinar series on inclusive education for girls with disabilities! For details visit: <https://bit.ly/3CcMQHm>

1st Edition – Pan African University Innovation Challenge

7th June, 2021. The Pan African University PAU is steadily committed to offer high-end courses and trainings and support its students in activities to develop market-oriented competences. The PAU Innovation Challenge is aiming to raise the awareness of PAU students and alumni on innovation and to promote entrepreneurship mindset. 69 teams with 241 team members from all over Africa submitted their applications and were coached and trained online by experts of the German Consultancy company Conoscope in collaboration with GIZ and PAU. During the event, 8 finalists will be pitching their ideas. Join us and be part of the audience! You will be able to vote for your favorite team, which will receive the audience prize! For details visit: <https://bit.ly/3lqfiQ7> Recording: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNSWFUjCA9TIGI6pkwDeoTQ>

Digital education for a strong recovery: A forward look

8th – 10th June, 2021. Digitalisation is transforming societies, providing new opportunities to improve education in the classroom, enhance the management of education systems, but also to consider innovative models of delivery. The COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated and cast a spotlight on the importance of digitalisation. Countries' current digital learning infrastructure has to be reconsidered, including teachers' ability to use it efficiently. The conference highlighted advances in educational technology based on artificial intelligence (AI), robotics and blockchain. It also provided a dialogue platform between policy makers, education stakeholders, the global education industry and experts in the field, with a view to sharing knowledge and information, but also to start thinking of related policy issues, international opportunities for collaboration, and strategies about embracing and driving the digital transformation in education. For details visit: <https://bit.ly/3idaP19>

The eLearning Africa Primary and Secondary Education Virtual Exchange

7th – 13th June, 2021. This event brought together **decision makers and stakeholders in Primary, Secondary and Vocation Education** from across Africa. The **eLearning Africa Primary & Secondary Education Virtual Exchange** puts **people, ideas, practices and technologies together in a multi-faceted online forum**. With peer-to-peer engagement, including opportunities to hear from solution providers about how their innovative use of technology enables educators and learners to thrive, the eLearning Africa Virtual Exchange is an online platform both for sharing best practice and showing how EdTech is responding to the needs of African students and teachers. For further information visit: <https://bit.ly/2VcZFKd>

IFC Education Webinar Series: The Changing Nature of Work

30th June, 2021. This Webinar Series addresses topics in private education, with a focus on digitalization. The purpose of the series is to share with a global audience of private education leaders the trends in the sector in the post-COVID-19 environment, by bringing together key global decision-makers charting new directions for private education in emerging markets. For further information visit: <https://bit.ly/3CcMQHm>

2021 High-Level Policy Dialogue Forum on “Rethinking the role of Skills Development in future work and lifelong learning, in light of digitalization and 4IR

8th July, 2021. The forum was organized by The Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA), in partnership with the African Development Bank Group (AfDB) and in close collaboration with the World Bank and the German Development Cooperation Agency -Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit- (GIZ) GmbH. The overall objective of the forum was to promote knowledge and experience sharing around practical and innovative solutions to address the skills deficits and the critical challenge of reforming Africa's education and training systems, to equip the youth with the skills required for the future of work. For further information visit: <https://bit.ly/3juJxV>

WSIS Launch Repository of Women in Tech

4th August, 2021. WSIS in collaboration with Stakeholders a repository will launch a repository of women in Tech. The goal is to identify and connect women leaders and practitioners in all sectors of the ICT industry from all regions and engage them in events, forums (e.g., WSIS Forum) and activities such as various workshops, training courses, networking events, aimed at fostering a dialogue on the use of ICTs as a means for implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). To register for the launch visit: <https://bit.ly/3zXQrXX>

Education Development News

Global

Global Education Summit in London raises US\$4 billion for the Global Partnership for Education to help 175 million children learn

The Global Education Summit, co-hosted by UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta in London, has raised a record US\$4 billion from donors for the Global Partnership for Education (GPE). This fundraising total puts GPE firmly on the path to achieving its target of raising at least \$5 billion over the next five years to transform education for millions of the world's most vulnerable children. A fully funded GPE would enable up to 175 million children to learn and help get 88 million more girls and boys in school by 2025. For further information visit: <https://bit.ly/3xkWjbP>

Africa

AU/CIEFFA & UNGEI Host Joint Side Event at Global Education Summit

The African Union International Centre for Girls and Women's Education in Africa (AU/CIEFFA) and the United Nations Girls Education Initiative (UNGEI) partnered to host a joint side event at the margins of the Global Partnership for Education's (GPE) 2021 Global Education Summit highlighting the role of African artists as key influencers in the fight to get girls back to school post-COVID-19. For further information visit: <https://bit.ly/3A7sb5r>

Countries

Kenya

Schools opt for e-Learning amid COVID-19 crisis

When the government announced resumption of learning in schools early this year, many institutions faced the challenge of attaining social distance in classrooms as it was directed by the Ministry of Health. With the fight against Covid-19 pandemic, the government announced raft measures which learning institutions were expected to attain so as to contain the spread of coronavirus among students; that included getting more space. With more classrooms, the challenge remained to get more teaching staff to cater for the extra classrooms. The school's administration opted to adopt a new technology where a teacher can teach several classes at once. The new digital platform is expected to facilitate proper learning of the students as well as minimize face to face teaching. For further information visit: <https://bit.ly/3jisYdb>

Rwanda

All public-school teachers to get laptops

The Rwanda Basic Education Board (REB) has embarked on deploying laptops to all teachers in public schools under the "One Laptop per Teacher" initiative. The Government seeks to equip schools with computers and access to the internet, on the belief that ICT is a tool that will transform the country's education system through the digitalisation of academic materials. For further information visit: <https://bit.ly/3fw4PPb>

Vacancies, Awards and other Opportunities

Call for Nominations- UNESCO Hamdan Prize

The Hamdan Prize for Teacher Development is now open for nominations. Check out the website to learn about the application process. You could win US \$100,000 to further your work! Deadline is 31 October 2021. For further information visit: <http://on.unesco.org/2QySd0C>

Finnish e-learning platform wins UNESCO's 2020 ICT in Education Prize

The award-winning platform aims to promote education amid pandemic. Established in 2005, UNESCO's ICT in Education Prize rewards individuals and organizations that are implementing outstanding projects. For further information visit: <https://bit.ly/2Vg7J3Q>

Illustrated Memoirs Books – Kate Carlier Currie

Small groups of about a dozen immigrant and refugee students from various countries in West Africa, Central America, the Middle East, and Nepal between the ages of 14 – 19 were interviewed to share their stories. Participants have shared a wide variety of stories ranging from a favorite birthday to their family's experience fleeing civil war. Overwhelmingly the

stories share themes of family, learning, change and resiliency. This project has shown to be effective in building community amongst the group and fostering diverse literacies and intellectual self-trust in the individual author / artists. To look at the memoirs visit: <https://bit.ly/2VsZv8f>

Networking and Resources

The synthesis report of the International Forum on AI and the Futures of Education: Developing Competencies for the AI Era

The report can be accessed at: <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000377251>

The Synthesis report of the 2020 edition of Mobile Learning Week- MLW

The 2020 Mobile Learning week focused on the planning and implementation of distance learning programmes in response to COVID-19. The MLW, held online because of the COVID-19 pandemic, was devoted to the theme of Beyond Disruption: Technology Enabled Learning Futures. The three-day event focused on knowledge sharing on the use of technology to ensure learning continuity and quality, and to build resilient education systems against the backdrop of the COVID-19 education disruption. This synthesis report consolidates, showcases and assesses lessons learned from distance learning programmes shared by more than 3,000 live online participants and 90 speakers, including ministers, representatives from governmental agencies of Member States and international organizations, together with experts from NGOs, the private sector, as well as academic institutes. The report can be accessed at: <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000377753>

Report: The Well-Being of School Children in Africa During the COVID-19 Pandemic

This report synthesizes available evidence on the policies and practices of 40 African partner countries of the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) in responding to the impact of COVID-19 on the well-being of school children in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). The synthesis was conducted using rapid scoping reviews, evidence mapping and the team's expert knowledge of health and education issues in sub-Saharan Africa. This report is one of several outputs of the Knowledge and Innovation Exchange (KIX) COVID-19 Observatory, which aims to provide policymakers in GPE partner countries with actionable evidence to inform their decisions. Download the report : [English](#) | [French](#)

Recent publications by IIEP

IIEP panels at CIES are based on a wide range of resources and publications. Explore these pages featuring all their recent publications, with free and open access to all:

- [Support for quality education management](#)
- [Teacher management in refugee settings](#)
- [Instructional leaders at the middle tier of education systems](#)
- [The use of learning assessment data](#)
- [Early childhood education: Costs, quality and financing](#)
- [Cities and Education 2030: Local challenges, global imperatives](#)

Newsletter information sources include: African Countries and Ministry of Education websites, SADC, mEducationAlliance, UNESCO, USAID, GPE, Funds for NGOs, ADEA, UIS, World Bank, ICT Works, Kenya News Agency, Xinhua, Southern African Regional Universities Association (SARUA), EdTech Update, WISE, FAWE, Millenium@Edu and general sources. The comments expressed in this newsletter are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of GESCI or those GESCI represents. No responsibility is therefore taken for the veracity of the information provided.