

## Education Systems' Response to COVID19

### Brief: May 17, 2020

Nearly 20 countries have begun to open or gradually reopen schools. Still 1.2 billion students are in countries with full school lockdowns, which is 70% of world learners. Large part of the reduction comes from 100 million students in China who are now back in school.

	Africa	EAP	ECA	LAC and North America	MENA	SAR	Total
Closed	38	13	37	41	20	8	157
Partly closed	2	3	1	2	1	0	9
Open with limitations	4	4	11	1	0	0	20

1. *As more education systems reopen, challenges around enforcement of distance learning and a safe environment are growing for some countries*

- **In China more than 100 million students have returned to classes as provinces have started to reopen schools.** The Ministry of Education provided provinces with general guidance (see [a Country response brief](#)) and provinces have added their own public health [protocols, including](#) contingency plans and rapid reporting and response mechanisms to suspected COVID-19 cases on campus.
- **Chinese authorities** also announced a plan to [expand teacher supply](#) in rural areas as part of its COVID response. The plan is to recruit 400,000 teachers this year and expand the “Special Post Teacher” program by 5,000 positions this year from the previously planned 100k positions. “Special Post Teacher” is a 3-year bridge program that helps place university graduates as entry level teachers in rural and less developed areas.
- *Schools in Vietnam have gradually started to reopen after over three months.* By May 4<sup>th</sup>, [secondary and post-secondary schools had reopened](#), followed by kindergartens, primary schools, as well as universities on May 11<sup>th</sup> in all 63 provinces/cities. [Authorities are taking students' temperatures and their health is recorded](#) at the gates of schools. Children are required to wear face

#### Brief Highlight – Uruguay reopens rural schools gradually

In Uruguay, more than [500 rural schools out of a total of over 900 have resumed activities](#). Initially all rural schools were scheduled to resume but it was decided that only those that received sanitary approval by the *Sistema Nacional de Emergencia* (National Emergency System) would do so. Some of the main characteristics of the gradual reopening are :

- *Mandatory testing of school staff and teachers who live in areas with COVID-19* but work in schools located in rural areas with no cases so far.
- *Some teachers are not required to return- those at higher risk* (over 65 years old or pre-existing conditions may choose to not return to teach for now.
- *Students are not required to return*-parents may decide to keep their children at home for safety or because they have no means to transport them to school daily. [Assistance to school](#) in these past three weeks has been on average 35% in rural areas.
- Children are split into smaller groups in each class, extended hours for learning are suspended, and [everyone must wear face masks](#). In rural areas, the Government is using a blended model where children receive [part of their learning at reopened schools and other parts at home through remote learning](#).

By May 8<sup>th</sup>, [44 rural schools in the Riviera department had to close again](#) after the first case of COVID 19 was detected in the area. The protocol developed by the National Emergency System and education authorities requires teachers to be tested and to wait for negative results before reopening schools in an area with COVID 19 cases. This same scenario occurred in the Treinta y Tres department, where teachers have been waiting for over two weeks for their test results.

masks during breaks and on the school buses, handwashing is still enforced, lunches are consumed in the classrooms, and students are released in shifts at the end of the school day to avoid congestion at school gates.

### School opening in Madagascar and China



China School reopening (source: Xiaonan Cao)

Madagascar School Reopening (source: Anna Olefir)

- **France, Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Madagascar, and Papua New Guinea** are examples of countries that opened schools and are sharing the common challenge of bringing back students safely. All countries have announced COVID-19 distancing and safety measures with specific instructions ([example: French guidelines](#)). They require teachers and students to wear masks, they will not make school return mandatory, and they are providing means for schools to mandate regular handwashing. And they are focusing on classes/grades preparing for national exams. In France, the government has also limited class sizes to 10 and no guarantees of space to students once the limit is reached. It is not clear how prioritization is being implemented.
2. *Other countries are preparing for an eventual phased reopening; some are looking to blended learning as an option for reopening*
- The **United States** has issued [guidelines](#) to reopen the country in a phased manner. Schools are included in phase two for states and regions with no evidence of a rebound that satisfy the gating criteria twice: i) downward trajectory of influenza-like illnesses (ILI) reported within a 14-day period,

and ii) downward trajectory of COVID related syndromic cases reported within a 14-day period. *In England primary schools could [reopen by early June](#)*. According to govt plan, children in nurseries and pre-schools, and primary school children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 would resume classes by June 1<sup>st</sup>; secondary schools and colleges would [reopen later in June](#) prioritizing Year 10 and 12 pupils, who have standardized exams which had been cancelled this year. There is an intensive debate though about when it the right time for reopening.

- **Blended Learning is under consideration in Egypt.** The Minister of Education has proposed splitting students into three groups, each of which would spend two days in the classroom and four days learning at home. The proposal is under debate but so far, private schools agree on this form of *blended learning*. **“If we cannot open up schools fully, some classroom work is better than none at all,” argued the Minister.**
- **Ethiopia** has announced it will not open schools until September. The Government has declared a state of emergency for 6 months which stipulates closure of schools. Return to classrooms may happen earlier if the state of emergency is lifted.
- **South Korea began the school year online but has delayed reopening schools due to new cases of COVID-19.** Schools [won't resume activities](#) for another week due to at least 102 confirmed new cases of the virus. Classes were scheduled to start on May 13<sup>th</sup> with high school seniors, followed by middle school seniors, juniors and elementary schools by May 20<sup>th</sup>. The Ministry of Education had postponed the start of the school years four times before until it was decided to [begin online classes](#) on April 9 in all elementary, middle, high, and special education schools nationwide.

### 3. *Additional resources*

- Preliminary evidence points to a **negative impact on education financing** brought on by the pandemic. A World Bank team has just completed [analysis on this impact](#) and options that Governments can take by way of policy responses to mitigate the setbacks.
- **Russia** has made progress on a critical line of work for the coming weeks, which is to understand the effectiveness of remote learning. Russia completed [a household survey](#) to understand how remote learning is going at home, namely: the conditions for studying at home, the quality of education, and the attitude of children to the new format of education. The results are delineated geographically and socio-economically and show clear advantages for some groups over others. While 47% of parents believe that the workload on students has increased, 66% believe that remote learning has negative effect on student performance. 86% of those surveyed prefer to come back to normal face to face education.

*Additional resources and links can be found at the [World Bank's dedicated website](#)*

## Annex 1 – Breakdown of Remote Learning Approaches by Country

(based on information received by May 15, 2020.)

Region	Country	No remote learning/ No Info received	Multi modal (# of modes used)	Virtual Interactive classes	Recorded classes online	Other Online Tools	Television	Radio	Paper-based
		43(21%)	123(61%)	35(17%)	84(42%)	120(60%)	89(44%)	43(21%)	10(5%)
AFRICA	Angola						1		
AFRICA	Benin	X							
AFRICA	Botswana						1		
AFRICA	Burkina Faso						1		
AFRICA	Burundi	X							
AFRICA	Cabo Verde							1	
AFRICA	Cameroon						1		
AFRICA	Central African Republic							1	
AFRICA	Chad					1			
AFRICA	Comoros	X							
AFRICA	Congo, Dem. Rep.		2			1	1		
AFRICA	Congo, Rep.						1		
AFRICA	Cote d'Ivoire					1			
AFRICA	Equatorial Guinea	X							
AFRICA	Eritrea	X							
AFRICA	Eswatini	X							
AFRICA	Ethiopia		3			1	1	1	
AFRICA	Gabon		2			1	1		
AFRICA	Gambia, The		2				1	1	
AFRICA	Ghana		2			1	1	1	
AFRICA	Guinea		3			1	1	1	
AFRICA	Guinea-Bissau	X							
AFRICA	Kenya		4		1	1	1	1	
AFRICA	Lesotho	X							
AFRICA	Liberia		3			1	1	1	
AFRICA	Madagascar		3			1	1	1	
AFRICA	Malawi		2			1		1	
AFRICA	Mali						1		
AFRICA	Mauritania		2				1	1	
AFRICA	Mauritius		4		1	1	1	1	
AFRICA	Mozambique		2				1	1	
AFRICA	Namibia					1			

AFRICA	Niger								1
AFRICA	Nigeria		4		1	1	1		1
AFRICA	Rwanda		2			1			1
AFRICA	Sao Tome and Principe							1	
AFRICA	Senegal		2			1	1		
AFRICA	Seychelles				1				
AFRICA	Sierra Leone		2			1			1
AFRICA	Somalia	X							
AFRICA	South Africa		3			1	1		1
AFRICA	South Sudan		2			1			
AFRICA	Sudan	X							
AFRICA	Tanzania		2					1	1
AFRICA	Togo	X							
AFRICA	Uganda		2			1			1
AFRICA	Zambia							1	
AFRICA	Zimbabwe		2			1			1
EAP	Australia		2		1	1			
EAP	Brunei Darussalam	X							
EAP	Cambodia		5		1	1	1	1	1
EAP	China		4	1	1	1	1		
EAP	Fiji		2			1			1
EAP	Hong Kong SAR, China		3	1	1	1			
EAP	Indonesia		3	1	1	1			
EAP	Japan		3	1	1	1			
EAP	Kiribati							1	
EAP	Korea, Rep.		3	1	1	1			
EAP	Lao PDR							1	
EAP	Macao SAR, China	X							
EAP	Malaysia		2			1	1		
EAP	Maldives		3			1	1		1
EAP	Marshall Islands	X							
EAP	Micronesia, Fed. Sts.	X							
EAP	Mongolia		2		1			1	
EAP	Myanmar	X							
EAP	Nauru	X							
EAP	New Zealand		3		1	1	1		
EAP	Palau	X							
EAP	Papua New Guinea	X							
EAP	Philippines		2		1	1			
EAP	Samoa	X							
EAP	Singapore		3	1	1	1			

EAP	Solomon Islands	X						
EAP	Thailand					1		
EAP	Timor-Leste		5		1	1	1	1
EAP	Tonga	X						
EAP	Tuvalu							1
EAP	Vanuatu					1		
EAP	Vietnam		3		1	1	1	
ECA	Albania		2		1	1	1	
ECA	Armenia		2		1	1		
ECA	Austria		3		1	1	1	
ECA	Azerbaijan		3	1	1		1	
ECA	Belarus	X						
ECA	Belgium		2		1	1		
ECA	Bosnia and Herzegovina		3		1	1	1	
ECA	Bulgaria		4	1	1	1	1	
ECA	Croatia		4	1	1	1	1	
ECA	Cyprus				1			
ECA	Czech Republic		2			1	1	
ECA	Denmark		3	1	1	1		
ECA	Estonia		2	1		1		
ECA	Finland		2	1		1		
ECA	France		3	1	1	1		
ECA	Georgia		3	1		1	1	
ECA	Germany		2	1		1		
ECA	Greece		3	1		1	1	
ECA	Hungary				1			
ECA	Iceland		2		1	1		
ECA	Ireland		2		1	1		
ECA	Italy		4	1	1	1	1	
ECA	Kazakhstan		4		1	1	1	1
ECA	Kosovo	X						
ECA	Kyrgyz Republic		3		1	1	1	
ECA	Latvia		2	1		1		
ECA	Lithuania		2		1	1		
ECA	Luxembourg		2	1	1			
ECA	Moldova		4	1	1	1	1	
ECA	Montenegro		2			1	1	
ECA	Montserrat	X						
ECA	Netherlands					1		
ECA	North Macedonia		4		1	1	1	1
ECA	Norway		2	1	1			
ECA	Poland		2		1	1		
ECA	Portugal		2	1		1		

ECA	Romania		3	1		1	1		
ECA	Russian Federation		4	1	1	1	1		
ECA	San Marino	X							
ECA	Serbia		4		1	1	1	1	
ECA	Slovak Republic		2	1		1			
ECA	Slovenia		2	1		1			
ECA	Spain		3		1	1	1		
ECA	Sweden				1				
ECA	Switzerland				1				
ECA	Tajikistan	X							
ECA	Turkey		3		1	1	1		
ECA	Turkmenistan	X							
ECA	Ukraine		2		1		1		
ECA	United Kingdom		2		1	1			
ECA	Uzbekistan		3		1	1	1		
LAC/N.A.	Anguilla	X							
LAC/N.A.	Antigua and Barbuda	X							
LAC/N.A.	Argentina		5		1	1	1	1	1
LAC/N.A.	Aruba					1			
LAC/N.A.	Bahamas, The				1				
LAC/N.A.	Barbados	X							
LAC/N.A.	Belize		2		1	1			
LAC/N.A.	Bermuda	X							
LAC/N.A.	Bolivia	X							
LAC/N.A.	Brazil		2		1	1			
LAC/N.A.	Canada		3	1	1	1			
LAC/N.A.	Cayman Islands	X							
LAC/N.A.	Chile		3		1	1	1		
LAC/N.A.	Colombia		4		1	1	1	1	
LAC/N.A.	Costa Rica		4		1	1	1		1
LAC/N.A.	Curacao	X							
LAC/N.A.	Dominica	X							
LAC/N.A.	Dominican Republic		4		1	1	1	1	
LAC/N.A.	Ecuador		4		1	1	1	1	
LAC/N.A.	El Salvador		2			1	1		
LAC/N.A.	Grenada		2	1	1				
LAC/N.A.	Guatemala		2		1	1			
LAC/N.A.	Guyana		3				1	1	1
LAC/N.A.	Haiti		3		1		1	1	
LAC/N.A.	Honduras		3			1	1	1	
LAC/N.A.	Jamaica		4		1	1	1		1

LAC/N.A.	Mexico		3		1	1	1		
LAC/N.A.	Nicaragua					1			
LAC/N.A.	Panama					1			
LAC/N.A.	Paraguay		2			1		1	
LAC/N.A.	Peru		3			1	1	1	
LAC/N.A.	Puerto Rico	X							
LAC/N.A.	Sint Maarten (Dutch part)	X							
LAC/N.A.	St. Kitts and Nevis	X							
LAC/N.A.	St. Lucia	X							
LAC/N.A.	St. Vincent and the Grenadines	X							
LAC/N.A.	Suriname	X							
LAC/N.A.	Trinidad and Tobago		2		1	1			
LAC/N.A.	Turks and Caicos Islands	X							
LAC/N.A.	United States		6	1	1	1	1	1	1
LAC/N.A.	Uruguay		3	1	1	1			
LAC/N.A.	Venezuela, RB						1		
MENA	Algeria		2				1	1	
MENA	Bahrain		3		1	1	1		
MENA	Djibouti		4		1	1	1	1	
MENA	Egypt, Arab Rep.		4	1	1	1	1		
MENA	Iran, Islamic Rep.		2		1	1			
MENA	Iraq					1			
MENA	Israel		2		1	1			
MENA	Jordan		3		1	1	1		
MENA	Kuwait						1		
MENA	Lebanon		5	1	1	1	1	1	1
MENA	Libya		3		1	1	1		
MENA	Malta		2	1		1			
MENA	Morocco		3		1	1	1		
MENA	Oman		2			1	1		
MENA	Qatar		2		1	1			
MENA	Saudi Arabia		3		1	1	1		
MENA	Syria (added)				1				
MENA	Tunisia		2			1	1		
MENA	United Arab Emirates		2		1	1			
MENA	West Bank and Gaza		4		1	1	1	1	



MENA	Yemen, Rep.					1			
SAR	Afghanistan	3		1		1	1		
SAR	Bangladesh	3	1			1	1		
SAR	Bhutan	3				1	1	1	
SAR	India	3		1	1	1			
SAR	Nepal								1
SAR	Pakistan	3	1	1	1				
SAR	Sri Lanka	2				1	1		
<b>Summary out of 201 countries</b>		<b>43(21%)</b>	<b>123(61%)</b>	<b>35(17%)</b>	<b>84(42%)</b>	<b>120(60%)</b>	<b>89(44%)</b>	<b>43(21%)</b>	<b>10(5%)</b>
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