

# EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY OR 'EDTECH'

Education Technology or 'EdTech': The use of hardware, software, digital content, data, and information systems in education supports and enriches teaching and learning and improves education management and delivery. The World Bank's Vision for EdTech is to **"Reimagine Human Connections to Transform Teaching and Learning for All"**.

## THE PROMISE OF EDTECH

The world is in the midst of a technological revolution. Yet students, especially in developing countries, are not being adequately prepared to thrive in this rapidly changing world. In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the fragility of the long-standing model of education service delivery; and has placed the digital divide and the learning crisis in the spotlight. But it has also **offered us an opportunity to rethink, reimagine, and rebuild our education systems**.

The World Bank supports the appropriate, cost-effective use of EdTech at all levels of education, and supports countries in expanding access and improving quality—both inside and out of the classroom—so that education reaches all students.

The Bank works in partnership with governments and organizations worldwide—including **FCDO, Imaginable Futures, GPE, UNICEF, and UNESCO**, among others—to support innovative projects, timely research, and knowledge sharing activities about the effective and appropriate use of information and communication technologies in education systems.

EdTech can create new connections among teachers, students, parents, and broader communities to create learning communities. Investments in EdTech can make education systems more effective and resilient to future shocks, and help reform and reimagine the way education is delivered.

To realize this vision, the World Bank works to **discover** evidence-based technology solutions in education; **deploy** solutions, at the pilot level and at scale; **diffuse** this knowledge widely across policy makers, and support capacity development to better use this new knowledge.

To leverage technology for education, policies and initiatives should embrace an inter-related set of five principles to maximize human engagement:



**ASK WHY:** EdTech policies and projects need to be developed with a clear purpose, strategy, and vision of the desired educational change.



**DESIGN AND ACT AT SCALE, FOR ALL:** The design of EdTech initiatives should be flexible and user-centered, with an emphasis on equity and inclusion, in order to realize scale and sustainability for all.



**EMPOWER TEACHERS:** Technology should enhance teacher engagement with students through improved access to content, data, and networks, helping teachers better support student learning.



**ENGAGE THE ECOSYSTEM:** Education systems should take a whole-of-government and multistakeholder approach to engage a broad set of actors to support student learning.



**BE DATA-DRIVEN:** Evidence-based decision making within cultures of learning and experimentation, enabled by EdTech, leads to more impactful, responsible, and equitable uses of data.



## THE WORLD BANK'S EDTECH APPROACH IN ACTION

The World Bank is committed to support countries in adopting digital technologies to improve teaching and learning, bringing education to ALL learners—anytime, anywhere, by:

- Improving **digital infrastructure** for **learning continuity and acceleration**, by working with countries to identify how to address issues of affordable connectivity, device procurement, cloud solutions, and multi-modal delivery of education.
- Supporting **learner-centered technologies** and **skills development** by deepening its work on adaptive learning systems, remote assessment, and by identifying how education systems can more effectively use learning analytics to personalize education.
- Enhancing **system effectiveness** through developing a new strategy for Education Management Information Systems (EMIS 2.0) to support more effective use of data.
- Engaging **teachers** by exploring teacher competency frameworks, teacher networks, and communities of innovative teachers to support countries to empower teachers.
- Expanding **EdTech ecosystems** by developing communities of practice around EdTech innovation hubs and creative talent, to develop new open educational libraries.

The World Bank and its partners are working on EdTech initiatives in more than 25 countries in every region of the world, focusing on the three R's: Resilience, Relevance, and Recovery

- **RESILIENCE:** In **Turkey**, a COVID emergency response Project—*Safe Schooling and Distance Education*—aims to build future resilience in the education system, by creating a new hybrid learning model to support access to digital resources, and improve connectivity and access to education data. The project will also build out the national ecosystem of innovators to support the development of new learning resources, and build the capacity of teachers to effectively use these digital resources to support hybrid learning.
- **RELEVANCE:** **Evoke** is a World Bank project designed to support young people to develop relevant 21st century skills (e.g., creativity, collaboration, critical reflection), socio-emotional skills (e.g., curiosity, empathy, generosity), and gain the confidence to experiment, collaborate, and create innovative solutions to global challenges such as sustainable cities, literacy, and migration through a project-based learning platform. The project is currently being implemented in **Honduras and Colombia** for out of school youth.
- **RECOVERY:** The **EdTech Policy Academy** is a hands-on clinic to engage with partner institutions and public officers on a specific challenge or priority in the country dialogue. The current implementation is focused on learning recovery. The aim of this initiative is to deepen knowledge and skills in areas critical for effective education systems. Participants from **Brazil, Cambodia and Mali** among other countries are exploring EdTech themes such as digital infrastructure, learning systems, teacher digital skills, as well as inclusive education and related issues on policy implementation. This is an opportunity to define the strategic integration of technology in education following the five World Bank EdTech principles.

Key Contacts and Website: [Digital Technologies in Education](#)

