

Education Systems' Response to COVID19

Brief: April 24, 2020

To date, schools are closed in 180 countries, with about 85% of students out of school.¹

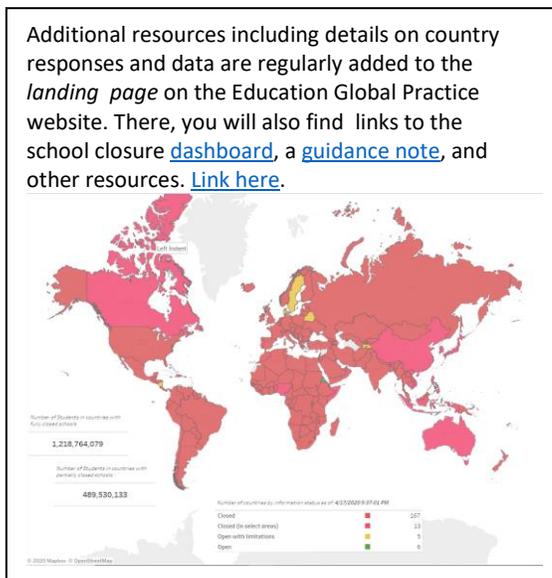
Overview of school closures (source: World Bank teams and news outlets)

	Africa	EAP	ECA	LAC & N. America	MENA	SAR	Total
Closed	40	14	44	41	20	8	167
Partly closed	3	8	1	1	0	0	13
Total	43	22	45	42	20	8	180

* An additional 20 countries are not reporting, open, or open with restrictions. They are noted [here](#).

Since the last update, new reporting on closures updated for Botswana, Anguilla, Curacao, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, and Suriname.

- Some countries are reopening schools, with added measures for student safety and physical distancing.
 - Denmark has reopened primary schools**, adding critical in-school adjustments to prevent the spread of infection: classes are divided into sub groups; children each have their own desks marooned two yards away from their nearest neighbor; teachers work with the same group throughout the day and do not switch; children play only with kids from their class and only in small groups; teachers don't gather in the staff room; and everyone is required to wash their hands at least once an hour for six hour duration of school. Here are the links to the [kindergarten](#) and [school](#) reopening guidelines (in Danish).
 - Singapore has extended school closures until June 1st**, schools were scheduled to open by May 4th but the [Prime Minister Lee declared](#) that due to a growing number of infections (approximately 9,000 cases) the country will extend and tighten restrictions.
 - Austria announced it will reopen schools only for grade 12 on May 4th**, so they may prepare for the secondary school leaving exams two weeks later. The exam has been shortened and will cover fewer subjects with optional oral exams to improve grades --- a deviation from common practice.
 - In Germany a partial reopening of schools has started.** This past [Monday](#) some students went back to class to take their exams ([Abitur](#)). They and their school staff are required to observe strict social distancing as they write their papers. Chancellor Merkel has recommended schools resuming operations by May 4th onwards. The [details concerning reopening](#) are up to Germany's [16 states](#) to decide. By late April, state ministers of education are set to develop guidelines for hygiene measures, transportation from school to home and viceversa, break times and classroom and groups division that meets social distancing guidelines.

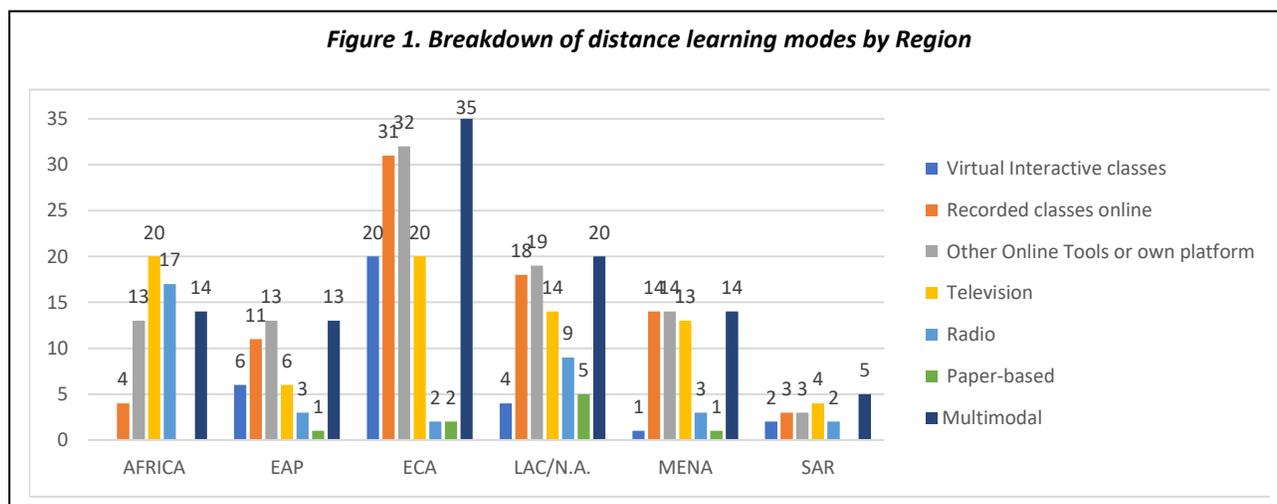


¹ Source: Education GP dashboard is accumulating the information crowdsourced by the Bank Task Team Leaders on the ground and by information online. Reflects the best knowledge of the situation globally by the Bank. For questions regarding this brief, please contact Kaliopé Azzi-Huck or Tigran Shmis.

- **France and the Netherlands plan to re-open primary schools by early May.** In [France](#), children aged 5 to 10 will return to class on May 11th. President Macron, has [clarified today that parents will get the final word](#) and may not send their children back to class if they are worried about their health. The rest of children will follow in staggered age groups with no more than 15 students or less allowed in classrooms. By May 25th all primary, secondary and lycée students would be back to school. In the [Netherlands](#) primary school will reopen on May 11 following the advice of their infectious disease control institute, secondary schools could follow by June if no more outbreaks take place.
- **Japan was moved to the category of “partly closed”** with regards to status of schools. Although the Government announced school year start on April 10th, only 38% of educational institutions (including kindergarten until secondary schools) started the year across the country. The low % is due to the government’s parallel announcement of State of Emergency in 7 major provinces (including Tokyo).
- While schools in **Finland** remain closed, the [Government has established a task force to study the impact of school closures on student wellbeing](#). The TF’s recommendations to help mitigate long-term psychological effects include: investments in more arts and art education, coursework assignments that enforce students’ management of their own time, and exploring ways that work-based (hands-on) learning could be done digitally.

2. Remote Learning is expanding - with benefits and challenges

- Among countries with closed school systems that are reporting information, 143 have moved to some type of remote learning. 71% are using at least a combination of paper-based, radio, television, or online modes to deliver lessons through varied channels. The “*Brief Highlight*” box below showcases three countries that are delivering the national curriculum during school closures in multiple ways. **Annex 1 provides a breakdown of the different remote learning modes used in each country.**



Source: World Bank Education COVID19 Response Database

- A main concern in many countries, and of WB Education teams engaged in TA and operational activities is an increase in inequality of opportunity. In better off families, children and young people will have a space to work, a digital device, internet connection, textbooks and materials. Even in MICs, broadband access at home is less than 50% (and of heterogeneous quality), and much lower in LOI. Relying only on online resources, will increase the already large learning gaps between the rich and the poor. So a multimodal strategy, relying on TV and radio to deliver content, as well as smartphones and SMS to communicate with

teachers and parents, is needed to improve chances of low income students of staying engaged with the education process.

- A [New York Times survey](#) of students learning online shows that the student body has not been conditioned for exclusive remote learning. Younger children require adult supervision and guidance and many older students, are more likely to be struggling to grasp materials, follow lessons, while older students are feeling increasingly alone.

**Brief Highlight – Using Multiple Modes of Remote Learning
Argentina, India, Kenya**

Argentina' [Sequimos Educando](#) is the national remote learning program. It offers on-demand digital educational materials and resources on the Ministry of Education's [Educ.ar](#) website. A section on the website, called "class of the day," provides a daily plan for learning as well as a collection of virtual reality videos in 360° format to provide an immersive educational experience. For those without connectivity access or personal devices, educational programming is broadcast 14 hours per day on television, and 7 hours a day on radio. The content is aligned with the "class of the day" content found on Ministry's website. Finally, television and radio programming is also supplemented with "notebooks" packed with learning resources that have been delivered to student homes.

India's approach includes multiple platforms, some offered by the government while others are run by organizations. The [DIKSHA portal](#) (available online and offline) contains e-Learning content for students, teachers, and parents. Content includes video lessons, worksheets, e-textbooks and assessments, in multiple languages and aligned to the curriculum. The e-textbooks are available on an app and contain QR codes that help students navigate to additional resources. Then there is [e-Pathshala](#), a learning application for classes 1 to 12 in multiple languages, also provides books, videos, audio, etc. for students, educators and parents. The [Swayam platform](#) hosts 1900 complete courses for classes 9-12 and higher education, including teaching videos, weekly assignments, exams and credit transfers. On television, [Swayam Prabha](#) is comprised of 32 Direct To Home (DTH) channels available nationally and devoted to telecasting educational programs round the clock. Their content includes courses for classes 9-12, higher education, vocational education, teacher training as well as out-of-school children.

Kenya education is rapidly innovating. To provide wider internet coverage, the Government of Kenya has agreed with private partners to deploy [Google's Loon Balloons](#) carrying 4G base stations over Kenyan airspace. A single balloon can provide internet connectivity across an 80km-diameter area. On the content side, the Government has developed [EduTV Kenya -a YouTube channel](#) which carries education programming livestream and on-demand. The government has also made electronic copies of textbooks available for free on the [Kenya Education Cloud](#) for all students. Lastly, for those without access to electronics or connectivity, radio and TV broadcast lessons on daily basis.

Annex 1 – Breakdown of Remote Learning Approaches by Country

(based on information received by April 23, 2020.)

Region	Country	Multi modal (# of modes used)	Virtual Interactive classes	Recorded classes online	Other Online Tools	Television	Radio	Paper- based
<i>Summary</i>								
<i>(out of 143 countries)</i>		<i>102 (71%)</i>	<i>33(23%)</i>	<i>81 (57%)</i>	<i>95 (66%)</i>	<i>75 (54%)</i>	<i>35 (26%)</i>	<i>10 (6%)</i>
AFRICA	Angola					1		
AFRICA	Burkina Faso					1		
AFRICA	Cabo Verde						1	
AFRICA	Cameroon					1		
AFRICA	Central African Republic	2				1	1	
AFRICA	Chad				1			
AFRICA	Congo, Dem. Rep.	3			1	1	1	
AFRICA	Congo, Rep.					1		
AFRICA	Cote d'Ivoire				1			
AFRICA	Ethiopia	3			1	1	1	
AFRICA	Gambia, The					1		
AFRICA	Ghana					1		
AFRICA	Kenya	4		1	1	1	1	
AFRICA	Liberia	2		1	1			
AFRICA	Madagascar					1		
AFRICA	Mali					1		
AFRICA	Mauritania						1	
AFRICA	Mauritius	4		1	1	1	1	
AFRICA	Mozambique	3				1	2	
AFRICA	Niger						1	
AFRICA	Nigeria	3			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	South Africa				1			
AFRICA	South Sudan						1	
AFRICA	Tanzania	2				1	1	
AFRICA	Uganda	2			1		1	
AFRICA	Zambia					1		
AFRICA	Zimbabwe	2				1	1	
EAP	Cambodia			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	Malaysia	2			1	1		
EAP	Maldives	3			1	1	1	
EAP	Mongolia	2		1		1		
EAP	New Zealand	2		1	1			
EAP	Philippines	2		1	1			
EAP	Singapore	3	1	1	1			

EAP	Thailand							
EAP	Timor-Leste	5		1	1	1	1	1
EAP	Vietnam					1		
ECA	Albania							1
ECA	Armenia	2		1	1			
ECA	Austria	3		1	1	1		
ECA	Azerbaijan	3	1	1		1		
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			1
ECA	Greece	3	1		1	1		
ECA	Hungary			1				
ECA	Iceland			1				
ECA	Ireland			1				
ECA	Italy	4	1	1	1	1		
ECA	Kazakhstan	4		1	1	1		1
ECA	Kyrgyz Republic	3		1	1	1		
ECA	Latvia	2	1		1			
ECA	Lithuania			1				
ECA	Luxembourg	2	1	1				
ECA	Moldova	4	1	1	1	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	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	Turkey	3		1	1	1		
ECA	Ukraine	2		1		1		
ECA	United Kingdom	2		1	1			
ECA	Uzbekistan	3		1	1	1		
LAC/N.A.	Argentina	5		1	1	1	1	1
LAC/N.A.	Aruba				1			
LAC/N.A.	Bahamas, The			1				
LAC/N.A.	Belize	2		1	1			
LAC/N.A.	Brazil	2		1	1			
LAC/N.A.	Canada	3	1	1	1			
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.	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			1			
LAC/N.A.	Guyana	3			1	1	1
LAC/N.A.	Haiti	2		1	1		
LAC/N.A.	Honduras	2			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.	Trinidad and Tobago			1			
LAC/N.A.	United States	6	1	1	1	1	1
LAC/N.A.	Uruguay	3	1	1	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	4		1	1	1	1
MENA	Libya	3		1	1	1	
MENA	Morocco	3		1	1	1	
MENA	Oman					1	
MENA	Qatar			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.						
SAR	Bangladesh	3	1		1	1	
SAR	Bhutan	2				1	1
SAR	India	3		1	1	1	
SAR	Pakistan	3	1	1	1		