

LESSONS FOR EDUCATION – Joint Webinar Series

RESOURCES AND SUMMARY NOTES OF PAST EVENTS

Responding to COVID-19 and Looking Beyond: Lessons from Turkey's Education Emergency Response and Digital Education Reforms for a New Way of Teaching and Learning

Date:	October 8, 2020
Event Description:	<p>Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, Turkey has made large investments to expand its e-learning platform to benefit an impressive 18 million students and over one million teachers, and to develop a New Digital Education System (NDES) for the future. While the country's focus at the moment has to be on the emergency response and return to school activities, it is at the same time setting the infrastructure, educational and institutional foundations to support longer-term blended education needs and education delivery in the face of any future shock.</p> <p>In this seventh Lesson for Education webinar, the deputy minister of national education of Turkey shared the country's experience in managing the extensive digital platform to deliver effective and equitable education services. Turkey's representative explained the strategies to mitigate internet access and bandwidth problems, and the role of new digital educational materials and tools to respond to the needs of education, today and in the future.</p> <p>The deputy minister and other national and international education decision makers and researchers discussed the critical aspects to consider when delivering education remotely, the future of education and how countries can prepare for it.</p>
Recording:	Video on Facebook
Speakers:	<p>Reha Denemec, Deputy Minister of National Education, Turkey</p> <p>Michelle Kaffenberger, RISE Research Fellow, Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford</p> <p>Jaime Saavedra, Global Director, Education Global Practice, The World Bank</p> <p>Andreas Schleicher, Director, Education and Skills, and Special Advisor on Education Policy to the Secretary-General at the OECD</p> 
Background materials:	<p>Blog: How to invest in remote learning while building the education system of the future? By Harry Patrinos, The World Bank</p> <p>Note: Building Back Better: Education Systems for Resilience, Equity and Quality in the Age of Covid-19. By Binh Thanh Vu and Isil Oral Savonitto, The World Bank</p> <p>Press Release: Turkey Invests in Safer Schooling and Distance Education with the World Bank Support</p>

	<p>Project Appraisal Document: Turkey Safe Schooling and Distance Education Project</p> <p>Continuity stories about the education response to COVID-19 from across the world.</p>
Lessons learned:	<p>Gradual improvements. Unlike some other countries that overburdened and crashed their systems, Turkey enhanced the online education services and their reach gradually, appreciating the system constraints.</p> <p>Blended methods. Turkey leveraged all its existing platforms and combined distance learning with traditional education to complement each other. For example, TV continues to play an important role while access to internet was improved, tablets distributed to students, and community education centers to access the digital education platform expanded.</p> <p>Teacher capacity. Turkey has been hiring new teachers over the last 10 years and training them. Both the students and the teachers were ready to use the new technologies. Online methods are used for continuous teacher training including in digital skills and content delivery.</p> <p>Attention to diverse learning needs. In Turkey, students with special needs were provided targeted education content and continued receiving face-to-face teaching where needed. Also, the refugee children receive the same services as Turkish students.</p> <p>Preparing for the future. Turkey not only enhanced the capacity of the education system to respond to the pandemic and provide e-learning equitably but was also thinking of the system as a launch pad for what education will be in the future, with a focus on evoking the curiosity of children to learn.</p> <p>A learning education system. In the current situation of uncertainty, the capacity to learn along the way is crucial. Turkey maintained the flexibility to adapt and humbleness to learn along the way.</p> <p>Formative assessment. Technology can be used to support testing, moving from high stakes tests to formative assessments to inform where the learning gaps are.</p>
About the Series:	<p><i>The World Bank Group Education Global Practice, Harvard Global Education Innovation Initiative, hundrED, and the OECD Directorate for Education and Skills have combined their expertise on education to respond to the COVID-19 crisis. As part of this joint initiative, the institutes have gathered information from around the world on how countries are responding to the crisis in the education sector. The webinar series highlights some of the experiences.</i></p>