



NEWSLETTER

Quarter 4, 2020



Preamble

Welcome to GESCI's Fourth Quarter 2020 Newsletter 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 newsletter gives some detail on these activities.

GESCI Activities

Unlocking data for Africa's Education

24 September, 2020. Poor access to and use of data is holding back the Africa's education community, preventing it from understanding the impact of policy, engaging in evidence-informed advocacy and nudging education systems to make effective decisions. GESCI is an invited member of this group who held the inaugural Webinar on 21 July 2020 to collaborate across three critical areas: understanding the data ecosystem in Africa, promoting the use of data among data stakeholders and developing data capacities. As a follow-on from a July Webinar this select group of stakeholders, hosted by Zizi Afrique, ESSA and Education Sub-Saharan Africa, focused on how to create a consortium of partners to facilitate access to data for education research. Resources available include HDX who have offered their platform and staff to help increase accessibility and use of education data from Africa, as well as working with the Building Evidence into Education (BE2) group of funders of education research keen to hear what this group has to say. The focus of the meeting was to provide input on and validate the concept for the 'collective', for each of three identified areas of collaboration (access, use and capacities) formulate priorities and concrete actions. *For further information contact angela.arnott@gesci.org*

Opening Schools in Côte d'Ivoire

1st October, 2020. The Schools in Côte d'Ivoire re-opened on 1st October 2020 for the new academic session. The final phase of Ecole Numérique d'Excellence Africaine (ENEA) programme commenced with new strategies implementation supported by ENEA Expert Working Group (EWG) Meetings for sustainability of Digital Schools of Distinction (DSD) and scaling of ENEA programme, School Based Coordinators (SBCs) and Teachers Training for Knowledge Creation cycle of Teachers Professional Development were held. *For further information contact: sylvie.tanflotien@gesci.org*

ADSI Knowledge Creation Workshop and Online Tutoring and Support for Teachers- Tanzania

October. GESCI conducted face to face training on Module 2 of Knowledge Creation phase for 400 teachers in Pwani and Morogoro regions of Tanzania. Online tutoring of the ongoing Teachers Professional Development is underway and will continue into January 2021. *For further information contact: joyce.msolla@gesci.org*

Working with World Bank: Digital Skills Country Work Plans

October. GESCI has worked with a consortium of World Bank consultants on developing Digital Skills Work Plans in collaboration with countries over the past year. Supporting the Ministry of Science and Higher Education, The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, this team developed a draft Digital Skills Country Action Plan (DSCAP) under the Digital Economy for Africa Initiative of World Bank. GESCI and all consultants provided inputs on the development of the DSCAP e-book as reference guide to develop DSCAP for African Countries. The same is published at World Bank website; <https://olc.worldbank.org/content/digital-skills-why-what-and-how> *For further information contact: senthil.kumar@gesci.org*

Strengthening the Monitoring of Education in Sierra Leone

November - January, 2021. GESCI continues to support both Ministries of Basic and Secondary Schools as well as that of Technical and Higher Education, Sierra Leone in designing a sector wide monitoring and management information system that integrates all education institutions and personnel into one system critical for decision making and evaluation. *For further information contact; angela.arnott@gesci.org*

GESCI Develops PAU-MDE (Mini Grid, Digitalization and Entrepreneurship) program

November. GESCI, in collaboration with the Pan African University Institute of Water and Energy Sciences (PAUWES), has initiated the development of 10 e-Courses through the Subjects Matters Experts previously recruited. This phase of course development has known and continues to experience multiple reviews as much as the content level as on the didactic level on the part of the teams of GESCI and PAUWES. The courses developed are on the Energy module (Energy Production / Generation and Storage for Mini-Micro Grid, Design, Planning, and Operation of Mini / microgrids, Business Model and Finance of Mini / microgrids, Mini-grid Policy Regulation and standards), on the ICT module (Infrastructure in Smart Grid, Advanced Power Electronics Applications, Internet of Things and Coding for Mini-grids and Data Management and Smart Grid Analytics) and on the entrepreneurship module (The Nature of Entrepreneurial Practice and Business Model, Building Expertise in Product and Services). *For further information contact: david.tsuanyo@gesci.org*

Digital Schools of Distinction Awards – Kenya

November 2020. GESCI in partnership with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology in Kenya awarded 80 Principals and their schools as having achieved e-Mature status of Digital Schools of Distinction Status. All principals received certification for providing effective and strategic leadership in the implementation of the ADSI Programme leading their schools through a five-phased approach to achieve this final Digital Schools status. All the schools worked on a whole-school ICT integration aspect using the GESCI [ICT Integration Roadmap](#) and [Guidelines](#). Going through a phased approach from e-Initial, to e-Enabled, to e-Confident and finally e-Mature where schools have ICT integration policies, that include community outreach and inclusivity for special needs and gender, teachers and students using ICTs in their daily teaching and learning, functional Computer labs, a digital library with learner-centred materials and use of ICTs in general school administrative activities. *For further information contact:* esther.wachira@gesci.org

GESCI Participates in the ALiVE Conceptualization Study

2nd -13th November, 2020. GESCI participated in the ALiVE conceptualization study in Kenya and Tanzania. The study aimed to generate understanding on how the selected 21st Century competences are understood and defined in the local contexts as will be assessed under the Assessment of Life Skills and Values in East Africa (ALiVE) – a co-creation and collaborative initiative for the development of contextualized assessments of values and life skills, driven by local leaders across three East African countries. *For further information contact:* samuel.otieno@gesci.org

GESCI attends University of Cape Town Webinar on Assessment of Learner Team-work

11th November, 2020. GESCI's David TSUANYO and Elizabeth Mbasu attended a webinar on "teamwork" organized by UCT to discuss and share examples of methods for assessing teamwork that can be used in PAU-MDE courses, that will allow students to demonstrate achievement of the PROCESS as well as the PRODUCT. Teamwork is one of the most important soft skills identified across PAU-MDE as many other programmes. All of the basic principles of assessment that apply to individual students' work apply to teamwork as well. However, in the case of teamwork, the PROCESS of working together needs to be assessed as well as the PRODUCT of the groupwork. *For further information contact:* david.tsuanyo@gesci.org

AU ICT Cluster- HRST – DEI Consultation on e-Education

October-December. The HRST – DEI Consultation on e-Education, chaired by AU Focal point and Chair for the ICT Cluster convened a meeting with GESCI, as the lead of the Cluster and the AU's Department of Infrastructure and Energy's commitment because of its central role in the AU Digital Strategy for Africa, particularly in the area of sectorial implementation plans for education and training. Also participating was the representative of the Policy and Regulation Initiative for Digital Africa (PRIDA) project who elaborated on how the EU is supporting the African Union through two modalities - Internet Governance and Policy and Regulation, as well as supporting the African Union to develop sectorial implementation plans for the Digital Transformation Strategy. A representative from the European Union gave insights into the Africa Connect initiative (ACI) in a bid to leverage on the ICT in Education cluster for its implementation. ACI's aim is to provide connectivity to Higher Education Institutions and to increase affordable connectivity and access through 38 research hubs. To date 19 research HEI hubs are connected covering 19 countries. Based on these discussions, the AU ICT Cluster revised the cluster workplan which was reviewed in October. Stakeholders for next meeting is planned for late January 2021. *For further information contact:* Jajil@africa-union.org or angela.arnott@gesci.org

AU TVET Cluster Meeting

1st December, 2020. Chairperson of the Cluster, Mr Alfie Hamid of CISCO invited a panel of experts to talk about the impact of COVID on TVET and how digital resources can address some of the bottlenecks in reaching youth with skills in Africa. Members, including GESCI were invited to introduce their organizations and programmatic activities- on-going and planned for 2021. There was a presentation of the 2021 TVET Cluster Plan and proposals for cluster working modalities. *For further information contact* unamim@nepad.org or OumaN@africa-union.org

AU Innovations in Education Webinar and assessment of Edtech applications

2nd -30th November- 11th December, 2020. The African Union Commission (AUC) and Partners across Africa will hold the third edition of Innovating Education in Africa Expo as a virtual series of events and activities from October 2020 – June 2021. As part of the events, 50 Innovations were selected to be exhibited during a virtual exhibition to policy makers, development partners and practitioners. Through subsequent evaluations, 10 out of the 50 selected innovations were shortlisted to compete during the pitching event where 1-3 Innovations were finally selected to receive up to USD 60,000 to support scaling their innovations. GESCI, as member for the third year in Experts Evaluation Group participated in the virtual meeting to provide inputs to the evaluation criteria for the Evaluation of the Top 50 to determine the Top 10. GESCI made a written submission. Based on consensus, a final evaluation criteria were shared with experts, and GESCI submitted its ranking of the top 50 and then the 10 shortlisted Edtech applications. A public pitch of the top 10 then allowed the final selection on 15 Dec 2020. *For further information contact:* owusum@africa-union.org

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and planned for 2021. There was a presentation of the 2021 TVET Cluster Plan and proposals for cluster working modalities. *For further information contact: Ms Unami Mpofo unamim@nepad.org or Mr Nicholas Ouma OumaN@africa-union.org*

GESCI Board of Directors Appoints New Chairperson

1st December, 2020. The Global e-Schools and Communities Initiatives (GESCI) Board of Directors has appointed Prof. Emmanuel Mutisya as the Board Chairperson to spearhead the organization's growth in the education and skills development sub-sector. He works with the African Development Bank and is a Visiting Professor in a number of universities including the University of Nairobi. He is also the Chairman of the National Diaspora Council of Kenya (NADICOK) and an International Board Member of the University of Cape Town. With his extensive experience and networks in education, skills development, youth entrepreneurship and employment, Prof. Mutisya is expected to expand GESCI's outreach and impact across Africa. *For further information contact: jerome.morrissey@gesci.org*

Events – Past and Upcoming

September

Reinvigorating the CESA Higher Education Cluster

15th September, 2020. The African Union organised the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA) Higher Education Cluster meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to meet with Cluster partners and agree on the new Higher Education Cluster workplan for 2021. GESCI is part of this cluster with an interest in online and virtual tertiary education.

October

All-Virtual Africa Code Week

5th - 12th October, 2020. The 6th Edition of the Africa Code Week was held Virtually. This edition saw the launch of the Digital Skills Initiative to scale learning impact in all the 54 African countries, a new mobile app and coding challenge aimed at mobilizing youth innovation and a renewed focus on public-private partnerships to support virtual capacity building efforts. Launched September 1st in partnership with Systems, Applications, and Products in Data Processing (SAP), UNESCO YouthMobile and Irish Aid, the [AfriCANCode Challenge](#) is a coding competition for students aged 8 to 16 currently taking place across the continent. Invited to compete individually or in teams, young participants (a.k.a. 'Courageous Coders') are on a mission to imaging the future of education with a Scratch game and 2-minute video explaining why their code should win. Fostering a wide range of essential skills from problem-solving and coding all the way to teamwork and communications, the challenge will see the top 3 winners from each participating country compete at the pan-African level.

Visit: <https://bit.ly/3lFqNzz>

Global Education Meeting

22nd October, 2020. This meeting provided an opportunity for the [Save Our Future](#) campaign – to launch a white paper that called for urgent investment in education today to prevent a generational catastrophe. The save our future campaign – a movement of the biggest education multilaterals in partnership with over 600 civil society organizations, research organizations, foundations, media, youth, and influencers – put forward an evidence-based roadmap with concrete recommendations for governments to reimagine education systems post-COVID-19. *Visit: <https://bit.ly/33KaFGS>*

Working together to #SaveOurFuture

October 2020. A historic coalition of the world's biggest education multilaterals in partnership with over 600 civil society organizations, research organizations, foundations, media, youth, and influencers have joined the Save Our Future campaign to call for urgent investment in education to prevent a generational catastrophe. During the Global Education Meeting (2020 GEM) convened by UNESCO on October 22nd, this unprecedented coalition launched the [Save Our Future White Paper](#) that puts forward an evidence-based roadmap with seven priority areas for action to protect and reimagine education systems post-COVID-19. The White Paper was also highlighted at the World Economic Forum Jobs Reset Summit on the same day. The White Paper was the result of collaboration among more than 100 researchers around the world who contributed to working groups that brought the best evidence together to inform the paper's priorities. *Visit: <https://bit.ly/37xvnLf>*

November

Virtual Launch of the GPE Knowledge and Innovation Exchange Observatory on COVID-19 Responses in Education Systems in Africa

17th November, 2020. A Consortium comprising 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 technical support from the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS), has been setup to develop and manage the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) **Knowledge and Innovation Exchange (KIX) Observatory on COVID-19 responses in the educational systems in Africa**. The KIX Observatory will focus on collecting, synthesizing and mobilizing information and evidence about COVID-19 responses in primary and secondary education to inform policy and practice in 41 Global Partnership for Education

partner countries on the African continent. Visit: <https://bit.ly/37xDRlq> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P742KDjCqdo&feature=youtu.be>

December

International Forum on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the Futures of Education

7th – 8th December, 2020. UNESCO in partnership with the Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China and the National Commission of the People's Republic of China for UNESCO hosted the **International Forum on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the Futures of Education**. Devoted to the theme of *Developing Competencies for the AI Era*, the Forum brought together education and technology experts from around the world to discuss AI skills for the futures of education and AI as a common good for education. Participants shared policies and practices in defining the competencies required in the AI era, and examine strategies to prepare all people to live and work with AI effectively. Education. Visit: <https://bit.ly/3oAEkKL>

Continental launch of Building Back Equal: Getting Girls Back to School Guide

9th December, 2020. The event was co-hosted by Plan International, UNICEF, UNESCO, UN Girls' Education Initiative (UNGEI), Malala Fund and the African Union Department of Human Resources, Science and Technology. The Getting Girls Back to School Guide was developed by UNESCO, Malala Fund, Plan International, UN Girls' Education Initiative (UNGEI) and UNICEF, through the Global Education Coalition to provide targeted inputs to ensure continuity of learning during school closures, and comprehensive, timely and evidence-based plans for reopening schools in a way that is safe, gender-responsive and child-friendly, and meets the needs of the most marginalised girls. This launch is linked to the Global Partnership for Education (GPE)'s replenishment campaign, underlining the links between the recommendations made in the Back to School Guide and government commitments within the framework of the GPE. *For further information contact:* samuel.norgah@plan-international.org

Transforming Education Conference for Humanity

11th – 13th December, 2020. The focus of the conference was largely on knowledge and capacity building in Social and Emotional Learning & Digital Learning, which have found renewed focus in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. Sessions will be interactive in order to provide participants with an opportunity to dialogue, gain knowledge, build capacity, and exchange best practices SEL & digital learning. Visit: <https://bit.ly/2VC5IAT>

Second AU Continental Teacher Virtual Award Ceremony

21st December, 2020. The African Union Commission organised the Second AU Continental Teacher Award. This event aimed at enhancing visibility and status of the Teacher in Africa at Secondary Level; Promoting Teaching as a profession at all levels; celebrating and encouraging outstanding teachers in Africa. Visit: <https://bit.ly/3nyLYnZ>

African Union Celebrates Outstanding Education Innovations Across Africa, Crowning 3 Winners

21-22 December 2020. Three (3) outstanding education innovations were awarded grants of USD 60,000, 40,000 and 20,000 at the Innovating Education in Africa Pitch Event 2020. The grants will be used to undertake pilot projects in collaboration with African Union Member States. The innovations included: BAG - Building A Generation - A gamified platform that offers real-time access to experience-based learning for University students; Learnable - Teaching assistant that allows teachers to compose and distribute lessons via a dedicated mobile app and WhatsApp; Chalkboard Education - A remote teaching and learning toolkit aimed to help teachers and parents during the COVID-19 crisis. Visit: <https://bit.ly/2MzOkGi>

10th Anniversary of the mEducation Alliance

11th February, 2021. The mEducation Alliance will be celebrating its 10th Anniversary. During the event, the Alliance will host its first annual awards ceremony. Visit: <http://bit.ly/3r85FWm>

Education Development News

Global

UNESCO Teacher Task Force (TTF) - Civil Society Constituency Meeting

The TTF was created in 2008, upon agreement in the Oslo Declaration, the International Task Force on Teachers for Education 2030, or Teacher Task Force (TTF), is a unique global independent alliance working solely on teachers and teacher issues. It is dedicated to raising awareness, expanding knowledge and supporting countries on the questions and themes raised in target 4.c of SDG 4. GESCI as a member since 2008 was invited to participate in reviewing its Workplans in light of the shift of focus to the Education 2030 Agenda and the questions and themes raised in target 4C of SDG 4.

Develop a Feature-Rich App for any virtual Classroom

Building an e-learning platform? See this brief to learn how you can create a customized, feature-rich, interactive classroom for an enhanced learning experience. *Visit:* <https://bit.ly/3oSzhVM>

How to manage assessments in the blended classroom

Technology is part of our daily lives. Schools have taken big steps towards using online resources and tools, but we can expect online learning to have a more important role in students' education due to the pandemic. Variations of blended learning were applied in classes before. However, the challenges that education around the globe is facing have triggered a transition to full time online learning, or at least a hybrid model of classroom and digital instruction and learning. *Visit:* <https://bit.ly/3qTzUiY>

AfricaConnect @Paris Peace Forum

AfricaConnect is a project by the African Union which provides the possibilities offered by digital tools for online education and research collaboration. The project is supported by the European Union (EU). AfricaConnect was selected to feature at the 2020 Paris Peace Forum under the category "**New technologies**": *Visit:* <https://parispeaceforum.org/2020-selected-projects/>

Africa

Online Colloquium: Taxonomy of Digital Technical and Vocational Education and Training (DTVET)

The Association for the Development of Education in Africa and [FESTO](#) organised the online colloquium – facilitated by the [African Development Bank](#) – on taxonomy of Digital Technical and Vocational Education and Training (DTVET). Digital skills underpin nearly every aspect of work and life. Within the framework of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR), digitalization is rapidly transforming economies and societies across the world, radically shaping the "what" and "how" of education and training at all levels and in all forms. Digitalization has entered the world of work in a massive scale, bringing a range of opportunities and challenges to the private sector and TVET providers. The main objective of this webinar was to share effective innovative solutions and best practices in the digitalization of TVET in order to prepare African youth for future work. *Visit:* <https://bit.ly/2JqJOJ5>

Innovating Education in Africa Dialogue 2020

There is the need to promote innovation in the entire education and skills development ecosystems, taking advantage of the digital revolution, in order to increase its impact and also ensure that disadvantaged groups are not left out. As the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA 16-25) states, ICT is an essential tool for ensuring universal access, quality of provision, and empowerment of school graduates for meaningful personal lives, and contribution to social economic development. Since its inception in 2018, the Innovating Education in Africa Expo has continued to gather momentum and established itself as the leading Pan-African event promoting the adoption of Education Innovations in Africa. In light of the above, the African Union Commission (AUC) and Partners across Africa will hold the third edition of Innovating Education in Africa Expo as a virtual series of events and activities from October 2020 – June 2021. The first of these events took place in the month of November 2020. *For further information contact:* owusum@africa-union.org

Second FAWE International Girls Conference on Education in Africa

The Forum for African Women Educationists (FAWE)'s second International Conference on Girls Education was held virtually. The conference targeted participants drawn from FAWE Network (Chapters, Alumni, Members), Researchers, Education and Gender Experts, National, Regional and International Civil Society Organisations, Bi-lateral and Multilateral organizations, Development partners, Philanthropists, Private sector, African Union Commission, Ministers of Education and relevant Government officials, Teachers and Students drawn from at least 7 African Countries with FAWE's presence, education practitioners and other education stakeholders who participated in a conversation that interrogates Africa's education preparedness in achieving the 21st century skills. *Visit:* <https://bit.ly/2KmFdYi>

Countries

Sudan

Education Funding for Sudan

The World Bank Board of Directors recently approved an education program supported by a \$61.5 million grant from the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) for the Sudan Basic Education Support Project (BESP). This constitutes the largest education financing project in Sudan. The project will enable Sudan to sustain and improve basic education for children, with significant support to teachers, schools and communities, while strengthening government capacity to formulate policies and monitor progress at system level. The funding will support efforts to improve student enrollment, retention and reading proficiency in the early grades of primary education, covering all public schools, while prioritizing investment in disadvantaged areas. Public school grants will be provided to disadvantaged schools to reduce education costs borne by parents, lowering the risk of dropping out, especially for girls. The funding will also support volunteer teachers who are normally paid from community contributions, which are likely to decrease due to the economic crisis compounded by the impact of COVID-19. *Visit:* <https://bit.ly/3qAOA7B>

Kenya

Kenya and UK to host Major Education Summit in 2021

The United Kingdom and Kenya will co-host a high-level summit next year to lead global action to educate every child. Coronavirus has worsened the global education crisis, with 1.3 billion children – including 650 million girls – out of education at the peak of school closures. Experts warn that many children will never return, particularly as countries experience an economic contraction in the wake of the pandemic. Missing out on education does long term damage to individuals and communities, with girls particularly at risk. The benefits of schooling are transformative and multi-generational - a child whose mother can read is 50% more likely to live past the age of five and twice as likely to attend school themselves. With just one additional school year, a woman's earnings can increase by a fifth. *Visit:* <https://bit.ly/2VyYati>

Education Development Partners Consortium Group (EDPCG) Meeting

The Ministry of Education in partnership with the EPDCG held a meeting to discuss school reopening post COVID19, updates for the Education in Emergencies Working Group as well carry out a joint sector review among other activities. GESCI attended this meeting as our African Digital Schools Initiative (ADSI) Programme is implemented in 4 counties in Kenya reaching out 80 secondary schools. *For further information contact:* v.ntheke@unesco.org

The Gambia

How Education Management Information Systems (EMIS) data drive Education Reforms

In The Gambia, like in many other countries, EMIS data have been the livewire for education sector managers and stakeholders involved in the decision-making process. Over the years, the country has made great strides in making its EMIS more demand-driven. *Visit:* <http://bit.ly/2Kw7FH8>

Vacancies, Awards and other Opportunities

First Annual Award Show of the mEducation Alliance

The Alliance will be celebrating its **10th Anniversary** and as part of the anniversary celebration, they will host a virtual awards ceremony in which various EdTech organizations and individuals will be honored for their work. The mEducation Alliance plans to make these awards an annual tradition! Nominations are being sought from individuals and organizations with exceptional EdTech work in the following thematic areas: **Numeracy and S.T.E.M, Literacy, Youth and Workforce Development, Crisis and Conflict Response, Policymaker EdTech Champion and EdTech Researcher Extraordinaire**. Nominations closed on 8th January, the winners will be announced **live at their anniversary event in February 2021**. *Visit:* <https://www.meducationalliance.org/>

Innovation for Sustainable Development Awards: Identify, Highlight and Support Innovations

The Commonwealth Secretary-General's Innovation for Sustainable Development Awards has been launched to recognize and celebrate the contributions that innovators in the public, private and not-for-profit sectors are making in advancing the sustainable development goals in Commonwealth countries. There will be three award winners in each of the five categories, adding up to a total of 15 winners. In each of the five categories, one winner will be selected from the public sector (national/regional/local government), one winner from will be from civil society / not-for-profit sector and one winner will be an entrepreneur or a private sector company. **Deadline: 31-Jan-21** *Visit:* <https://bit.ly/3qwu5ZI>

Rapid Research and Learning Fund: Inviting Medium and Small- Scale Research Projects

The Independent Evaluator of the Girls' Education Challenge Phase II is inviting proposals for its Rapid Research and Learning Fund (RRLF) to examine issues pertaining to girls' education in crisis situations including but not limited to COVID-19. The proposals are invited to explore the overarching theme of "Resilience and Girls' Education in the face of crisis". The Independent Evaluation (IE) is being conducted by a consortium of partners: Tetra Tech International Development (Tetra Tech), the Research and Equitable Access and Learning (REAL) Centre at the University of Cambridge, Fab Inc., and a number of academic and data collection partners across Girls' Education Challenge (GEC) II countries. Drawing on the experience of GEC projects, the RRLF aims to commission and deliver a demand-driven portfolio of research to enhance the evidence-base on girls' education in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. The evidence generated through the Rapid Research and Learning Fund (RRLF) aims to inform GEC project grantees, its Fund Manager, FCDO policymakers, as well as researchers. **Deadline: 31-Jan-21** *Visit:* <https://bit.ly/2Wj1HvT>

Education Cannot Wait approves US\$27.2 million Grants for multi-year Resilience Programmes

Education Cannot Wait (ECW) announced US\$27.2 million in catalytic investment grants for multi-year resilience programmes in Colombia, Ecuador and Peru; these countries are receiving large numbers of children and their families fleeing violence and instability in Venezuela. The three-year education multi-year resilience programmes will reach over 350,000 Venezuelan and host-community children and youth. This investment builds on results delivered through ECW's US\$7 million first emergency response in 2019 to address the region's largest exodus in recent history. *Visit:* <https://bit.ly/2KrrIGH>

Spencer Foundation Grants for Educational Research Projects and other Inspiring Grants on Education

The Spencer Foundation has announced the Large Research Grants on [Education](#) Program. The Large Research Grants on Education Program supports education research projects that will contribute to the improvement of education. This program is “field-initiated” in that proposal submissions are not in response to a specific request for a particular research topic, discipline, design, method, or location. Their goal for this program is to support rigorous, intellectually ambitious and technically sound research that is relevant to the most pressing questions and compelling opportunities in education. **Deadline 15-Jan-21** Visit: <http://bit.ly/38ctZxl>

2021 WISE Prize for Education to Raise Global Awareness

Applications are now open for the WISE Prize for Education to raise global awareness of the crucial role of education in all societies and create a platform for innovative and practical solutions that might help alleviate some of the challenges which education faces around the world. The WISE Prize for Education recognizes an individual or a team for their outstanding contribution to education, and for their resolve to develop an idea or grow their initiative further. The WISE Prize for Education celebrates and shares the laureate’s vision in building the future of education by providing the Laureate(s) tailored support over two years to scale their impact. **Deadline 01- Feb- 21** Visit: <http://bit.ly/2K9EBWf>

Networking and Resources

Technical brief: Gender-responsive pedagogy for early childhood education (GRP4ECE)

GRP4ECE, developed by VVOB and the Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE), refers to gender-responsive pedagogy that is tailored specifically to the context of young learners and early childhood education. It takes into account the specific setting of ECE schools and classrooms and provides pedagogical guidance which is appropriate to the age and developmental levels of young learners. Visit: <https://bit.ly/3ICAZlP>

e-Readiness Tool for the National Education Sector for SADC Member States

SADC Secretariat together with partners developed a strategy and framework for assessing the ICT integration in the education sector. GESCI was a key partner in this. GESCI is a UN founded INGO supporting ICT integration in education and training and the lead agency of the ICT in Education Cluster for the African Union’s Continental Education Strategy for Africa. Based on our substantial experience in implementing education initiatives in multiple African countries on digital skills development among teachers and students in schools, in non-formal youth digital programmes, and at the tertiary level in supporting post-graduate diplomas in digital and knowledge economy leadership, we drafted an interim framework for modification by SADC Member States. Using this framework, a peer-to-peer review of Member States’ status of e-readiness in the education sector will ensure that this sector is capable of providing the human resources necessary for launching SADC’s Fourth Industrial Revolution. Visit: <https://bit.ly/36SLCml>

USAID’s Global Education Learning Series

Here are some useful resources from the USAID 2020 Education Learning Series. [The Education Response to COVID: Promoting Equity and Inclusion](#); [Private Sector Engagement: Youth Workforce Development and Higher Education](#); [Reading and Literacy in Primary Education](#)

New UNESCO Report: How to Deploy EduTech in Post-COVID-19 Schools

In this report *Education for the most marginalised post-COVID-19*, UNESCO gives guidance for governments on the use of digital technologies in education. They find that governments need to focus on five inter-related areas through which their strategies and implementation processes should be delivered. Visit: <https://bit.ly/34dprWT>

GESCI’S 2020 at a glance



February 2020: ADSI Knowledge Creation Training in Tanzania



January 2020: Meeting with Education Stakeholders in the counties implementing ADSI in Kenya



January 2020: ADSI/ENEA Programme Partners Group Meeting Côte d’Ivoire



GESCI's COVID19 Response

28, April 2020 Created by GESCI

Dear GESCI Partners and members of the GESCI Leadership Network for Sustainable Development We trust and believe that you are keeping safe with your family/loved ones at this time the world is dealing with the Corona Virus Pandemic. The pandemic has impacted negatively on education systems and to a...

March 2020: Training of ENEA School Based Coordinators on Knowledge Creation

April 2020: Release of GESCI's COVID19 Education Response



October 2020: Schools visits for assessment of ADSI implementation in the schools, Kenya

#GESCIInTheMedia2020

Our ADSI/ENEA Programme impact

1. Principal from Kiambu County shares with The Star, Kenya: <http://bit.ly/2HbKtwC>
2. Partners in Cote d'Ivoire during the Programme Partners Group Meeting share insights with the Abidjan News: <https://news.abidjan.net/h/668707.html>
3. Feedback from teachers and principals in Tanzania captured by Abood Television and the Tanzania Broadcasting Cooperation (TBC). Abood TV: <https://bit.ly/2Rh3YoQ> , TBC Tanzania: <https://bit.ly/3m9h8mr>

More Press Reviews at: <https://gesci.org/news-room/press-corner/>

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, 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.

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