

Brief description of the lecture:

How to build a more resilient education system after COVID: Global trends in learning recovery

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The arrival and scale of the Covid-19 pandemic caught everyone off guard; the pandemic, and its reverberating impacts, are far from over. The pandemic has impacted every area of the lives of every person around the globe, and education has been hit by its worst crisis in a century. In some countries, policy makers have been doing their best to respond to an unprecedented and fast-moving situation; in others, they have yet to grasp the magnitude of this monumental shock. Evidence on the effectiveness and impact of various policy and programmatic responses has been in short supply, in part because few countries were prepared. But recovering learning is now a gigantic task in need of urgent action.

Beyond adopting evidence-based policies, we need to continue to measure the extent of the challenges through better data that will help decision-makers to target solutions, especially to the most marginalized learners. The urgency of the challenge should provide the political window of opportunity to implement critical education reforms that ensure all children receive the education and holistic support they need and deserve.

Concrete actions to promote learning recovery

In the face of learning losses, it is our duty to ensure that this cohort of students gets an education equivalent to that received by previous generations, despite lost time.

The following levers constitute a menu of options to recover learning:

- **Lever 1:** Consolidating the curriculum across and within subjects to prioritize foundational skills and knowledge
- **Lever 2:** Increasing the efficiency of instruction to achieve more learning in the available time
- **Lever 3:** Expanding the time spent on instruction for a determined period of time

The last lever involves expanding instructional time. The three main ways to expand instructional time includes modifying the school calendar by adjusting start/end days or shortening holidays, offering summer school, and extending the school day or week to cover more hours. Additional instructional time should be used wisely, ideally in tandem with pedagogies to improve the efficiency of instruction. As countries develop learning recovery programs, they must align changes across the curriculum, teaching and learning materials to ensure coherence.