



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

Education  
Sector

# COVID-19 Education Response Webinar

## Skills development during the COVID-19 pandemic and preparing for recovery

Thursday 7 May 2020  
13h00 – 14h30 GMT+2

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### AGENDA

[Go to Webinar](#)

#### Introduction

The COVID-19 pandemic and global lockdown represent an unprecedented challenge for skills development systems. Lockdown is having an immediate impact on the world economy, which varies dramatically across sectors and across regions. Many sectors have nearly stopped operating, others are facing activity peaks with shortages of skilled workers. Some have already re-oriented their production, either to provide much needed masks, for instance, or to produce health equipment. Besides the loss of activity, workers have to face a new organization of work, e.g. sanitary constraints at the workplace, or telework. The impact of confinement is bound to be most severe for vulnerable workers, especially poor, informal-sector workers in low-income countries with daily earnings and no savings, raising concerns for their survival. Women, who are overrepresented among wage labourers, own-account workers and unpaid family workers, stand to lose the most. Young people face a particularly difficult entry into the labour market, which risks having long-term consequences on their careers and earnings.

In the short-term, the challenge has been to change the technical and vocational education and training (TVET) provision rapidly from real live to digital or in some cases blended to fill in the gaps and provide various platforms for delivery. Some countries engaged in providing Technical and theoretical content, where support is offered live and online. Some innovations in this space include simulated environments and live recordings including for work-based learning. Some countries are currently working on improving

assessments of workplace performance virtually and changing exams modalities and/or shifting exams online, which have traditionally taken place in physical spaces.

Numerous challenges for initial and continuous skills development processes have become more visible. These challenges are immediate, as they relate to the school, TVET institutions and company closures currently in place in most countries. The loss of several weeks or months of learning and training is likely to affect the outcomes and motivation of TVET students, especially from disadvantaged background, and may result in dropout, changes in career plans and need for short skilling programmes. Workers participating in skills development programmes (apprentices, interns, adults in continuous development training including literacy, etc.) as well are affected by these disruptions.

The provision of TVET including work-based learning in the current context depends on the digital skills of both trainers and learners but equality is an issue. And when it comes to distance learning, there is a digital skills gap among workers and TVET learners. This point is confirmed by UNESCO analysis of gaps in access to technology.

These challenges do not affect TVET systems evenly. While they can emphasize already existing structural weaknesses, they also bring an opportunity to rethink their readiness to face similar crises in the future with more agility. This dialogue requires voices of key stakeholders of TVET systems: policy-makers, companies, TVET providers, young people.

This UNESCO webinar on skills development during and beyond the COVID-19 pandemic builds on country experiences already shared in the previous UNESCO webinars,<sup>1</sup> which have tackled several dimensions of education policy responses. It aims to share innovative country experiences exploring the effectiveness of strategies tackling the immediate and longer-term effects of the COVID-19 crisis on TVET and skills development systems. It will also explore how recovery is planned and how to build further equitable, resilient and labour market-responsive TVET systems.

## Objective and guiding questions

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- To share information and facilitate peer learning about how various TVET stakeholders (policy-makers, providers, the private sector, including companies involved in work-based learning, and youth) are coping with the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on TVET provision at central and local levels.
- To share country experiences on approaches to responding to crisis and enhancing recovery while ensuring equity in TVET during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- To identify key building blocks of a resilient and labour-market relevant TVET system.

The discussion will feature a keynote presentation by UNESCO and interventions from high-level representatives of national authorities and/or international agencies reflecting different perspectives/constituencies around the following policy questions:

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<sup>1</sup> <https://en.unesco.org/covid19/educationresponse/webinars>

1. What are the key immediate and anticipated impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on TVET and skills development systems in relation with labour markets and how are countries managing this situation?
2. What are the best/most innovative approaches to ensuring equity in TVET and skills development recovery process during the COVID-19 crisis? Do we have any evidence of their effectiveness?
3. What are the characteristics of resilient, agile and labour-market relevant TVET systems that would help countries to face future crises?

## Audience

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The webinar is designed for TVET policy-makers and stakeholders: Ministries of Education and/or Training, Ministries of Employment, TVET Authorities, TVET institutions, including UNEVOC Centers, private sector representatives and TVET students. The webinar will benefit from the contribution of the Inter-Agency Group on TVET<sup>2</sup> including [on-going surveys and studies](#).

Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions, make comments and share relevant information and material on the online platform, through the Q&A function.

## Technical specifications

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The webinar will use Microsoft Teams Live as a technical platform. Participants do not require a Microsoft Teams account, but can [connect as guests through this link](#).

## Language

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The working language of the webinar is English with AI-powered translation in the six UN languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish). Questions and comments will be accepted in English, French and Spanish using the chat function.

## Agenda

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<sup>2</sup> See [IAG-TVET webpage](#) and <https://en.unesco.org/themes/skills-work-and-life>

Thursday 7 May 2020:

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|---------------|--|
| 13:00 - 13:05 | <b>Welcoming remarks and introduction</b><br>By Hervé Huot-Marchand, Chief of Section of Youth, Literacy and Skills Development, Education Sector, UNESCO  |
| 13:05 - 13:25 | <b>Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on TVET and labour markets: responses and policy options</b><br><b>Keynote speech</b> by Borhene Chakroun, Director of Division for Policies and Lifelong Learning Systems, Education Sector, UNESCO<br><b>The voice of youth</b> by Chirag Goel, WorldSkills Champion, <b>India</b>  |
| 13:25 - 14:00 | <b>Country experiences:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Peter Kuroshi, CEO Council of Registered Builders of Nigeria (CORBON), <b>Nigeria</b></li><li>- Mustak Ally, Head of Skills Development, Minerals Council, <b>South Africa</b></li><li>- Marie Bancal, Partnership and International Cooperation Manager, PIX Digital Skills Platform, <b>France</b></li><li>- <b>Finland</b> (TBC)</li><li>- Filipe M. Cassapo, Technology and Innovation Manager, SENAI, <b>Brazil</b></li></ul> |
| 14:00 - 14:20 | <b>Questions and answers</b>   |
| 14:20 - 14:30 | <b>Closing remarks</b> by Soo Hyang Choi, Director of UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre for Technical and Vocational Education and Training   |

## Resources

### Before the webinar:

- Concept note and agenda;
- A summary of findings of two Global surveys conducted worldwide jointly by several organizations and aimed to assess how the COVID-19 crisis affects (i) [policy-makers, TVET providers, social partners](#) and (ii) [companies](#) and the implications for skills development and the future of TVET systems
- [The Inter-Agency on TVET<sup>3</sup> \(IAG-TVET\) Newsletter](#)
- [UNESCO-UNEVOC TVET peer support resources](#) (national tools, guidelines)
- Speakers' Powerpoint presentations

### After the webinar:

- Summary report with a set of clear recommendations

<sup>3</sup> <https://en.unesco.org/themes/skills-work-and-life/interagency-cooperation>

## Stay in touch

### UNESCO's COVID-19 Education Response



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<https://en.unesco.org/covid19/educationresponse>



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