



Network of Education Policy Centers

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

"Educational Strategies And Innovations In The Era of Digitalization"

**MAPPING SYSTEMIC RESPONSES TO PANDEMIC-RELATED CHALLENGES IN
EDUCATION**

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Context

- Spring 2020 – lockdowns; distance learning; instant measures
- GEM Regional Report 2020 and the OECD 2020 paper on the impact of COVID-19 on student equity and inclusion
 - **Learning loss;**
 - **Supporting students’ socio-emotional well-being;**
 - **Support by and to teachers and school leaders**
- 2021 - what measures and policies were implemented to ensure equal access to quality education for all students, especially those from vulnerable groups
- Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, **Kazakhstan**, Kosovo, **Kyrgyzstan**, Republic of Moldova, **Mongolia**, North Macedonia, Serbia, Turkey.

Addressing Learning Gaps

- **Catch-up strategies**

- Guidelines or instructions for organizing the lessons; Summer schools/camps and catch-up programmes; Different projects addressing the learning gaps; Adaptation of the relevant educational legislation
- Kyrgyzstan: 2020: Summer schools/camps; 2021: inclusive vacation
- Mongolia: National Comprehensive Program/Plan

Addressing Learning Gaps

- **Universal design to curricula**

- Guidelines, instructions, frameworks; Adaptation of curricula & Assessment process, National/State exams
- Kazakhstan: methodological recommendations for the adjustment of the National curriculum during the pandemic.
- Mongolia: Guidelines for assessment
- Kyrgyzstan: State Standard, 2021 - the subject standards of a primary school (grades 1-4)

Addressing Learning Gaps

- **Non-formal learning activities**

- Restricted or held online

- **After school tutoring**

- Final grades/University entrance exams; Vulnerable groups

- Mongolia: after school tutoring for the grade 12 in the subjects selected for university entrance exams.

Ensuring the Well-being of Students

- **Supporting socio-emotional well-being of students & Supporting the mental health of students**
 - Guidelines/Instructions/Protocols; Role of school psychologists/support specialists and teachers; Need for extra (non-educational/support) staff; Professional development in the field of mental health Videos/Platforms/Hotlines; Research
- Kazakhstan:
 - methodological recommendations for parents and teachers
 - the position of the teacher-assistant
 - monthly seminars on protection of children's rights and mental health

Ensuring the Well-being of Students

- **Supporting socio-emotional well-being of students & Supporting the mental health of students**
 - Mongolia:
 - e-learning course for school social workers on “Social and Psychological Issues of Secondary School Students”
 - every general education school to have a psychologist by 2024
 - Kyrgyzstan:
 - Children's' Hotline - psychological counselling
 - 2020: “Year of regional development, digitalization of the country and support for children”

Ensuring the Well-being of Students

- **Providing equitable and inclusive access to extra services for vulnerable students**
 - Cash transfers; Food and hygienic packages; Learning materials; Devices and Internet access; Child allowances; Scholarships
- Kazakhstan: multiple children families (allowance), citizens who lost their job due to pandemic (monthly social payment) and those with low socio-economic status (SES) (social assistance increased; social package).
- Mongolia: money allowance increased and the amount of cash benefits from the Social Welfare Fund; discounting tuition fees and transferring them to the next payment

Ensuring Support by and to Teachers and School Leaders

- **Facilitating ongoing communication with teachers and school leaders to better identify vulnerable students' challenges and needs**
 - Guidelines/Manuals; Professional development
- Mongolia: Professional Learning Groups/Communities with the purpose to identify the challenges for teachers in the implementation of the curriculum, to define the content to be considered in the current term, and to support its implementation.

Ensuring Support by and to Teachers and School Leaders

- **Prioritising the well-being of educational staff**
 - Physical health; Material/Financial support; Professional development; Mental health;
- Kazakhstan:
 - reform process: enhancing the educator's status
 - paid annual leave of 56 calendar days
 - the standard teaching load reduced
 - psychological-pedagogical services provide necessary support for educators

Summary

- Non-binding guidelines/Instructional documents
- Upscaling of existing practices (professional development, social services)
- **Addressing learning gaps**
 - guidelines and frameworks for adjusting the curricula or assessment process vs. non-formal and school level activities
- **Ensuring the well-being of students**
 - providing equitable and inclusive access to extra services for vulnerable students and providing teachers with guidelines and resources on support to students' well-being
- **Ensuring support by and to teachers and school leaders**
 - Anti-pandemic measures; guidelines and financial compensations

Reflection - Update

- **Kyrgyzstan:**

- State Standard, 2021 - the subject standards of a primary school (grades 1-4)

- **Kazakhstan:**

- reform process: enhancing the educator's status

- **Mongolia:**

- every general education school to have a psychologist by 2024



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Thank you for your attention.

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