CONCEPT NOTE & PROGRAMME

BACKGROUND

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused the largest disruption of education in history with most governments around the world temporarily closing schools and other learning spaces in efforts of containing the spread of the virus. At the peak of the pandemic in April 2020, schooling was disrupted for over 1.5 billion learners in more than 190 countries.

In Africa, young women and adolescent girls were particularly affected through lack of access to education, notably girls’ health education, putting them at risk of increased childcare and chore responsibilities, gender-based-violence, adolescent pregnancy and child marriage, due to their socio-economic and cultural contexts. As such, girls aged 12-17 are at particular risk of dropping out of school in low- and lower-middle-income countries, rolling back the substantial gains made on girls’ education in recent decades.

It is in this context that UNESCO, in collaboration with the Peking University and the Peking University Education Foundation have initiated this project on promoting school health education for girls in Africa in the COVID-19 era.

The project aims to make use of existing contextual relevant knowledge, scientific research outcomes and experiences from Africa and China and outcomes of needs assessment, to support the development of girls’ health education in Africa, thus improving access and quality of education for girls. At its initial phase, the project will focus on three countries: Botswana, Nigeria and Uganda.

The initiative was formally launched on 15th October 2021 at UNESCO Headquarters, as part of UNESCO’s celebration of 2021 International Day of the Girl, with the participation of Professor Peng Liyuan, First Lady of the People’s Republic of China and UNESCO Special Envoy for the Advancement of Girls’ and Women’s Education, Mr. Tian Xuejun, Vice-Minister of Education, Chairperson of Chinese National Commission for UNESCO and Ms. Audrey Azoulay, Director-General, UNESCO.

The project has the following three goals: Supporting knowledge sharing and collaboration between Africa and China in the area of Girls’ Health Education; Making use of locally appropriate models of girls’ health education to better address the negative effects of COVID-
19 while promoting girls’ health and well-being; and Building supportive environments to support girls’ health education through advocacy and capacity building.

MEETING OBJECTIVES

The first meeting with the nominated Government Focal Points for the UNESCO-Peking University Project on Promoting school health education for girls in Africa in the COVID-19 era will have the following objectives:

1. Presentation of the key outlines of the project and key stakeholders.
2. Presentation of the implementation workplan for the project
3. Discuss the Rapid Needs Assessment Framework.
4. Agree on the next steps in the implementation of the project.

MEETING PARTICIPANTS

The following will participate in the meeting:

1. UNESCO Representatives – Priority Africa and External Relations Sector (PAX), Education Sector, UNESCO Regional Health Advisors, UNESCO National Programme Officers (NPOs)
2. Peking University and Peking University Education Foundation representatives

FORMAT AND LANGUAGE:

The meeting will be held online and with presentations and discussions held in English.

CONNECTION SPECIFICATIONS:

The meeting will be held on the Zoom Online Platform through the following link:

Subject: UNESCO-PEKING UNIVERSITY INITIATIVE ON PROMOTING SCHOOL HEALTH EDUCATION FOR GIRLS IN AFRICA IN THE COVID-19 ERA

Time : 17 Feb. 2022 10:00 AM Paris (GMT+1)

Meeting Link :
https://unesco-org.zoom.us/j/96254029961

Meeting ID : 962 5402 9961
Password : 666940
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<tr>
<td>10:00</td>
<td><strong>Moderator:</strong> Mr. Victor Soo, Project Officer, Priority Africa Coordination, UNESCO PAX</td>
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<td>10:00</td>
<td><strong>Welcome and Opening Remarks</strong>&lt;br&gt;Ms. Jaya Conhye-Soobrayen, Programme Specialist/Head of Unit, Unit for Relations with African Member States and Partnerships, Priority Africa Coordination, UNESCO PAX (4min)</td>
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<td>10:15</td>
<td><strong>Presentation of the UNESCO-PKU initiative</strong>&lt;br&gt;- Outline of the Project – Mr. Chris Castle, Chief of Section, Health and Education, UNESCO Education Sector (5min)&lt;br&gt;- Relevance of the initiative to the Peking University (PKU) – Prof. Yinghua Ma, Deputy Director, Institute of Child and Adolescent Health (ICAH), Peking University (5 min)</td>
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<td>10:15</td>
<td><strong>Relevance of the initiative to the region and selected countries</strong></td>
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<td>10:15</td>
<td>UNESCO Regional Advisors:&lt;br&gt;- Ms. Patricia Machawira, Senior National Project Officer, Regional Health Advisor for ESA (5 min)&lt;br&gt;- Mr. Xavier Hospital, UNESCO WCA Regional Health Education Advisor (5 min)</td>
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<td>10:40</td>
<td><strong>Presentation and discussion on the Implementation Workplan</strong> - Mr. Yong Feng Liu, Project Officer, Section of Health and Education, Education Sector (5 min)</td>
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<td><strong>Discussion</strong> (20 min)</td>
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| 11:05 –   | **Rapid Needs Assessment**    | **Framework**  
Mr. Xavier Hospital, UNESCO WCA Regional Health Education Advisor &  
Prof. Yifei Hu, Peking University (10 min)                                        |
| 11:35     | **Discussion**                |                                                                                            |
| 11:35–    | **Next Steps and Closing**   | **Remarks**  
- Mr. Chris Castle, Chief of Section, Health and Education, UNESCO Education Sector (5 min) |
| 11:40     |                                |                                                                                            |