

# The challenge education faces from Covid-19

**Covid-19 has led to 191 countries closing their education institutions and leaving 1.5 billion children unable to go to school. We know from other periods of extended school closure, such as the Ebola crisis in West Africa, that this break in learning can have serious impacts on the future lives and life chances of young people.**

We're taking rapid action, working closely with clients, governments, partners and beneficiaries to ensure learning continues for all children, especially the poorest and most marginalised. Using the right technology for each context, we have created and distributed online and radio lessons and set up virtual teacher training environments. We are supporting education ministries develop plans to build their systems back stronger so when children can return to the classroom, schools can accelerate learning and put the current challenges behind them.



# Supporting the immediate response

We are already implementing solutions in some of our biggest UK aid programmes including:



## Strengthening Education Systems for Improved Learning, Uganda

We're part of the Ministry of Education and Sports' Covid-19 response task force, helping to develop plans to support schools once they can reopen. As co-chair of its radio learning sub-committee, we're also ensuring learning continues by adapting existing literacy and numeracy lessons for radio broadcast, supported by SMS communication.



## Girls' Education South Sudan

We're reviewing and quality controlling existing lessons to align with the new curriculum and using our relationships with 31 radio stations to broadcast lessons and explore alternatives for the 43% of households without radio access. We're also supporting accelerated learning provision and adapting school reopening plans created during the civil war, to manage the return to the classroom.



## Transforming Teacher Education and Learning, Ghana

Our virtual learning taskforce is helping to ensure teachers can continue learning away from the classroom. Over 60% of the 30,000 student teachers nationwide have joined online lessons which we've been able to continue using cloud-based apps such as Telegram, Google Classroom and Whatsapp. The quality of this learning is being supported by enrolling 1,600 tutors in a specially offered online Certificate in Design, Teaching and Learning delivered by the Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences. We're also helping to disseminate public health messages through our teacher training network.



## Leh Wi Lan, Sierra Leone

We're supporting the adaptation of current radio lessons to bring them in line with newly scripted lesson plans and continuing to mentor teachers remotely using tablets, phones and bulk SMS. We're working closely with the Ministry of Education to support national plans for reopening schools.

We are also supporting governments in **DRC**, **Senegal**, **Rwanda** and **Tanzania** with their immediate response and with planning for when schools reopen. In **Pakistan**, the IIm Association, which we established as part of IIm Ideas 2, is providing the federal government with free access to digital materials which are being distributed through television and radio. In a new project in **Malawi**, we are adapting early stage plans and exploring how best to offer content to caregivers to help them support their children's learning.

# Moving beyond the immediate response

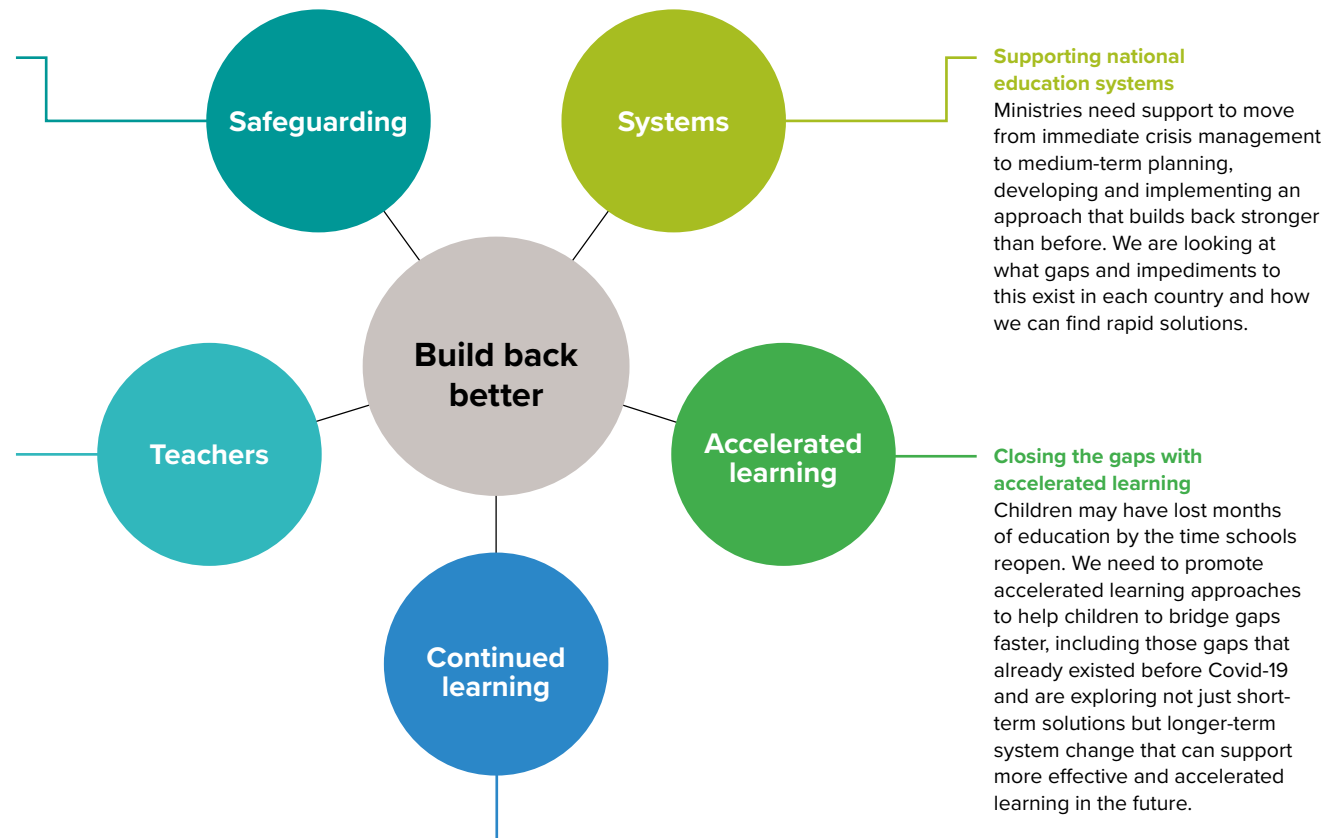
As well as supporting immediate responses, our colleagues around the world are thinking beyond this phase to consider how we can support the medium and longer-term responses to this crisis. We're focusing on five interconnected themes that will be fundamental to an effective systems-level response.

## Protecting the safety and well-being of children

We need to identify children who are most at risk and prioritise supporting them over an extended, and currently unknown, period of school closure. We are seeking the best ways to help parents and communities with home-schooling and give them the tools to maintain their children's safety and wellbeing.

## Retaining and developing capacity of teachers and other education professionals

Teachers need support to connect with their students' remote learning and progression and they need to continue their development while schools are closed. We are identifying creative ways to continue teacher development throughout closure to ensure teachers are retained, up-to-date and motivated for when schools reopen.



## Supporting national education systems

Ministries need support to move from immediate crisis management to medium-term planning, developing and implementing an approach that builds back stronger than before. We are looking at what gaps and impediments to this exist in each country and how we can find rapid solutions.

## Closing the gaps with accelerated learning

Children may have lost months of education by the time schools reopen. We need to promote accelerated learning approaches to help children to bridge gaps faster, including those gaps that already existed before Covid-19 and are exploring not just short-term solutions but longer-term system change that can support more effective and accelerated learning in the future.

## Supporting continued learning for pupils through remote provision

Technology is helping learning to continue but we need ensure that every child can access quality materials. We are exploring how to better work with communities so that they continue to demand content, and we are developing ways to monitor how effectively children are learning during the period of school closure.

# Working together

We are already working closely with partners collaborating with our global networks to build and implement the best possible responses to the rapidly-changing situation. But we also want to help prepare for what comes next.

Many of the immediate responses have focused on using technology to support remote learning, but this risks leaving behind the most marginalised and vulnerable children.

Covid-19 has the potential to create even greater inequity in education systems, but it also gives us the opportunity to offer something radically different. The opportunity to create and solidify connections so countries can strengthen and develop their education systems and build back better.

**We want to hear from you**  
info@camb-ed.com

**[camb-ed.com/intdev](https://camb-ed.com/intdev)**