

Amsterdam, 02 July 2020
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Formal invitation to participate in the Responses to Educational Disruption Survey (REDS) launched by IEA and UNESCO

Dear colleagues,

I am pleased to extend a formal invitation to participate in REDS on behalf of IEA and Mr Borhene Chakroun, Director, Division for Policies and Lifelong Learning Systems, UNESCO.

According to UNESCO, more than 90%¹ of all learners were affected by school closures caused by COVID-19 at the peak of the disruption. While important contributions exist to help capture the impact of COVID-19 on education, there still lacks first-hand, internationally comparable information from schools, collected in a systematic and scientific manner, which is needed for evaluating the extent to which teaching and learning have been challenged, continued, and adjusted as a result of the current crisis.

In this context, REDS aims to draw a more comprehensive picture of COVID-19's impact on global education. The study intends to collect information from governments, and internationally comparable data from school principals, teachers, and students, on how countries and schools are prepared for distance learning in times of school closures, as well as during a possible and subsequent reopening phase, including what measures were implemented to provide all students with the opportunity to continue learning.

REDS is part of the collective effort under the Global Education Coalition launched by UNESCO that seeks to facilitate inclusive learning opportunities for children and youth in the context of educational disruption. The Coalition has more than 130 members from United Nations agencies, international organizations, and private sector and civil society representatives.

¹ <https://en.unesco.org/covid19/educationresponse> -10th April was documented as the peak of educational disruption

REDS is designed to serve as a valuable source of information to inform policy and practice for more resilient education systems for the future, and assist education systems in their pursuit of Sustainable Development Goal 4 on ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education for all, in particular targets 4.1 and 4.4.

The first REDS National Research Coordinators (NRCs) meeting is envisaged as a one day event in August 2020 and will take place online. We would like to invite you to attend the first NRC meeting, which will be hosted virtually by IEA Hamburg. This meeting will be a very important opportunity for participants to discuss the design of the study framework, survey operations, and general direction of REDS. By taking part in this meeting, you will help to shape the framework of REDS. More detailed information about the meeting will follow in due time.

For your additional information, please find attached the study introductory package containing the REDS brochure, the REDS proposal including a study timeline, and a costs overview document with a description of the national study center tasks for the study.

Mr Borhene Chakroun, myself, and the wider IEA and UNESCO team hope to collaborate with you during this difficult time and to work together to keep all children learning. If you are interested in participating in the study or have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Dr Andrea Netten, Director of IEA Amsterdam (a.netten@iea.nl).

Yours sincerely,



Dr Dirk Hastedt
Executive Director IEA