



GOVERNMENT OF SIERRA LEONE

Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education New England, Freetown, Sierra Leone

Establishment of an Education Emergency Taskforce – EET - to Support Learning During COVID-19 School Closure

The Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education (MBSSE), in collaboration with key Education Development Partners, has today, 17th April, 2020 established an Education Emergency Taskforce – EET.

Government, as part of a broader response and global guidelines to prevent spread of coronavirus disease (COVI-19) into Sierra Leone, ordered the closure of schools on 31st March, 2020. Closure of schools can however have adverse consequences on children's wellbeing, welfare and learning – particularly for vulnerable children, the girls and those living with disabilities.

The Education Emergency Taskforce will therefore advise and support government on activities during and also post COVID-19 period focusing primarily on improving learning outcomes for the children of Sierra Leone. EET will specifically support coordination, response and planning through four strategic pillars - Strategic Communications, Continuous Distance Learning (including radio and mobile education for students and teachers), School Reopening Readiness and Education Policy Development.

Technical activities of the Taskforce are already being rolled-out including the acceleration of remote learning and comprehensive sexuality education through radio and digital platforms.

The Chair of EET is the Minister of Basic and Senior Secondary Education. Other members include the Minister of Planning and Economic Development, and the Leaders/Heads/Representatives of UNICEF, European Union, World Bank, UK Aid, and Irish Aid.

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