



COVID-19 & EDUCATION in BELIZE

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Covid-19 & Education in Belize

- General COVID 19 situation and its effect in education sector in the country.
- What are national data strategies regarding regular data collection?
 - Which education data collection activities have been affected?
 - How are you planning on recording usual aggregate measures (students, teachers, schools closure or changes and learning from home with parents often taking up the role of educator)?

Covid-19 & Education in Belize

- Which indicators in the global and thematic indicator framework will require additional data collection to adequately monitor and report?
- Are you developing new data collection approaches to track and monitor the COVID-19 crisis?
- Key issues and challenges.
- Suggestions for data production during such crisis.

General COVID 19 situation and its effect on education sector- Belize

- COVID-19 National Oversight Committee which is co-chaired by the Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition was established.
- Effective Friday, March 20th Schools were closed. Online sessions for selected schools started after the Easter break.
- Effective immediately, social gatherings were limited to 100 people and then eventually to 10 people.
- Restrictions were first placed on travelers from selected countries, eventually all travelers were prohibited, including Belizeans studying abroad.

General COVID 19 situation and its effect on education sector- Belize

- The national census was postponed until next year and some of the resources was allocated to collect data associated with COVID-19.
- The First case of COVID—19 in Belize was confirmed on March 23rd 2020.
- Total Belize had 18 cases of COVID-19. There were 2 deaths and 16 recoveries. To date Belize has no cases of COVID-19 for over 30 days

What are national data strategies regarding regular data collection?

- Data collection for Education is done through the Belize Education Management Information System (BEMIS)
- Data for the school year 2019-2020 are already collected.
- Promotion/ repeating of students for 2020-2021 school year will continue as schedule
- At the end of this school year it is expected that all pre-primary and primary school students will be promoted
- Secondary and Tertiary students will be promoted based on adjusted school policies.

- Which education data collection activities have been affected?

- Primary School Examination (PSE) June 2020
- There will be no data available to monitor students performance in Mathematics, English A, Social Studies & Science at the end of Grade 8.
- Attendance (April, May, June)
- CSEC to some extent

- How are you planning on recording usual aggregate measures (students, teachers, schools closure or changes and learning from home with parents often taking up the role of educator)?
- There will be no changes in how we record students data, teachers data and school closures.
- Presently Pre-Primary and Primary school students are receiving daily lessons.
- Secondary and Tertiary School Students continue to be engaged online.
- There are no plans to record learning at home, especially at the pre-primary and primary level.

Indicators requiring additional data collection

Primary & Secondary Education: Learning

- 4.1.1
- 4.1.2

Early Childhood: Readiness for primary school

- 4.2.5

TVET & Higher Education: Participation

- 4.3.1

Skills for work: Skills

- 4.4.1
- 4.4.2
- 4.4.3

Equity: Policy

- 4.5.2
- 4.5.3

Global Citizenship

- 4.7

Indicators requiring additional data collection

School Environment

- 4.a.1
- 4.a.2
- 4.a.3

Teachers: Supported

- 4.c.7

Developing new data to track and monitor COVID-19

- The Ministry of Health is responsible to monitor and report on the cases of COVID-19
- The SIB (Statistical Institute of Belize) conducted its first COVID-19 survey.
- Belize has not had any new confirmed cases of COVID-19 for the past 30 days
- Only 18 Cases were confirmed

Key issues and challenges

- Ensuring that students remain engaged and entertained without overwhelming them with too much
- Ensuring that students who do not have access to radio and television get copies of the paper-based lessons and assignments.
- Collecting data to determine school readiness for reopening
- Working out ways on how to get students on track once school reopens (especially at the primary level)
- Unexpected school closures or travel restrictions could impact data collection and verification exercises

Key issues and challenges

- Limited student access to technology (devices and Internet service)
- Low parent education levels (many parents unable to help their children learn)
- Planning with uncertainty (not knowing when schools will reopen or have to close again)

Suggestions for data production during such crisis

- Use online tools for data collection (e.g. Open EMIS on which BEMIS is based)
- Use telephone interviews for remote data verification where onsite verification is not possible
- Be flexible and patient with schools as they may have additional challenges related to providing education during the COVID-19 pandemic

Thank You!