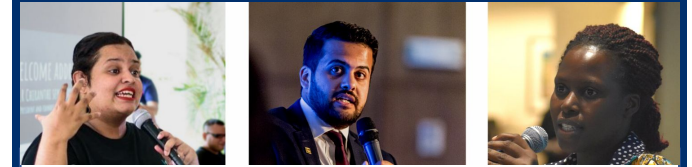


COVID-19, Education Crisis and Youth Response: Kazakhstan

Albina Tortbayeva, MA UCL, Youth Advisor,
YouthPower2 Learning Network



YouthPower2 Symposium



NOVEMBER 9-10, 2021

Straight from the Source:
Perspectives on Effective
Youth-Driven Programming
Symposium

WWW.YOUTHPower2.ORG

Welcome and Introductions



Albina Tortbayeva,
Youth Advisor, HEET CoP

Speaker



Janet Kwakye, YouthLead
Ambassador

Moderator



COVID-19 Pandemic May Result in a Long-term Human Development Crisis in Central Asia (World Bank, 2020)



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Global monitoring of school closures caused by COVID-19

+

-



> 16 mln. learners
affected in Central
Asia

≈ 1, 6 billion
affected learners

94% of the
world's student
population

> 190 country-
wide closures

● Localized

● Country-wide



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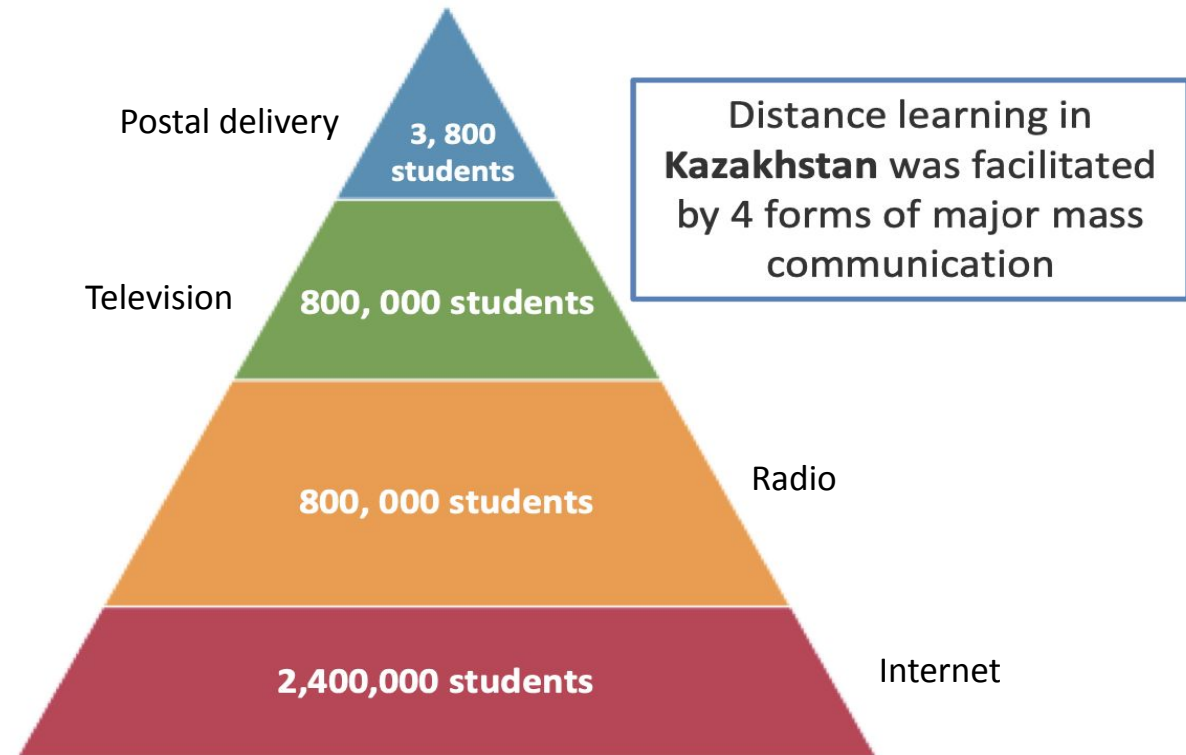
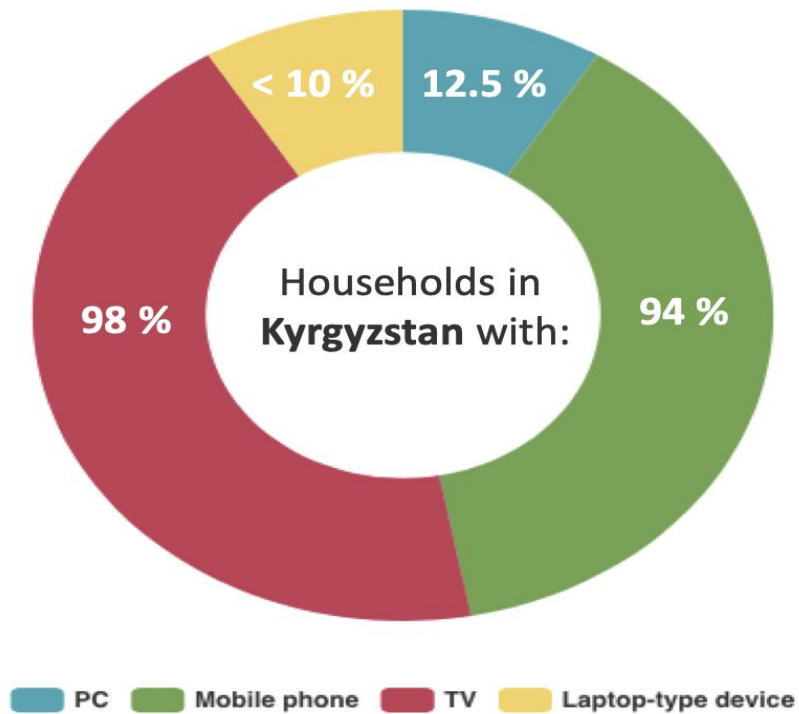
Nearly a third of Central Asia region's entire population is under fifteen years old

Key educational challenges (pre-COVID):

- Input and resource-oriented approach, heavily centralized system
- Low learning quality (PISA) – 1,5 years behind EU peers, low functional literacy
- Learning poverty (KG students from poor families are 2,5 years behind their peers)
- Educational inequality (rural and urban difference - 2 years of study in KZ)
- Low funding - KZ spending at all level of education is 3.4% of its GDP vs OECD average (5.4%)
- Infrastructure issues; ICT tools and digital skills

Impact of COVID-19 to education sector Central Asian countries

Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan have moved to distance learning by using different **digital learnings solutions** (online learning, televised learning, etc.)



Source: UN *Socioeconomic* Response Framework in Kyrgyz Republic

Key challenges in introducing distance learning programmes in the region of Central Asia



Sharp decline in **education quality**



Skills gaps to use ICT



Inequalities in **access** to distance learning



Shortage of quality online learning **content**



Emotional unrest and anxieties of students and a considerable **burden on home caregivers**, particularly women

Some **findings** from the UN Socio-Economic Impact Assessments:

In Kazakhstan, 70% of the respondents believe that education has become at least a quarter less productive

The early closure of schools and the fact that schools were not prepared to provide remote learning affected the quality of education.

In Kyrgyzstan, more than half (60%) of young people and adolescents experienced a high level of anxiety.

Access to education has been adversely affected, despite robust efforts by the Government to put in place virtual learning options.

The World Bank estimates that in Central Asia due to the pandemic:

- The average learning levels will fall
- The share of children in early secondary education below the minimum proficiency level will rise

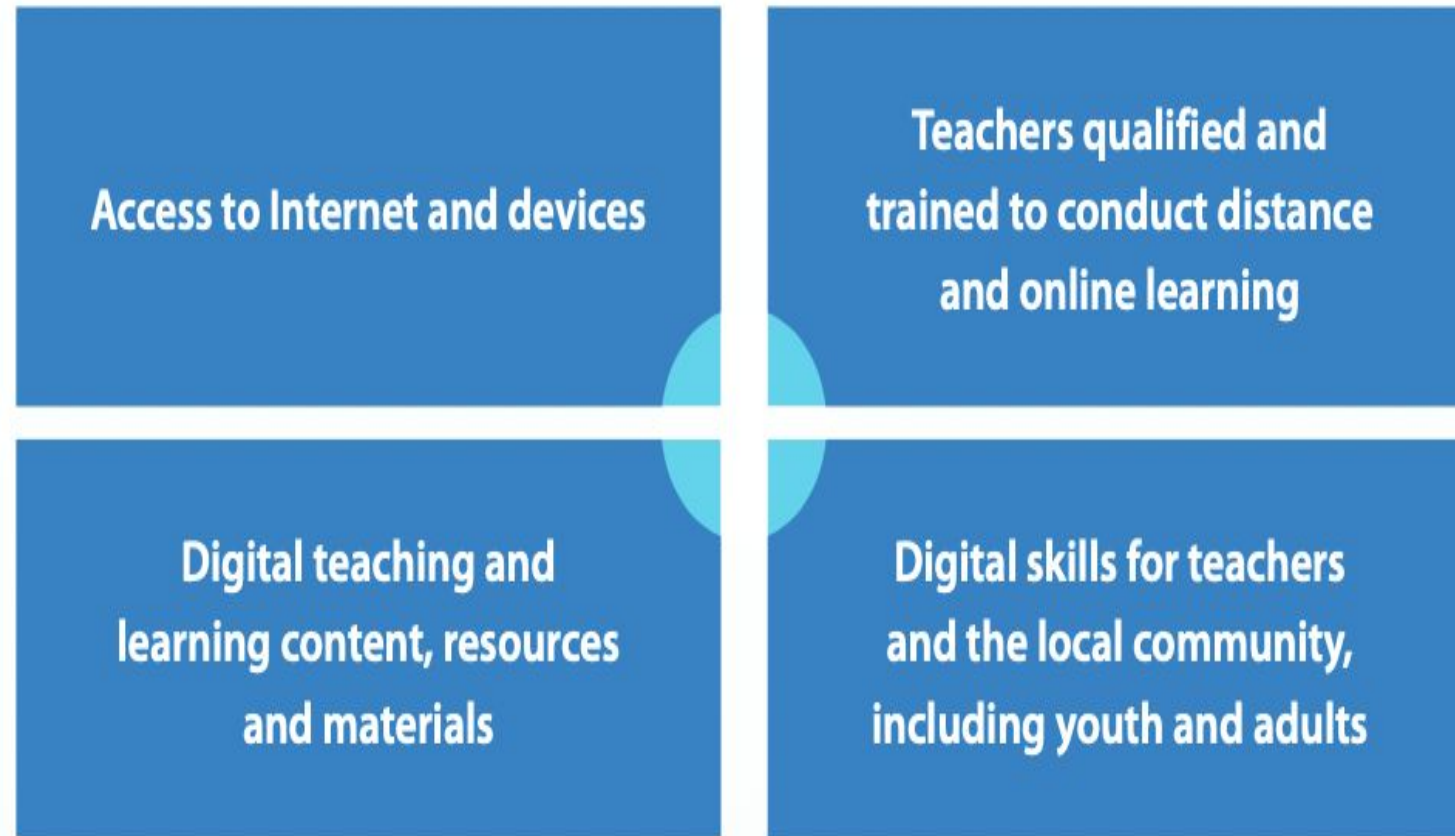
Source: <http://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/798061592482682799/covid-and-education-June17-r6.pdf> (P16)



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Figure 1. ICT-related education needs as a result of COVID-19 in rural and remote areas of Central Asia



Source: [Summary of challenges](#) from country presentations at vCASIE 2020

Youth-led projects in education aimed at solving the pressing challenges in education sector in Kazakhstan

Connect-ED conducted own research on digital inequality in Kazakhstan. They have found that more than 700K students need laptops and devices.

60% of families struggle to pay internet costs and 48% can not buy equipment to connect to distance learning. 33% of children do not have basic digital skills.

Team helps children from low-income families, rural regions, with special needs.



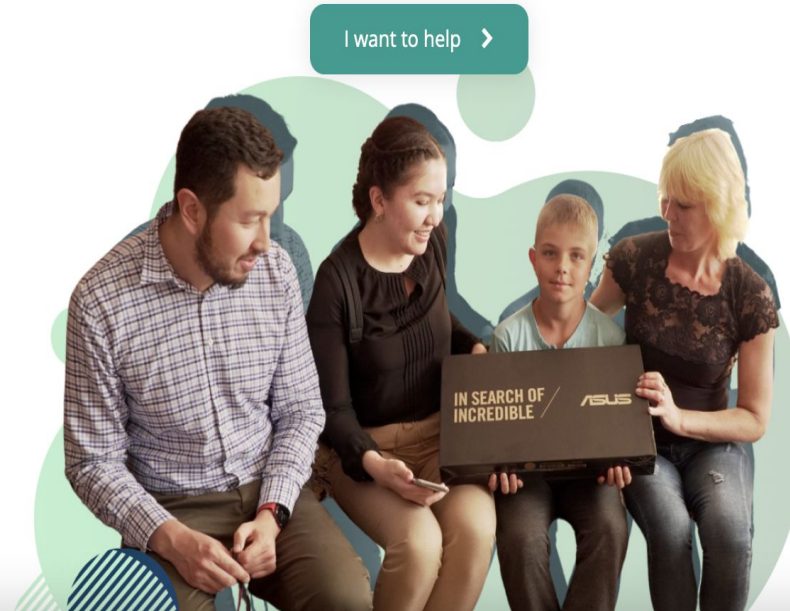
www.connect-ed.kz

[OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS](#) [OUR TEAM](#) [DONATE](#) [COURSES](#) [Q&A](#) [🇺🇸](#)

We strive to provide quality education for every child through digital empowerment

Kazakhstani Initiative of Activists in Education
which aims to achieve Digital Equality in Kazakhstan

[I want to help >](#)



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Our results

211

pieces of equipment was distributed



700+

children who now have access to technology



31%

children who received our help live in rural areas



9.2 MLN KZT +

amount of funds that we were able to collect since the launch of the project



10

an average age of a child that received equipment from us



60+ units

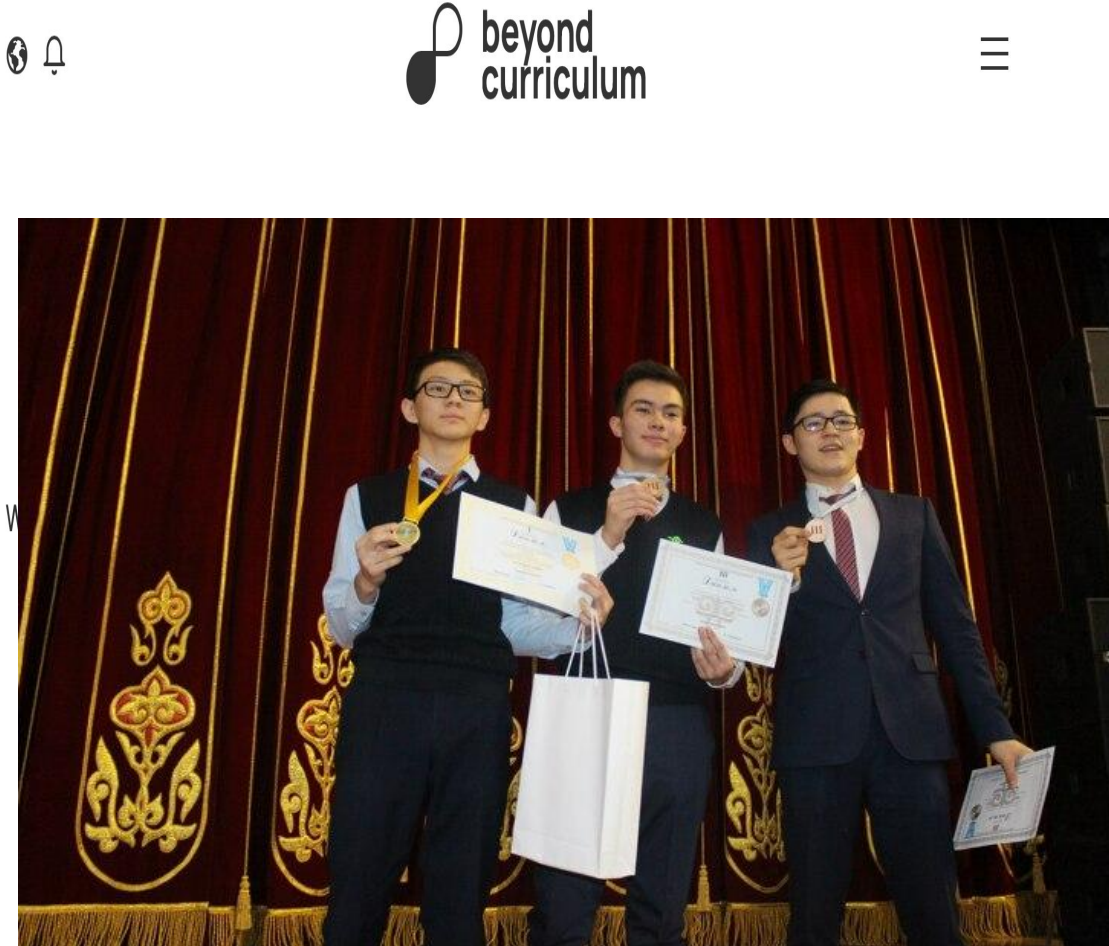
equipment that are collected from individuals and legal entities






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Beyond Curriculum Project – team of young school students strives to make education accessible and available for all
















Olympiads info

Active

On preparation, organization and philosophy for teachers, school administration and parents

Launched: August 2021


School

Active

Free courses on topics ranging from organic chemistry and nuclear physics to computer science, arduino, and neural networks

Launched: April 2020


Blog

Active

We write sci-pop articles and tell fascinating and inspiring stories of students who went beyond curriculum

Launched: July 2019


Scoreboard

Active

We collect results of various past olympiads and curate Hall of Fame for Kazakhstani olympians

Launched: November 2020


Robotics

Active

We publish video lessons on arduino, computer vision, olympiad preparation, and hold webinars with American professors

Launched: March 2021

Wiki

Active

We create a wiki for ambitious students: how to prepare for olympiads? how to start debating? how to get into college?

Launched: May 2020



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Volunteers, social media influencers led and supported projects such as komek2020.kz, helpcenter.life



Фото:elements.envato.com

3:42

← Детально

Требуются продукты питания

Назира Шымкент

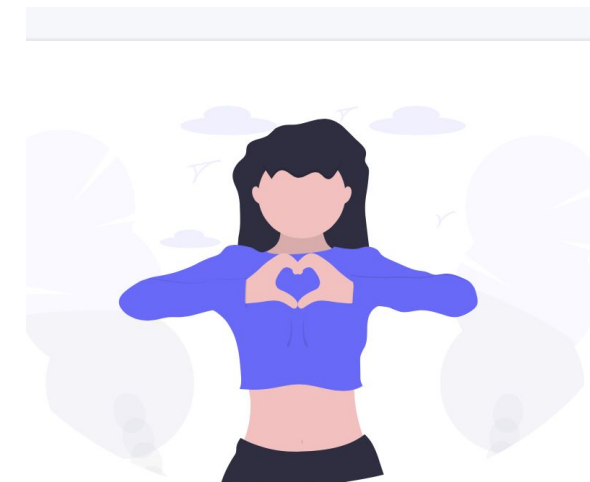
Меня зовут Назира. У меня сейчас двое детей. Я являюсь опекуном своего внука. Я сама инвалид второй группы. Очень нуждаемся в помощи. Прошу вас помочь нам продуктами питания.

Связаться по: [Я ПОМОГ](#)

Звонить с 10:00 - 18:00

Категория: Базовые потребности

Тип: Уже помогли



Мне нужна помощь

1. Нажмите на кнопку "Нужна помощь"
2. Заполните анкету
Подробно распишите в чем вы нуждаетесь, какая помощь, лекарства, аппараты вам необходимы

[Нужна помощь](#)

Я могу помочь

1. Нажмите на кнопку "Хочу помочь"
2. Заполните анкету
Максимально развернуто укажите чем вы можете помочь: лекарства, аппараты и любая другая форма помощи

[Хочу помочь](#)

Общий список

В этой таблице есть общий список тех, кому нужна помощь и тех, кто может помочь.

[Открыть таблицу](#)

Убрать мои данные с таблицы

Если Вам уже помогли или у Вас закончились лекарства/аппараты и так далее, которыми вы могли поделиться, то заполните анкету - мы удалим вас из общей таблицы

[Удалите меня из таблицы](#)



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What is next?



To build back better:

- We need to build resilient, high quality, inclusive and equitable education systems
- We need to protect education funding
- Blended learning culture - help to practice inclusion online
- We need targeted and contextualized funding support
- Local research needed
- Capacity-building support - online courses design and delivery for NGOs and communities
- Fundraising support and media coverage
- Support volunteering and community-based programming (CWG), community learning centers - filling learning gaps



Photo credit: UNICEF

Thank you for your attention!

Albina Tortbayeva
atortbayeva@gmail.com



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COVID-19, Education Crisis and Youth Response:

Central Asia and West Africa - same or different?

Albina Tortbayeva & Janet Kwakye



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