PROBLEM ENCOUNTERED DURING PANDEMIC

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The Coronavirus pandemic has affected educational systems not only in our country but also worldwide, some are leading to the near-total closures of schools, universities and colleges.

Some governments decided to temporarily close educational institutions in an attempt to reduce the spread of Coronavirus. As of 12th day of March 2021, approximately there are eight hundred twenty-five (825) million learners are currently affected due to school closures in response to the coronavirus pandemic. Twenty-three (23) countries are currently implementing nationwide closures and forty (40) are implementing local closures, impacting about forty-seven (47) percent of the world’s student population and one hundred twelve (112) countries’ schools are currently open according to UNICEF monitoring.

On 23rd day of March 2020, Cambridge International Examinations (CIE) released statement announcing the cancellation of Cambridge IGCSE, Cambridge O Level, Cambridge International AS & A Level, Cambridge AICE Diploma, and Cambridge Pre-U examinations for the May and June 2020 series across all countries. International Baccalaureate exams also been cancelled. In addition to that, Advanced Placement Exams (APE), SAT administrations, and ACT administration has been moved online or cancelled.

The impact of coronavirus crisis are not only for the students, teachers, and families but it have far-reached economic and social consequences. In response to school closures during the pandemic have shed light on various social and economic issues that includes student debt, digital learning, food insecurity and homelessness, access to
childcare, health care, housing, internet, and disability services. The impact of coronavirus crisis was more severe for disadvantaged children and their families, causing interrupted learning in school, compromised malnutrition, childcare problems, and economic cost to families who could not work.

In the response to school closures, UNESCO recommended to use distance learning programmes and open educational applications and platforms where schools and teachers can use to reach learners remotely and limit the disruption of education.

References: