

WEBINAR ON EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND COVID-19 IN SOUTHERN AFRICA:

Intersecting perspectives on why water, food, and livelihoods matter in transforming education for sustainable futures

ABOUT

With an ever-growing global population, limited resources, and climate change, the world needs education for sustainable development more than ever. The COVID-19 pandemic has further highlighted the increased importance of the emphasised Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) as an integral element of quality education. In this context, as part of the #OpenUpYourThinking SADC Researchers' Challenge, a study on "Education for Sustainable Development and COVID-19 in Southern Africa" was conducted over May – September 2020. The study was led by Prof. Heila Lotz-Sisitka in the Department of Education at the Rhodes University and conducted by a team of 12 researchers across the SADC Region. Their report showed that issues in education are intersectional, and in order to address the region's education development agenda that seeks to achieve a harmonised education sector in ensuring sustainability, integration, resource allocation, and effective realisation of the objectives of improved access, retention, and educational outcomes, there is need to adopt a multi-sectoral approach to education and sustainable development. Drawing on diverse perspectives, the report offers recommendations that can inform a multi-levelled response and a wider systemic response to the intersecting challenges that were revealed so starkly in ways that also offer clear transformative praxis pathways for the Transforming Education for Sustainable Futures (TESF) work going forward in the SADC region.

The **objectives** of the webinar are to:

- Launch the report
- Share learnings from the research with Regional decision-makers within SADC.
- Raise awareness for better inter-sectoral and joined up multi-level policy-making; and
- Highlight and present critical areas how of policy and practice along transformative praxis pathways can be oriented towards 'just recovery' and 'building forward better' in the SADC Region.

The webinar offers an opportunity to discuss, debate, and engage with the key challenges underpinning ESD as an integral element of quality education within the SADC Region.

AGENDA

Time	Activity
10h00-10h15	OPENING AND WELCOME <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome by Prof. Hubert Gijzen, Director UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa• Remarks from Prof. Sannasee Raja Vinesh, SPO Education, Skills & Development, Social & Human Development Directorate, Southern African Development Community (SADC)
10h15-10h35	REPORT PRESENTATION <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentation of the report “Education For Sustainable Development and Covid-19 In Southern Africa: Intersecting perspectives on why water, food, and livelihoods matter in transforming education for sustainable futures” by Prof. Heila Lotz-Sisitka (South Africa), Dr Esthery Kunkwenzu (Malawi), Dr Kgosietsile Velempini (Botswana), and Lwanda Maqwelane (Ph.D. Candidate, South Africa).
10h35-11h20	PANEL DISCUSSION <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Moderator: Carolyn Medel-Anonuevo, Head of Education Unit, UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa• Panellists:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Prof. Tikly, the UNESCO Chair of Inclusive, Good Quality Education and Global Chair in Education at the University of Bristol in the United Kingdom○ Ms. Camilla Croso – Director of Education, Open Society Foundations, United Kingdom○ Prof. Ana Maria Nhampule, Vice-Rector at Joaquim Chissano University, Mozambique○ Dr Yanira M Ntupanyama, Principal Secretary for Forestry and Natural Resources Ministry of Forestry and Natural Resources, Malawi
11h20-11h50	DISCUSSION <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discussion open to the floor facilitated by Carolyn Medel-Anonuevo, Head of Education Unit, UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa
11h50-12h00	REFLECTIONS AND CLOSING REMARKS <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Closing remarks by Dr James Keevy, CEO of JET Education Services