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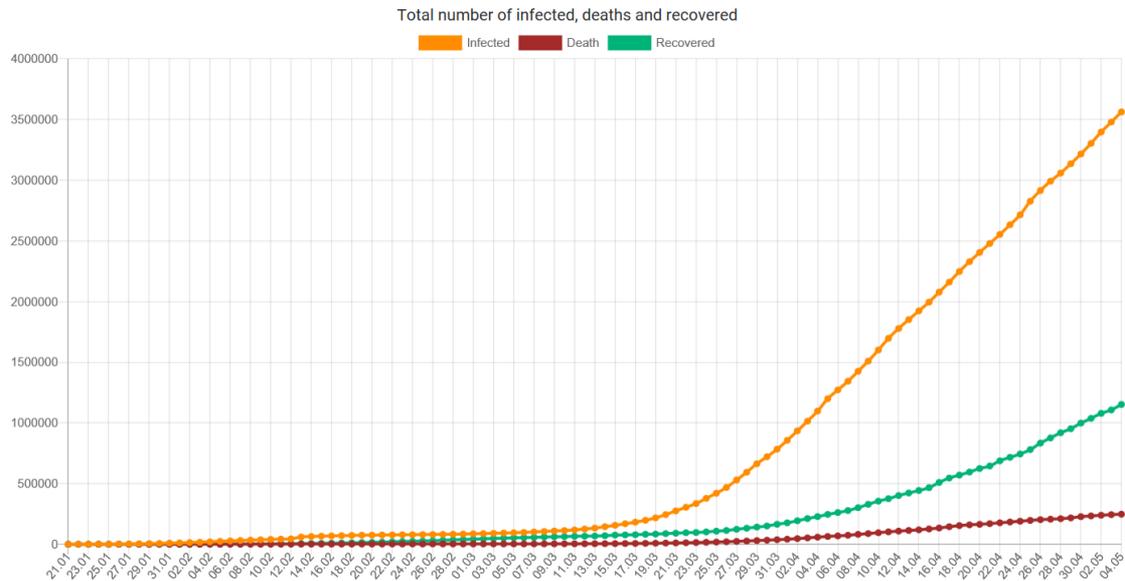
UIS Regional virtual meetings:

The UNESCO's response to COVID-19 pandemic in Sub Saharan Africa

Ann Therese Ndong-Jatta, Director/ UNESCO regional office for Eastern Africa

May 2020

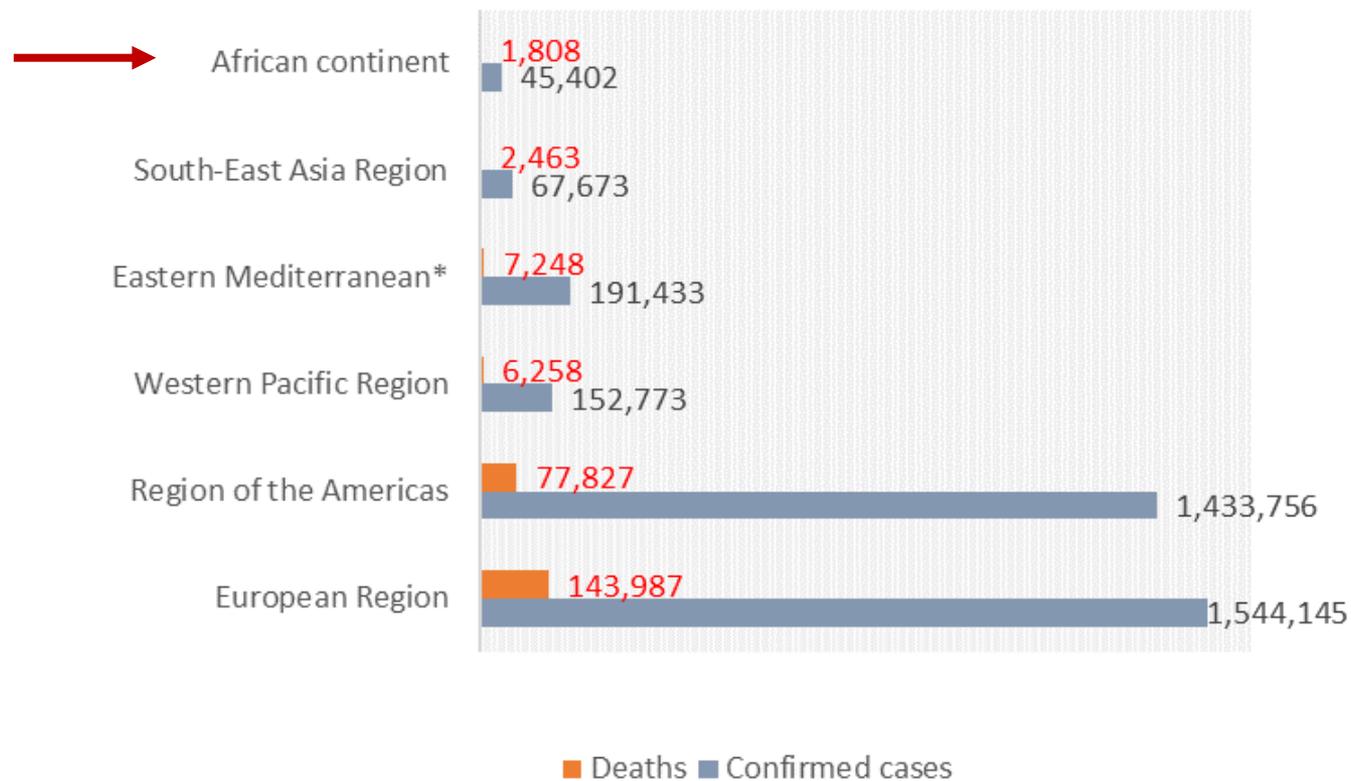




<https://epidemic-stats.com/coronavirus/>

Covid-19 was declared global pandemic in March 2020:

- 44 confirmed cases in February 2020
- Only 3 months later, nearly 3.5 million cases (May 2020) and 240,000 deaths (WHO, COVID-19 situation report 105)



Source: WHO, report 105

In Africa, first cases were declared in February but increased to:

- 45,400+ confirmed cases and
- 1,800+ deaths in May (WHO, Situation report 105)

Measures implemented by Member States to limit propagation of the virus and save lives include:

- Social distancing
- Closure of educational institutions
- Shutdown of national borders
- Self-quarantine
- Curfew at night
- Prohibition of meetings
- Etc.

They have significant implications to UNESCO fields of work:

- Communication and information
- Culture
- Education
- Sciences
- Social and human sciences

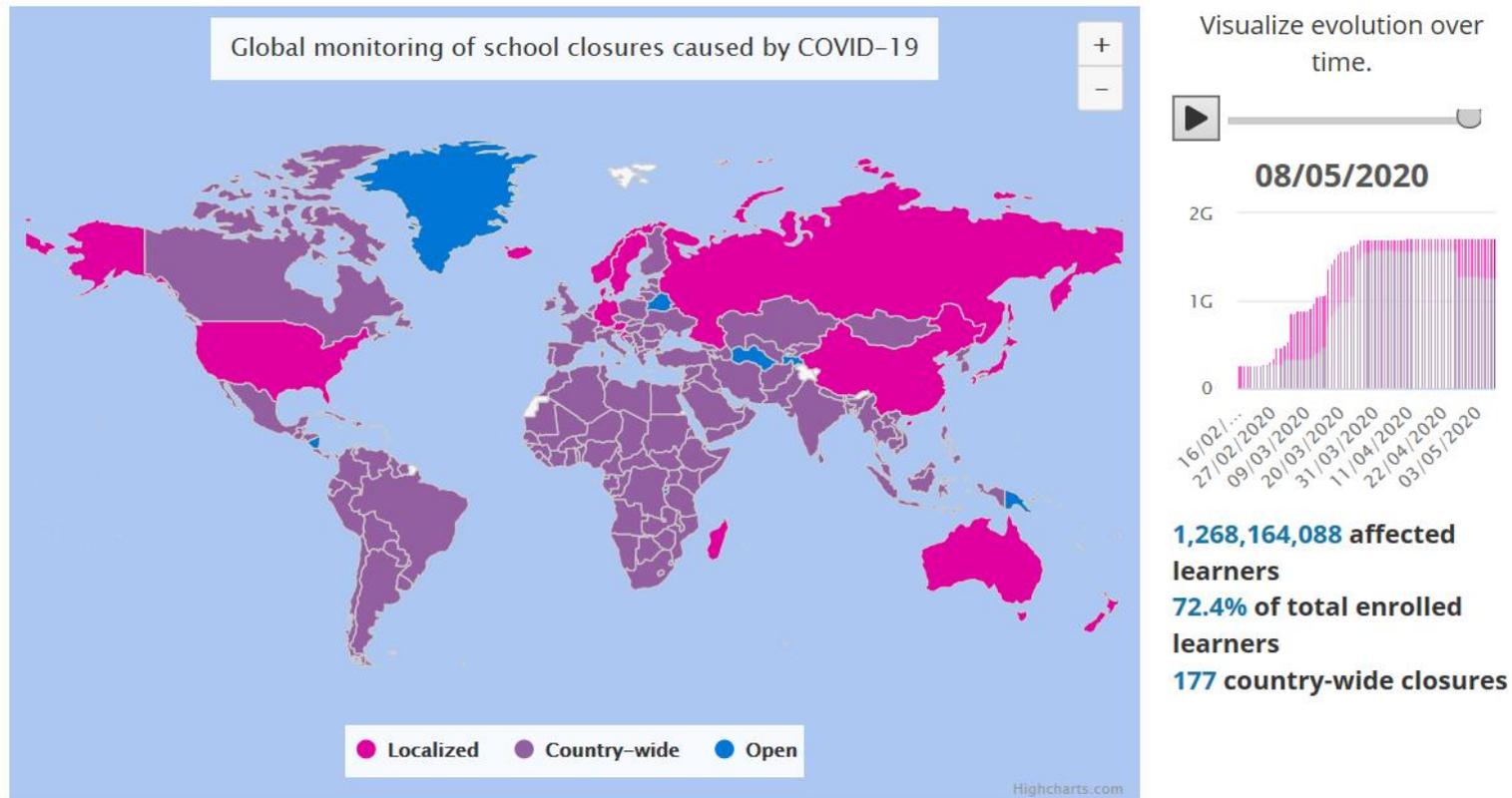
The UNESCO's Multidimensional Response:

- **Advocating and raising awareness about human rights dimensions of COVID-19**
- **Co-production of knowledge and guidelines to address ethical challenges**
- **Supporting media, including community media, to strengthen their capacity to better communicate about COVID-19 and promote the safety of journalists during the pandemic**

The UNESCO's Multidimensional Response:

- **Fighting against the spread of misinformation about the coronavirus through media and information literacy**
- **Support artists, creative industries and public authorities in their efforts to raise awareness and communicate strategies to fight the pandemic**
- ...
- **Support to the pedagogical continuity of teaching-learning through distance education**
 - **Focus to Education in two next slides**

The Education sector response goes beyond remedial actions to the pandemic, and projects the future of education in post COVID-19 era.



Education sector wide response: Political and policy

- Minister-level virtual meetings for policy learning about efforts to initiate and scale up responses to school closures, building on the success of the UNESCO-organized 10 March virtual ministerial meeting
- Creation of smaller adhoc ministerial group with 12 Ministers from all regions of the world.
- Global Education Coalition to support countries in scaling up distance learning practices and reaching children and youth who are most at risk

Education sector wide response: Monitoring and impact

- Global monitoring of country-wide and localized school closures and the number of learners affected- see dedicated website:
<https://en.unesco.org/covid19/educationresponse>
- Technical assistance (webinars, digital learning resources, and national platforms)
- Working to support the countries, backed by a dedicated task force
- Follow up on the effect of COVID-19 crisis: **joint UNESCO-World Bank-UNICEF questionnaire** on distant learning strategies (global launch in April 28)

Education sector wide response: Monitoring and impact

- Prospect of education post-Covid-19, including responses related to issues of techno pedagogy and teachers competencies, planning and responsive information systems to build resilient education systems able to prevent and mitigate effects of future pandemics.
- Regional virtual meetings of the Technical cooperation group on Education 2030, to better understand the disruption of national data systems and data strategies to follow-up on the crisis.

Thank you for your attention!



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