

For immediate release

Expert Report to be launched in time for eLearning Africa: countries failing UN education target

African countries are still not doing enough to meet one of the UN's most important development targets, according to a new report to be published this week.

The eLearning Africa Report 2019, which provides a snapshot of the state of education, training and development on the continent, interviewed more than 900 education professionals and technology experts about key issues, including progress towards the United Nations' goal of universal access to quality education by 2030.

The goal (UN SDG 4) is set out in the UN's list of sustainable development goals (SDGs), which every country should meet by 2030. However, the eLearning Africa Report's survey of education and training professionals, working in almost every country in Africa, shows that a substantial majority believe that African countries are still not doing enough to ensure universal access to quality education for all Africans.

The finding, which is among the results of the report's survey, will make for uncomfortable reading for African leaders. The achievement of UN SDG 4 is not only an important UN goal, but also a major plank in the African Union's plan for a 'transformed continent' by 2063. However, the survey shows that experts believe, by a majority of over 12 per cent, that insufficient progress has been made in every major area of education.

"SDG 4 is perhaps the most important of the UN sustainable development goals and the disappointment about the lack of progress towards realising it is striking," says the report. "It seems too that the further up the educational ladder you look, the greater the belief that insufficient progress is being made. 56 per cent of respondents do not believe that African countries are doing enough to ensure that, by 2030, all girls and boys will complete free primary and secondary education. However, the percentage of those believing that not enough has been done to improve access to higher education and vocational training or further education is as high as 65 per cent."

Despite the gloom about progress towards meeting the UN SDGs, there is a sense of optimism about overall progress. More than two thirds (72 per cent) of the experts questioned said they think that the African Union's 2063 vision is "realistic."

"If our youth are empowered, believe in their own self-worth and think creatively," said one of the experts, "Africa will be an inspiration to other continents with new inventions and original African solutions benefitting all."

The eLearning Africa Report has been sponsored by GIZ, the German Government's international partnership organisation, on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). It makes for fascinating reading. With contributions from experts, practitioners, advisers, entrepreneurs and even students and artists, it provides an insight into how technology assisted learning and training are leading change and development throughout Africa. As businesses assess the implications of a 'fourth industrial revolution,' it looks at the state of education, training, development and technology at this moment of unparalleled change.



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Available as a free [download online](#), it combines features and profiles of leading figures with controversial opinion columns, detailed country reports, a guide on how to find funding, and the first ever directory of African edTech companies. Highlights include:

- The 'Father of the African Internet,' Nii Quaynor, on improving access to education
- Presidential adviser Ibrahima Guimba-Saidou on transforming Niger into an African digital state
- Futurist Dr Njeri Mwagiru on how a 5th industrial revolution could begin in Africa
- African philosopher and education expert, Ndri Thérèse Assié Lumumba, on the challenges for African education
- Kofi Annan's former aide Max Bankole Jarrett on key decisions for African leaders

There are also special features on plans for an African free trade area, agriculture, the 4 As, entrepreneurship, lifelong learning and eLearning for wildlife training. And a Sudanese high school student, Mahid Abdulkarim, explains how he managed to keep studying during a revolution.

The report will be published this week ahead of the eLearning Africa conference, Africa's largest event on technology assisted learning and training, which opens in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire on 23rd October. A full programme for the event and its accompanying exhibition, which showcases education and training solutions providers from around the world, is available at www.elearning-africa.com.

Background

eLearning Africa brings together international education and technology specialists, government ministers, entrepreneurs and investors to focus on the expansion and enhancement of Africa's education sector. As in the past, the subject - at the heart of the African Union's plans for turning Africa into a "transformed continent" by 2063 - will be intensively discussed and debated during three days of presentations, workshops, seminars, and ministerial meetings in Abidjan from 23-25 October. Major international organisations such as UNESCO, the European Commission, the World Bank, GIZ and the African Union feature prominently on the conference programme.

eLearning Africa, an annual, pan-African conference held in a different capital on the continent each year, is dedicated to examining the potential for using new communications technology to spread educational opportunity. The event is now in its fourteenth year, and since its launch in Addis Ababa in 2005, technology-assisted learning has expanded massively worldwide and now plays a major role in the delivery of learning, training, research, and development in schools, colleges, universities, companies, and organisations across Africa. It has enabled millions of Africans to expand their horizons and take advantage of the countless possibilities technology offers in the realms of education and the acquisition of new skills and qualifications.

For more information about the eLearning Africa conference and exhibition, or the associated eLearning Africa Ministerial Round Table attended by Education and ICT Ministers, please contact Rebecca Stromeier, founder and curator of eLA.

eLearning Africa is the continent's key networking event for ICT-supported education, training, and skills development, bringing together high-level policy makers, decision makers and practitioners from education, business, and government. Since its 2005 inception in Addis Ababa, eLearning Africa has hosted 17,278 participants from 100+ countries, with over 85% coming from the continent. More than 3,300 speakers have addressed the conference about every aspect of technology-enhanced education



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and skills development. A truly pan-African platform, eLearning Africa is a must for those who want to develop multinational and cross-industry contacts and partnerships, as well as enhance their knowledge, expertise, and abilities.

The conference and its associated exhibition, the latter featuring the very latest products, courses, and solutions from around the world, represent “an outstanding networking opportunity and the best vantage point anywhere in Africa to gain a view of the continent’s edTech market,” according to the organisers.

eLearning Africa 2019 - 14th International Conference & Exhibition on ICT for Education, Training and Skills Development

October 23 – 25, 2019, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

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