HMDC Presents...

Country Profile: Uganda

Committee: UNESCO: COVID-19 Education and Technology Gaps

AT A GLANCE

Capital	Kampala (World Bank, Last Accessed: November 2026)
Population	About 51.4 million people in 2025 (World Bank, Last Accessed: November 2026)
Region	Sub-Saharan Africa (World Bank)
School closures	More than 83 weeks, full or partial, by January 2022

WHY UGANDA MATTERS IN UNESCO

Uganda had one of the longest school closures in the world during COVID-19, and few of its people use the internet. It shows our committee both gaps at once: lost school time and the technology gap.

WHAT THE RECORD SHOWS

- UNICEF reported that Uganda's schools were closed for two years. Around 1 in 10 schoolchildren did not come back when schools reopened in January 2022. (UNICEF, March 29, 2022)
- UNESCO figures showed that by January 2022, Uganda's schools had been fully or partly closed for more than 83 weeks, the longest in the world. (Associated Press, January 10, 2022)
- In 2024, about 9 in every 100 people in Uganda used the internet, according to ITU figures. (World Bank Open Data, Last Accessed: October 2026)
- In January 2022, Uganda began testing Teaching at the Right Level in 180 schools to help pupils who were behind catch up. (VVOB, UNICEF and Uganda's Ministry of Education and Sports, 2023)

OUR POSITION IN ONE SENTENCE

In January 2022, after more than 83 weeks of full or partial school closures, Uganda began testing Teaching at the Right Level to help pupils catch up.

THREE IDEAS OUR DELEGATE CAN PROPOSE

1. Paying for catch-up lessons: programmes like Teaching at the Right Level for pupils who fell behind during closures.

2. Teaching without the internet: radio, TV and phone lessons for places where few people are online.

3. Connecting schools: help poorer countries bring the internet to their schools, school by school.

CAREFUL NOTE

UNICEF calls the closure two years, while UNESCO's figures count more than 83 weeks, so we name the source with each number.

QUESTIONS WE STILL ANSWER OURSELVES

1. How long were our country's schools fully or partly closed during COVID-19?

2. How many of our people and our schools can get online today?

3. What has our country done since 2022 to help students catch up and to connect schools?

WHERE WE LOOK

UNESCO COVID-19 education response: https://www.unesco.org/en/covid-19/education-response

ITU internet data: https://datahub.itu.int/

Connected schools map: https://maps.giga.global/map

Every fact above names its source and date. We do our own research and write our own position paper, as the conference rules require. This profile is a starting point, not a script.