

UNICEF EDUCATION

Education Case Study

MEXICO

Mitigating learning loss and strengthening foundational skills through the Learning Passport

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As part UNICEF's [Reimagine Education](#) initiative, the [Learning Passport](#) in Mexico ("[Pasaporte al Aprendizaje México](#)") aims to mitigate learning loss after widespread school closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which affected 36.5 million schoolchildren. The platform promotes digital learning to strengthen foundational skills in reading, writing, mathematics and science. It also helps problem-solving, creativity and critical thinking skills of learners in upper secondary schools.

UNICEF Mexico, jointly with the Undersecretariat for Higher Secondary Education (Subsecretaría de Educación Media Superior) and the Centre for Research and Advanced Studies of the National Polytechnic Institute (Centro de Investigación y de Estudios Avanzados del Instituto Politécnico Nacional, CINVESTAV), developed and designed courses to strengthen students' foundational skills in mathematics, physics, chemistry, communication and English through online remedial courses aligned with the official upper secondary school curriculum for Grades 10-12. Students could access these online courses for free through web browsers and eventually at computer labs in schools when they returned to in-person learning. CINVESTAV provided helpdesk support to teachers and administrators, incentivising teachers to use the platform by sending an email every two weeks containing course descriptions.

Since October 2021, the Learning Passport in Mexico has 12 active courses open to more than 65,000 active students and 3,672 teachers using the content to elevate their digital skills and mitigate learning loss. The specific objectives are to:

- Strengthen foundational skills in mathematics, chemistry, physics, communication and English;
- Reduce school dropout and failure rates at the upper secondary level;

- Promote hybrid learning systems that strengthen learning and teaching processes and make them more flexible and resilient in the face of emergencies, such as the COVID-19 pandemic; and
- Strengthen teachers' digital skills and the use of information communication technology (ICT) to support their professional development.

RESULTS

During the first (October 2021 to January 2022) and second (February 2022 to June 2022) phases of operation, more than 1,000 schools, belonging to seven Upper Secondary Education Subsystems of the country's 32 states, participated in Mexico's Learning Passport. The main achievements include:

- In phase one, 24,660 active students and 1,397 teachers participated in the Learning Passport. In phase two, 37,527 students and 2,275 teachers used the platform.
- About 48 *per cent* of students completed the various online courses. Learners completed 66 *per cent* of mathematics courses, which had the highest completion level among the courses offered.
- Evaluation tests, which were built into the platform, revealed that students scored 2.6 points higher on average in their final evaluations (57.95 *per cent* correct answers), compared with their preliminary diagnostic evaluations (55.36 *per cent* correct answers).
- UNICEF supported the Government to train 1,128 teachers during phase one and 4,223 teachers during phase two of implementation, helping expand teachers' technological and pedagogical skills as well as their overall professional development.

LESSONS LEARNED

- **Teachers need training before the start of the academic school year.** Training allows them to integrate the Learning Passport activities adequately into their lesson planning. To assist, UNICEF Mexico created and disseminated an implementation manual to provide guidance for teachers.
- **Principals, administrators and other educational authorities must be onboard.** Close collaboration with school leaders is crucial for the achievement of overall learning objectives, and schools must take an active role in determining, supporting and building teacher capacity in blended learning approaches.
- **The platform is a supplementary tool, rather than a replacement for traditional teaching and learning.** Although hybrid learning imposes new demands on teachers, parents, caregivers and students, the Learning Passport is a tool that proliferates learning and enhances continuous access to quality education.

NEXT STEPS

In the coming months, UNICEF Mexico will continue to scale up the Learning Passport, aiming to reach 1,250 schools in the 2022-2023 academic school year. To target the most vulnerable communities that lack internet access or devices, UNICEF is running an offline pilot of the platform with plans to expand the offline deployment. More trainings are being planned to support teachers and principals in the use of ICT for education and innovative teaching strategies to enrich teaching practices. UNICEF is also in the process of developing additional content and revising the current courses, keeping the platform dynamic and up to date.

Cost effectiveness: From July 2020 to date, UNICEF Mexico has invested approximately US \$150,000 in the Learning Passport, providing access to free, quality digital education content to support more than 65,000 upper secondary students and nearly 3,700 teachers.

For more information, please contact:

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