2. Our Impact

2020/2021: the story of our year

As schools closed around the world, we set out to understand the role EdTech plays in learning, and collaborated with partners to identify and share what works.

Here are some important moments from the last year.

01 EdTech Hub Helpdesk
Our advice to FCDO and World Bank staff helped shape policy and design programmes in a range of countries.

02 Building EdTech Evidence and Research (BETER) group
We worked with Digital Pathways, University of Oxford to convene a leading group of experts to discuss research on EdTech, focusing initially on Covid-19.

03 Quickly getting evidence into the right hands fast
We published rapid evidence reviews on topics from tech and girls’ education to the use of radio to inform responses to Covid-19.

04 Global calls for ideas
Over 370 innovators worldwide, half from Sub Saharan Africa and South Asia, pitched ideas to work on with us, mEd Alliance, Global Innovation Exchange, and UNHCR.

05 #SaveOurFuture partnership
After contributing to the #SaveOurFuture white paper, we have developed our partnership with the Education Commission, advising on EdTech.

06 Assessing the impact of Covid-19 and EdTech in Africa
With eLearning Africa we surveyed more than 1,600 stakeholders from 52 countries about government responses across the continent. Our paper was featured in 40 plus news outlets.

07 Funding Covid-19 projects
We commissioned 11 studies from 170+ applications to our first call for proposals. Topics range from using EdTech in urban slums in Bangladesh, to strengthening data for policymaking in Sierra Leone.

08 Ministries of Education use Hub tools
The Hub’s Sandbox methodology for teacher professional development was adopted by government and the World Bank into the Sierra Leone Free Education project.

09 Our first journal articles published
We published the Hub’s first peer-reviewed articles on Covid-19 school closures, and on educational TV and maths in the high impact British Journal of Education Technology.

10 Guidance for governments on the most marginalised
Working with the UNESCO Chair for ICT4D we published a report on education for the most marginalised post Covid-19 in five languages.

11 Learning lessons from EdTech and Covid-19
A year on, we launched our research synthesis, ‘10 things to know’ about EdTech and Covid-19 at an event that reached more than 300 people.

12 At scale research call
We launched our first global call for applications for at-scale primary research, to study technology-based solutions to improve learning and education in LMICs.