

The African NRENs' response to the COVID19 crisis



Hastings Ndebvu, UbuntuNet Alliance

SIG-Marcomms, 29/10/2020



The AfricaConnect3 project receives funding from the European Union under Grant Contracts DCI-PANAF/2019/411-583/584/585/586



Background

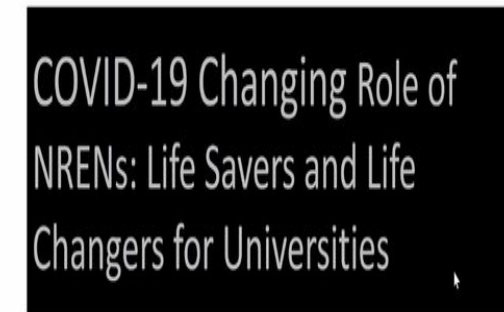
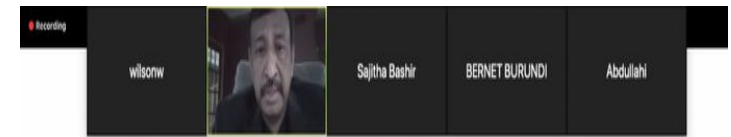


- Covid-19 has led to the closing of universities in Africa which affected revenue streams of NRENs and RRENs
- RRENs and NRENs have been carrying out initiatives to sustain teaching and learning during the period
 - Online teaching and learning
 - Trainings and webinars for NRENs and university personnel
- RRENs and NRENs comms teams are helping enhance the visibility of their efforts



RENs Initiatives

- ASREN, WACREN and UbuntuNet Alliance held consultations with the AAU on how to help NRENs and universities move online during Covid-19
- UbuntuNet Alliance held a joint webinar with the World Bank on NRENs best practices during Covid-19

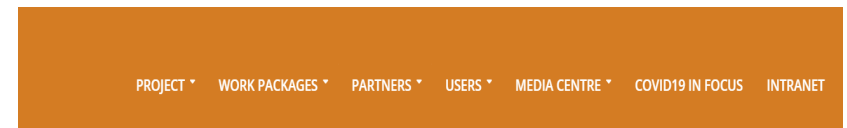


Prof. Javed I Khan
 Kent State University, Kent, OH, April 30, 2020



REN Initiatives

- ASREN conducted regional virtual meetings with member NRENs and shared best practices, opportunities and links to open educational resources.
- UbuntuNet Alliance held webinars on Moodle, BigBlueButton, Instructional Design on E-Learning and NREN Cloud Set Up webinars for NRENs during Covid-19.
- WACREN offering its members a licensed use on its Zoom service until the end of 2020 to support their need for online collaboration tools.



IEWS • NEWS 2020

WACREN offers free zoom licenses to R&E institutions



NRENs Initiatives



- ZAMREN has installed Moodle for 22 members in Zambia;
- KENET negotiated discounted data bundles for students in Kenya;
- SomaliREN assisted 11 member universities to move online in Somalia;
- MARWAN hosted the online learning platform launched by the Ministry of Education used by over half a million Moroccan students to access online learning;
- EUN has coordinated with major IT vendors to provide a unified communication platform and smart web conferencing and videoconferencing applications in Egypt;
- CCK together with the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research have signed contracts with the country's main telecom operators to grant students free 4G access in Tunisia.



Communication Initiatives

Ensuring students and faculty have access to online resources

KENET (KENYA), UBUNTUNET (EAST & SOUTHERN AFRICA) TECHNOLOGY

As one way of sustaining teaching and learning through various online platforms during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Kenya Education Network (KENET) has collaborated with the country's mobile service providers to provide data bundles at discounted prices to KENET institutions' students and faculty members.

Under the deal, Saficom will be providing monthly 10GB data bundles at US\$5 from the normal rate of US\$12 representing a 40 percent discount while Telkom Kenya will be selling 30GB data bundles to beneficiaries at just US\$9.28.

The KENET- Mobile operators deal comes at a time when students and faculty members from Kenya's higher learning institutions have been facing challenges in purchasing bundles at normal rates due to associated high costs which make e-learning unsustainable.



Teaching and learning moves online for 11 universities in Somalia during COVID-19

SOMALI REN, UBUNTUNET (EAST & SOUTHERN AFRICA) EDUCATION, TECHNOLOGY

Online teaching and learning in this period of the COVID-19 pandemic would have remained a far-fetched dream for some Somali universities if it were not for the timely intervention of the Somali Research and Education Network (SomaliREN).

Member institutions of the research and education network, most of which are privately run, were facing an economic crisis following the suspension of teaching and learning in the east African nation.

Authorities ordered the closure of schools and universities as one way of controlling the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, a development which dealt a blow to the universities as they rely on students' tuition to sustain their institutions.



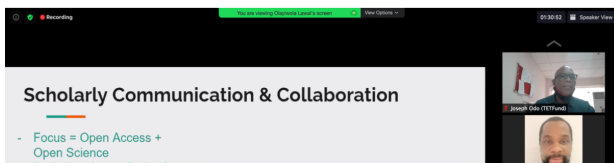
UbuntuNet Alliance @UbuntuNet · Apr 6
Collaborating for continued teaching and learning in the face of COVID-19. @GEANtnews @WACREN @ASRENorg @RENU_256 @I_RENALA @MoRENNet12 @Ternet10 @tenetnews @kenet_ke

AAU @AAU_67 · Apr 6
The AAU and RRENs call for strengthening of campus networks infrastructure and provision of online teaching and learning platforms for African Higher Education Institutions to cope with COVID-19 and future global challenges: mailchi.mp/auu/auu-and-th...



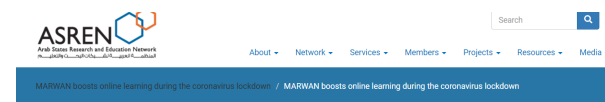
COVID19

Eko-Konnect Host Webinar To Address Role Of The NREN In Post COVID Response Of Higher Education In Nigeria



COVID19

EUN supports higher education system amid coronavirus pandemic



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MARWAN boosts online learning during the coronavirus lockdown

Submitted by webmaster on Wed, 07/08/2020 - 14:31



Thank you

Any questions?



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AC3-Community



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