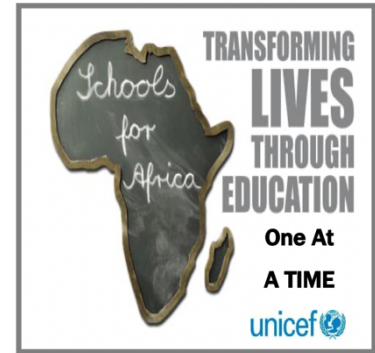**"Schools for Africa"…Experiences with students affected by school closures in remote learning environments due to the COVID-19 pandemic**

According to UNICEF.org there are 1.2 billion school-age students in 71 countries worldwide being affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and who are experiencing remote learning conditions due to school closures. Students across the world do not have equal access to technology tools and services due to socioeconomic factors and their living conditions and environment. In addition to these issues/challenges, some students also have limited educational home support to promote learning and developmental needs.

Here is a look at five observations about what some students around the world are experiencing in their remote home-learning environments:

1. **Observation about the use of the Internet:** In the majority of the countries, across Africa, less than one-quarter of the population has access to the internet.
2. **Observation about Television usage:** In the countries of Europe, Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean, the government sponsors educational learning experiences that are delivered through television to students for their remote learning needs.
3. **Observation about Radio usage:** Radio is the third most used form of communication to students and their families to distribute multifaceted types of educational listening tools to students while schools remain closed.
4. **Observation about Mobile/Social Media usage:** Half of the reporting countries are using mobile social media as alternative educational delivering systems. Some countries are providing their home learners with printed and take-home resources.
5. **Observation about Electricity source/usage:** The use of internet technology usage requires the resource of electricity. Unfortunately, many households are experiencing economic challenges, and most have no sources of electricity. Without electrical sources these students are unable to utilize the technology tools that are necessary to transmit education resources and lessons to students.

So, what is UNICEF doing to help students with their educational needs during this COVID-19 pandemic season?

1. UNICEF is partnering with companies in rural areas to provide mobile phone users with free access accounts and with learning materials.
2. UNICEF is providing students with offline recorded lessons that can be uploaded onto solar-powered tablets.
3. UNICEF is offering video lessons shared through Facebook and broadcasting through television technology.
4. UNICEF is working with different government agencies to plan/implement educational lessons. They will be interpreting those lessons in multiple languages to reach students in various minority/ethnic groups. It is also supporting and implementing individualized education plans for students with physical and developmental handicap challenges.
5. UNICEF is supporting students who are learning at home, by providing them with free of charge for long-distance educational service needs with network internet, Wi-Fi systems, and hot spots.

The above five strategies are just some ways that you as sisters in The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International are focused on partnering with "Schools for Africa" which is helping support the works of UNICEF. Your financial donations help provide students in many countries around the world with educational resources/supplies that are needed during this pandemic season.

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