The Commonwealth
54 developed and developing nations around the world
Helping Commonwealth governments and institutions use distance learning and technologies to expand access to education and training
Lessons from COVID-19

• Digital divide is alive and well
• Glaring inequalities
• Lack of preparedness for crises
Range of Technology Use

- Radio
- Television
- Printed Text
- Internet
- Mobile
# COL Approach to Literacies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Characteristics</th>
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</table>
| I     | Functional| 1. Transmission of information  
2. Improved Knowledge                                  |
| II    | Interactive| 1. Improved Skills  
2. Capacity to interact with other stakeholders       |
| III   | Critical  | 1. To negotiate and access rights  
2. To get empowered                                    |

From digital divide to digital dividend
Community Radio: Health Literacy

- Local needs survey and participation
- Feedback system
- Participatory evaluation
MobiMOOCs: Functional Literacy

- MOOC for Mali (Gardeners)
- MOOC for Pest Management
Social Media for Livelihoods
A Targeted Approach to reach the unreached
Lifelong Learning for Farmers

Mobilise & Organise Farmers

Facilitate them with Financial Literacy & Link them with Banks
Domestication of technology
Towards Resilience
Barefoot Wireless Engineers

Connectivity Content Capacity

Setting up Wireless Networks
Some conclusions

• Technology by itself cannot promote literacy: it must be placed in an appropriate social, political and economic context

• Literacy must be seen as part of a holistic development process

• Social capital of learner/community critical for success
Thank you
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