

Assessing  
Institution  
Readiness for  
Full and Safe  
Reopening

## REOPENING UNIVERSITIES

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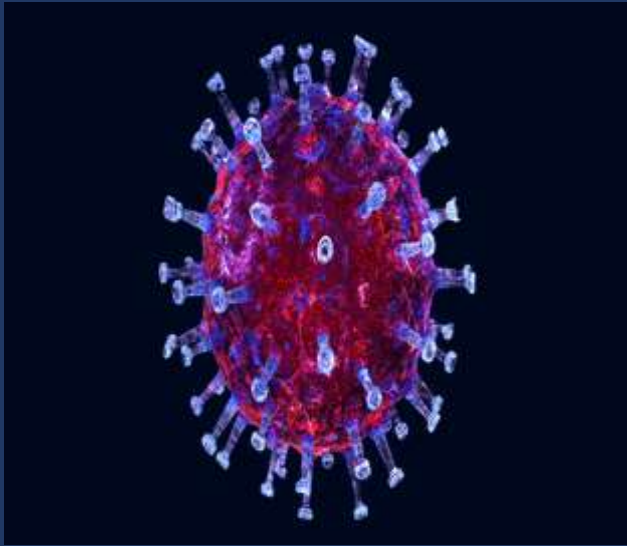
**Vice Chancellor**

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The 4<sup>th</sup> World Bank Africa Higher Education Centres of Excellence for  
Development Impact (ACE) Virtual Workshop

# Overview

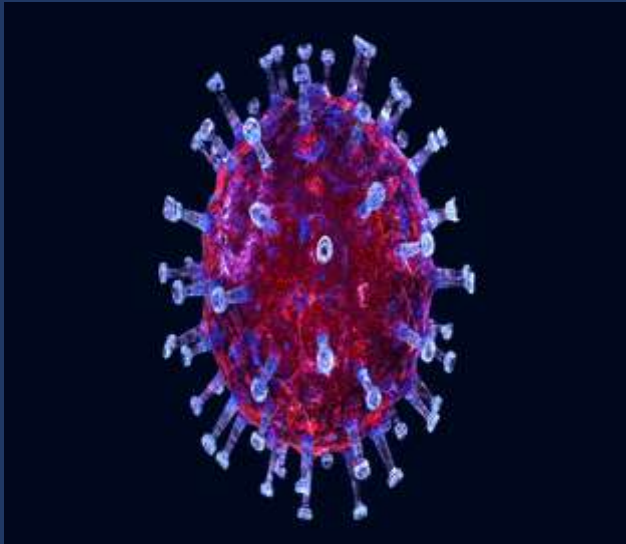
- **Why The Closure Of Universities?**
- **Responses By Universities**
- **Efforts On The African Scene**
- **The Case For Reopening Universities**
- **HEIs Readiness For Reopening**
- **Approaches & The Guidelines For Reopening**
- **The Roadmap For Phased Gradual Resumption At Lagos State University**
- **The Way Forward For Universities In Africa**



## **Global impact of COVID- 19 on HEIs**

Disruptions caused by covid-19 affected every aspects of human life globally, with the **constraints** and **opportunities** for global Higher education sector.

# **Why the closure of Universities?**



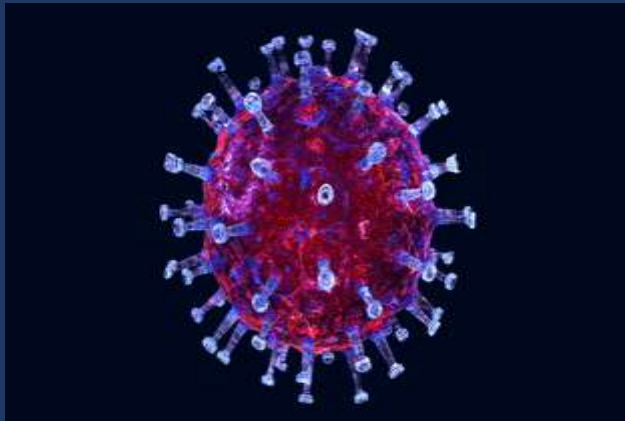
**Closure became necessary in order to safeguard the health and general wellbeing of the students, Staff (Teaching & Non-teaching), members of the university community and other users**

# Impacts of COVID-19 on Universities



- i. Disruption of the curriculum
- ii. Fractured higher education system
- iii. Limited how students could access learning
- iv. Loss of teaching and learning
- v. Restrained student' mobility of international and local students
- vi. Negative Funding consequences
- vii. Community engagement
- viii. Enrolment of new entrants
- ix. Staff/ Students Exchange Programmes

# Responses to Mitigate the Impact



1. Complete closure of universities leading to a halt on all campus activities
2. Most Institutions had infrastructure in place to communicate with their students and staff about COVID-19.
3. On site learning replaced with distance/ online learning
4. Conduct of surveys by international organisations to investigate the impact of covid-19 on international education and measures taken by HEIs to respond to the crisis.
5. Universities collaborations and partnership schemes
  - with internet service providers and government to overcome internet connectivity challenge eg

# Challenges of Online Learning



- i. Inequality in online access by students
- ii. Inadequate availability of internet facilities
- iii. Poor internet connectivity
- iv. Internet data cost
- v. Frequent electric power interruption
- vi. Technical infrastructure for online learning
- vii,. competences and pedagogies

# Lagos State University During Lockdown



ACEITSE	LASU CDC	OTHER PROGRAMMES
<p>Centre did not stop running all through period of closure; covered <b>25 Courses</b> with <b>650 Lectures</b> spanning <b>767 contact hours</b>; used best of Facilitators &amp; Experts. Thanks to <b>leadership of Dist. Prof. Peter Okebukola &amp; Team</b></p>	<p>The Career Development Centre engaged the students in <b>Employability skills training; Career Mentoring Webinars; Virtual internships; Professional Networking and Certification.</b> Thanks to <b>Dr Ofem, Igot and Team.</b></p>	<p>Some bit of a <b>struggle; aggressive capacity development</b> for staff; <b>reorientation</b> of Staff and Students.</p>



# Surveys by International Organisations



Some of these organisations are:

- i. International Association of Universities (IAU) Global survey
- ii. Institute of International Education (IIE), USA
- iii. European Association of International Education (EAIE)
- iv. Erasmus Students' Network (ESN); Europe
- v. American Council of Education (ACE)
- vi. E-Learn Africa

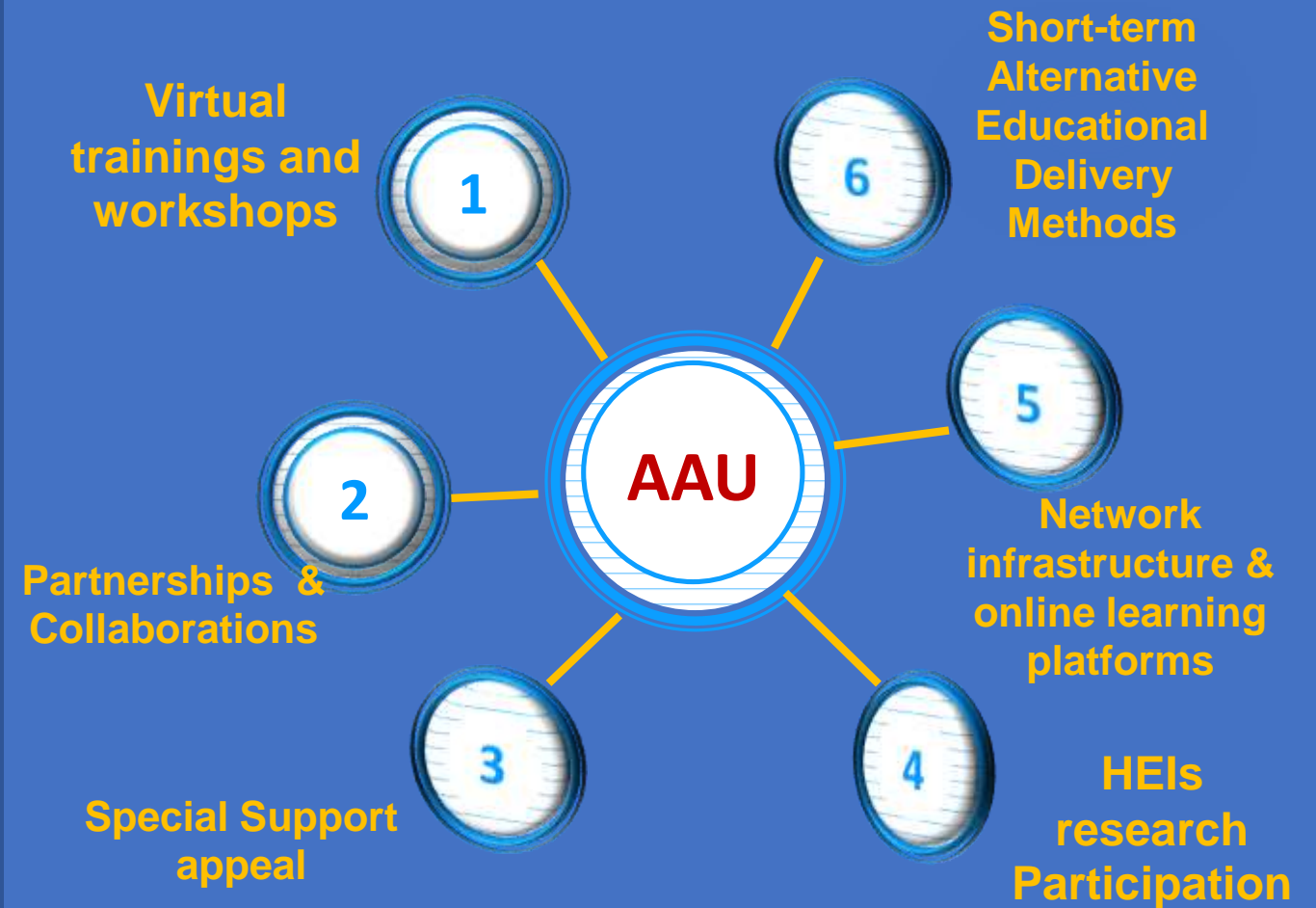
# On The African Scene



- The Association of African Universities (AAU),
- The UbuntuNet Alliance (UA),
- the West and Central Africa Research and Education Network (WACREN),
- the Arab States Research and Education Network (ASREN)



# Efforts by the Association of African Universities (AAU)





## **Efforts by the Association of African Universities (AAU)**

- **Virtual trainings and workshops** for stakeholders of Higher Education Institutions in Africa
- **Partnerships with Elearn Africa and WILEY Education Services** to support African Universities expedite their migration to online education
- **Special appeal** to the Government of African countries to support HEIs in Africa
- **Call for organisations to support** and strengthen education **network infrastructure and online learning platforms** for Africa's HEIs
- Encouraged the participation **HEIs research** towards finding a cure for the COVID-19 virus
- Suggested **short-term alternative Educational Delivery Methods**

# **The Case For Reopening Universities**

- Disruptions of curriculum and instructional time
- Loss of learning for the less privileged
- Negative impact on learners' rights
- Fear of having the students from low income household never to return back to campus
- Challenge to realisation of SDGs 4 on Education
- Capacity to deliver quality education
- Deterioration of school facilities
- Further deterioration of the already fractured education system
- Exposure of idle students to risk of social vices and other threats



## **HEIs Readiness For Reopening**

**Reopening should be based on the benefits and risks of the virus to education, public health and socio-economic factors**

Decisions for reopening takes into consideration:

- Differences in infection rates
- Capacity of the healthcare system
- Differences in the structure of the education system
- Cultural values of the community

# Three Crucial Questions for Reopening Universities

1. When should schools reopen?

When?

2. How Should schools reopen?

How?

- For which segments of students and teachers (if not everyone) should schools reopen?

3. What health and safety measures should schools adopt on reopening?

What?

# **Approaches to Reopening Universities**

- Phasing in Approach
- Selective reopening- easy to keep students' groups smaller and dispersed
- Resumption by:
- Transitional year – final/ terminal years,
- Student segments with specific needs,
- Alternating school days for different groups of students to facilitate physical distancing



# Guidelines For Reopening Universities



## The guidelines include:

- Policy reform
- Financing requirements:
- Safe operations
- Compensating learning
- Wellness and protection
- Reaching the most marginalised



## **Insight into Lagos State University's Response to the Pandemic**

The development roadmap for phased gradual resumption of Academic Activities in total compliance with the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control on Covid-19 Pandemic Safety measures on:  
social/physical distancing,  
regular hand washing and  
compulsory wearing of face masks.



## **The Staggered Resumption Plan**

- ❑ The 400, 500, 600 levels resumed first; the other levels followed thereafter.
- ❑ Lecture hours ran from 9.00a.m. to 3.00p.m. daily (Mondays to Fridays), while weekends will be utilized by Postgraduate School students, Sandwich Degree Programme Students, Diploma Students and Part-Time Students in Epe Campus.



**Health Measures  
put in place by the  
University during  
the gradual  
reopening**

- (a) Training on the basics of Covid-19;
- (b) Compulsory wearing of face masks and signposts at entrances and in waiting areas about preventive measures e.g. NO MASK NO ENTRY;
- (c) Screening and checking of all individuals at all entrances of the University using infrared thermometers;
- (d) Provision of hand sanitizers, dust bins, hand washing posts (veronica's bucket or running taps) surgical facemasks, hand gloves, Alcohol based sanitizers, infrared Thermometers and Batteries,



## **Health Measures put in Place by the University During the Gradual Reopening**

- (e) Observing Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) Social distancing rules at the waiting areas and consulting rooms;
- (f) Ensure that waiting areas and consulting rooms are well ventilated;
- (g) Prepare a holding area where suspected cases will be kept before University makes arrangement for referral to designated isolated Centre; and
- (h) Provision of canopies and chairs (Health Centre waiting area spills) to control crowding within the health facility.



## **Security Measures put in place by the University**

- (a) Access control through the entry points to the University;
- (b) Surveillance operations, stop and search, the beat system and deployment of security men to Lecture centres;
- (c) Security Liaison with other security agencies.





## **Administrative and Managerial Measures put in Place by the University**

- (a) Adequate dissemination of information to the general public, students, staff, parents and guardians on the Gradual Resumption of Academic Activities through the Radio, Television stations (particularly Lagos television, Radio Lagos and LASU Radio) LASU Official Bulletin and social media platforms.
- (b) The University constituted a Quality Assurance/LASU COVID-19 to determine the category of people allowed access into the University.
- (c) The University Management and other relevant organs on ground to ensured total compliance during this period.

# The Way Forward for Universities in Africa



- African Governments and Higher Education Institutions should build pathways for resilience against future shocks in our education system
- Institutions to ensure that available infrastructures are capable of facilitating both physical distancing and hygiene protocols.
- Universities should ensure the adoption and enforcement of outlined health and sanitation protocols..
- Universities should provide the needed logistics to enhance the capabilities of the teaching workforce.



# The Way Forward For Universities In Africa



- African Governments and Higher Education Institutions should provide increased investment in online learning by investing in the development of affordable, accessible online training platforms for students and staff of HEIS.
- Universities should embrace digital literacy for students and staff of the institution
- Continuous staff development by Institutions
- Impacts of the COVID-19 crisis varied across Institutions, countries and regions. Hence reopening strategies to adopted should be tailored to the unique needs.
- Universities in Africa should leverage on technology to adopt blended learning for effective and efficient higher education delivery in the new normal

**Thank you**

