

The digitalisation of education systems and its impact on human rights, with particular attention to the right to education

## EDUCATION FOR ALL IN THE DIGITAL AGE: EXPLORING EDTECH REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS ACROSS AFRICA

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The push for profitability in education fuels competition among schooling providers, prompting them to balance quality education with affordability, and risking the compromise of education and human rights standards. EdTech profit motives often overshadow educational impact, prioritising financial gain over addressing marginalised communities' needs. 'Low-cost schools' are, in particular, less inclusive than claimed. Added to this, high bandwidth costs hinder the sharing of educational resources, with connectivity expenses for educational institutions reaching as high as \$900 per Mbps/month in Chad.



Governments struggle to provide digital education solutions



Private companies offer costly tech-based education, which can impede equitable access



Public-private partnerships often support private schooling, exacerbating inequality

# What are the policy options?



**KENYA, UGANDA, LIBERIA AND GHANA IMPLEMENTED VARYING REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS TO ADDRESS THESE ISSUES**

Liberia has outsourced its public school system to private providers since 2016, mainly to BIA. Ghana's 'low-cost schools' operate on a 'Pay As You Learn' model that can exclude economically disadvantaged families. Ghana plans a PPP pilot program instead of direct regulation for such schools

In Kenya and Uganda, courts closed Bridge International Academies (BIA) for failing standards. Kenya's APBET Policy regulates non-state education providers to improve access to schooling. Uganda's Digital Education Standards aim to enhance digital education delivery

## POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS



African governments must evaluate digital education programs, enforce accountability for human rights and ethical standards, prioritize internet access and optimize universal service funds for education



The AU must harmonize regulations, facilitate collaboration, and share best practices



EdTech companies must adhere to human rights principles, ensure accessibility, and avoid data exploitation



International agencies should provide expertise, training, collaborate with local governments, and initiate joint research on EdTech across Africa's five sub-regions