

UNESCO's Work in Mobile Learning


Mark West

UNESCO Division for Teachers and Higher Education

December 12, 2013

WHY MOBILES?





Ubiquitous
and powerful
mobile
devices



Expanding
applicability
for teaching
and learning

Potential to
benefit
learners
everywhere



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Ubiquitous

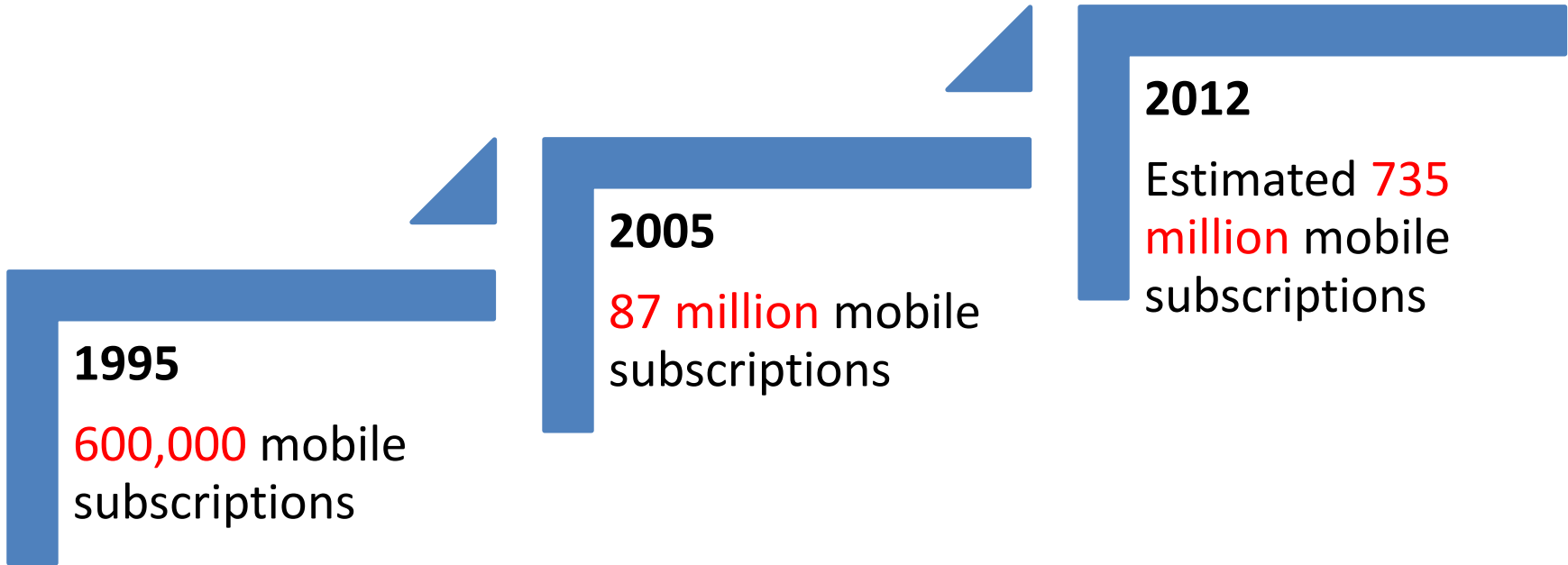


Explosive growth in the developing world:

- Developing countries accounted for more than 80% of the 660 million new mobile subscriptions added in 2011.
- In 2011, 142 million mobile subscriptions were added in India alone.
- Mobile broadband subscriptions have grown 45% annually over the last four years.
- Sales of tablets expected to outpace sales of PCs by 2015 or 2016



In Africa mobile connectivity is becoming increasingly common



1995

600,000 mobile subscriptions

2005

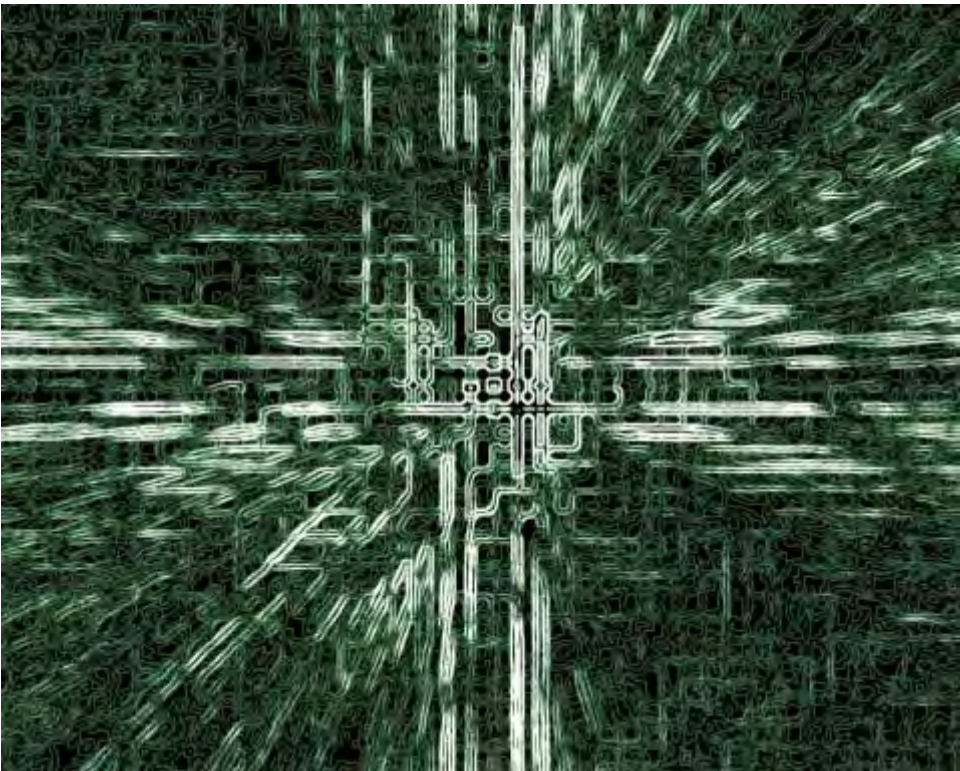
87 million mobile subscriptions


2012

Estimated 735 million mobile subscriptions



Powerful





Given the **ubiquity** and **power** of mobile devices, UNESCO is committed to **understanding their potential to expand educational opportunities** and sharing this information with others.

Our Guiding Question:

How can countries best leverage mobile technologies to support EFA goals and enrich learning?



UNESCO research is currently illuminating:

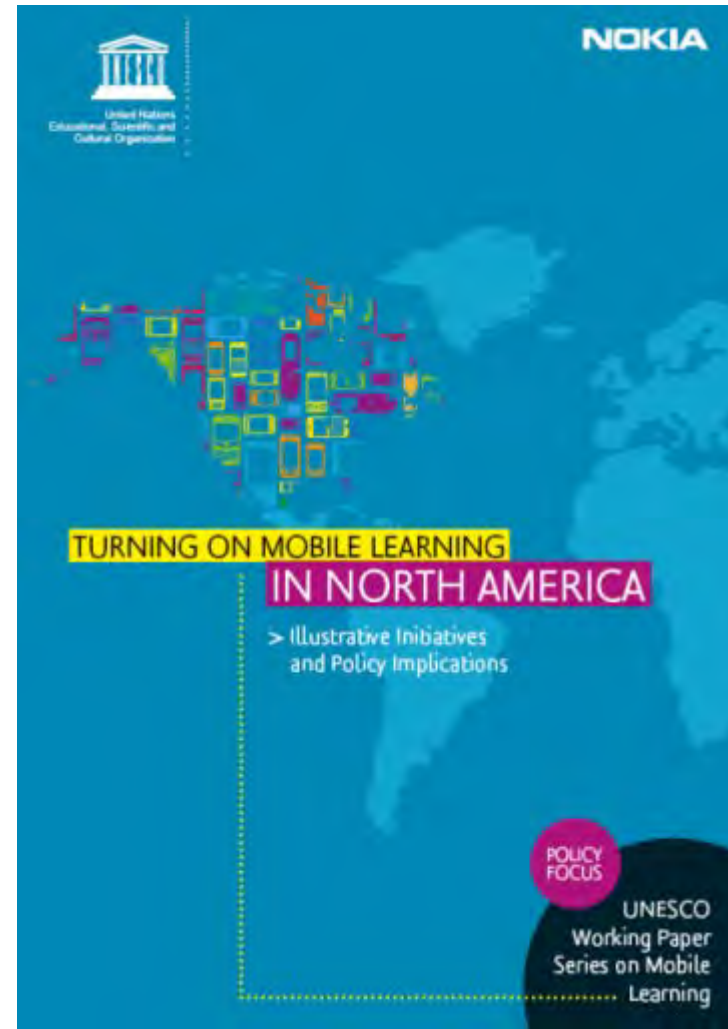
Expanding
applicability
for teaching
and learning



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

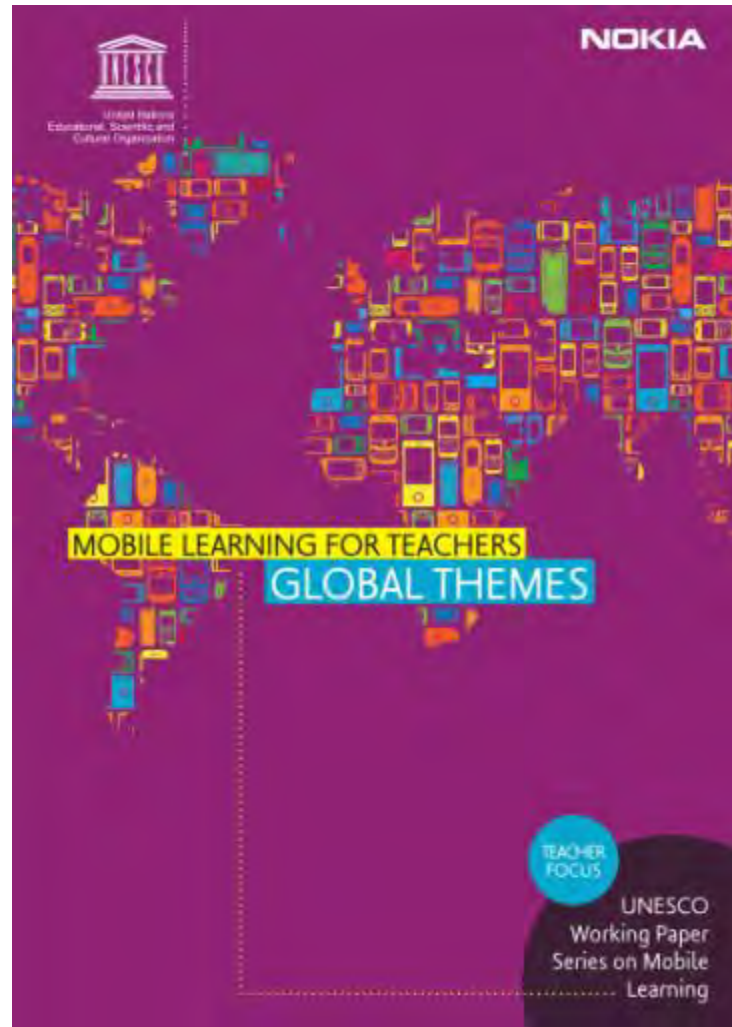
Turning on Mobile Learning in ...

- Africa and the Middle East
- Asia
- Europe
- Latin America
- North America
- **Global Themes**

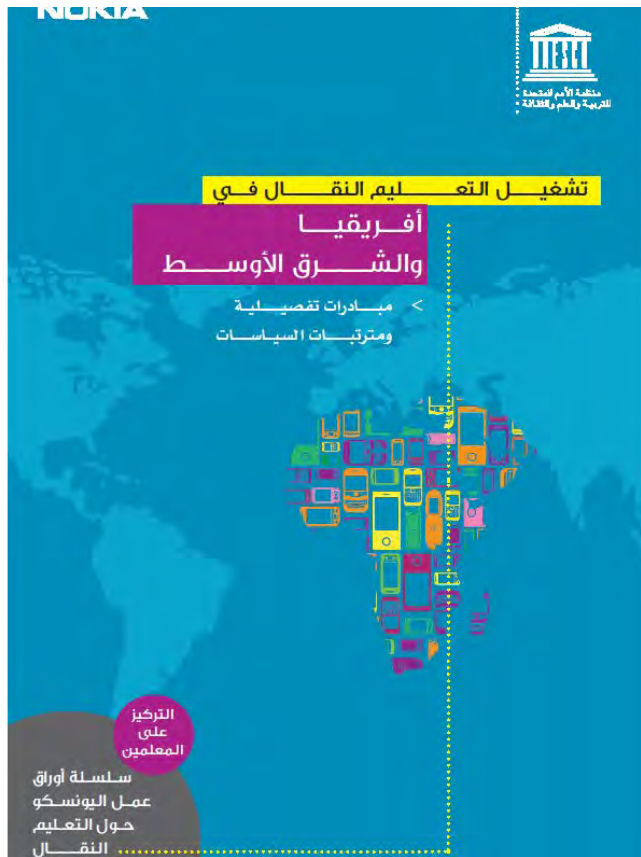


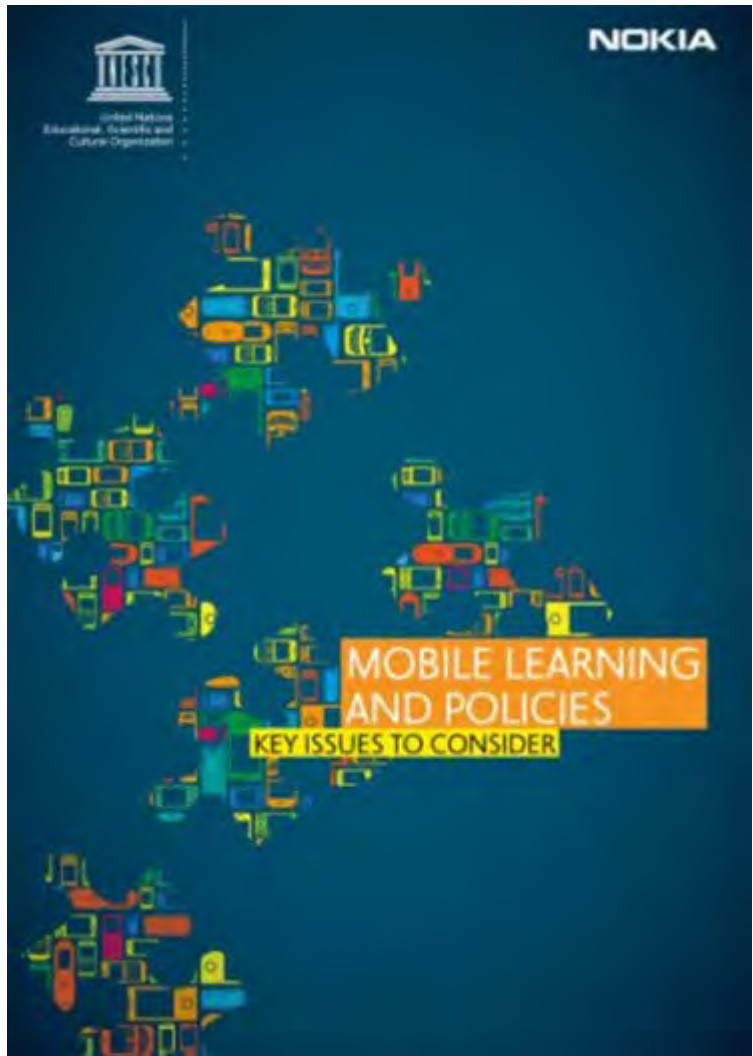
Mobile Learning for Teachers in...

- Africa and the Middle East
- Asia
- Europe
- Latin America
- North America
- **Global Themes**



Series translated into 3 languages





“This series of papers is highly recommended reading, given its geographic diversity and the breadth (if not depth) of initiatives it considers... [It is] the most comprehensive overview to date of what is actually happening on-the-ground with initiatives utilizing new mobile technologies.”



Achieving Gender Equity in Education



Mobile Learning and Gender

Project Goals:



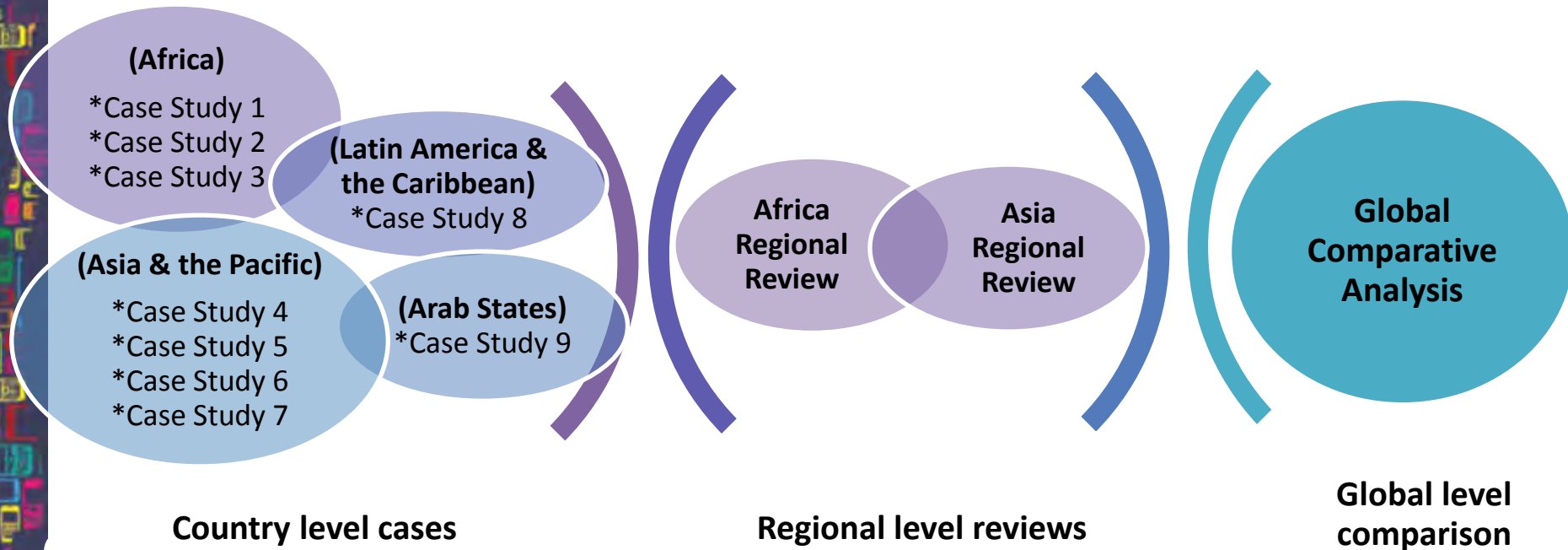
Empower women and girls through education via innovative mobile technology-based learning and information programmes.

Promote, retain and improve the use of literacy skills of illiterate and neo-literate women and girls.

Provide access to information on issues, such as civic and human rights, health and hygiene, nutrition, agriculture, or banking.



Coming publications with a focus on gender...



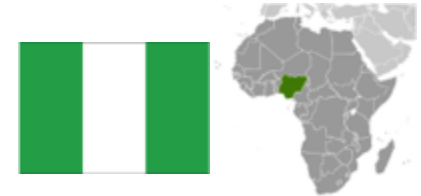
4 Projects on the Ground



On-The-Ground Mobile Learning Projects



Mexico: Enhance the teaching practice of Spanish language teachers working with students who speak indigenous languages



Nigeria: Support the pedagogical practice and content knowledge of English language teachers

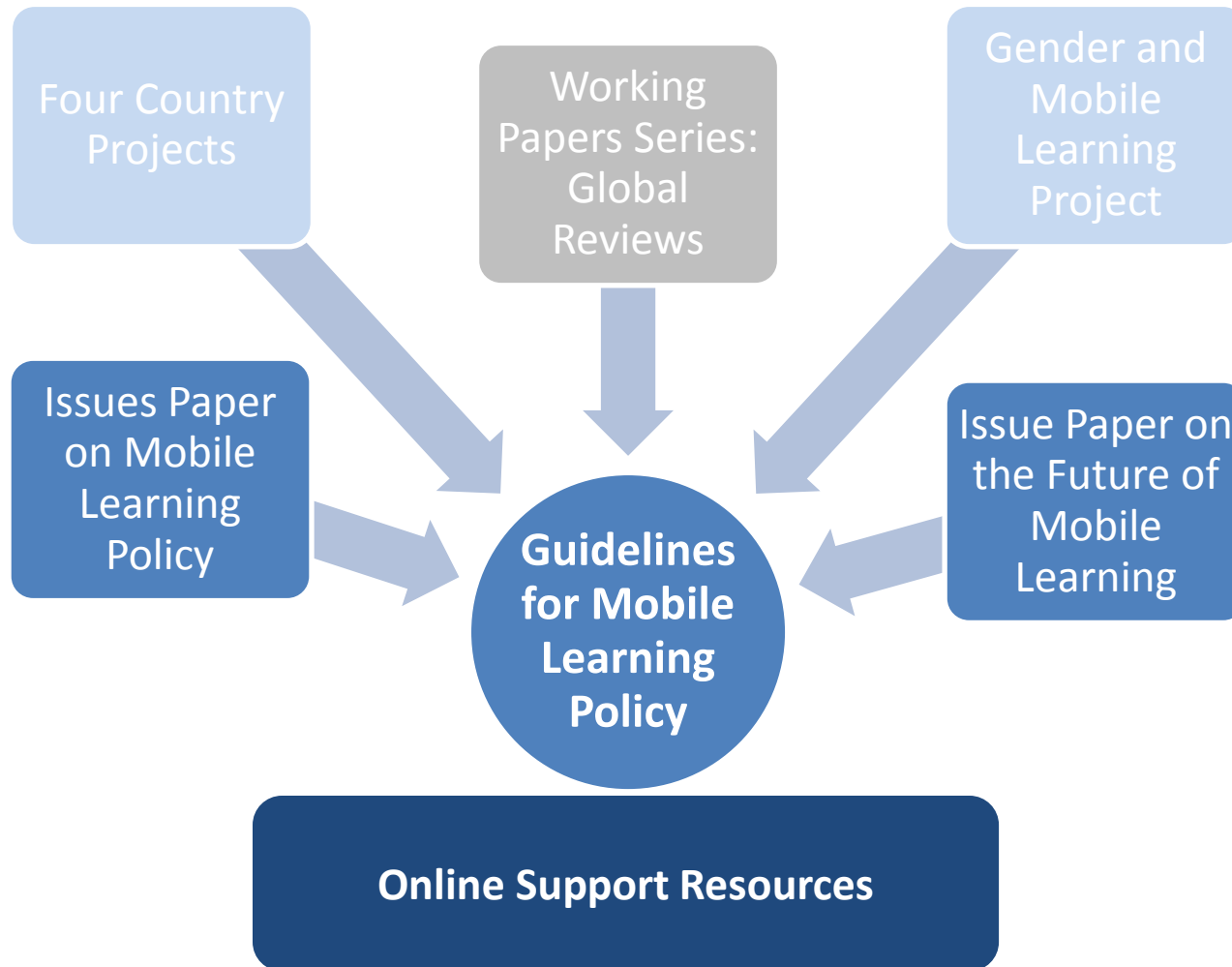


Pakistan: Develop the professional practice of early childhood care and education instructors working in rural areas.

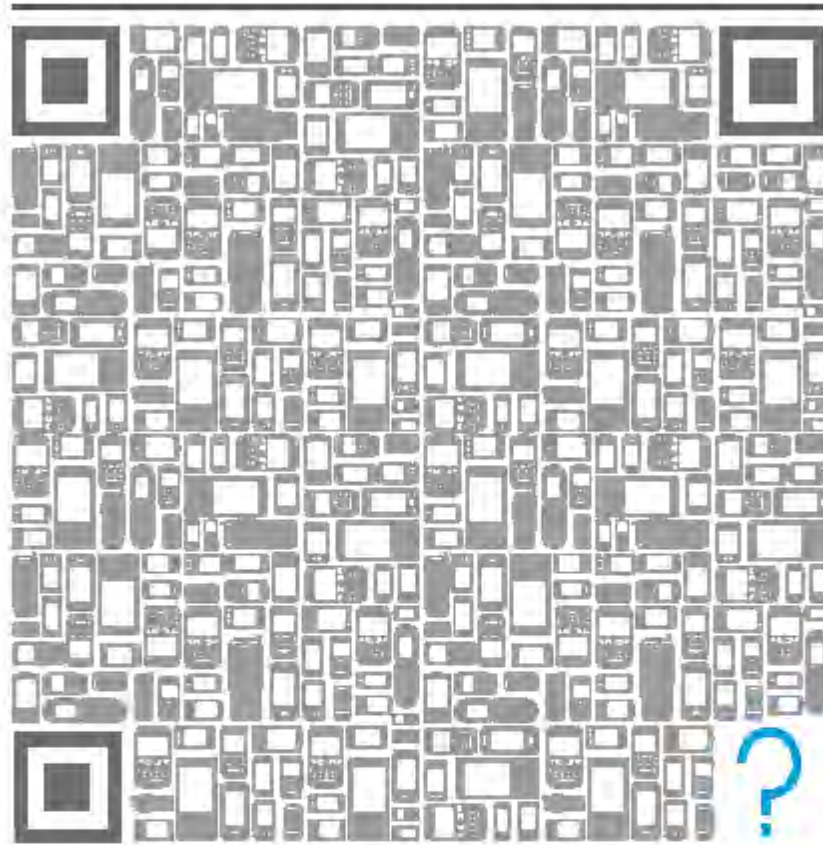


Senegal: Improve the teaching of science and math in secondary schools

Putting it all together



UNESCO Policy Guidelines for Mobile Learning



Policy guidelines
for mobile learning



Aims of the Guidelines:

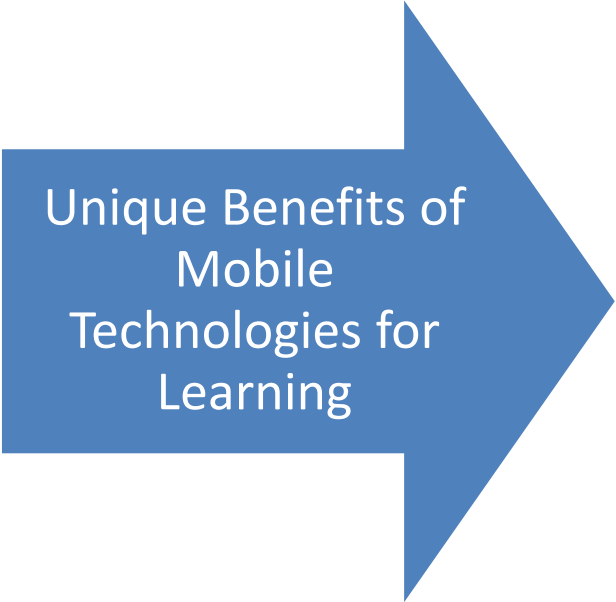
- **Raise awareness** and put mobile learning onto the ICT in Education agenda.
- **Describe the value and practicability** of mobile learning.
- **Make high-level recommendations** for creating an enabling policy environment.

Primary Audience:

- **Policy makers**

UNESCO Guidelines on Mobile Learning

Two main sections



Unique Benefits of
Mobile
Technologies for
Learning



Policy
Recommendations





Unique Benefits of
Mobile
Technologies for
Learning

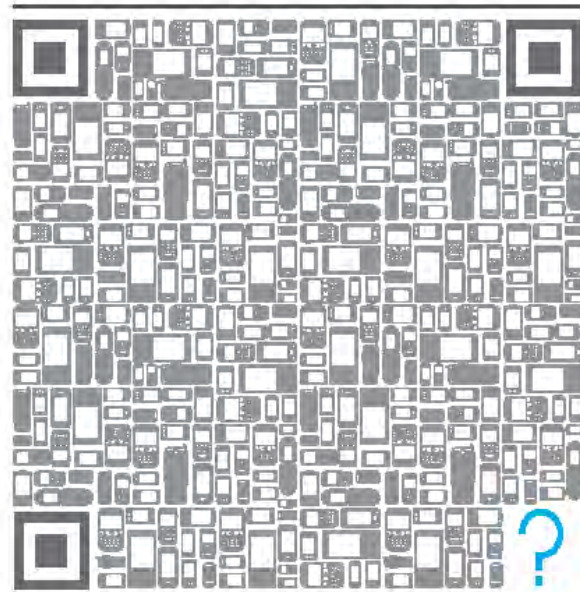
- 1) Expand the reach and equity of education
- 2) Facilitate personalized learning
- 3) Power anytime, anywhere learning
- 4) Provide immediate feedback and assessment
- 5) Ensure the productive use of time spent in classrooms
- 6) Build new communities of students
Support situated learning
- 7) Enhance seamless learning
- 8) Bridge formal and informal learning
- 9) Improve communication and administration
- 10) Maximize cost efficiency

- 1) Create or update policies related to mobile learning
- 2) Train teachers to advance learning through mobile technologies
- 3) Provide support and training to teachers through mobile technologies
- 4) Optimize educational content for use on mobile devices
- 5) Ensure gender equality for mobile students
- 6) Expand and improve connectivity options while ensuring equity
- 7) Develop strategies to provide devices for students who cannot afford them
- 8) Use mobile technology to improve communication and education management
- 9) Promote the safe, responsible, and healthy use of mobile technologies
- 10) Raise awareness of mobile learning through advocacy, leadership, and dialogue



Policy
Recommendations

Translated into Arabic, French and Spanish



Principes directeurs
pour l'apprentissage
mobile



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Promoting literacy and reading



School library



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



51%

South African households that own no leisure books
(TNS Research Surveys, 2006)



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



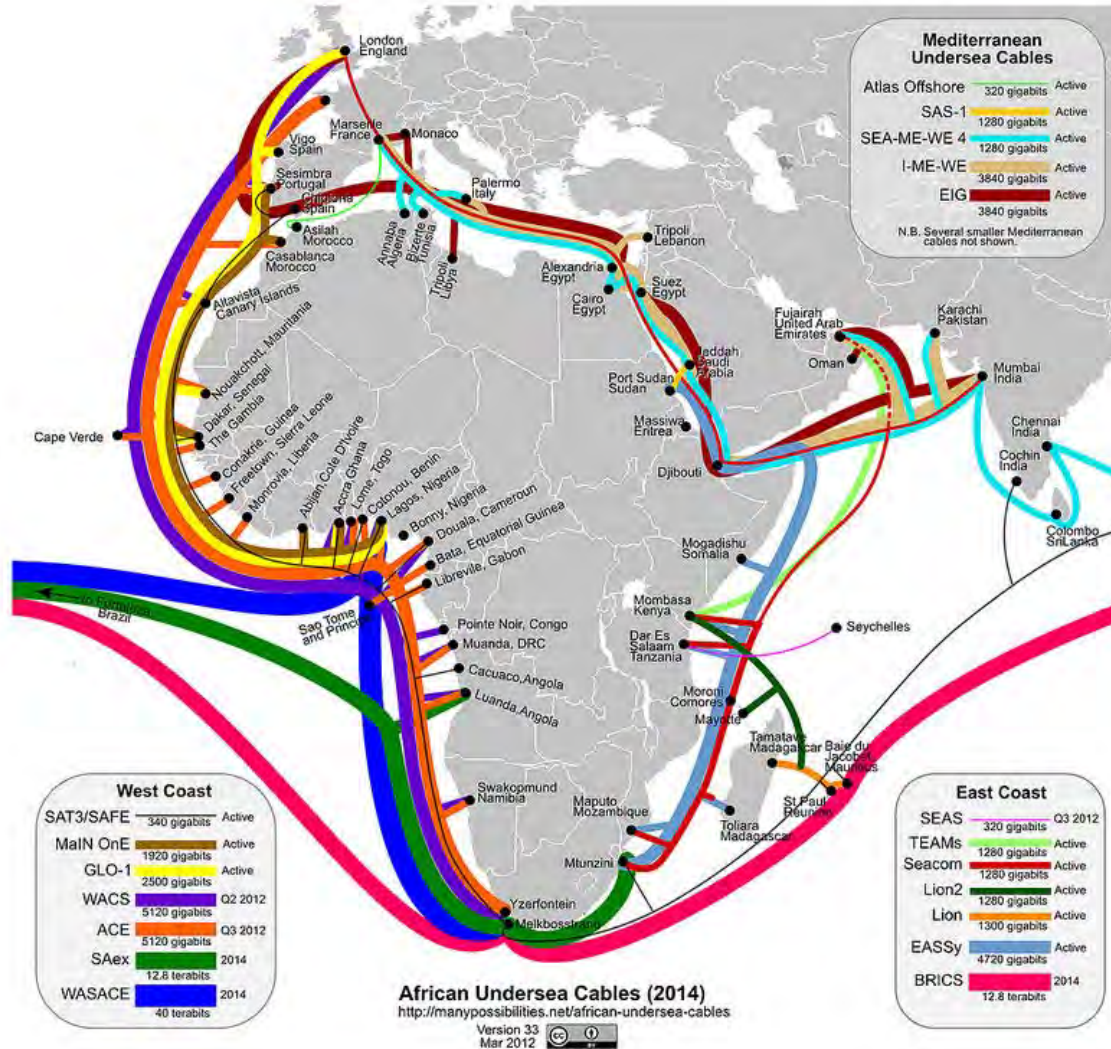
7%

Public schools in South Africa that have functional libraries of any kind
(Equal Education, 2009)

The traditional way



The new way



Objectives

- Research mobile reading habits
- Understand the needs and desires of mobile-based readers in developing countries

→ Contribute to one of the most promising opportunities for raising reading and writing levels in developing countries



Implementation partner



Worldreader

Books for all

in cooperation with:



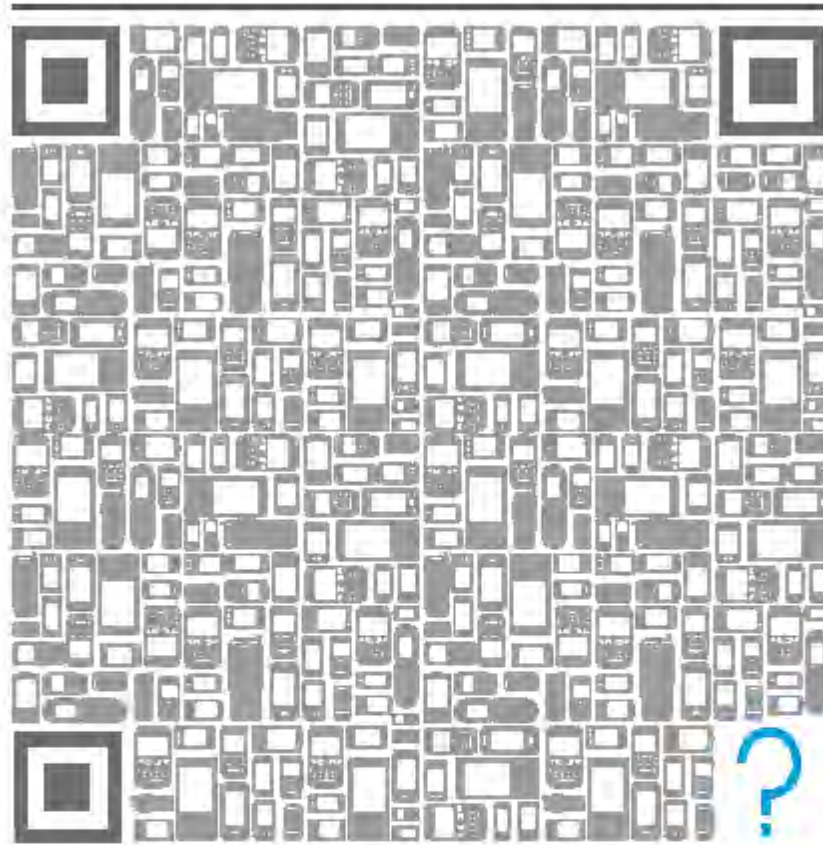
United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Thank you!




UNESCO Policy Guidelines for Mobile Learning



Policy guidelines
for mobile learning






Expand the reach and equity of education

Facilitate personalized learning



Power anytime, anywhere learning





Provide immediate
feedback and assessment



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Ensure the productive use
of time spent in classrooms



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Build new communities of students



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Support situated learning



Enhance seamless learning




Bridge formal and informal learning




Improve Communication and Administration




Maximize cost efficiency




Create or update policies
related to mobile learning



Train teachers to advance learning through mobile technologies



Provide support and
training to teachers
through mobile
technologies




Optimize educational content for use on mobile devices

Ensure gender equality for mobile students




United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization




Expand and improve
connectivity options while
ensuring equity



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization




Develop strategies to
provide devices for
students who cannot afford
them




Use mobile technology to improve communication and education management



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Promote the safe,
responsible, and healthy
use of mobile technologies



Raise awareness of mobile learning through advocacy, leadership, and dialogue



UNESCO Mobile Learning Week 2013

UNESCO Headquarters
Paris, France

18-22 February 2013

www.tinyurl.com/mlw2013

QUESTIONS?

