

January–June  
**2023**

**Progress report**

**Learning Passport**

Transforming societies through education

unicef 

for every child

 **learning  
passport**



## A letter from the Global Programme Chief

**Sometimes the pace of global events can seem so fast that it feels almost impossible to keep up.**

In just the first six months of 2023 we have seen a devastating earthquake in Türkiye and Syria. Armed conflict has broken out in Sudan. And new developments in the war in Ukraine have put an even greater risk on the education and future of a whole generation of children.

In this fast-paced and unpredictable world, supporters of the Learning Passport are enabling us to react quickly.

So far this year, you have enabled us to provide digital education to children affected by the earthquake in Syria, with a focus on mental health to help them contend with their difficult experiences. In Sudan and Egypt, the Learning Passport team has prepared to provide learning continuity to Sudanese refugee students. And in Poland, the Learning Passport has been launched to support the inclusion of refugees from Ukraine in the school system.

But the Learning Passport is not just a reactive system. Thanks to your support, we are also taking a proactive approach – expanding to new countries to ensure flexible and digital education for all children. Over the last six months, we have launched in the Philippines, Sao Tome & Principe, and Guinea. And more launches are planned for the near future.

As the pace of technological change and AI seems to accelerate every day, supporters of the Learning

Passport are also enabling new innovations to ensure a digitally empowered future for all children.

One innovation that I am particularly excited about is our Offline Learning Passport, which was recently trialed in the Philippines. The results so far are promising, showing that it is possible to deliver a quality digital education for all children – even if they live in areas with no internet connectivity.

**As you will see in this report, a lot can be achieved in six months – even in this fast-paced world of rapid and constant change.**

We are indebted to all of our generous partners for the progress we have made – over the last six months and in the years since we first deployed the Learning Passport. So far, an incredible 4.6 million learners have benefited from the platform. And it's all thanks to your support.

I hope you will enjoy reading this progress report for January to June 2023. And I look forward to our continued partnership as we work towards our shared vision: to transform the education landscape and ensure every child learns.

With sincere thanks for your support,

**Mac Glovinsky**  
Learning Passport Global  
Programme Chief



### Zimbabwe

A student shows the Learning Passport interface at her school in Harare, the capital of Zimbabwe.

# Headline results

January—June 2023

**4** new countries launched




Philippines, Sao Tome & Principe, Serbia & Guinea

**1.5** million new learners added to the platform




*includes all Learning Passport sub-brands and initiatives*


**735** courses added



**615,000** trained users added to the platform



**580,000** new course completions




## Cumulative results (since Learning Passport launch)

Learning Passport is live in **33** countries and territories



**4.6** million total learners have used the platform




*includes all Learning Passport sub-brands and initiatives*

**11,250** total courses on Learning Passport



**1.25** million trained users enrolled in at least one course



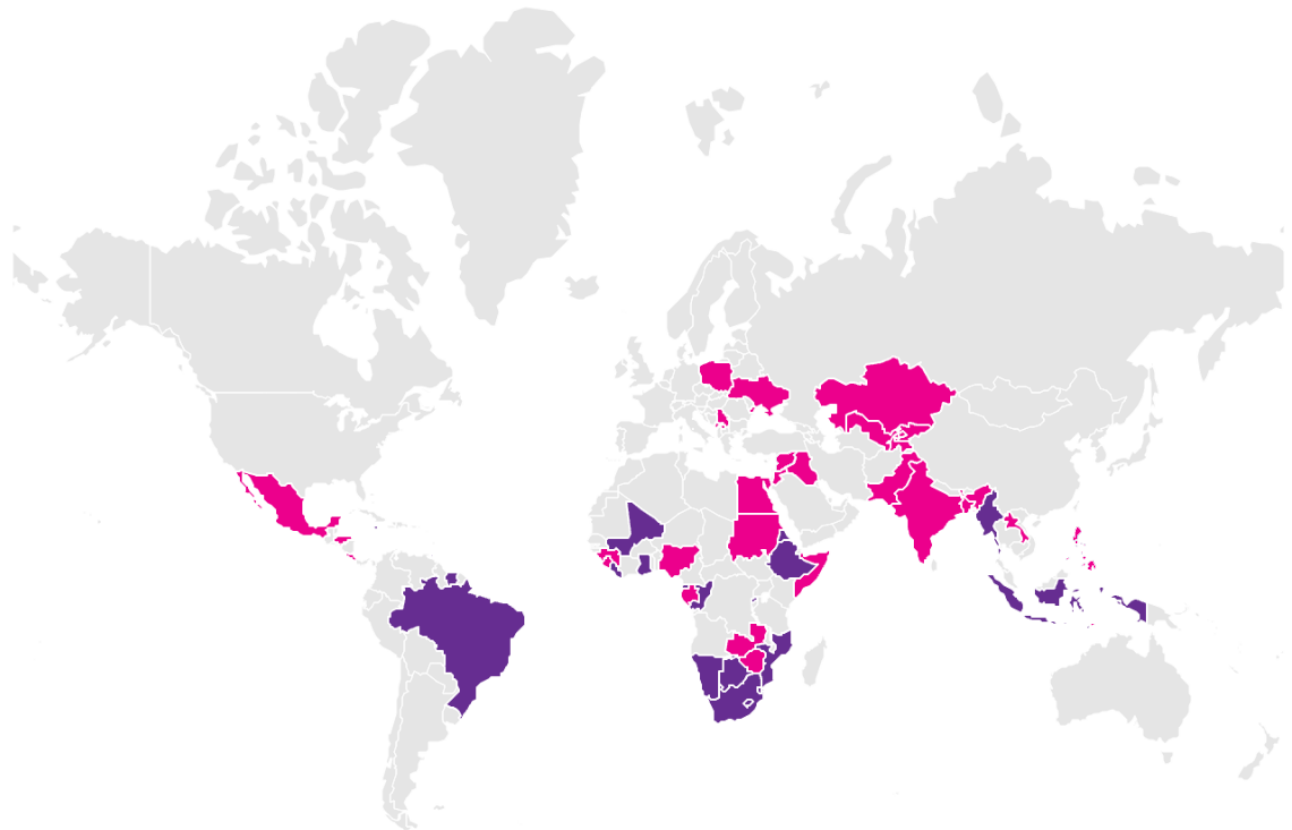
More than **1 million** courses completed



# Learning Passport around the world

The Learning Passport is **live in 33 countries and territories,**  
and in development in **19 countries and territories:**

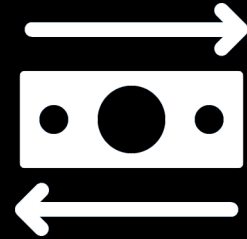
Bangladesh	Lesotho
Botswana	Liberia
Brazil	Mali
Congo	Mexico
Costa Rica	Montenegro
Egypt	Mozambique
Equatorial Guinea	Myanmar
Eritrea	Namibia
Eswatini	Nigeria
Ethiopia	Pakistan
Gabon	Philippines
Ghana	Poland
Guinea	Puntland
Honduras	Rwanda
India	Sao Tome & Principe
Indonesia	Serbia
Iraq	Sierra Leone
Italy	South Africa
Jamaica	Sudan
Jordan	Suriname
Kazakhstan	Tajikistan
Kiribati	Timor-Leste
Kosovo	Trinidad & Tobago
Kyrgyzstan	Ukraine
Lao People's Democratic Republic	Uzbekistan
Lebanon	Zambia
	Zimbabwe



## Key priorities (January–June 2023)

### USABILITY

During the reporting period, we have worked to make the Learning Passport more user friendly. This includes making it easier to log in and out as our users often share devices.

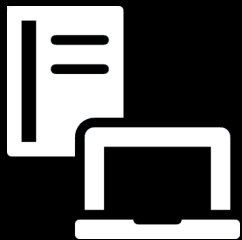


### AFFORDABILITY

We have expanded our partnerships with mobile networks to 'zero rate' connections to the Learning Passport. This means traffic to Learning Passport pages incurs no data costs to users.

### HYBRID

We have been prioritizing the Offline Learning Passport to ensure all children can access digital opportunities, even if they live in areas with low internet connectivity.



### DIVERSITY

Learners have diverse needs. A major ongoing area of work has been making content accessible to learners with disabilities, such as visual and hearing impairments.

### Driving digital transformation

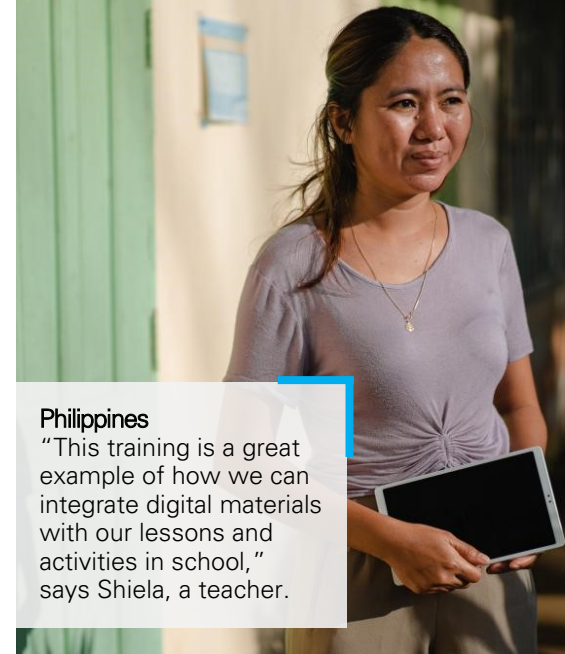
UNICEF's Learning Passport is not just an isolated programme. It actively drives the overall digital transformation of entire education systems.

As part of the Learning Passport programme, UNICEF provides technical assistance to Ministries of Education in developing robust ICT policies for education. We collaborate with telecommunication and mobile network operators to ensure affordable and widespread access to digital content. And we create an enabling environment for other sectors to plan and implement digital solutions, through infrastructure improvements and the fostering of digital skills-building among the young generation.

### Leveraging data to meet learner needs

Over the past six months, UNICEF has used the Learning Passport to run data-driven programmes in Mexico and Sierra Leone. These initiatives have used real-time dashboards and continuous data collection. This has enabled us to better track student performance, informing teaching decisions to improve learning outcomes.

© UNICEF Philippines/2023/Forbes



#### Philippines

"This training is a great example of how we can integrate digital materials with our lessons and activities in school," says Shiela, a teacher.

### Ensuring digital literacy

Teachers may be unfamiliar with new technologies and lack the necessary training to use these digital tools to unlock the full potential they hold for children's learning. Digital literacy training for teachers is a key part of our Learning Passport rollout in new countries. When teachers have the right digital skills they can effectively deploy the Learning Passport and support the digital literacy of their students.

## Content as a critical enabler for learning

The Learning Passport relies on good quality content to function effectively as an education platform for children. That includes quizzes, videos, stories and more. Ensuring digital learning content is interactive and engaging makes the learning experience more enjoyable and impactful for children. It captures their attention, stimulates their curiosity, and encourages active participation, resulting in improved retention and understanding of the subject matter. These are just a few results UNICEF achieved in developing Learning Passport content from January to June 2023.



**Honduras**  
Alejandro engages with the Learning Passport content at home.

### Inclusive education

The Learning Passport relies on specific content for different countries, cultures and languages. But UNICEF is also able to make efficiencies by developing content that is appropriate for multiple countries across a wider region. For instance, this year we developed new e-learning content for the East Asia & Pacific region. The content is on inclusive education, supporting teachers and students to foster a classroom environment that welcomes children of all backgrounds, cultures and needs.

### Content in the face of conflict

In April 2023, armed conflict broke out in Sudan. UNICEF responded by creating interactive learning content based on the national curriculum for grades 1 to 8, and deploying it through the Learning Passport to schools across five provinces. Teachers were trained on using scripted lessons to deliver blended learning activities in classrooms. This same content is also being used in Egypt to support the learning of refugees who have fled from Sudan.





### Gaming for mental health

When a devastating earthquake struck Türkiye and Syria in early 2023, thousands of children had their whole lives uprooted. While this put their education in jeopardy, it also had a severe impact on their mental health. So, UNICEF used the Learning Passport to launch a game called 'Gigi to the Rescue' (pictured below). This game follows the adventures of Gigi the tiger, and promotes key messages on mental health. Playing the game helps children to overcome their difficult experiences, while also enabling them to gain some basic digital skills.



# Leveraging partnerships to drive growth and achieve results

Public and private sector partners are the cornerstone of UNICEF’s Learning Passport. These partnerships allow for resource pooling, expertise sharing, and network leveraging, leading to a more effective and comprehensive programme. By collaborating with governments, educational institutions, and private sector entities, the Learning Passport can achieve scalability, sustainability, and broad stakeholder engagement, ultimately enhancing access to quality education for children worldwide. Below are just a few key partnership highlights from the first six months of 2023.

 <p><b>Airtel Africa</b> has helped zero-rate the Learning Passport in Gabon, ensuring that anyone can access the content without incurring data charges. In Nigeria, Airtel Africa has provided 780 internet routers, enabling connectivity for 186 schools.</p>	 <p>Thanks to <b>American Express</b>, the Learning Passport is being used to support the education of children affected by emergencies in countries like Poland, Philippines, and Egypt. The partnership ensures students can continue learning and access critical mental health content.</p>
 <p><b>WWE</b> is helping ensure young people have the skills and opportunities necessary to thrive. Through the development of an integrated solution, built on UNICEF's Learning Passport, that combines learning, connecting and opportunities to act, to positively transform their lives, communities</p>	 <p><b>Formula 1</b> and UNICEF recently joined forces to help millions of children build the skills they need to realize their potential and succeed in the workplace as they get older. Together, we are working to expand the Learning Passport to new countries and enable the launch of an offline version for children in Mexico and Brazil.</p>

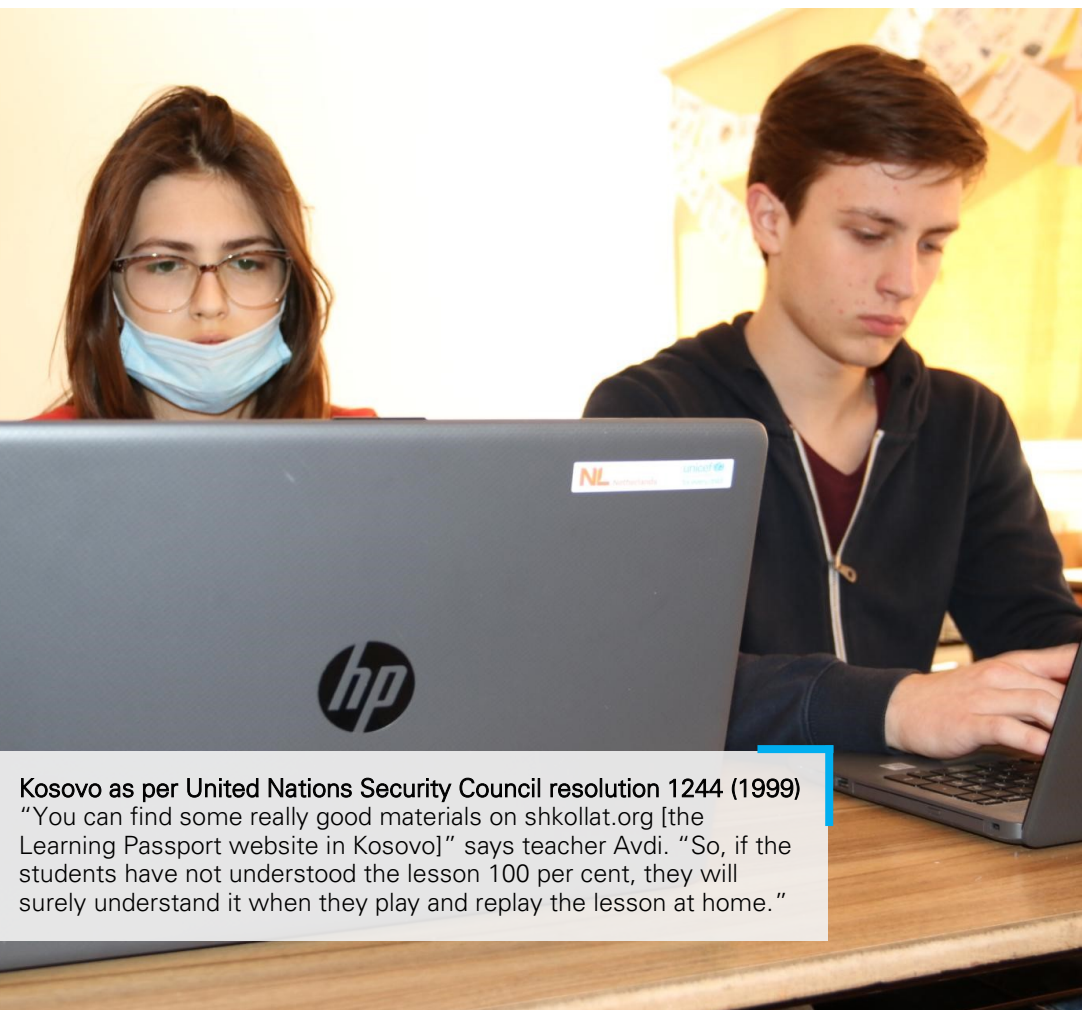
## Our partners

Supporters of the Learning Passport include corporations, philanthropists, governments, foundations, and many more. UNICEF would like to extend its appreciation to all partners and supporters of the Learning Passport. Our work for children would not be possible without your generosity and collaboration.



## Research, monitoring and evaluation

A key element of the Learning Passport programme is integrating tools for monitoring and evaluation in all country implementations. This helps to track progress and adapt to meet learner needs in real-time. It also supports our continued development and refinement of the Learning Passport to ensure it continues to impact learning and learners positively. Ongoing research activities for the Learning Passport are currently taking place in Bangladesh, Cabo Verde, Egypt, Ghana, Guinea, Honduras, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon and Mexico. Below are two case studies of key findings from our research, monitoring and evaluation work in Kosovo and Sierra Leone.



**Kosovo as per United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999)**  
“You can find some really good materials on [shkollat.org](https://shkollat.org) [the Learning Passport website in Kosovo]” says teacher Avdi. “So, if the students have not understood the lesson 100 per cent, they will surely understand it when they play and replay the lesson at home.”

### Research to improve policies

In 2021, UNICEF launched the Learning Passport in **Kosovo** (where it is known as Shkollat.org). In 2023, we undertook a research study on the programme to help identify policy takeaways to strengthen the digital learning ecosystem in Kosovo.

Results showed that teachers and students in Kosovo first embraced digital learning during the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to this, teachers in Kosovo are usually familiar with videoconferencing tools, such as Zoom, and often use the internet to search for educational content. However, digital learning platforms, such as Shkollat.org, are under-used, and there is a need for more engaging curriculum-aligned content. Gaps in access to internet connectivity and devices can prevent students from engaging with digital learning in and out of class. In this context, coordinated efforts from ministerial through to municipal and school levels will be required to leverage digital learning to support individualized and flexible learning for every child.

The full study is available to read [here](#).

### Addressing a learning crisis

**Sierra Leone** is facing a learning crisis, with only 8 per cent of children in the third grade able to read a simple text. To address this, a pilot programme of the Learning Passport was launched in February 2022. It targeted 160 students from 20 schools to prepare for the two national examinations. A year later, our evaluation of the pilot has revealed some promising results.

Based on data from a survey of participants, more than 90 per cent of students found the Learning Passport to be a ‘very useful’ revision tool to prepare for exams and were ‘very likely to use the Learning Passport to prepare for examinations if available and would recommend it to others as a study tool’.

One identified challenge was that internet and power cuts sometimes interrupted practice tests. Therefore, we plan to launch an offline version of the Learning Passport in Sierra Leone, so students can use it without internet connectivity.

The full study is available to read [here](#).



# Learning Passport in Action: Country Profiles

## Launching in Guinea

Guinea is one of the newest countries to benefit from the Learning Passport. UNICEF launched the platform there as a pilot programme, which ran in two schools between January and May 2023.

Overall, 614 students took part in the Learning Passport pilot. To support them, nine teachers were trained on digital learning. And two directors of the schools also participated in the training, preparation and operational phase of the work, demonstrating their strong commitment throughout the pilot.

The pilot focused on two types of educational content – French and arithmetic – and showed some promising results. Principals, teachers and implementers found that the Learning Passport promoted student attention and motivation through more engaging educational resources aligned with the curriculum.

However, as digital learning is still in its infancy in Guinea, it is recommended to adopt a gradual approach following the pilot. This will involve expanding the number and location of participating schools over time, as the digital and internet connectivity structures are not in place for a full nationwide scale-up.

## Welcoming refugees in Poland

Since the war in Ukraine began, nearly one third of the country's population has been forced to flee their homes.

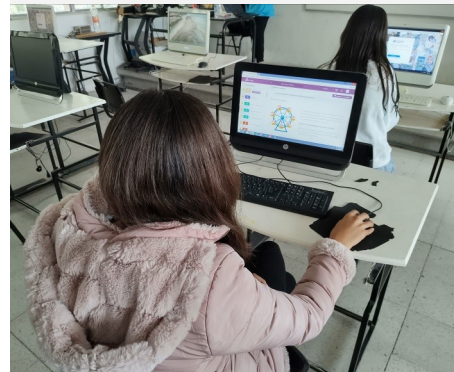
Poland is hosting a huge number of these refugees, including about 200,000 Ukrainian children attending Polish public schools and preschools. That means there is a Ukrainian refugee in one out of every four classes in Poland.

To support students from Ukraine to integrate into the Polish school system, UNICEF launched a new Learning Passport programme in June 2023. It is being used as a training platform for teachers to develop their skills and help them better manage stress, cross-cultural communication, and how to work with children affected by war trauma. In this way, children can be better welcomed and included in their new classrooms.



## Strong results from Mexico

UNICEF launched the Learning Passport in Mexico in October 2021 to address learning loss after widespread school closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Now, almost two years later, data from the platform is showing us some promising results.



Backend data show high engagement with course content and improvement in quiz scores for physics and mathematics. In addition, data collected from over 10,000 users show that two-thirds of them believe their confidence in the classroom has improved since using the Learning Passport.

The next stage of our work in Mexico will focus on the Offline Learning Passport, with an aim to reach 104 low connectivity schools across nine states.



It's much better to learn with the screen than with the blackboard, it's more fun and interactive. In the tablet there are videos and we also have a lot of lessons available like spelling, science, mathematics, grammar. For example, we have a lesson to learn the words, they are all broken down into syllables, it helped me a lot for reading.

**Mamadi**  
Age 16  
Student in Guinea

# Learning Passport in Action: Country Profiles

## Early feedback from Zambia

In November 2022, the Learning Passport was launched in Zambia, where it is facilitating a wide range of learning opportunities:

- digital learning through audio lessons
- skills for career development for young people
- financial literacy and digital skills
- professional development of teachers, school principals, and other education staff through teaching and learning materials and teacher guides.

Recently, UNICEF conducted a survey to gather some early feedback from the Learning Passport so far. The survey primarily focused on teachers and brought positive responses.

“[The Learning Passport] has really helped me to deliver quality and effective teaching to my students” said one respondent, a 31-year-old teacher from a public school in a rural area, who uses the Learning Passport two to three times a week.

We will continue to solicit feedback from Learning Passport users in Zambia as we work to improve and scale up the system.

## Digital literacy camps in Lao People's Democratic Republic

Digital literacy rates are particularly low in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, especially among girls. According to the most recent major household survey, only 11 per cent of young men and 9 per cent of young women (aged 15-24) engaged in an ICT activity in the last three months.

That is why UNICEF has partnered with the Ministry of Education and Sport to launch the 'Digital Literacy Camp'. Attending students are introduced to tablets and important topics like online safety. They are also taught how to use the Learning Passport, which is known as Khang Panya Lao.

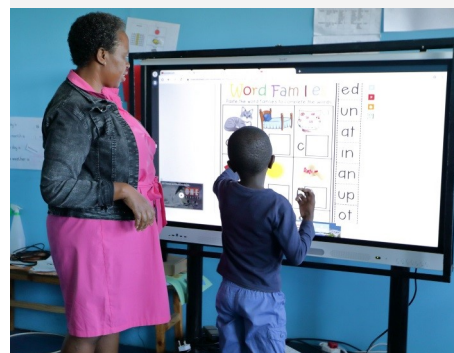
So far, the platform has 111,000 registered users and an estimated 333,000 total users nationwide. Thanks to the Digital Literacy Camp, it is hoped that more young learners will join.



## Accelerating results in Lesotho

UNICEF launched the Learning Passport in Lesotho in February 2021. A lot has been achieved since then:

- **5,169 total learners** have used the platform
- **165 courses** have been added
- **445 courses** have been completed.



Most of this incredible progress has come in January to June 2023:

- **1,502 new learners** added (29 per cent of total)
- **75 new courses** added (45 per cent of total)
- **319 courses** completed (71 per cent of total).

This recent expansion bodes well for our continued plans for growth. We aim to reach 35,000 users by the end of 2023.

## Two key priorities in Honduras

Honduras adopted the Learning Passport platform in 2021. Since its launch, more than 15,000 students and teachers have registered and were able to access formal and non-formal education courses.

Looking forward, UNICEF has two key priorities for the Learning Passport in Honduras.

### Digital transformation

The Learning Passport is just one part of a wider aim to advance the digital learning ecosystem in Honduras. For instance, the Learning Passport is working in concord with GIGA, a programme which aims to connect schools to the internet.



We are also connecting the Learning Passport to a government initiative, which is delivering digital devices to schools.

### System strengthening

System strengthening is any work UNICEF does with governments and influential partners to improve the education landscape for children. For instance, UNICEF recently joined the Multistakeholder Board of Digital Transformation in Education in Honduras. As part of this group, we can help steer the national education system, promoting best practices for digital transformation.

# Learning Passport in Action: Country Profiles

## Achieving scale in Nigeria

Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa. It is estimated that more than 110 million children live in the country. So reaching all of them represents an immense challenge.

However, thanks to our close collaboration with federal and state governments in Nigeria, UNICEF is well on its way to bringing the Learning Passport to every child. Although the platform only has 244,000 users in Nigeria so far, these are spread across 18 of the country's 36 states. Therefore, our presence across half of the country puts us in a strong position to rapidly scale up our user numbers.

UNICEF has also created a strong foundation to scale up by providing content, digital device distribution, and training. So far, we have curated 15,000 teaching and learning materials on the platform in four local languages. We have distributed 13,500 devices, such as tablets and computers, to poor and rural schools. And we have trained over 33,000 teachers on digital skills.

As we continue to scale up, the Offline Learning Passport will be critical to reach schools where internet connectivity is difficult and expensive.

## The Learning Cinema in Syria

When we think of the Learning Passport we often think of individual learners on tablets, phones or laptops. But in the aftermath of the earthquake in Syria earlier this year, UNICEF introduced the use of projectors to create the Learning Cinema.

The Learning Cinema is provided by mobile teams of trained teachers equipped with a laptop, a projector, and a portable alternative power source. The teaching relies on presenting videos and facilitating interactive activities to help children continue learning and provide them with mental health support.

"It is like magic. I can move things from one place to another by touching the screen," said Ahmed, age 6, who participated in a mathematics class.



## Offline learning in the Philippines

In January 2023, 129 teachers in Dinagat Islands were trained in the use of the School in a Bag, a portable digital classroom package, which includes tablets for students and a laptop for teachers, as well as learning materials that can be used without internet access. The training also introduced teachers to the Learning Passport.



"When browsing the offline digital learning contents of School in a Bag and the Learning Passport, we felt we, teachers, were primary learners," says Sheila, a teacher. "We had so much fun playing the games and watching the videos. For sure, my students will like this very much. They are very interested in playing and learning, and the gamified application in the devices is just that. I am excited for them!"



The platform is not only for learners. As a teacher, I also learn from the Learning Passport. I take on courses like digital literacy and learning toolkit and it is a great help for me.

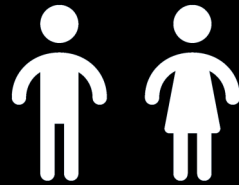
Sheen  
Age 26

Teacher in the Philippines

## Priorities moving forward

### OFFLINE

To achieve equitable access to digital learning, the Offline Learning Passport will be a key focus, especially for the most marginalized children and those caught up in emergencies.



### GENDER

Ensuring girls have equal access to education is central to UNICEF's mandate. We will focus particularly on STEM subjects, financial literacy, and digital literacy.

### ECOSYSTEM

Our ambition is to transform the entire digital ecosystem of countries. So we will prioritize partnerships to help us expand the adoption of digital technologies and internet connectivity.



### BLENDED

We will support and train teachers to adopt a blended learning approach. This means combining face-to-face and digital activities in a seamless and complementary flow of learning.

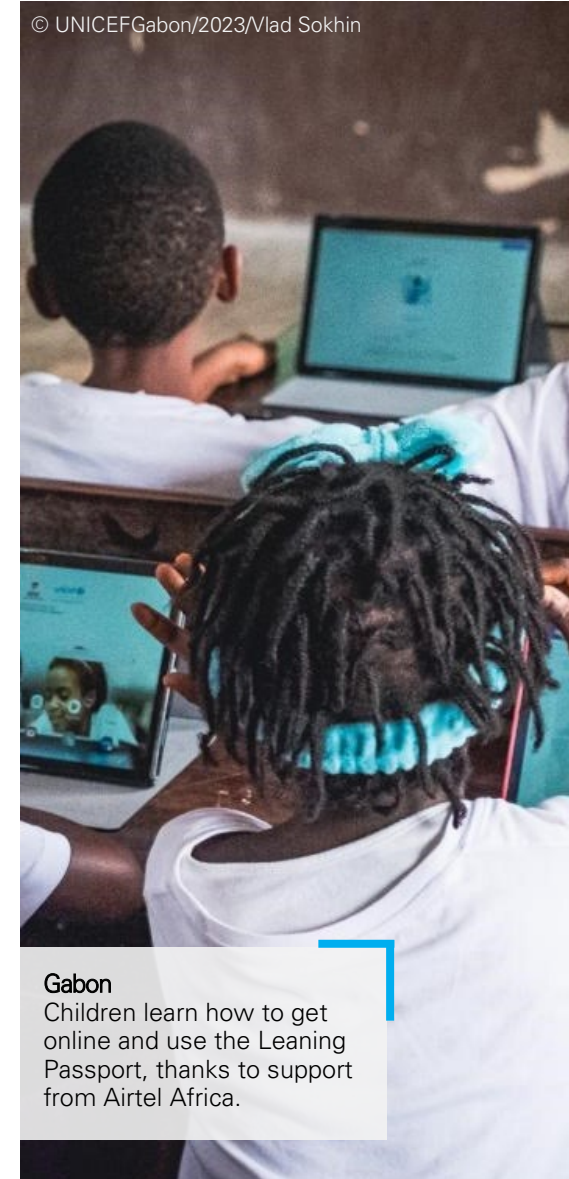
As we look forward to the continued development and expansion of the Learning Passport, the ongoing support of private and public partners will be critical.

We have powerful ambitions for the future. Our aim is to ensure that at least 200 million children and young people around the world have access to learning and skilling opportunities to be future ready.

These targets are ambitious. But looking back on what we have achieved together so far, we know that it is possible. In just three years since we first deployed the Learning Passport in the emergency context of COVID-19, we have launched in 33 countries and territories, with preparations in another 19. And we have enabled 4.6 million learners to benefit from the platform.

The numbers we have reached so far and the numbers we aim to achieve are huge. But it is important to remember that behind every number is an individual child – a child whose education, life and future can be transformed through digital education.

Your support has already helped to change millions of lives. With your continued commitment we can do even more and



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**Gabon**  
Children learn how to get online and use the Learning Passport, thanks to support from Airtel Africa.

LEARNING PASSPORT  
PROGRESS REPORT: JANUARY– JUNE 2023

[www.learningpassport.org](http://www.learningpassport.org)

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