



UNICEF LEARNING PIONEERS PROGRAMME
INNOVATION CAMP 2025

*Leading the change in digital
education transformation*

Beyond Digital as Usual

The Global learning crisis

272 million

children are **out of school**



234 million children affected by **crises** and need support to access quality education

600 million

are **not reaching minimum proficiency levels** in reading and math



Let alone **skills** for employment & lifelong learning

44 million

teacher are **needed** by 2030



Lack of progress in addressing these challenges over the past decade.

The lack of progress on SDG 4 is deeply unjust.
And it is deeply frustrating...it is a reason to
double down.

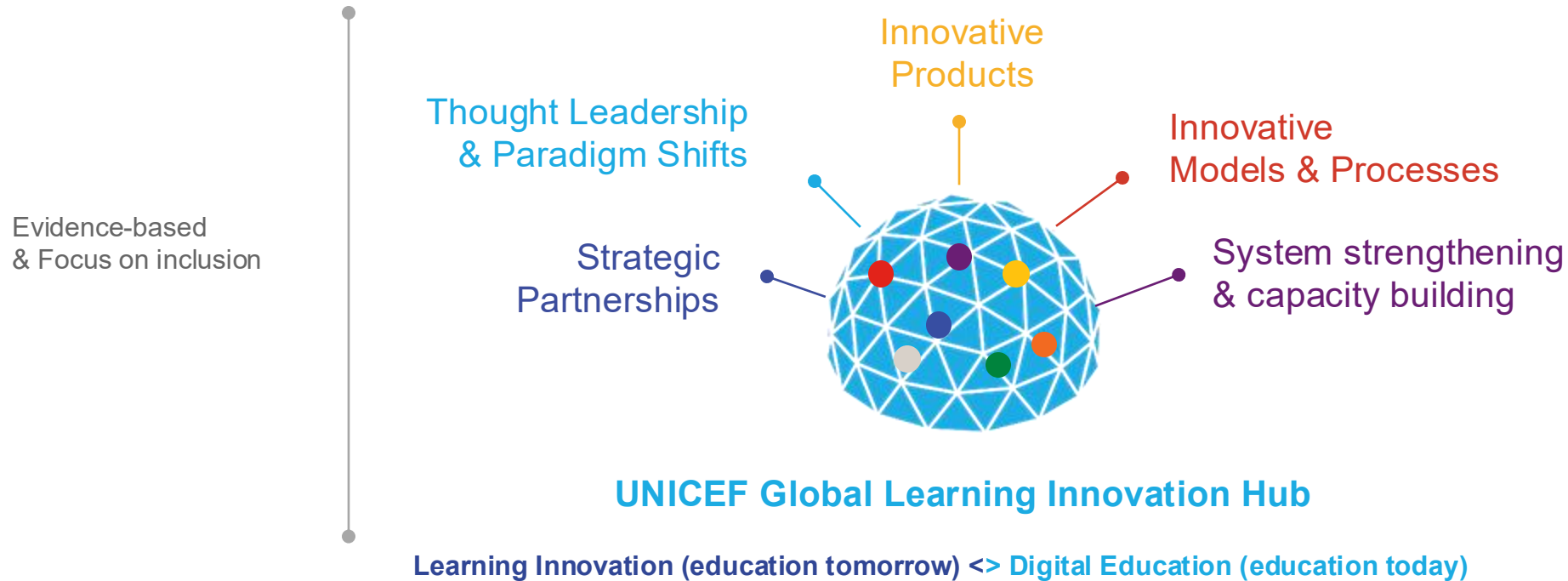
To innovate. To leapfrog.

UN Deputy Secretary-General, Ms. Amina J. Mohammed

SDG4 High-Level Steering Committee Meeting, June 2024

A global home for the architects of the future of learning in Helsinki

The Hub drives education innovation to accelerate learning and bridge barriers to address the global learning crisis, **shape the future of learning** and go **beyond digital as usual**



Major Partners





UNICEF Digital Education Strategy 2025-2030

Beyond Digital as Usual

unicef  | for every child

Lessons Learned



- **EdTech has immense potential to accelerate improvement in children's learning outcomes**
- **But EdTech has yet to drive progress** in addressing the global learning crisis, due to:
 - Tech-first approaches that overlook teacher and learner needs
 - “Hammers looking for nails” solutions, rather than tackling core education bottlenecks
 - Misapplication of technology – basic digitization instead of leveraging tech's real potential (e.g., adaptive, personalized learning), and focusing on ‘what works in education’
 - Short-term “initiative” approaches that hinder long-term, sustainable, strategic digital transformation and system-wide strengthening

UNICEF Digital Education Strategy 2025-2030: Ambition



Accelerate learning and overcome equity barriers by focusing on areas where EdTech adds value and addresses key bottlenecks, based on evidence of what works



One-size fits all model disrupted to transform how individual children's learning needs are met in various settings and contexts



A **human-centered** approach integrated in leveraging tech and innovations to **transform teaching and teacher professional development**

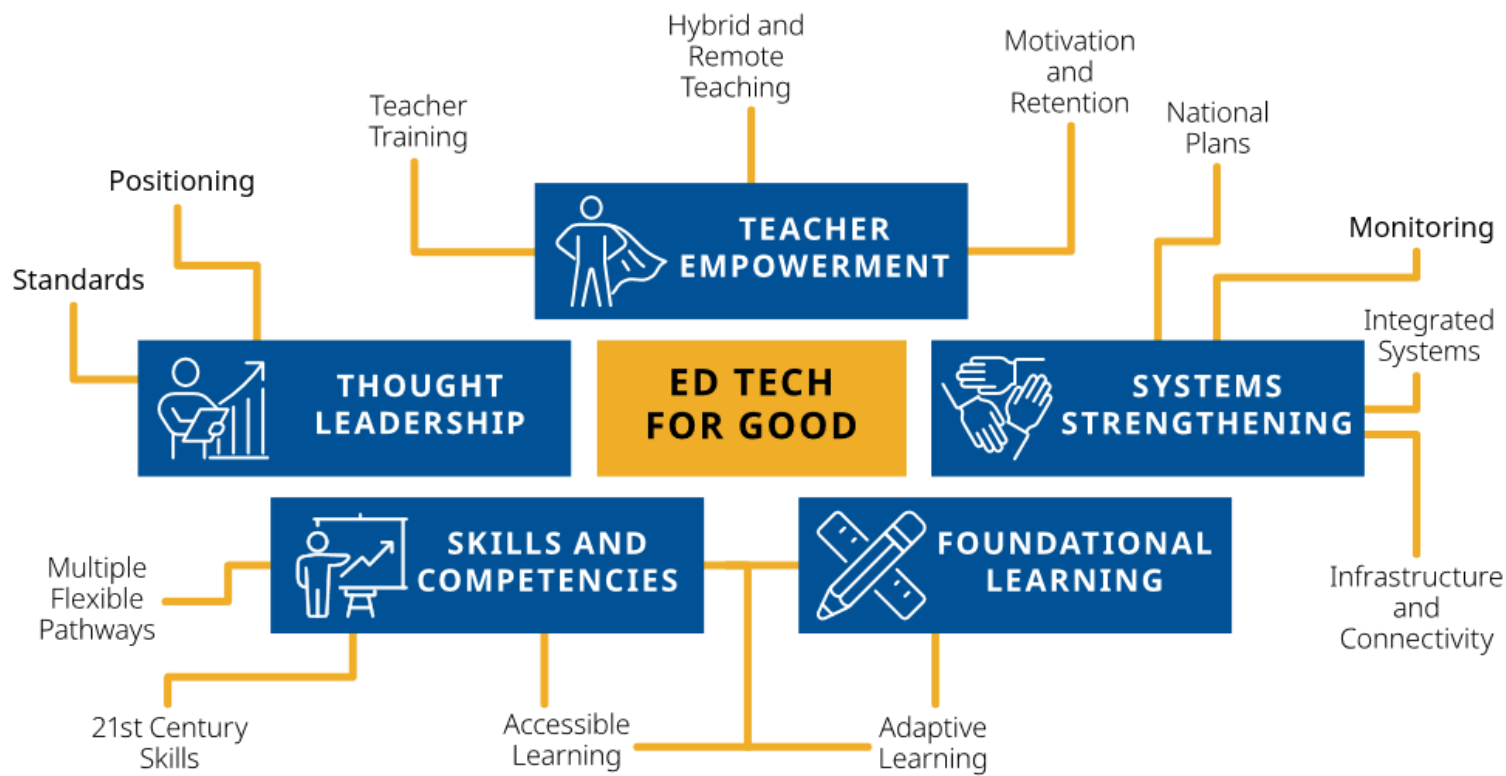


Enhanced government capacities to advance inclusive, safe and impactful digital transformation in education



Frontier tech use in education tested and de-risked based on UNICEF standards, and building practical models for successful scale-up and impact

Focus areas



EdTech for Good: Global Standards for Safe, Impactful, Inclusive EdTech

Cross-cutting: Capacity Building Strategic Partnerships Sustainable Financing AI Innovation Research



Focus on **outcomes**:
'did children learn?' is more important than
'did children take part?'

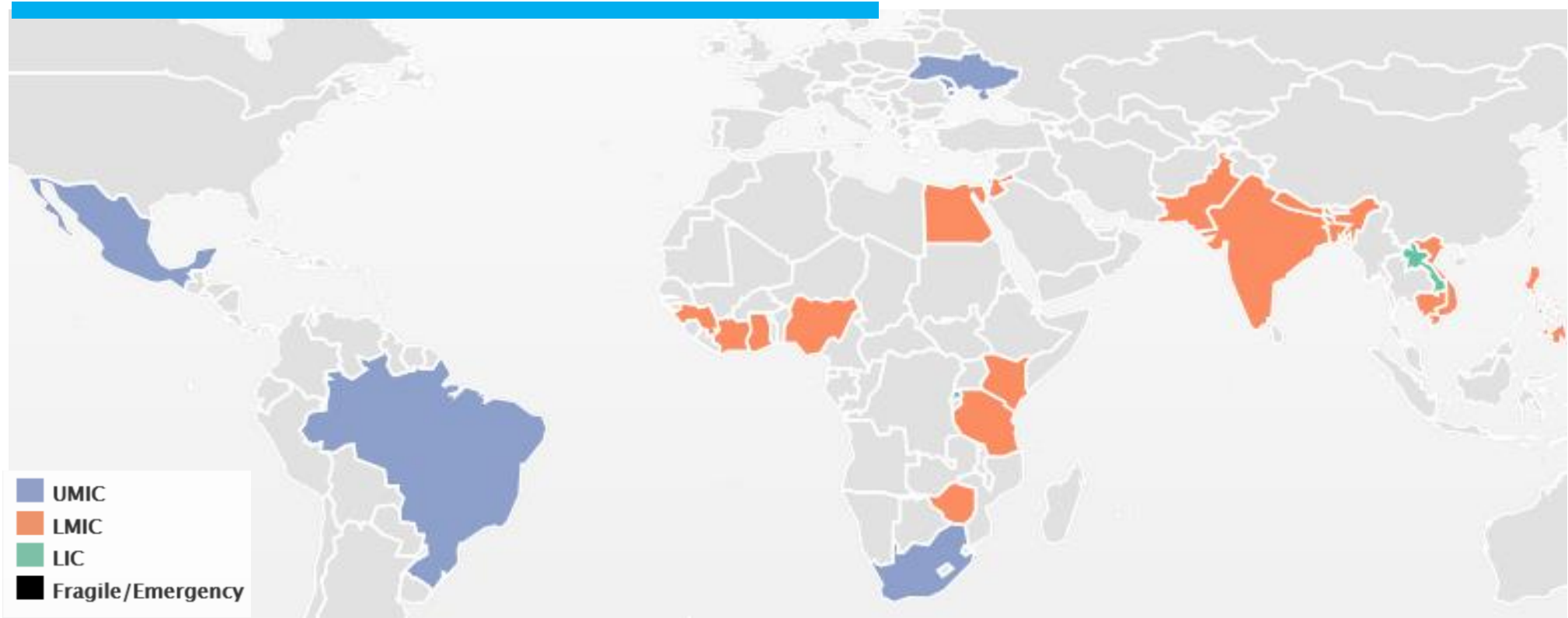


Build and scale based on the best evidence. Research the impact and 'what works.'



Inclusion and address barriers: accessibility for children with disabilities, gender digital divides, linguistic minorities

First Cohort of 30 Countries to Implement the Strategy



Country	Region
Cambodia	EAPRO
Lao PDR	
Philippines	
Vietnam	
Kosovo	ECAR
Moldova	
Ukraine	
Uzbekistan	
Kenya	ESAR
Rwanda	
Tanzania	
South Africa	
Zimbabwe	
Bolivia	LACRO
Brazil	
Jamaica	
Mexico	
Egypt	MENA
Jordan	
Lebanon	
Palestine	
Bangladesh	ROSA
India	
Nepal	
Pakistan	
Cabo Verde	WCAR
Cote d'Ivoire	
Ghana	
Guinea-Bissau	
Nigeria	

Selection criteria

- Viable pathway to achieving rapid impact at significant scale on several of the five priority areas.
- Existing UNICEF and government capacity, appetite and collaboration to enable large-scale implementation.
- Strong prospects for funding and support from key donors and partners, including complementary funding (IFIs).
- Commitment from all relevant stakeholders to work in accordance with the Strategy.

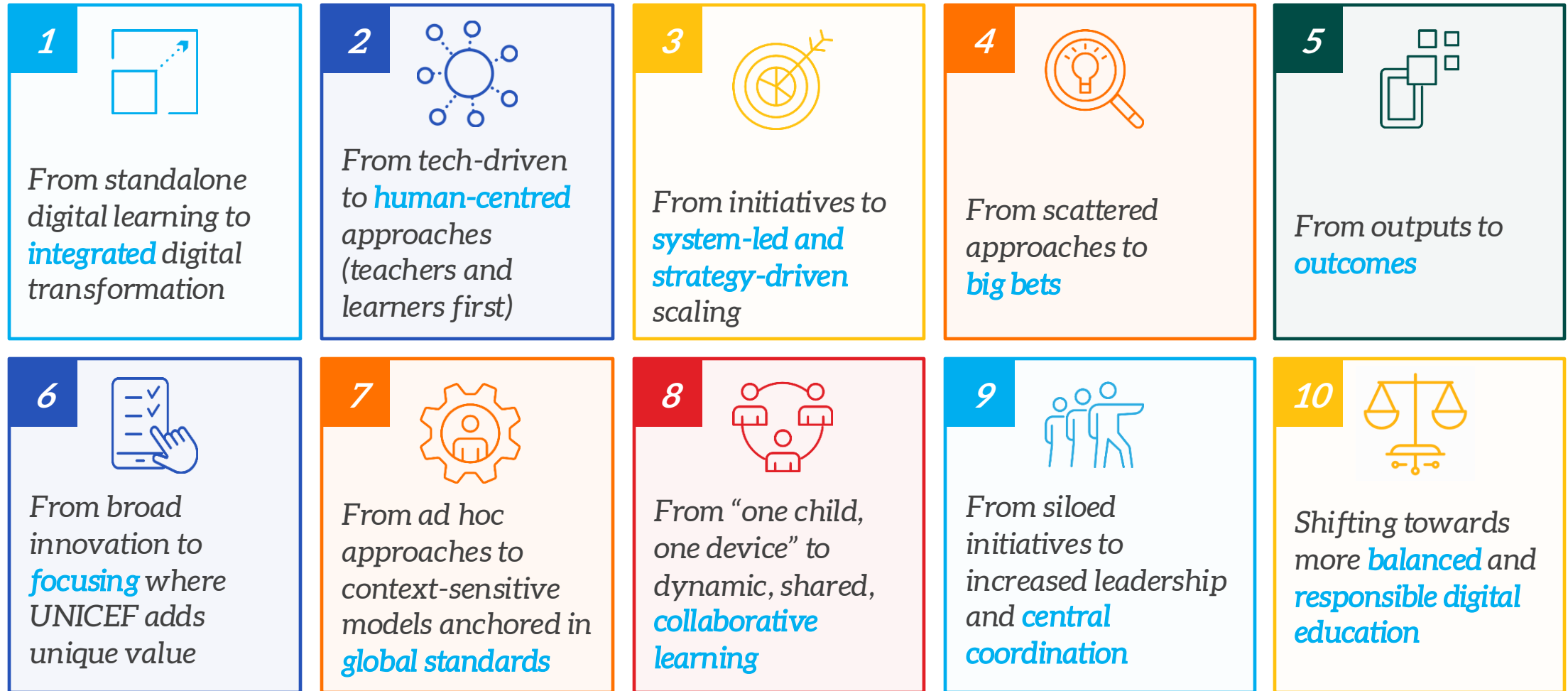
Strategic Shifts

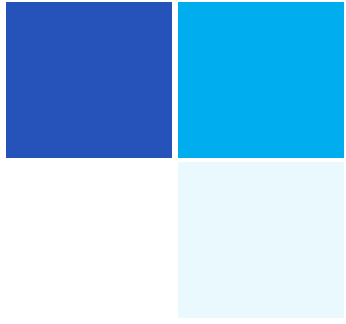


**Pushing for
“Beyond
Digital as
Usual”**



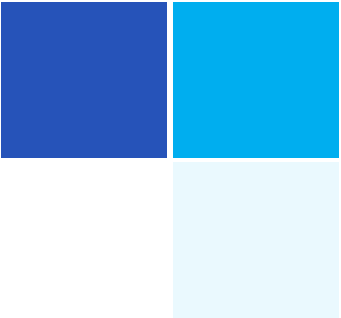
Ten strategic shifts to operationalise the Strategy





Examples of how the Hub's work embodies the Strategy's key strategic shifts





EdTech for Good

Setting the [global principles](#) for impactful, equitable EdTech
& curation of the best solutions via the [Learning Cabinet](#) platform



Strategy Pillar: Thought Leadership



Strategic Shifts

From haphazard decision making on EdTech	→	to defining global standards for safe, impactful and inclusive EdTech and influencing the EdTech space
From outputs	→	to outcomes focused and evidence-based
From scattered unguided initiatives	→	to central coordination and ensuring initiatives meet minimum standards (“EdTech for Good”)

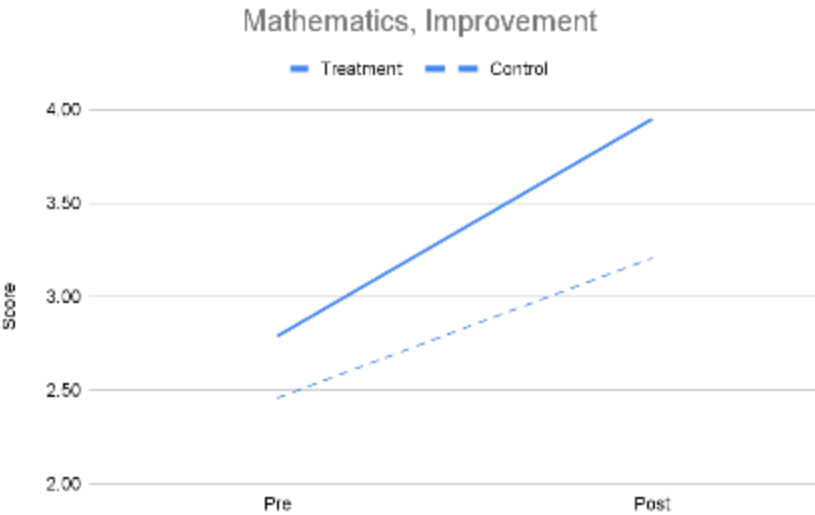


Accelerating Learning

Prioritizing outcomes over outputs



Strategy Pillar: Foundational Learning



Results of 10-week pilot in Bhutan, 2023

Measuring the impact of a Math app (Eduten) in
Bhutan, Uzbekistan and Lao PDR

Strategic Shift

From outputs → to outcomes-driven, measuring & building models for impact on learning

Rigorous research to test the most promising EdTech solutions in diverse contexts, and scaling those which significantly accelerate learning and can be adapted and localized

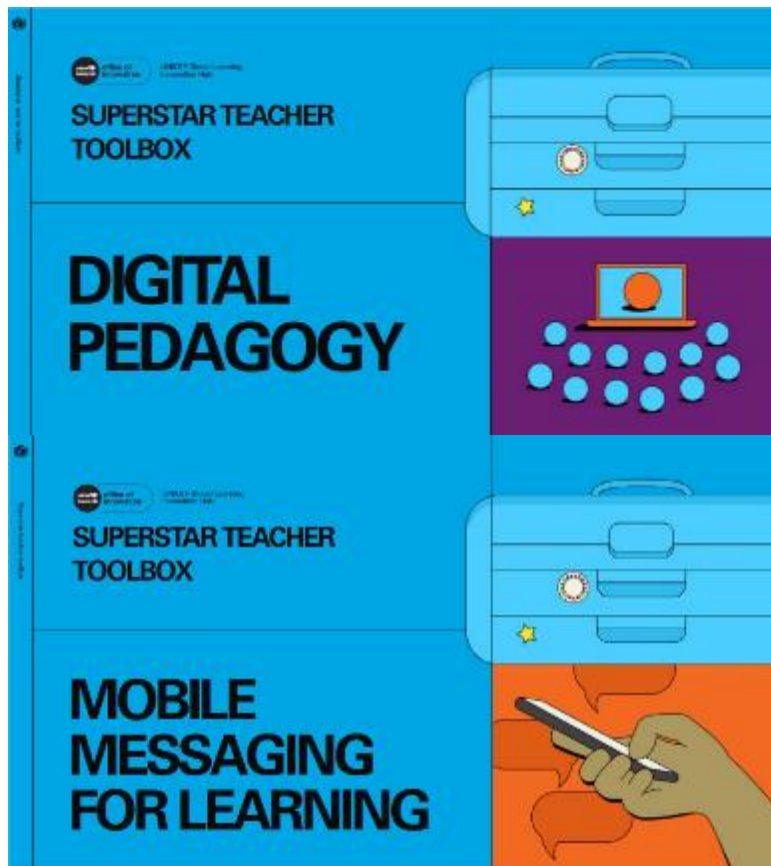
Driving a movement toward evidence-based decision-making through thought leadership and strategic engagement with governments and partners

Superstar Teachers

Empowering teachers in the digital age – by teachers, for teachers



Strategy Pillar: Teachers



Strategic Shift

From technology-driven



to teachers at the center, and building their capacity to effectively use tech

Modular, multi-lingual and easily adaptable teacher training toolbox and online course on:

- (i) **effectively integrating technology in teaching-learning** to improve student learning outcomes,
 - (ii) **remote teaching during emergencies**
- More topics under development**

Reimagining Teaching and Learning: Tinkering with Tech

Building more effective teaching & learning models around technology



Strategy Pillar: **Skills & Competencies**



Strategic Shift

From tech-centered,
one child, one device models



to human-centered, play-based,
collaborative, shared devices,
and gender-empowering

Reimagining how teachers teach and leverage technology in the classroom, in more human-centered and collaborative ways (not solely children individually using a device).

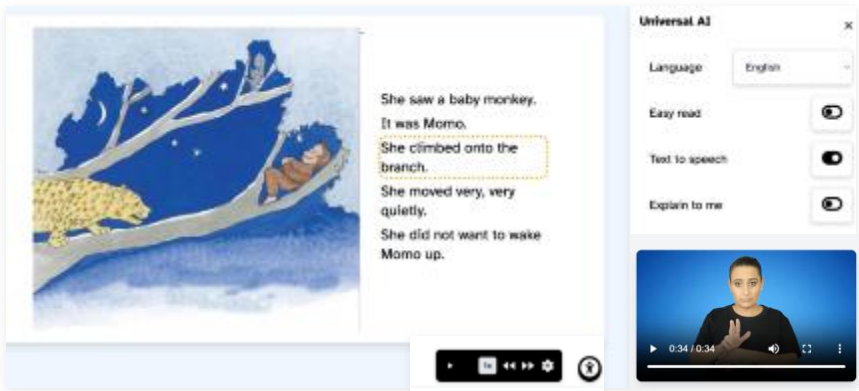
Empower children in developing **digital and AI literacy** and **future proof skills** while bridging gender digital divides; and acquiring such skills while tackling real-life challenges like climate change.

Harnessing AI for Education : Accessible Digital Textbooks

AI-Powered Tools for Teachers and Learners



Strategy Pillar: **Cross-cutting**



AI-generated “Accessible Digital Textbook”

Strategic Shift

From one-size fits all → **to** adapting teaching and learning to every child’s abilities and needs

Using GenAI to automate time consuming, repetitive tasks for teachers; and automate development of multi-lingual learning materials, accessible for children with disabilities and linguistic minorities, and adapted to different learning levels.

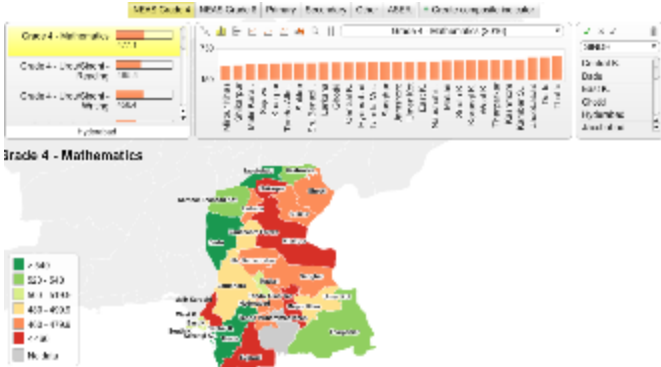
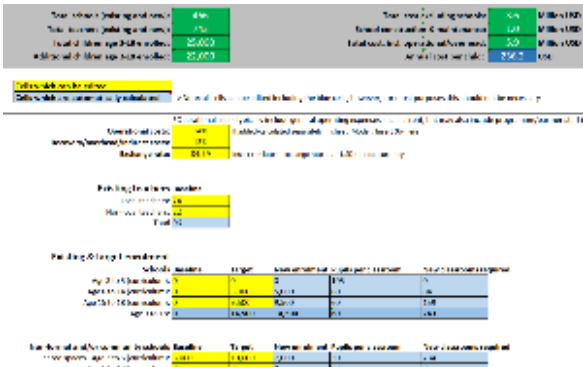
Embrace a Broader Digital Transformation



Strategy Pillar: **Systems Strengthening**

Strategic Shift

From digital learning → to broader digital transformation

Digital Assessment & Micro-Certification 	Integrated Systems for Tracking Out-of-School Children 
Data-Driven Decision-Making & AI Analytics 	Equitable Resource Allocation through Cost Analysis 

1st and 2nd cohorts of Learning Pioneer Countries:



Egypt



Ghana



Malaysia



Rwanda



Uzbekistan



Zimbabwe



Côte d'Ivoire



Ukraine



Pakistan



Tanzania



Jordan



Lao PDR

LEARNING PIONEERS PROGRAMME

Shaping the future of learning together

Offers countries a unique opportunity to leap forward: to design their ideal future education systems, scale promising solutions and initiatives, and become regional and global influencers in digital learning.

Strategic Shifts

From outputs



to outcomes-driven, measuring & building models for impact on learning

From technology-driven



to teachers at the center, and building their capacity to use tech

From Embracing a broader digital transformation - shift from digital learning as a standalone domain



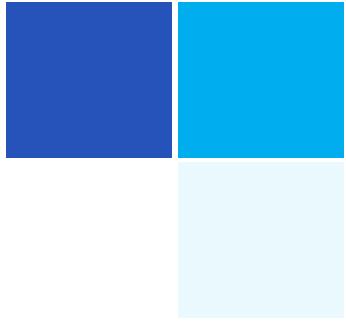
to a more integrated and cross-cutting, cross-sectoral approach.



Digital Education Strategy: Shaping the new global narrative

Strategic shifts to move from ineffective and siloed approaches to inclusive, impactful & scalable models

From :	To :
Digital first	Education first
Tech-centred	Human-centred & adaptive
Outputs	Outcomes
Initiatives	Holistic, system strengthening
Piloting	New model for scale with PPP
Software/device-driven	Standards/evidence-driven
Digital learning	Digital education transformation



**What does it mean for
your country to go
beyond digital as
usual?**

