

# Supporting Education in Africa

## UNICEF

Presentation for TICAD  
Side event on Education

*August 2022*

unicef   
for every child



# Panelist Profile: Tomoko Shibuya

- ✓ **B.Sc. in Journalism from Boston University, M.Sc. in Comparative and International Education from University of Oxford, Ph.D. in Social Development from University of Cape Town.**
- ✓ **After working as a newspaper reporter in Japan, she was assigned to a school in a village in Ghana as a Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer (JOCV) in 1999.**
- ✓ **Since then, she has been working for education development in Africa for over 20 years, first at UNESCO in Mali, then UNICEF Burundi, UNICEF Mozambique, UNICEF Guinea-Bissau, UNICEF Burkina Faso, UNICEF Niger and currently again at UNICEF Mozambique.**

# Significant progress, yet many children remain excluded from education or not learning enough

- ✓ Over half of the African countries have a legal framework that establishes at least nine years of compulsory schooling
- ✓ Proportion of out-of-school children reduced by half between 2000-2019



Africa will be home to **a billion children and adolescents** by 2050 – almost 40% of all children and adolescents



**105 million** children of primary and secondary school age who were not enrolled in school



**17%** of children with foundational reading skills around age 10



**65%** complete primary education and **only 23%** complete upper secondary

**COVID has worsened the situation...**



**More than 90%** of learners experienced disruption of learning



# Connecting the Dots: Learning and Skills for Children and Adolescents

- **Every child is ready for learning by age 5, can read by age 10 and can transit smoothly to the world of work by age 18.**

Early Childhood  
Education

**3 - 6**



Foundational Literacy and  
Numeracy

**6 - 14**



Young People's Skills and  
Employability

**10 - 24**



Education Financing + Digital Education + Social Protection + Community participation

# Call to Action: Accelerate school readiness for children



## Priority

All countries moving towards some form of **ECE experience for all children**

## Strategy - key actions

- ✓ Integrate **ECE in education sector planning**
- ✓ Promote **parental involvement in early learning**
- ✓ Promote **various modalities of ECE** (private and community)
- ✓ Meet the **goal of 10% of education budget** allocated to ECE

## Examples

- **Tanzania:** 16-week community-based ASR prior to grade 1 increased the percentage of children with higher scores on measures of school readiness.
- **Ethiopia:** ASR implemented in areas affected by humanitarian crisis has been adopted as a catch-up program following school closures due to COVID-19.



# Call to action: Recovering learning foundations



## Priority

Support to pilot and scale up **remediation programmes** - focus on **FLN**, especially to support **children left behind**.

## Strategy - key action

- ✓ **Teaching children at their learning levels** (formative assessments, TaRL)
- ✓ **Implementing structured approaches** (like Structured Pedagogy) with a focus on teachers, assessment, learning materials and lesson planning
- ✓ Building on existing programmes **to scale up pilots**

## Examples

- **Nigeria:** TaRL remedial program for grades 4-6 in emergency-affected states in the north.
- **Rwanda:** Remedial learning clubs for grades 4-6 including educational games on tablets

# Call to Action: Skills and employability for young people



## Priority

**Multiple pathways** for all young people to become successful life-long learners, find productive work, and actively engage in their communities.

## Strategy - key actions

- ✓ Promote and scale **relevant, flexible, credited learning opportunities** for **21<sup>st</sup> century skills**
- ✓ Accelerate **alternative 'learning'** and transitions to work
- ✓ Leverage **technology, innovations and new partnerships** with private sector and young people

## Examples

- **Egypt:** Life skills and citizenship education is mainstreamed within national curriculum reform promoting a vision of learning, thinking and innovating, and creative innovators to compete in national and international markets.
- **South Africa:** Developing learner aspirations in science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM) via Girls Fly Programme.

# Education in Africa: Joint efforts by Japan & UNICEF

## Guinea-Bissau

- **Textbooks** for primary school children – funded by GoJ, procured and distributed by UNICEF (2011)

## Niger

- National forum to promote **girls' education** and **Improved learning in NFE centres** in Diffa – organized/funded jointly by JICA & UNICEF (2019)

## Burkina Faso

- **School construction** of 18 Lower-Secondary Schools and 8 TVET Schools – funded by GoJ, managed by JICA & UNICEF (2021-present)

## Mozambique

- Improving access to **quality pre-primary and primary education** – funded by JCU and implemented by UNICEF (2020-present)

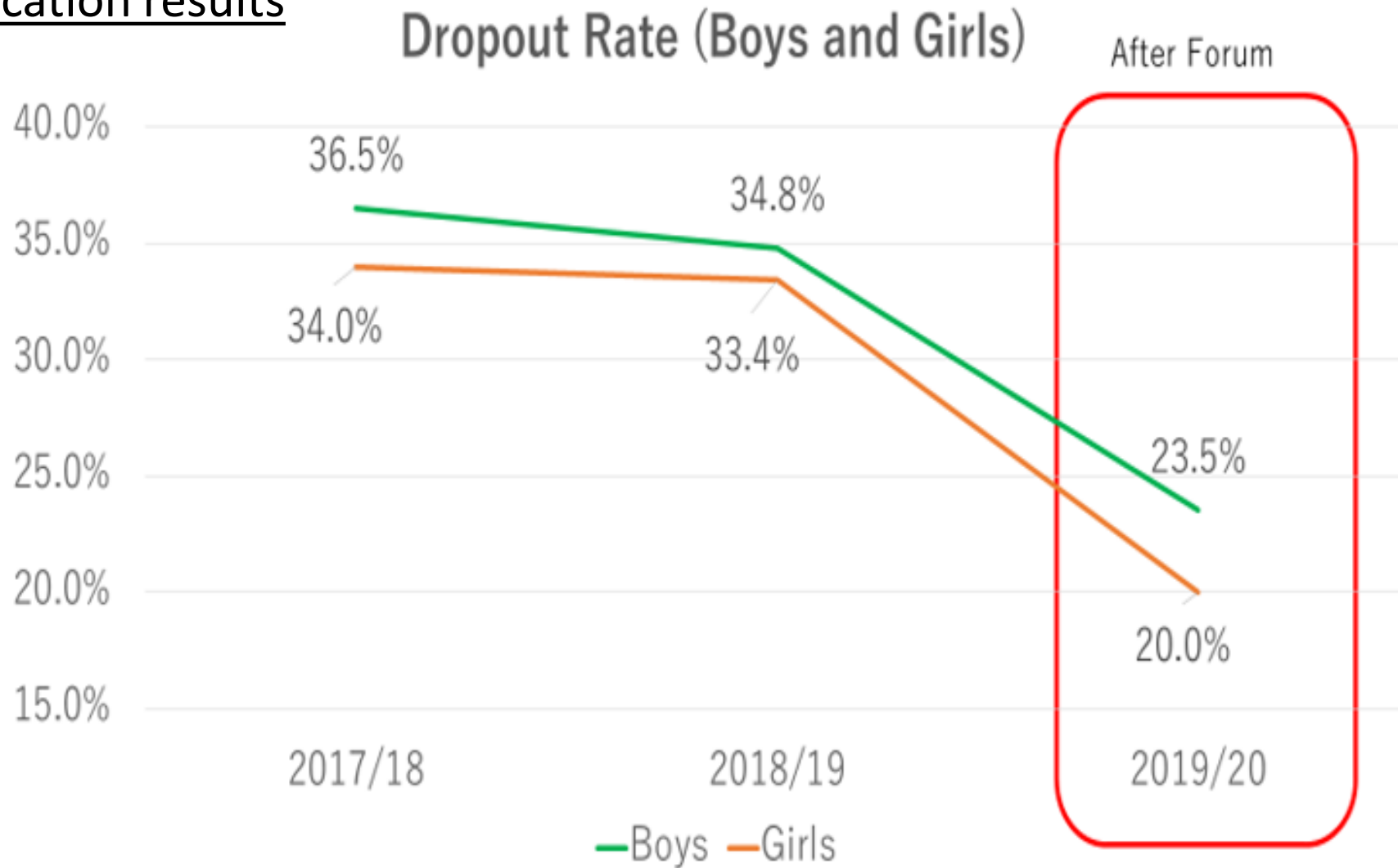




# Education in Africa: Joint efforts by Japan & UNICEF

## Results of the National Forum to promote girls' education in Niger

### Secondary education results



# Education in Africa: Joint efforts by Japan & UNICEF

## Lessons learnt

- Ownership of community as one of the success factors
- Importance of joint conception and planning by the MoE, Japan and UNICEF in line with the country's ESP
- Measuring results and evidence generation of the initiatives

## Added value of the partnership

- Piloting innovative approaches to tackle specific bottlenecks
- Joint efforts allow scaling up of successful initiatives
- Complementing expertise and resources for more holistic support

## Opportunities

- Common priority to address learning by MoE, Japan, UNICEF
- Increased commitment to education, as can be seen in TES
- MoU being prepared between JICA and UNICEF





# Thank you! Merci! شكراً لك Asante!

UM FUTURO MELHOR VAMOS PROTEGER  
SSAS CRIANÇAS CONTRA TODAS AS  
ORMAS DE VIOLÊNCIA

STOP

CASAMENTO  
PREMATURO

VIOLÊNCIA

ABUSO  
SEXUAL

