

# Call for Abstracts

2024 Joint Sectoral Annual Review (JSR)

Theme: Leveraging Digital Transformation to Improve Learning Outcomes for Learners with Special Education Needs and/or Disabilities in Zambia

## Introduction

The Ministry of Education (MoE) invites researchers, academicians, practitioners, and policymakers to submit papers for the 2024 Joint Sectoral Annual Review (JSR). The JSR is a government-led process aimed at bringing together various stakeholders to engage in dialogue, review data, and monitor the progress and performance of the national education sector plan. A key feature of this process is the sharing of data and evidence to inform planning and budgeting processes in the subsequent year in line with the JSR theme. This year's theme focuses on the role of digital transformation in improving learning outcomes for learners with special education needs and/or disabilities (LSEND).

## Background

The advent of the COVID-19 pandemic, cholera outbreaks, and flooding incidents exposed significant inequalities in Zambia's education system, particularly in access to digital technology. During the COVID-19 pandemic, only a fraction of urban and even fewer rural households had access to digital learning tools, revealing a stark digital divide. Learners with special education needs and disabilities (LSEND) faced additional challenges, including a lack of tailored teaching materials, insufficient teacher training in inclusive education, and a shortage of assistive devices.

The 2024 JSR aims to address these disparities by examining how digital transformation can enhance educational outcomes for LSEND in Zambia. This year's review will explore the integration of digital tools in education, the equity of access to these resources, and the lessons that can be drawn for future implementation.

## Call for Abstracts

We are seeking abstracts for papers that support the following key objectives of the JSR event:

1. Present evidence on the integration of digital tools and resources into the teaching and learning processes for LSEND.
2. Present data and evidence on equity of access to digital education resources.
3. Share

lessons for the implementation of digital transformation in education with a focus on LSEND.

### **Submission Guidelines**

- Eligibility : Submissions are welcome from researchers, academicians, education practitioners, and policymakers. These could be locally-based or international.
- Content : Papers should provide evidence-based insights and practical recommendations on leveraging digital transformation to improve educational outcomes for LSEND from Zambia and other regions.
- Format : Submissions should be not more than 300 words and should include an introduction, purpose, methodology, key findings, and conclusion.
- Language : All submissions must be in English.

### **Submission Process**

Abstracts should be submitted via the link [here](#) by 11:59 PM on July 20, 2024.

### **Review and Selection**

All submissions will be reviewed by a panel made up of academics, policy makers and policy implementers. Selected papers will be presented at the JSR technical meeting, where authors will have the opportunity to discuss their findings with a wide range of stakeholders, including policymakers and practitioners.

### **Important Dates**

- Submission Deadline : July 25, 2024
- Notification of Acceptance : July 31, 2024
- Presentation at JSR Technical Meeting : 13 August, 2024

### **Contact Information**

For any queries regarding the submission process or the JSR event, please contact: Ms Besnart Simunchembu, the Principal Planner - Research and Policy in the Ministry of Education (Email: [besnartsimunchembu@gmail.com](mailto:besnartsimunchembu@gmail.com) / [Besnart.Simunchembu@edu.gov.zm](mailto:Besnart.Simunchembu@edu.gov.zm)) or Mwamba Kapambwe, Embedded Labs Coordinator at Innovations for Poverty Action (Email: [mkapambwe@poverty-action.org](mailto:mkapambwe@poverty-action.org)).

We look forward to your valuable contributions to this important discourse on enhancing education for all learners in Zambia through digital transformation.