

Study urges plan to prevent school learning loss after 9 October earthquake

When	No date given
Where	Panama (Veraguas, Coclé, Herrera, Los Santos; one school in Chiriquí)
Source	prensa
Published	2026-10-24 00:02-05:00
Discovered	2026-10-24 02:01-05:00
Link	https://www.prensa.com/sociedad/cinco-lecciones-de-la-pandemia-para-evitar-el-rezago-escolar-en-el-sector-publico-tras-el-terremoto/

Summary

Panama's education research centre Ciedu AIP published a policy brief recommending steps to stop the 9 October earthquake from widening learning gaps in public schools, drawing on lessons from the covid-19 closures.

Details (summary of the article)

La Prensa reports that the Centro de Investigación Educativa (Ciedu AIP) has issued a policy brief by Daniel Cubilla-Bonnetier and Delfina D'Alfonso on how to protect schooling after the 9 October earthquake. SINAPROC counts 350 damaged school buildings in Veraguas, Coclé, Herrera and Los Santos, while UNICEF reports 656 schools damaged and 35 destroyed or seriously harmed, plus 38,000 people needing humanitarian help, among them 8,300 children. The brief sets out five lessons: time out of class hurts public-school pupils most; online teaching is not an equitable substitute, since 30% of homes lack internet; low-tech options such as printed guides, WhatsApp reading programmes and radio lessons did work; recovery does not happen by itself and needs diagnostics and small-group tutoring in grades 1-3; and children need space to talk, write and draw about what they lived through. It calls for a national educational continuity protocol defining partial-closure criteria, low-technology methods, connectivity agreements and assessment on return. Separately, a 2025 Fudespa/JUxLaE study found at least 500 school days lost between March 2020 and May 2025. Of the 35 collapsed schools, one is in Chiriquí; most are small rural multigrade schools that could reopen in community halls or churches within about 10 days. Both groups urge two weeks of socio-emotional support without formal testing when classes resume, and quick psychological first-aid training for teachers.

Original (es)

Cinco lecciones de la pandemia para evitar el rezago escolar en el sector público, tras el terremoto