

Remote SKILLZ

Implementation Guidance

**SKILLZ
TEAM**

GRASSROOT SOCCER 

COVID-19 Response

April 2020

INTRODUCTION

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused school closures and restricted community-based programs and operations. During this time, many organizations are considering how to run programs remotely. GRS has developed guidance for our partners to deliver their SKILLZ programs through creative and non-traditional methods.

Every SKILLZ program is geared towards: building the **Assets** of young people, facilitating their **Access** to health services, and promoting **Adherence** to healthy behaviors. In order to do that remotely, you have three SKILLZ tools in your toolbox: a curriculum, a coach, and a SKILLZ culture. While program delivery might not look the same, there are innovative ways you can utilize your tools in order to continue reaching young people across the 3A's and ensure you are working towards improving desired outcomes.



ASSETS



ACCESS



ADHERENCE

COACH'S TIP: When considering rolling out any of these recommendations, always follow recommended government and health authority guidelines. Prioritize the unique safeguarding considerations for remote and online programs that may require amendments to traditional safeguarding policies. Always ensure the safety and well-being of Coaches and participants.



REMOTE SKILLZ IMPLEMENTATION



ASSETS

- Utilize interactive messaging platforms (WhatsApp, SMSes, Facebook Messenger, etc) to create SKILLZ teams and share curriculum content. The following information could be shared:
 - Short videos of modified SKILLZ practices
 - Written instructions for short, modified versions of practices from the curriculum for participants to do at home
 - Scenarios from curriculum for discussion
 - SKILLZ 'key messages'
 - Discussion questions to spark vital conversations
 - Short Coach's Stories related to curriculum
- Repurpose funds and time to ensure routine 1 on 1 support to participants through phone calls, WhatsApp messages, SMSes that provide encouragement, focused on strengths and positive experiences, and letting participants know you care about their well-being.
- Prepare a radio segment with dialogue from the curriculum. Link Coaches with radio stations to facilitate a 'SKILLZ segment'.
- Create home-based activity packets that includes instructions, activities, and information from curriculum (Contact GRS to assist).
- Create graphic novel/comics with curriculum content. Share with participants once a week via mobile platforms.
- Ask participants to record kilos and send them to you as voice notes, videos, or over text.
- Facilitate remote KILO competitions and energizers.
- Connect participants to relevant and trusted hotlines and all other key platforms for accurate information. For example, [Boost](#).

COACH'S TIP:

- 1 - Coaches should verify contact information for EVERY participant. If participants do not have access to phones, discuss with participant the best way to share messages. Leave no participant behind!
- 2 - All hotlines and information platforms should be verified and vetted before sending to participants.



ACCESS

- Conduct service mapping to assess status of services, location, opening time, YFHS, etc. GRS has drafted a service mapping template linked [here](#). Inform participants of those services. Send weekly updates to team about which services are open.
- Set up "office hours" with Coaches and/or invite a health worker to provide remote "office hours", during which participants can send a private message to Coach or provider about services.
- Invite a service provider to temporarily join the SKILLZ messaging group to answer participant questions.
- Link with local health workers or community counselors to organize house visits to participants who might need support.



ADHERENCE

- Create a list of positive behaviors, micromoves, etc. Ask participants to send updates and their experiences to the group when they completed something from the list.
- Send reminders about any clinic appointments made, and follow up after the appointment was set to take place.
- Encourage repeat HIV testing every 6-12 months if sexually active (according to WHO guidelines).

REMOTE SKILLZ IMPLEMENTATION: COVID-19 “BOOSTER”

SKILLZ is an ideal platform in which to **educate, inspire, and mobilize** young people to live healthier, more productive lives and become **change agents** in their communities. If you would like to “boost” your existing SKILLZ programs and address COVID-19, here are flexible solutions:



ASSETS

- Implement the Grassroot Soccer COVID-19 Response Curriculum. Click [link](#) to download.
- Link participants (with their consent!) to radio programs, SMS or WhatsApp groups, and/or other platforms which share accurate information. Before referring SKILLZ participants, it is important to verify these groups as trusted sources of information that are well-moderated.
- Create a broadcast/SMS group with your SKILLZ Team to share information on COVID-19. Ask each participant to invite one of their friends.
- Share key COVID-19 information and platforms for accurate information (SMS, WhatsApp, etc). For example, share WHO [WhatsApp group](#) (Send ‘hi’ the following to +41 79 475 22 09 on WhatsApp) for participants to join and get information from.
- Develop COVID-19 micromoves for participants to complete and discuss in an online platform. For example, map out risky and safe spaces and/or behaviors for COVID-19 transmission.
- Involve participants as game changers. Provide activities to do in home or in the community to raise awareness and prevent COVID-19 transmission. For example, “Draw a picture of a person washing their hands or sneezing into their elbow and then write the key message at the bottom and post it in your house or in the community”.
- Ask coaches or participants to create COVID-19 prevention signs/posters and hang on their own windows/doors.
- Create a feedback mechanism for young people to voice their challenges and ideas regarding their health and well-being during the pandemic.
- Link up with local media to produce youth-led sport-based TV programs/radio segments. Radio segments can incorporate key messages from the SKILLZ COVID-19 Response curriculum.

COACH’S TIP:

- 1 - Coaches should verify contact information for EVERY participant. If participants do not have access to phones, discuss with participant the best way to share messages. Leave no participant behind!
- 2 - All hotlines and information platforms should be verified and vetted before sending to participants.



ACCESS

- Conduct service mapping to assess location and status of COVID-19 services.
- Advertise available COVID-19 services and your government’s recommended process for seeking services through SKILLZ chat.
- Invite a service provider to temporarily join the messaging group to answer participant questions around COVID-19.



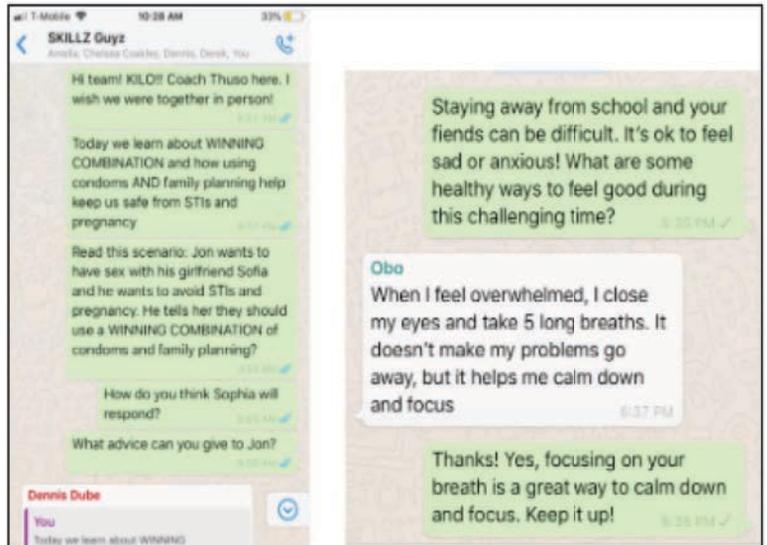
ADHERENCE

- Develop and disseminate key messages about adhering to ART, contraceptives, continuing good handwashing hygiene, and other healthy behaviors under the unique COVID-19 circumstances.
- Create a list of positive behaviors, micromoves, etc. Ask participants to send updates to the group when they completed something from the list.
- Send encouraging messages promoting mental well-being and positive, evidence-based steps young people can take to fight COVID-19.

EXAMPLES OF SKILLZ INNOVATION

SKILLZ WHATSAPP GROUPS

- See an example of utilizing WhatsApp for continued support for participants and engagement around SKILLZ content.
- Content for WhatsApp Groups or SMS messages can be pulled directly from your SKILLZ curricula (key messages, scenarios, fact/nonsense, Coach's stories, micromoves, adapted activities).
- GRS [COVID-19 Response Curriculum](#) provides additional examples of COVID-19 WhatsApp/SMS messages.



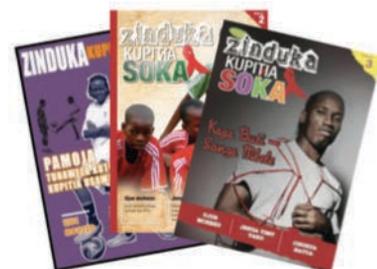
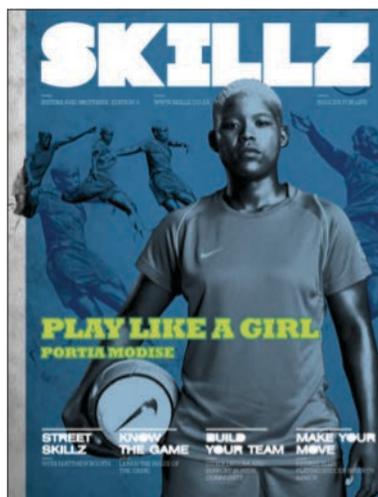
GRAPHIC NOVEL/COMICS

- GRS partner Youth Empowerment Development Initiative (YEDI) in Nigeria worked with SKILLZ Coaches to develop a graphic novel to promote SKILLZ messaging.



SKILLZ MAGAZINE

- GRS South Africa and many GRS partners have developed SKILLZ magazines to engage participants outside of SKILLZ practice through a fun and visually appealing resource that incorporates health information and football!



EXAMPLES OF SKILLZ INNOVATION

ANIMATIONS

- One of GRS's partners in Kenya is working to develop an animated short featuring a football match between Team Human and Team COVID that delivers key messages about preventing the spread of COVID-19.

TEAM HUMAN vs. TEAM COVID-19

Scene 1: Setting the Scene for the Match

- Shot 1:
 - Shot of Team Human and team COVID-19 warming up for the match with football drills.
- Audio 1: |
 - Football match announcer introduces the matchup between Team Human and Team COVID-19.



FILMING OF SKILLZ PRACTICES

- GRS filmed the SKILLZ COVID-19 Response curriculum to provide guidance on implementation of the curriculum in-person, at-home, and via mobile platforms. The resource can be found on GRS's website.



SKILLZ RADIO SEGMENTS

- GRS Coaches around the world have been featured on radio stations and TV networks to share SKILLZ messages, their Coach's stories, and promote adolescent health.



CONTACT GRASSROOT SOCCER

This list of recommendations is not meant to be exhaustive, but rather a starting point to brainstorm ideas and approaches. We always encourage you to reach out to GRS to share your ideas and discuss ways to contextualize activities for your environment. We are here to support you to respond effectively!

Please contact:

partnerships@grassrootsoccer.org

COACH'S TIP: Share with us! Keep GRS up-to-date with the innovative approaches you've implemented to continue to support adolescents during this time. We welcome additional ideas, as this is just a start!



Thank
You!

SKILLZ 
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