



Cross-Country Lessons in Education Research & Policy Collaborations

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In Brief

- **Co-creation** of evidence
- The spectrum of **scaling up**
- **Changing debates**
- **Strengths:** Engaged policy sector, quality research
- **Gaps:** Delivery, Communication, Partnership



What does it take to move evidence to impact?

Educators, policymakers, and researchers who...



Co-create credible, relevant, rigorous evidence



Engage closely—before, during, and after research studies—to build buy-in and commitment to applying results



Build capacity to incorporate rigorous evidence into education policy and practice



Co-Creating Evidence

Working with Governments to Generate Evidence

Co-Creation of Evidence



- Research questions that address decision-makers' felt needs
- Maintaining stakeholder engagement throughout the duration of a project
- Preparing partners for “bad” (and good) news



Zambia: Co-Create Evidence, Scale Up What Works



- **Evidence:** Teaching girls negotiation skills improved girls' education and health
- **Engagement:** From curriculum to implementation
- **Empowerment:** How to scale well



Scaling Up Proven Solutions

Contextualizing and applying lessons at Scale

After the Research: What Now?

The spectrum from results → scale up

- Dissemination... and beyond
- Pressure testing
- Field replications
- Technical assistance
- Scale up
- Process monitoring of the scale up
- **Capacity building**



Zambia: Co-Create Evidence, **Adapt** & Scale Up



- **Evidence:** Targeted instruction in Kenya, India, Ghana
- **Engagement:** “Catch Up” program: pilot adapted to Zambia
- **Empowerment:** Support MoE to scale to 1,800 schools, 2017-2019



Changing debates

When the evidence is nuanced and/or politically complicated

Changing debates



- Sometimes study is global game-changer
- But even then it often requires all steps for co-creation
- Debates are by definition contentious: engage with integrity, humility, and an eye towards real change



Liberia: Rigorously Answer a Controversial Policy Question

- **Evidence:** Can a PPP improve learning?
 - Positive effects, high costs, flawed contracts
- **Engagement:** Power of pre-committing to use evidence
- **Empowerment:** Careful partner support



Rwanda: Rigorously Answer a Controversial Policy Question

- **Evidence:** Can pay for performance improve learning?
- **Engagement:** On-going engagement, careful sharing of results
- **Empowerment:** Incorporating questions into on-going study



Evidence in Education: Strengths

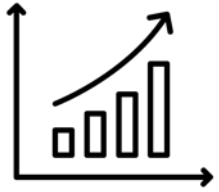
An engaged ecosystem of partners and researchers

- High quality research
- Researchers who care about policymaking and high-quality education
- Engaged practitioners & policymakers
- Excellent partners in NGO, government, and funding space

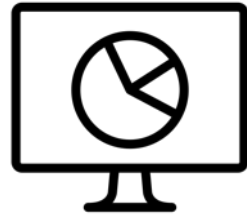


Gaps: What Will It Take?

Research Gap: Education Quality at Scale



Education Management Information **Systems**



Funding for Moving Evidence to Policy



Even Deeper **Partnerships**



Additional research on how to deliver high-quality education, at **scale**, especially in **rural** areas

Better data + better **leveraging** of existing data for better decision-making

Improved **capacity** for understanding data & evidence

1. Funding for research
2. Funding for research-backed innovations
3. Funding for the in-between: **advocacy, technical support, capacity-building**, etc.

Beyond dissemination, more conversation and convening: researchers, implementers, funders.

More **consensus** on what works & priorities

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Thank you



Questions?

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