

Authors

Elisabetta Aurino
University of Barcelona

Sharon Wolf
University of Pennsylvania

Jere R. Behrman
University of Pennsylvania

Edward Tsiningo
Research Manager, Ghana



The COVID-19 pandemic and the associated social and economic downturn are undermining children's educational and developmental outcomes, particularly in low- and middle-income countries. Leveraging an on-going longitudinal study, researchers in Ghana conducted phone surveys and other research activities to measure the pandemic's repercussions on children's education and broader developmental outcomes. On average, private school students and students with high socioeconomic status had higher test scores at the end of the school closure period compared with their public-school counterparts, even when controlling for their previous scores. Additionally, 72 percent of public school children missed daily lunches that are received by the Ghana School Feeding Program and 30 percent of surveyed children claimed they experienced hunger during school closures.

Key Findings

- Half of the schools offered remote learning activities. While private schools offered more personalized learning opportunities, public schools promoted government programs on television and radio.
- Private school students had more access to remote learning resources. Private school students also received more support from their caregivers.
- Students with disabilities were likely more affected by school closures than other groups.
- School closures impacted children's food security. On average, 30 percent of students claimed they experienced hunger in the last 30 days.
- Private school students and students with high socioeconomic status had higher test scores at the end of the school closure period compared with their public-school counterparts.

RESEARCHERS
Elisabetta Aurino (Imperial College London), Sharon Wolf (University of Pennsylvania), Jere R. Behrman (University of Pennsylvania), Lawrence Aber (New York University), Edward Tsiningo (Innovations for Poverty Action)

SECTOR
Education

SAMPLE
1,946 children, 2,048 caregivers, and 574 teachers

PARTNERS
Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (United Kingdom)

STUDY DESIGN
Observational

TIMELINE
2020-2021

IPA STAFF
Sibonisi Semantika, Edward Tsiningo

The Impact of COVID-19 on Children's Learning and Development in Ghana

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