Cross-Country Lessons in Education Research & Policy Collaborations

Heidi McAnnally-Linz
Associate Director of Policy & Communications
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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
Thank you
Questions? hlinz@poverty-action.org