Evidence-Informed Education Policy

The Next Challenge of the Evidence Movement

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The Problem

WASTED MONEY, ENDURING POVERTY

Our Solution

MORE EVIDENCE, LESS POVERTY
Innovations for Poverty Action
Building a world with more evidence, less poverty

650+ studies

119 studies
Education Policy Lessons

1. Reduce the **costs** of school to **increase** attendance

2. **Target** instruction at the child’s level to **improve** learning
What does it take to move evidence to policy?

**Educators, policymakers, and researchers who...**

- Collaborate to 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
Evidence-Based Policies in Kenya’s Schools

- **National School-Based Deworming Programme**: Reaching over 6 million children per year, increases attendance & long-term wages

- **Tusome**: Reaching 7 million kids, improves learning
Connecting Evidence to Policy

IPA is collaborating with government partners in 20 countries to create rigorous evidence and apply it to policy. Below we describe some 2016 highlights of these collaborations.

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<th>SECTOR PROGRAMS</th>
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**KEY**
- **BLUE** = Country Offices
- **ORANGE** = Countries with % of Policy Staff

**SIERRA LEONE**
- Assessing Social Incentives for Immunization with the Ministry of Health and Sanitation

**BURKINA FASO**
- Financial Inclusion and Agriculture Conference

**COLOMBIA**
- IPA Policy Staff Embedded in the National Planning Department

**GHANA**
- Long-Term Collaboration with the Ministry of Education/Ghana Education Service

**KENYA**
- Working with Government to Transform Vocational Training

**MALAWI**
- Evaluation of Malawi’s Public Works Program

**MYANMAR**
- Evaluating Myanmar’s Maternal and Child Cash Transfer Program

**PERU**
- Institutionalizing the Creation and Use of Evidence in Peru

**RWANDA**
- Evaluating Curriculum Reform and Teacher Rewards with the Rwandan Education Board

**ZAMBIA**
- Exploring Scale-Ups of Girls’ Negotiation, Community Health Worker Model

**PHILIPPINES**
- MOU with the Office of the Vice President
(Other) Frontiers in Evidence-Based Education Policy

1. Zambia: Co-creating & adapting evidence for scaling
2. Liberia: Rigorously answer a controversial policy lesson
3. Peru: Institutionalizing evidence
4. Ghana: A culture of evidence-based education policymaking
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
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
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
Peru: Institutionalizing Evidence in a Ministry Lab

- **Engagement:** Embedded staff
- **Evidence:** Created lab w/in MoE
- **Empowerment:** 2 scale-ups, lab running
- **Replication of lab**
Ghana: A Culture of Evidence-Based Decision-Making

How did we get here?

- **Evidence**: 8 studies together w/ MoE
- **Engagement**: 10+ yrs of deep engagement
- **Empowerment**: Each study w/ policy plan
- **Now**: MoE approaches IPA when considering policy changes
- **Next**: Accountability and monitoring systems
Possible Ways Forward?

Goal:
Build a culture of evidence-informed decision-making

Models to learn from:
1. Co-create evidence, adapt & commit to scaling up what works
2. Rigorously answer critical policy questions
3. Institutionalize evidence
How? Evidence, Engagement, Empowerment

- EE4A: Evidence to education practice – more?
- Learn from Tusome?
- Other solutions?
- Can researchers partner together to bring clear voices/solutions?
- How can/should researchers be embedded in gov’t?
Questions and Discussion