



Exploring early education programs in peri-urban settings in Africa

Scoping study design summary – March 2013

Issue: limited knowledge of early childhood education in African slums

Governments, donors and entrepreneurs are seeking innovative ways to boost developmental and educational outcomes for young children using cost-effective sustainable models. However, information on the range of potential early childhood development (ECD) models is limited. In various countries in Africa, some information is beginning to emerge on public sector and NGO led pre-primary models. Yet, despite the growing size of the low cost private sector, little data exists to date on the scope and quality of private preschools.

Activities: case studies of four African slums

This scoping exercise will be focusing on the private ECD sector targeting children aged 3-6, and will be conducted in four selected slums located in Nairobi, Johannesburg, Accra, and Lagos. In each slum, data collection activities will include:

- A quantitative survey of a representative sample of approximately 300 households in each of the 4 slums to look at the household economic and educational status, the participation of children in ECD centers, the related expenses, and the factors in ECD enrollment decisions.
- A listing of all primary schools attended by members of those 300 households, so as to assess the proportion of low cost private schools in those slums with pre-primary facilities attached, and other ECD facilities in the slum.
- A quantitative and qualitative survey of roughly 20 ECD centers, oversampling private ones. This survey will aim at assessing the services and quality of those centers.

We are considering qualitative focus groups with parents to better understand determinants of demand, and beliefs regarding ECD importance, and what ECD quality means to them.

We will also meet with key stakeholders in the ECD sector so as to better understand the environment and potentially develop partnerships for future evaluations.

Timeline: initial activities to be completed by the end of 2013

The above activities will be conducted between February and December 2013. Data collection will last roughly four weeks per city between May and September 2013 – in the following order: Nairobi, Johannesburg, Accra and Lagos.

Outputs: identification of models to be evaluated

The first output will be a mapping of the private ECD sector in the four slums being considered, along with case studies of key program models from representing common trends. The second output will be a proposal for one or more impact evaluations, which will include a sampling strategy, randomization strategy, theory of change, impact estimates, budget and timeline. Last, we will compile a brief summary report for public distribution.