

Education evidence labs

Summary

Education Evidence Labs or Ed Labs are institutions, processes or relationships that bring evidence generation, uptake and use into or close to governments. What Works Hub for Global Education supports multiple types of existing and new Ed Labs across Rwanda, Tanzania, Ghana, South Africa, Pakistan and India, providing demand driven technical advisory support, capacity strengthening and knowledge exchange. A key principle for Ed Labs has been to follow *function over form*, such that the Hub supports and learns from different forms of Ed Labs that perform a range of functions towards institutionalisation of evidence use by governments.

What Works Hub for Global Education aims to advance global knowledge on Ed Labs, by convening and collaborating with partners including Jacobs Foundation, Innovations for Poverty Action, J-PAL, Education Endowment Foundation. The Hub will create a shared learning agenda on Ed Labs, informing research, evaluation and technical engagements across different countries, as well as joint knowledge outputs around evidence use by governments. Together with global and country partners, the Hub will support communities of learning and practice for Ed Labs.

What Works Hub for Global Education also offers bespoke technical and capacity support to Ed Labs. This includes working with institutional and government partners to identify and assess needs around data and evidence use, conduct research aligned with policy priorities, communicate evidence and strengthen implementation of education reforms. For instance, in South Africa, the Hub is supporting a case study on the Department of Basic Education's Ed Lab; the Karnataka (India) Ed Lab is strengthening government data systems, process monitoring and implementation; the Tanzania Ed Lab is generating evidence and informing implementation of teacher continuous professional development policies.

What Works Hub for Global Education typology of Ed Lab functions

Data use	Research and synthesis	Policy communication	Implementation support
Analysis of administrative/EMIS data	Co-creating research agenda	Drafting presentations, policy briefs and other outputs	Supporting government in design and drafting of policy and programmes based on research and evidence
Supporting data use for planning, budgeting and prioritisation	Commissioning and conducting research	Dissemination of data, evidence and knowledge outputs for uptake and strategic impact	Supporting in roll out/implementation of policies and programmes (including drafting memos, documents, orders, process monitoring, engaging with technical partners, etc.)
Knowledge sharing and capacity strengthening for government officials on data use	Supporting test-learn-adapt approaches for informing and improving implementation	Facilitating meetings and workshops for govt / relevant stakeholders	Supporting government in conducting and preparing for education sector review meetings
Supporting monitoring and evaluation for government programmes	Synthesising and translating evidence based on government needs		
Data visualisation			

What Works Hub for Global Education typology of Ed Lab forms

	Type 1	Type 2	Type 3
Structure	Inside government: embedded staff in ministries, Ed Lab developed, hosted and owned by government.	Close to government: embedded staff/units developed outside and hosted near ministries with links to government.	Outside government: building on existing independent, strategic relationships with government.
Advantages	Easier to choose demand led topics. Higher starting levels of trust among officials.	Proximity facilitates trust among officials. Affiliation can bolster influence over time.	Flexibility in topic focus of engagement. Independence from political dynamics.
Limitations	Political risk to impartiality or survival. Securing finance can be challenging.	Bureaucratic process can lead to delays. Securing financing can be challenging.	Less proximity may lead to missing opportunities. Strong competition for access to senior officials.
Locations	South Africa, Tanzania, Rwanda, Ghana	Pakistan (PIE, PFL Hub) India (Karnataka)	Pakistan (CERP) India (UP)



What Works Hub for Global Education



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