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CATALYZE ECCE TOGETHER FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EVIDENCE (T4ECE) – MALAWI

BACKGROUND

Enhancing access to low-cost and high-quality early childhood care and education (ECCE) provides a solid foundation for advancing inclusive development objectives. It can improve child development and learning outcomes, promote women’s economic empowerment, enhance family welfare, and drive overall economic growth. Yet, [less than half of children](#) living in low- and middle-income countries are enrolled in pre-primary education. Pre-primary education systems are still developing in many countries, and the quality and coherence of the services are fragmented. These emerging pre-primary systems require reliable information about program quality and child development outcomes to ensure they provide high-quality services and to track progress toward [achieving universal access to quality pre-primary education](#).

In recent years, Malawi has made notable progress in early childhood development (ECD) programming which has resulted in improving access to pre-primary learning, most especially to the vulnerable rural populations. However, the lack of a nationwide, coordinated data system makes it difficult for evidence-informed decision making in the planning and programming of interventions. The availability and use of good data can play a key role in ensuring access to equitable and quality early childhood programs.

CATALYZE T4ECE

The USAID CATALYZE ECCE Together for Early Childhood Evidence (CATALYZE T4ECE) Activity is designed to build the capacity of host country governments, USAID Africa Missions, and local country partners to engage in ECCE work, with an emphasis on generating evidence to inform future policy and

activity design. CATALYZE T4ECE is a continuation of previous work initiated by ECD Measure at University of Nebraska Medical Center. Since 2018, T4ECE began convening government, academia, and civil society stakeholders across four African countries and identified their needs related to ECCE data and measurement, drawing on global and regional expertise.

T4ECE MALAWI

Life of Activity: October 2023 – September 2025

Country: Malawi

Prime implementer: Palladium

Implementing partner: ECD Measure at University of Nebraska Medical Center

In-country partner: University of Malawi

The CATALYZE T4ECE Malawi Task Force team aims to continue building and improving a robust and user-friendly management information system that provides accurate and up-to-date information for ECD programming across the country. With the support of CATALYZE T4ECE, a research team led by the University of Malawi will conduct a background study to strengthen Malawi's Early Childhood Development Management Information System (ECDMIS). The ECDMIS is currently under development and being used in a select number of districts in Malawi.

The CATALYZE T4ECE research team will conduct a desk review and stakeholder consultations to determine data needs of ECD stakeholders, identify gaps in existing data, and make recommendations to strengthen the system. CATALYZE T4ECE will help strengthen the ECDMIS for the promotion and use of data for policy planning and implementation, decision making, and monitoring and evaluating of ECD in Malawi.

GLOBAL EVIDENCE BUILDING

In addition to informing ECCE country-specific policy and activity design, CATALYZE T4ECE evidence contributes to a broader goal under the CATALYZE Education portfolio. All learning and evidence generated under CATALYZE T4ECE is integrated into a dissemination effort to make the case for blended finance approaches to address substantial global education funding gaps and improve and sustain learning outcomes for children and youth globally, particularly those most vulnerable.

MORE INFORMATION

Join: [CATALYZE T4ECE Newsletter](#) (via ECD Measure) | **Visit:** [CATALYZE T4ECE Website](#) |

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