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

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, Rwanda has made considerable progress in its early childhood data and measurement activities. Recently, Save the Children Rwanda, in partnership with the Ministry of Education, used the International Development and Early Learning Assessment (IDELA) to study learning outcomes for children enrolled in ECCE programming using a nationally representative sample. As part of this study, funds from a previous phase of T4ECE supported by USAID were used to build the government’s capacity to collect and use quantitative data about the quality of pre-primary classroom environments using the IDELA Classroom Environment Tool. Building on the national IDELA study, the Ministry of Education, members of the initial Rwanda T4ECE Task Force team, and other partners have since worked to define country-level benchmarks based on IDELA scores.

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 RWANDA

Life of Activity: October 2023 – September 2025

Country: Rwanda

Prime implementer: Palladium

Implementing partner: ECD Measure at University of Nebraska Medical Center

In-country partner: Save the Children Rwanda

The CATALYZE T4ECE Rwanda Task Force team, led by in-country partner Save the Children Rwanda, will continue efforts to validate and strengthen local government and partners capacities on using IDELA to benchmark expectations for pre-primary children's learning in Rwanda. The current project represents the next step in a longstanding partnership with government entities to develop contextually appropriate benchmarks for children's learning and development as they prepare to enter primary school. After the IDELA benchmarks are validated, the government plans to institutionalize IDELA as a standard tool for measuring early childhood development in Rwanda and to generate accurate and timely data to support evidence-based decisions.

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](#) |

Contact: Kakali Banik, USAID kbanik@usaid.gov, Lauren Pisani, Palladium

lauren.pisani@thepalladiumgroup.com, Rebecca Sayre Mojgani, ECD Measure rebecca@ecdmeasure.org

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