

Back to school for good

Preparing out-of-school kids to return to school in **Ghana**

The Luminos Second Chance program is a 10-month accelerated education program designed to get out-of-school children back into the formal school system. The approach has been implemented in Ethiopia, Liberia and Lebanon and will be scaled to Ghana in 2022.

The problem

Even prior to COVID-19's disruption of education globally, the world faced a learning crisis with 258 million children out of school (UNESCO). Millions more children were in school but not learning. The United Nations Education Commission predicted that, if nothing changes by 2030, nine out of ten children in low-income countries will not be on track to gain basic skills they need to thrive in adulthood. These numbers will be even more grim in the aftermath of the current pandemic. Children miss out on education for a combination of reasons: economic hardship, limited access to quality schooling, and limitations in the mindsets of their parents and communities. Ghana, only 7% of Grade 3 students have level-appropriate reading skills.

The partner

The Luminos Fund was incubated by the Legatum Foundation and is founded on a core belief in the power of private philanthropy to drive innovation in education. The Luminos Fund's Second Chance program employs an innovative program to help out-of-school children aged 8 to 14 years old get a second chance at an education.

The philanthropic solution

The Second Chance program utilizes an accelerated learning program, community mobilization and capacity building to identify out-of-school students, get them up to speed and prepare schools to accept them. The student-centered, activity-based learning model is radically different than the typical classroom models, Luminos is building upon Ghana's national

accelerated curriculum and program model known as Complementary Basic Education (CBE) as its starting point. Like the Luminos core program, the CBE model is designed to equip out-of-school children with foundational literacy and numeracy skills using mother tongue instruction. The CBE pedagogy is based on strong principles (teaching at the right level, instruction in mother tongue, interactive learning, and active participation of students) and is aligned with the key tenets of the Second Chance program. Key enhancements to the traditional CBE program are being implemented, including: Facilitators are conducting weekly assessments to track progress of learners, supervisors are visiting classrooms weekly to coach facilitators and collect key classroom data, and parental engagement groups have been launched to address retention and learning challenges and promote reading at home.

Within nine months through three-hour daily instruction, five days a week, the program aims to cover three grade levels. In March 2022, Luminos launched classes for 1,500 out-of-school students in the Ashanti region, which has the second largest population of out of school children in Ghana.

The evidence

A six-year longitudinal evaluation conducted in Ethiopia by the University of Sussex Centre for International Education shows:

- 75% of Second Chance students were still in school six years after graduating from the program.
- Former Second Chance students are less likely to drop out compared to government school students.

The impact

Across the three countries Luminos helped over 130,000 children get a second chance at education. On average 90% of them have transitioned into formal primary schools and 75% of children show significant improvement in literacy and numeracy levels.

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