

Side Event and Learning Session Proposal

Concept Paper

Background

Early childhood years have a huge impact on health, educational attainment and labor market outcomes, yet it remains under-financed relative to its potential impact. How to increase financing for early years has remained an unresolved puzzle for the early childhood community globally and in Eastern Africa. While the urgency of finding ways to increase investment in early years through public financing and official development assistance remains, it is also essential to think creatively about the role innovative financing mechanisms can play in tackling this puzzle.

In 2023, multiple innovative financing initiatives have been launched in Eastern Africa. Some of these initiatives are led by governments while others are led and implemented by non-state actors. Some of these initiatives attract complementary resources to make early childhood programs more effective by linking financing to outcomes. Others set up novel financing structures that channel private financial resources to expand the pool of financing available to support early childhood development efforts.

Objective of the Proposal Session

The session will provide a sharing and learning opportunity among the diverse actors engaged in the design and launch of innovative financing initiatives for early childhood in Eastern Africa.

It will also showcase different innovative financing models that could be scaled out and up in other countries in the region. By doing so, it will aim to provide an opportunity for networking and initiating conversations for future innovative financing initiatives for early childhood in Eastern Africa.

Innovative Financing Initiatives for Early Childhood in Eastern Africa

Early Childhood Outcomes Fund - Rwanda: The Government of Rwanda and the Education Outcomes Fund are preparing to launch an outcomes fund to improve access to quality, inclusive early childhood education. An outcomes fund pools funding from one or multiple funders, and contracts multiple implementers to achieve a set of pre-defined outcomes. Payments from the fund only occur when those outcomes are achieved, which can be used to incentivize adaptive management and course correction during program implementation. By contracting multiple implementers under a common outcomes funding framework, a range of program models can be evaluated concurrently to generate information on cost-effectiveness. For more information on outcomes funds in ECCE, please refer to this [concept paper](#).

CATALYZE EduFinance Fund – Rwanda: Using a blended-finance approach, the fund helps improve access to capital for affordable early childhood education providers in Rwanda to enhance their early learning offerings and improve outcomes for young children. The fund mobilizes blended finance through the strategic use of USAID funds and leverages private capital to address the funding gap. Fund beneficiaries also receive training that helps to strengthen their viability while continuing to serve low-income



families. For more information on the CATALYZE EduFinance Fund in Rwanda and Save the Children Global Ventures' recent contribution to the fund, please refer [here](#).

Finance for Education Fund – Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda: Implemented by a consortium that brings together IDP Foundation, Global Schools Forum, Varthana and Kaizenvest, the Finance for Education Fund combines debt capital to financial institutions with a strong focus on education outcomes. The fund will work with financial institutions that serve, among others, non-state early childhood development providers and increase affordable capital for these financial institutions.

Note on Proposal

This concept paper is prepared by the Education Outcomes Fund who is providing technical support to the Government of Rwanda for the design and launch of the early childhood outcomes fund described above. We are honoured to be bringing together the leading organisations of the other innovative financing initiatives mentioned above and look forward to co-designing this session to ensure the most meaningful engagement for participants and attendees in Dar es Salaam.



Agenda:

Welcome and Introduction	5 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Louise Albertyn, Learning and Engagement Associate - Education Outcomes Fund (EOF)
Moderator	5 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charlie Habershon, Associate Partner - Dalberg
Early Childhood Outcomes Fund - Rwanda	25 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government Counterpart TBC – Rwanda • Stephen Chandler, Program Manager - EOF • Christopher Burningham, Program Associate - EOF
CATALYZE EduFinance Fund – Rwanda	25 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maggie Korde: Country Director Rwanda and Burundi - Save the Children Global Ventures • Catherine Beteta: ECD Co-ordinator - Save the Children Global Ventures • Nirav Khambhati: Affiliate Partner - Kaizenvest
Finance for Education Fund – Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda	25 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poornima Kharbanda: Impact and Innovation Manager – Global Schools Forum • IDP Foundation representative TBC
Discussion and Q&A	30 mins	
Closing Remarks	5 mins	

