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

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](#).

Liberia has made significant progress in building a data-informed early childhood system that will help to increase investment in ECCE and strengthen the policy and legal framework around ECCE service delivery. In a previous phase of T4ECE supported by USAID, the Liberian T4ECE Task Force team mapped ECE centers in specific regions of Liberia and collected data on their quality. Building on this work, the government and the Liberia T4ECE Task Force explored how to best measure child-level development outcomes. The government recommended developing a nationally standardized tool for assessing early learning outcomes and school readiness. The Ministry of Education and partners have since worked to align the International Development and Early Learning Assessment (IDELA) tool with the Liberian Early Learning and Development Standards (ELDS).

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 LIBERIA

Life of Activity: October 2023 – September 2025

Country: Liberia

Prime implementer: Palladium

Implementing partner: ECD Measure at University of Nebraska Medical Center

In-country partner: University of Liberia

Under CATALYZE T4ECE, the Liberia T4ECE research team, through the University of Liberia, will pilot the adapted IDELA tool, which standardizes assessment of early learning outcomes and school readiness nationally. This pilot will serve as a feasibility trial to ensure it is relevant in the Liberian context, that the IDELA components are well crafted, the descriptions and training materials are workable in Liberia, and that enumerators can reliably collect data with the tool. Evidence from this piloting will serve as a foundational step for the Ministry's plans to develop a national early childhood assessment tool for Liberia.

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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