HOW TO IMPROVE HEALTH AND LEARNING IN SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

WHY SCHOOL-AGED HEALTH IS A GREAT INVESTMENT

IMMEDIATE EDUCATIONAL GAINS

School-based health interventions can increase test scores in reading and math by 2.5 standard deviations and 2.2 percentile points, respectively.*

LONG-TERM ECONOMIC GAINS

Up to 4x more economic growth for every $1 invested in school health interventions, compared to conventional education investments.**

MAJOR COST SAVINGS

Up to 11x more cost-effective platform for providing simple, safe, and effective health interventions for girls and ultimately a person’s ability to contribute meaningfully to society. Schools are a key constraint on girls’ completion of education.

Health interventions during school years

Ages 5-9

- Vision screening and treatment
- Oral health promotion
- Tetanus toxoid and HPV vaccination
- School meals and school feeding fortified with micronutrients
- Insecticide-treated mosquito net promotion and use
- Vision correction

Ages 10-15

- School-based health interventions for girls: adolescents-friendly health services within schools
- Menstrual hygiene management
- Mental health education and counseling
- Nutrition education
- Healthy lifestyle education

Ages 15-early 20s

- Adolescents-friendly health services within schools
- Vision screening
- Nutrition education

IN SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

Health and learning

HOW TO IMPROVE HEALTH THROUGH EDUCATION

School-based health interventions can save lives, prevent disability, and increase attendance and education enrollment and outcomes for poor girls and boys in some of the poorest, most vulnerable and conflict-affected countries.

The Global Partnership for Education supports developing countries to integrate school health interventions into education sector plans, supports partner countries in designing and implementing, and encourages a focus on the poorest, most vulnerable, and most marginalized, including by gender, disability, ethnicity and conflict or fragility.

Health interventions can improve learning outcomes and increase participation and learning.

IMMEDIATE EDUCATIONAL GAINS

- Attendance increase by up to 20%**
- Reduction in absenteeism by up to 25%**
- Increase in math scores by 2.2 percentile points

LONG-TERM ECONOMIC GAINS

- Economic cost savings of $575 million (as of February 2018)
- Increased participation and learning

School-based health interventions as a cost-effective platform for providing simple, safe, and effective health interventions for girls and ultimately a person’s ability to contribute meaningfully to society.

Several countries have integrated school-based health interventions into their education sector plans.

The Global Partnership for Education supports member countries in integrating school health interventions into education sector plans.

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Optimizing Education Outcomes: High-Return Investments in School Health for Girls and Boys.

Sources:

- Ahuja and others 2017
- UNESCO 2008
- Fernando and others 2006
- Snilstveit and others 2015
- Glewwe, Park, and Zhao 2016
- Adelman, Gilligan, and Lehrer 2012
- Drake and others 2017