Mobilizing a Numeracy Movement

GPE Webinar
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What is Numeracy?

- Caveat: Mostly for early grades
- Number sense
- 4 simple operations, fluently
- Being able to do mental math
- Simple geometry
- Measurement
The Key to a Movement is Partnership

• The key to starting a literacy “movement” was partnership
• What were the elements of that Partnership?
• What does this kind of partnership do?
What Can a PARTNERSHIP Do?

1. Social marketing of current key statistics
2. Promote & fund: measurement, assessment, goals
3. Goal-setting
4. Promote a self-aware community of practice
5. Share experiences of dramatic impact
6. Promote knowledge on “what it takes”
Social Marketing

This is how most 3rd-grade kids in the poorest countries read

This is how most 3rd-grade kids in rich countries (OECD) read
Making the Case

What do we have in early-grade numeracy that is as summative and stark (yet based on sound principles) as:

• % kids not reading one word
• oral fluency
Other Aspects of Social Marketing

• Identifying and reaching the decision-makers, find allies
• More than awareness raising: offer solutions
• Tying to other important goals
GPE Numeracy Goal

Dramatic increase in the number of children learning and demonstrating mastery of basic literacy and numeracy

“Cut in half number of non-readers by Grade 2 in at least 20 countries in 5 years”
Partner’s Learning Goals

USAID:
• “Help 100,000,000 children improve their reading”

DfID, AUSAID:
• Early reading are ‘headline’ goals in their results frameworks

Others:
• Education First: fully literate and numerate by grade 4
• Brookings/UIS: Learning Metrics Task Force
How Do We Measure Learning Progress?

• Many tests (e.g., ASER, EGMA): but what is good practice?
• GPE will work with partners to develop “good practice standards” for assessment
  • Early grades oral, plus linked to written, end-cycle
  • Repository of information on assessments
Learning from Experiences

- Experiences in literacy were available before literacy goals were agreed.

- Situation is different in numeracy:
  - How do we get more experiences?
  - Funded by whom?
  - In what countries?
  - Role of gov’t, INGOs, CSOs?
  - How do we make them not a burden?
Kick-start Action

• GIZ conference in November 2012

• What should be next action?

• What approaches other than workshops and conferences?
The Start: Community of Practice

- Increased demand by governments for NGO and donor help
- Need self-aware community of practice
- Higher standards
- GPE strategy calls for “communities of practice”
- Dedication to long run
- Standard-setting or just information sharing?
- Formal knowledge management?
Examples of Numeracy Programs

• Save the Children’s “Numeracy Boost”:
  • Community involvement
  • Teacher training
  • Learning assessment

• GPE’s CoP on Numeracy
  • Monthly webinars by experts
  • Exchange of experiences and knowledge
Example of Community Component

Math at Home

• 9 sessions
• Linked to teacher training content
• Simple activities all parents can do
• Take home ‘calendar’
Partnerships are key to any movement

- Clear shared goals
- Measurement
- Social marketing of issues
- Stock-pile experiences and ways to improve,
- Community of practice to do the above
- Kick-start it all with some events
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quality education for all children