

Terms of Reference

The 'Learning at Scale' Advisory Group

Background/context

Learning outcomes are low and instruction is poor in many countries in the Global South. Improving learning outcomes has proven to be difficult, although the number of successful programs is growing. The effective examples have seldom been implemented at large scale, however; and the large-scale successful programs have had limited research into their characteristics that can be used to inform other programs.

As a result, we have scant evidence that allows us to understand the success of the scaled instructional improvement programs. This research project is organized around four questions:

1. What does effective classroom instruction in the Global South look like and how does this vary across contexts?
2. What institutional structures and processes are required such that teachers and other members of the education workforce in the Global South can deploy effective instructional practices?
3. How and why are these structures and processes adopted and sustained during the scale-up of effective instructional practice programs?
4. What are effective ways to share findings on scaling effective instructional practices with policy makers and how will this vary across countries in different phases of instructional practice reform?

Roles and functions of the group

The group will support a research program called 'Learning at Scale', led by Dr. Benjamin Piper and RTI. A set of projects will be selected for inclusion in this 'Learning at Scale' program and this selection process will be guided by the group. Other research programs may be included in this advisory group as they emerge. The roles and function of the group include:

- Provide strategic advice on research design and methodological approaches proposed for the Learning at Scale research program.
- Review and suggest recommendations for project selection for the Learning at Scale research program, based on a list of potential projects which have been pre-scored against a set of established criteria.
- Identify background research and analysis that can support the Learning at Scale research program.

- Provide advice on the dissemination process, to identify stakeholders and innovative ways to share findings from the Learning at Scale research program.
- Support dissemination of research findings within relevant academic and policy networks.

We anticipate that group outputs will lead to a report on effective instructional practices at scale. The focus and scope of this report will be decided by the group, drawing on project findings and policy developments over the period 2019-21, and will be released in 2021.

Convenor

The group will be hosted and initially chaired by CGD.

Frequency of meetings

The group will hold four meetings over the period 2019-21. In addition to attending group meetings and participating in the discussions, members will have the opportunity to review and comment on written background papers and draft reports.

After each session of the group, a report of the group's advice and recommendations will be produced. This report will be shared with all members and will be made available online, via the CGD website.