



Elevate: Partners for Education

Elevate incubates and implements cost-effective, evidence-based solutions to improve the quality of primary education in Uganda. We work with government partners to identify critical bottlenecks across the education service delivery chain and develop practical, impactful solutions to unleash optimal systems functioning. Our current programs leverage mechanisms to increase accountability, improve the responsiveness of education service providers to local challenges, and catalyze sustainable systems change.

Vision

We believe that an educated population is the foundation of a **thriving society** and a **prosperous economy**. We envision a world in which every child—**regardless of how much money they have or where they were born**—is able to reach his or her full potential through access to high quality education.

Mission

Elevate’s mission is to build **accountability** and **improve service delivery** in Ugandan primary schools.

Elevate’s Model



Elevate leverages mechanisms to increase

Accountability

across the education service delivery chain



Which increases the

Responsiveness

of local schools to local challenges



Improving the quality of

Service Delivery

and improving

Student Learning

for children across Uganda

It Takes a Village to Educate a Child

Village TEACH Initiative

The Challenge

Parents play a critical role in the world's highest performing schools and education systems. Decades of academic research clearly illustrate that when parents are actively involved their child's education, children are more likely to thrive academically, socially and economically. In Uganda however, there is a conspicuous disconnect between government-aided primary schools and the parents and communities they serve. Recent research finds that 51% of Ugandan parents do not know the name of their child's teacher, and only 23% of parents have visited their child's school in the previous year. This disconnect breeds distrust, discourages communication and cooperation, and ultimately contributes to poor student learning outcomes. Across Uganda, 94% of 4th graders cannot read a simple paragraph.

Why are parents disengaged?

1

Parents misunderstand state policies, and their responsibilities to the school

2

Having little formal education, parents are unsure of how to interact with the formal education system

3

Lack of communication and coordination perpetuate a *blame game* between parents and schools

4

Parents underestimate the returns to education

Poor student attendance & learning outcomes

Our Solution

At just eight cents per child, Elevate's Village TEACH initiative bridges the gap between schools, parents and the wider education community. The program establishes a simple platform for schools and communities to engage in productive dialogue, and challenges them to collaboratively identify challenges, set goals, and develop solutions to improve education at their local school.

The power of Village TEACH comes from its simplicity and inclusivity. The initiative creates an even playing field where everyone's voice is heard, especially low-literate or otherwise marginalized community members who might otherwise be excluded from these important conversations.

Our Impact

Since 2016, Elevate has conducted an internal impact evaluation to measure the efficacy of Village TEACH in building inclusive, collaborative education communities where student learning can flourish. We tested our concept in 50 government-aided primary schools in rural communities outside of Kampala. Excitingly, our impact evaluation shows that Village TEACH has myriad positive impacts for stakeholders across local education communities.

Thus far, we've found that Village TEACH:

- **Reduces student dropout by 40%**
- **Reduces student and teacher transfer by 20% and 12%, respectively**
- **Increases teachers' willingness to invest back in their schools**
- **Increases parents' likelihood to have visited their child's school by 22%**

How is Village TEACH Unique?

- ✓ Evidence-based
- ✓ Cost-effective
- ✓ Community-driven
- ✓ Scalable

The Village TEACH Model

The Village TEACH model is rooted in the conviction that parents and local communities hold the keys to drive lasting, transformational change in their schools. Rather than diagnosing challenges and prescribing solutions, Village TEACH serves as a mediator and facilitator. We provide training rooted in positive psychology, positive deviance and growth mindsets, equip communities with the tools they need to effectively identify challenges and develop viable solutions, and are there to unclog bottlenecks, serve as an unbiased third-party, and provide additional coaching as needed.



Recognizing that lasting behavior change takes time and investment, Elevate’s expert facilitators guide communities through the first two years of the Village TEACH program cycle. As local champions and committees become more comfortable with the program, Elevate’s facilitators incrementally step back, transferring more responsibility over to communities. By years 3 or 4, TEACH committees and champions operate with little intervention from Elevate.

Our Vision for Scale

At an expense of just **eight cents per child**, Village TEACH is one of the most practical, scalable, and cost-effective education interventions being implemented in Uganda today. Since 2015, we have piloted and evaluated Village TEACH **in 63 schools, reaching 27,690 students**. Having recently finalized our impact evaluation, we are using the first part of 2019 to incorporate what we’ve learned into the model to bolster its effectiveness and sustainability.

Our government partners share our conviction that Village TEACH is making positive changes in local education communities and have requested that Elevate expand the program. By the end of 2019, we hope to begin implementing Village TEACH in all 187 government-aided schools in the Mukono district of Uganda’s Central Region. In the years following, as Village TEACH continues to gain inertia, Elevate aims to continue scaling the program to surrounding districts through government and NGO partners, reaching 500 government-aided primary schools by 2024.

At a cost of just

8¢

per child, we can reduce student dropout by

40%

2015

8,000 students
13 schools

Process Evaluation

2016 – 2018

27,690 students
63 schools

Impact Evaluation

2019

65,925 students
150 schools

Model Refinement

2020 – 2024

440,000 students
1,000 schools

Partner for Scale

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ELEVATE: PARTNERS FOR EDUCATION

katherine.pavelich@elevateeducation.org

www.elevateeducation.org

