

Speed School Program (2021)



A Summary
Introduction



Overview

1. Introduction to Speed School: past, present, future
2. Speed School goals & objectives
3. Speed School program delivery
4. The Speed School classroom
5. Speed School: the “secret sauce”
6. Planning for government adoption & sustainability

INTRODUCTION:

Past, Present, & Future



Speed School: Goal

ACCESS

QUALITY

Goal:

Bring Ethiopia's over 2,000,000 & Uganda's over 700,000 out-of-school children into primary school with the skills and motivation to thrive there

An accelerated education model

with particular relevance for education under

COVID

Speed School: The main components

Self-help groups



Speed School



Classroom

Ended



Community Schools

**Primary School
Strengthening**



Pre-school



Speed School: Brief history & highlights

- Launch in Ethiopia in 2011/12 (model from West Africa)
- Reached Ethiopia's four largest regions: 2015/16
- Rolled out to Uganda in 2016 & to Liberia: 2017
- First government funded classes in Ethiopia: 2017/18
- Ethiopia introduces methods to all of primary: 2019
- First government implemented classes in Uganda: 2020
- WISE Prize: 2017; HundrED Innovation Award: 2019 - 2021
- Recognized as an education "Best Practice" in Ethiopia by MoE & by Oromia REB: 2019
- Ethiopia creates official "Speed School Unit": 2021

Speed School: Presence in Ethiopia (as of 2020/21)

Amhara

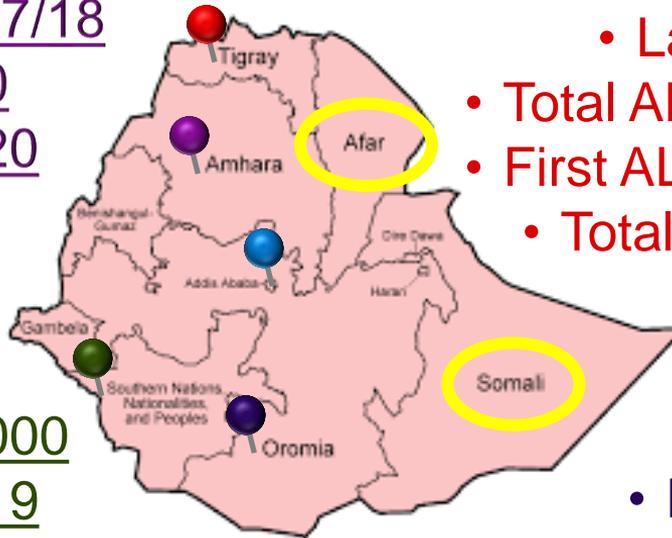
- Launched in 2015/16 & 17/18
- Total ALFA pupils: ~4,200
- First ALP classes: 2019/20
- Total ALP classes: ~360

SNNPR

- Launched in 2011/12
- Total ALFA pupils: ~130,000
- First ALP classes: 2018/19
- Total ALP pupils: ~1,620

Addis Ababa

- First ALP classes: 2019/20 (3 classes)



Tigray

- Launched in 2013/14
- Total ALFA pupils: ~21,700
- First ALP classes: 2017/18
- Total ALP pupils: ~3,360

Oromia

- Launched in 2014/5
- Total ALFA pupils: 43,600
- First ALP classes: 2017/18
- Total ALP pupils: ~6,600

Speed School: Presence in Uganda (as of 2021)

Gulu, Amuru, Nwoya, Omoro

- Launched in 2016
- Total classes: 1,103
- Total pupils: ~29,600
- Total SHGs: 1,103

Implemented by local civil society organizations only until 2020.



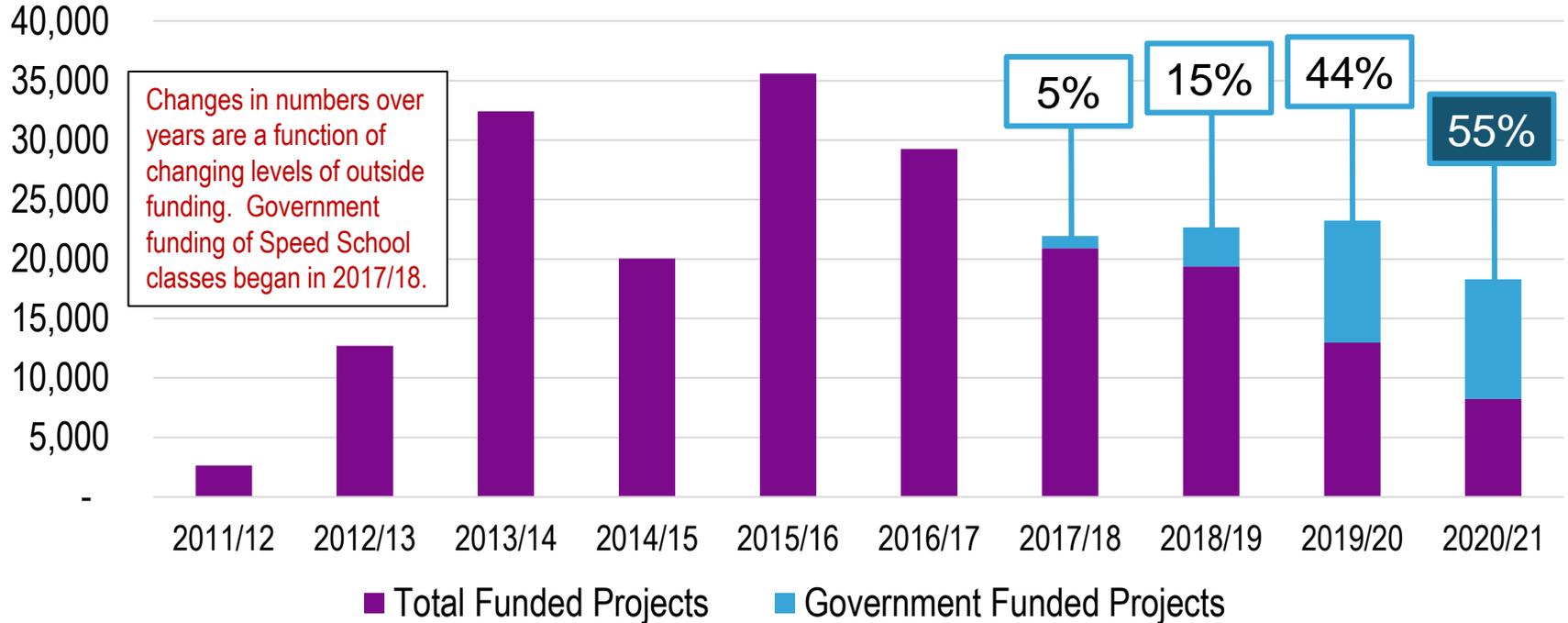
Agago, Alebtong, Kitgum, Otuke

- Launched in 2020
- Total classes: 140
- Total pupils: ~4,200
- Total SHGs: 140

Implemented only by government district education offices & teacher training colleges.

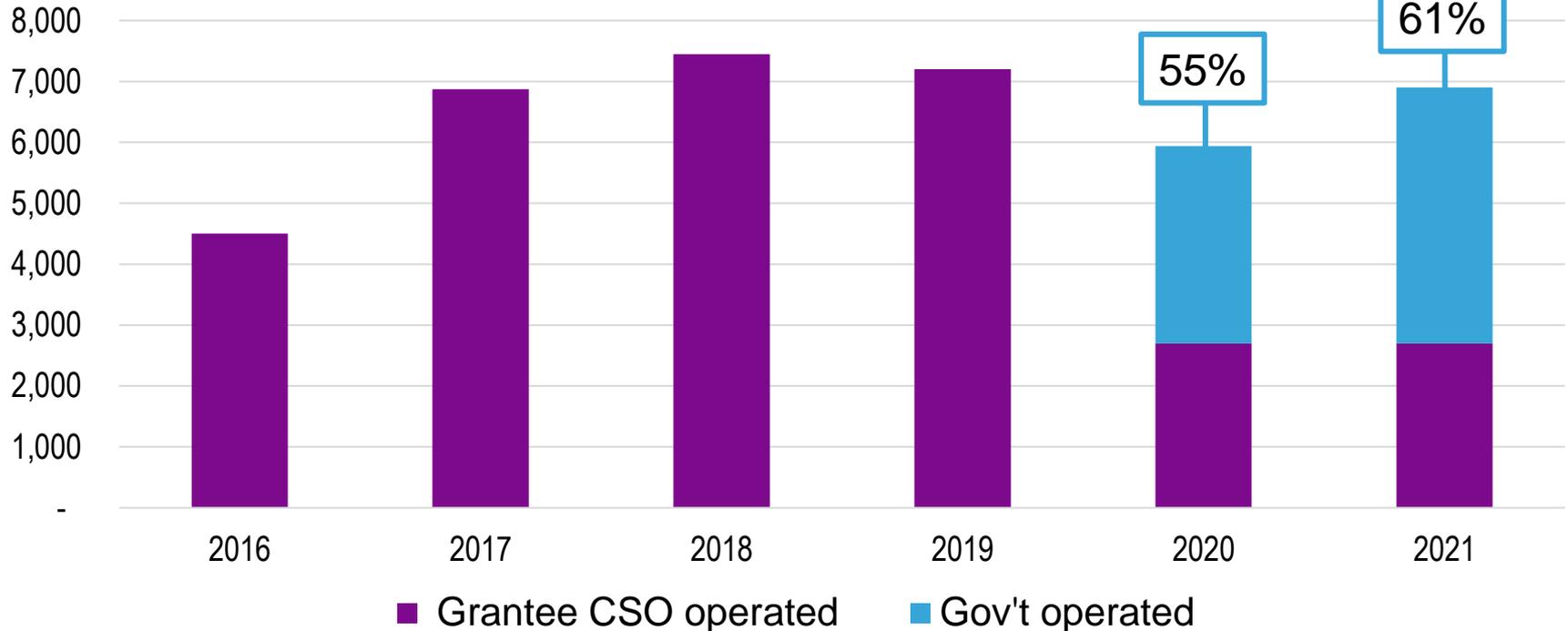
Speed School Ethiopia: Numbers

Children reached, by year



Speed School Uganda: Numbers

Ugandan Children Reached by Speed School



Speed School: Totals for Uganda & Ethiopia

(as of 2021)

Around
250,000
OOSC
returned to 1^o
schools

~ 250,000
mothers
supporting their
children's
schooling

> 50,000
teachers &
principals
trained in
SpSch
methods

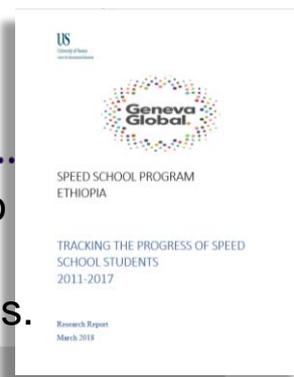
~70,000 pre-
school children
readied for
Grade 1

All regions &
districts
operating their
own SpSch
classes

In Ethiopia,
Speed School
methods
introduced into
1,406 1^o
schools

Speed School: The research

A 6-year longitudinal study in Ethiopia compared former Speed School students to their counterparts who completed all their formal schooling in “link” and other government schools, looking both at current students and dropouts for both groups.



Former Speed Schools Students ...

- ❖ ... were happier, less tired, like their teacher more, feel safer, are less often punished, find lessons easier, try harder, and get more family help, etc.;
- ❖ ... were absent less often (ave. of .26 Xs per week vs. 1.2 and .8 times);
- ❖ ... performed significantly better on tests of Mathematics, English, & Sidama;
- ❖ ... remained in school (didn't drop out) at much higher rates (75% vs. 60% and 60%);
- ❖ ... live in households whose assets have improved much more, though still poorest;
- ❖ ... experienced much lower performance gender gaps;
- ❖ ... had higher academic & professional aspirations;
- ❖ ... performed better even if they have dropped out (& the top 1/3 of dropouts outperformed current students);

Speed School: Looking forward

Government
adoption &
implement-
ation

Expansion
to new (all)
regions of
Ethiopia &
Uganda

Incorpora-
tion of
methods into
all primary
classes

SPEED SCHOOL PROGRAM

- Goals & Objectives -



Speed School: Four main objectives

Provide out-of-school children aged
9 to 14 a

→ **“second chance”**

at formal education.

Equip students with the

→ **core personal skills
& motivation**

to continue & succeed in
school & into life.

Ensure students acquire the

→ **core knowledge
& skills**

to enter & progress far,
well, & joyously in school.

Provide mothers (& other
guardians) with the

**motivation, economic
means, & skills**

to support their children in
formal school.

Speed School: Second chance at schooling

Eligibility Criteria

9 to 14 years old

Lives < 2.5 km.
from link school

From a very
poor family

Fully illiterate &
innumerate (~)

Gender parity;
Enroll CWD

Never schooled or
out for 2 years

Parent/Guardian
joins SHG

No sibling in
Speed School

Favor full &
half orphans

Speed School: Learning goals & objectives

Holistic Learning





Academic/cognitive knowledge & skills

Capable in the notions & techniques of science & experimentation



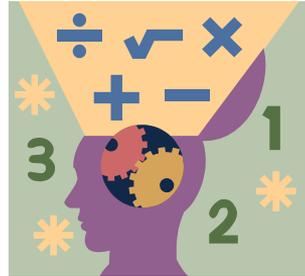
Intellectually strong & flexible; capable & motivated to learn continuously



Fully competent in the national languages: to read, write, speak, & understand



Is knowledgeable about the country, community, & the world



Can perform basic calculations understands common mathematic concepts



Can communicate in other languages



Discovers personal passions & capacities



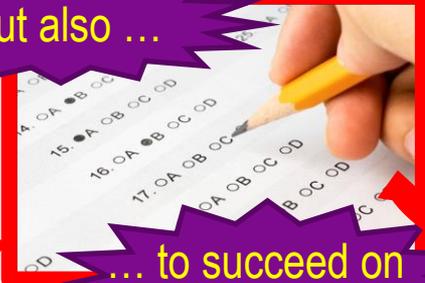
Academic/cognitive knowledge & skills (2)

... in one's SOCIAL life



... in one's FAMILY life

But also ...



... to succeed on formal exams



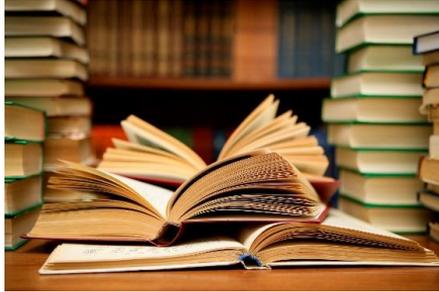
Learning to succeed...

... & in one's ECONOMIC life





Practical skills & knowledge



Understands basic technological concepts & methods

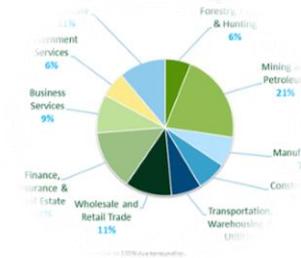


Is competent in common practical skills for life



Can use common tools, equipment, and materials

Can manage one's finances; is entrepreneurial



Has a basic understanding of the economy



Knows how & where to gain new knowledge and skills



TO BE
(TOGETHER)

Personal competencies



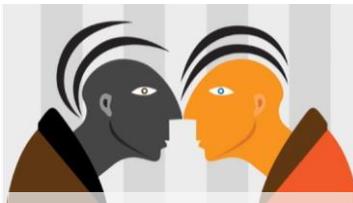
Problem-solving



Curiosity



Communication



Mutual Respect



Creativity



Perseverance



Critical thinking



Rigor



Confidence



Negotiation



Collaboration



Respect



Planning



Independence



Technology



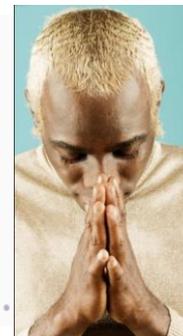
Ambition

Risk Management



Empathy

Self-Awareness



SPEED SCHOOL PROGRAM

- Program Delivery -



Speed School: Program implementation

Implementing Partners



Support of official education system



- Field agents: Community Mobilizers & Training Officers—Train, supervise, & support facilitators & SHGs / CMCs
- Local “volunteers”—Train & support SHGs
- Training Officers—Train, supervise, & support CMs & volunteers
- Coordinate & collaborate with local education authorities
- Advise & guide Geneva Global on policy & strategy
- Speed School aligns with & promotes official plans & strategy
- Teaches official curriculum (condensed)
- 88% of Sp. Sch. classes operate in Link Schools
- Demonstrate & validate model for OOSC enrolment & success
- Engage district education offices directly in training & monitoring
- Support MinEd & districts to strengthen primary school capacity

Speed School: Program management



Program Director

Deputy Directors

Finance Manager

Prog. Officers (3)

Research Partner

GGI (HQ team)

Philanthropic funding

UNICEF (Ethiopia)

UNICEF/ECW (Eth)

Manage & support Collaborating Partners

- Recruit CPs
- Monitor CP performance, finances & operations
- Cooperate in outreach to authorities
- Coordinate with, train, & support DEOs & PTCs

Provide rigorous training & support

- 3 facilitator training workshops/yr.
- Train & support CP, DEO, & PTC agents
- Spot check classes/SHG
- “Holistic Training”
- *Speed School Toolkit*

Monitoring & Evaluation

- Conduct routine M&E
- Assess regularly to improve, advocate, inform
- Partner with Pincer for independent research
- Regular “dialog-based” classroom visits

Internal management & oversight

- Responsibly steward funds, in field & HQ
- Annual plan & budget
- Annual government audit
- Field visits by HQ managers

SPEED SCHOOL PROGRAM

- The Speed School Classroom -



Speed School: classroom elements (1)

30 children per class

- Aged 9 to 14
- At least 2 years out of school
- Gender equality
- From poor families
- Mixed abilities
- Live within 2.5 km.
- Inclusive of children with disabilities ...

Seated in groups of 6

- Peer teaching
- Peer learning
- Peer assessment
- Peer support
- Collective projects
- Collective tasks
- Have a group slogan & name
- Space to move ...

All have class jobs

- Ambassador
- Water manager
- Classroom clean-up
- Slogan master
- Timekeeper
- Group leader
- Attendance master
- Librarian
- Newscaster ...

Changes often

Speed School: classroom elements (2)

Classroom routine

- Operates 5.5 days (38 hours) / week
- Start day: greet; hygiene; news; attendance; movement
- Many energizers
- Mix teaching & *learning*
- Recess & lunch ...

Year's schedule

- Follows the formal school calendar
- 3 Phases, correspond to P1 – P3
- Examination after each Phase
- End-of-year placement test
- Transition to school

The teacher

- From community
- Minimum O-level certificate
- Some trained teachers
- ~ gender equality
- Trained 3 times one week per year
- Supervised often

Speed School: The Classroom (1)

... has highly engaged, active, supportive, caring facilitators

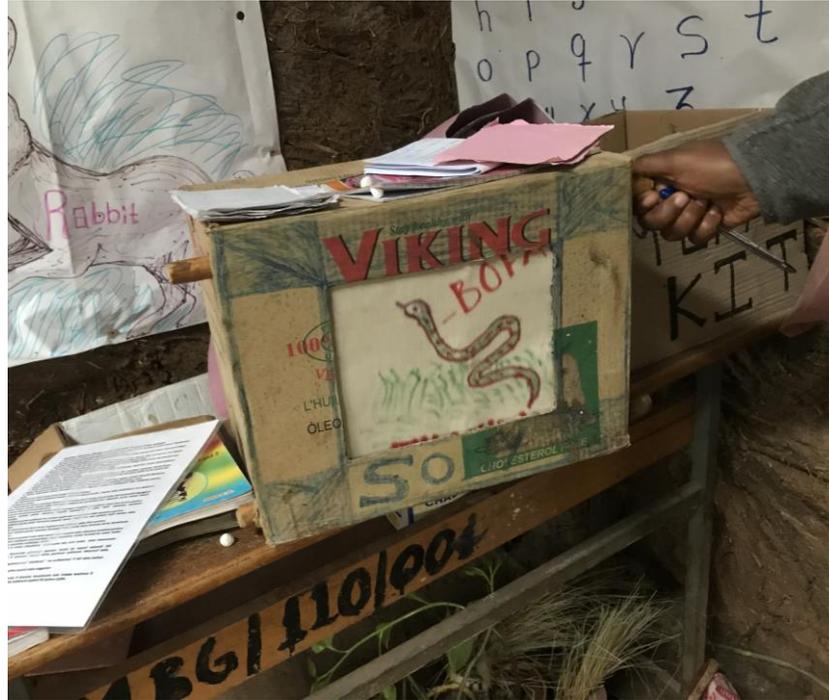


... involves collaborative, active, fun, multi-dimensional learning



Speed School: The Classroom (2)

... uses abundant, stimulating, effective,
low-cost/no-cost learning materials



... is creative, kinetic,
noisy, & joyous



Speed School: The Classroom (3)

... engages students in practical & relevant learning



... produces children who are learning & persisting routinely better than their peers!



Speed School: The Classroom (4)

... gives children responsibility for their learning, the classroom, & themselves!



... cultivates children's personal, social, & employability skills



SPEED SCHOOL METHODS:

The “Secret Sauce”



Speed School: Pedagogic elements

Condensed curriculum

Adapted classrooms

30/36
(= 90/108)

Small class sizes

Activity-based learning

Learner-centered

Emphasis on reading

All are elements the Ministry embraces strongly & promotes.

Continuous assessment

Integrated learning

Holistic learning

Speed School: The difference

The real contribution of Speed School
is not **WHAT** we do...

... but **HOW** we do it.

HOW facilitators
use the methods.



HOW we train the
facilitators.



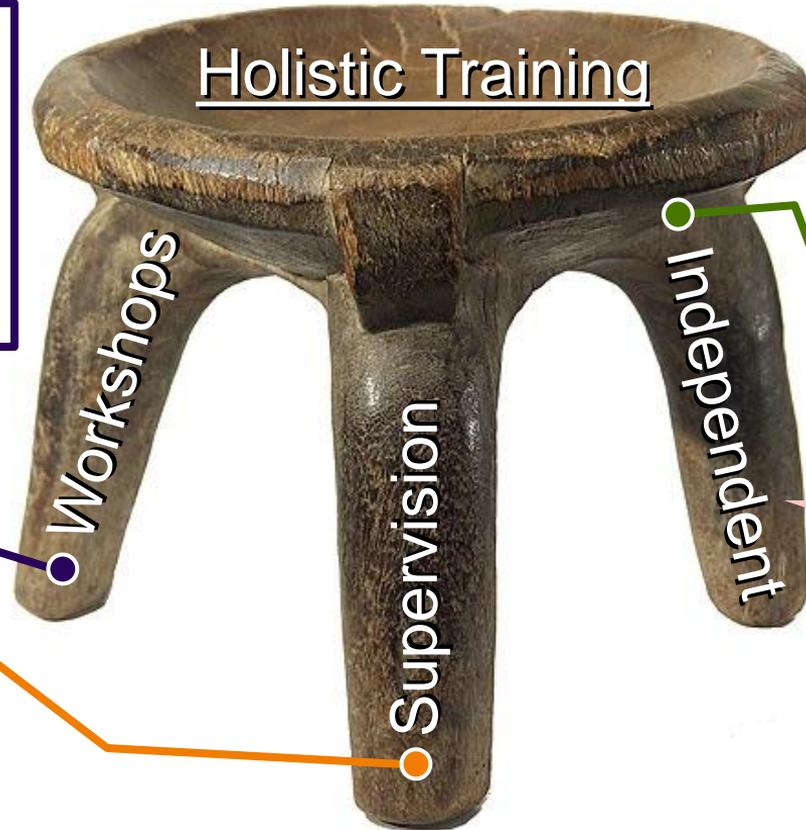
HOW we monitor &
support them.



Holistic Training: A three-legged stool

- 3 per year
- Favor practice over theory
- Give the learner's experience

- Frequent classroom observation
- By outside agent & headteacher
- Dialogue-based, looking back, present, & future



- Promote constant reflective practice
- Provide reading
- Videos on Internet
- Education Community of Practice (ECoP)

- Reflection workshops
- Lesson study
- Co-lesson planning
- ...

A FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Government Adoption



Speed School: Aligned to government plans

<u>System Goals</u>	<u>Speed School</u>	<u>Learning Goals</u>	<u>Speed School</u>
Equity	Adapted for OOSC; CWD; Girls; IDP; Other groups	Knowledge & Skills	Critical learning outcomes; Holistic learning
Quality	Focus on core learning outcomes; → Superior learning	Creativity; Leadership	Teach & assess personal skills; Class jobs; small gps.
Relevance	Lessons are contextualized; Learning is holistic	Multi-lingual	Teach in local/national language & English
Good Govern.	Teacher autonomy & authority; Parental engagement	Lifelong Learning	Independent learning; Group learning; Learn w/ purpose
Citizen-ship	Actively promote community; Link lessons to life	Physical Well-being	Play & physical activity woven into lessons

Speed School: Government interest

Ministry interest to explore scaling the model to meet the needs of all OOSC in the country

Ministry/regions created official condensed curriculum for use in accelerated education classes

New districts have already begun to introduce Speed School, relying on their local structures

Education authorities exploring the introduction of Speed School methods to all primary schools

(Ethiopia) UNICEF is funding Speed School with internally displaced & host community children

MOUs being readied to work with Ministry, regions/districts & primary teacher training institutions

Speed School : Support return from COVID

Challenges / Opportunities

A full lost year of classroom learning due to nationwide school closures

2020 school year constricted into a few months, with automatic promotion

2021 school year also likely to be shortened to return to normal year

Need to rely on paraprofessional teachers & alternative class spaces

Small class sizes, allowing for more intensive instruction & assessment

Speed School Assets

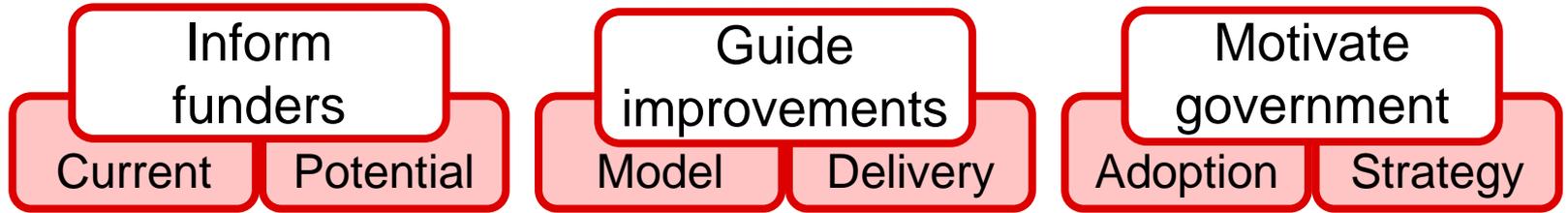
Condensed curriculum for Grades 1 to 3; model other primary grades

Holistic training model for Gr. 10 & 12 cert. holders

Speed School pedagogic methods & materials

Speed School: Monitoring & Evaluation

Three goals:



Major Indicators:

“Inputs”

- Trainings
- # classes & enrollment
- # SHGs & mothers
- Teachers trained
- # C2C children
- ...

“Outputs”

- Test results
- Attendance & dropouts
- Transition to government 1^o
- SHG activities
- Teachers’ use
- ...

“Outcomes”

- Retention & performance in gov’t school
- More teachers’ using methods
- SHG success
- Fewer OOSCs
- ...

Major Strategies:

- Gather at start of year, quarterly, & at end of year
- Paper & pencil (soon cell or tablet)
- Central database
- Share data & analysis
- Official reports ...

Speed School: Sustainability & Scale

GOAL: Government's full adoption of Speed School

Speed School model incorporated fully into national & regional education **policy, plans, & budgets**

Primary **teacher training** institutions producing new facilitators & certifying active facilitators

Speed School methods are incorporated into **conventional primary instruction** across grades

Regions/districts' establishing & **operating their own Speed School classes** as primary education

Headteachers & **supervisors** are guiding, monitoring, & supporting facilitators

Data on Speed School instructors & students are included in official primary education figures

Thank you

