Independent Global Education Evidence Advisory Panel

Photo: Zanaki Primary School is a public primary school in Dar es Salaam, World Bank, Tanzania
To address learning crisis, we need **bold reform** based on both local context knowledge and global evidence.

**Clear reform recommendations** based on rigorous research. These are generalized lessons on what are the Smart Buys in education for LICs and MICs.

**Governments, civil society, researchers and donor organisations** develop deep understanding of context, and system and diagnose needs and priorities.

Locally decide which of these Smart Buys address local need and can be implemented well locally alongside wider system reform.

**Improvement in outcomes**
The financial implications were missing - introduction of LAYS

LAYS = Years of Schooling ×

\[ \text{Learning Outcomes in Country } i \]
\[ \text{Leaning outcomes in best performing country} \]
The Panel developed evidence-based “Smart Buys” for bold reform

COST-EFFECTIVE APPROACHES TO IMPROVE GLOBAL LEARNING

What does recent evidence tell us are “Smart Buys” for improving learning in low- and middle-income countries?

Recommendations of the Global Education Evidence Advisory Panel
**Tiers of Smart Buys**

We group educational interventions and categories of interventions into the following tiers, reflecting their **cost-effectiveness at improving learning** and the **strength of the evidence**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TIER</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>GREAT BUYS</strong></td>
<td>These interventions are highly cost-effective and are supported by a strong evidence base.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>GOOD BUYS</strong></td>
<td>There is good evidence that these interventions are cost-effective.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PROMISING BUT LOW-EVIDENCE</strong></td>
<td>For these approaches, there are some small but rigorous studies that show high levels of cost-effectiveness, but overall the evidence base is more limited.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>BAD BUYS</strong></td>
<td>Strong, repeated evidence shows that these programs have not worked in the past in many situations or are not cost-effective.</td>
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</table>
There is good evidence that the interventions in this category can be highly cost-effective across a variety of contexts.
Areas where governments nevertheless need to make decisions or take action but evidence on how to do it effectively is low

Aspects of schooling and learning where government needs to act but where there is relatively little robust evidence of ways to do so successfully. Here we include areas of intervention where there is a lot of work, but the limited evidence we’ve seen to date is inconclusive or even discouraging. This and the high potential category could help to inform future research priorities.

- General-skills teacher training (in-service)
- Selection and allocation of teachers
- Differentiating support by gender (if falling behind on access or learning)
- Targeted support for children living with disabilities
- Interventions to safeguard students from violence

Not a comprehensive list
Impressions from dissemination meetings
## Template for country consultations

Which smart buys are a good fit? Which aren’t?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SMART BUYS</th>
<th>Reform focus</th>
<th>(ii) Relevance (select) and comment on country context</th>
<th>Financial investment please provide external and domestic budgets with timeframes</th>
<th>(iii) Uptake Status (select) and comment</th>
<th>Baseline (Mar 21)</th>
<th>Year 1 (Apr 21-Mar 22)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Good buys</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Structured lesson plans with linked materials and ongoing teacher monitoring and training</td>
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<td>3. Target teaching instruction by learning level, not grade (in or out of school)</td>
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<td>4. Reduce travel times to schools</td>
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<td>5. Giving merit-based scholarships to disadvantaged children and youth</td>
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<td>6. Using software that adapts to the learning level of the child (where hardware is already in schools)</td>
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<td>7. Pre-primary education (ages 3-5)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Thank you!

Publication link:
https://bit.ly/3rWrAkW and
https://bit.ly/3u3EHmP

Previous GEEAP publication:
Cost-Effective Approaches to Improve Global Learning: What Does Recent Evidence Tell Us Are “Smart Buys” for Improving Learning in Low and Middle Income Countries?

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