

Research Plan: Home-Grown School Feeding in Nyanda

As presented in the policy recommendation document, the home-grown school feeding program has great potential to reduce inequities in Nyanda. The proposed research setup is a randomized controlled trial which allows to identify and quantify the causal effect of the intervention on beneficiaries. The design approach consists of an initial mapping exercise of all schools in Nyanda with the help of the Ministry of Education. This allows to create a full dataset of schools divided by rural residence, whether they receive or have received school feeding in the recent past, and the mapping of other key school characteristics (access to cooking facilities, cooks, latrine, storage facilities, etc.).

Ideally, the research design will be implemented on a smaller cohort of school divided into two distinct groups, a control group not receiving school feeding, and a treatment group receiving school feeding. The target beneficiaries will be students in grade 3, as they are often considered at a turning point in their educational journey and the ability to capture the minimum detectable effect of the intervention is higher.

The intervention will last for 2 years to capture for longer term effects of the program. All students in the treatment school will receive the school meal but only grade 3 students will be observed throughout the years to assess the impact of the program.

The expectation is that school meals will create strong incentives to increase attendance, leading to greater nutritional status, lower drop-out rates, better health status, and compounding all these effects better school performance.

There are two potential funding opportunities and one partnership identified to finance or support further research on the home-grown school feeding program in Nyanda.

1. [Rockefeller Foundation's Sustainable Financing Initiative](#)
2. [KIX](#) and the Global Partnership for Education
3. Partnership with the World Food Programme

Milestones	Activities	Timeline	budget
Listing exercise	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Generate a dataset of school feeding in Nyanda- Select approximately 100 rural schools- Complete a listing exercise- Partner engagement- Pre-analysis plan- Inception report	2 months	30,000 US\$
Students baseline	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Select survey firm for data collection activity- Develop the instruments and the data quality checks- Train the field staff- Manage field work- Monitor data quality- Generate baseline values for the selected indicators- Partner engagement- Baseline report	3 months	50,000 US\$
End line year1 survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Train the field staff- Manage field work- Monitor data quality- Generate endline values for the selected indicators- Conduct preliminary analysis with baseline indicators	2 months	50,000\$

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Partner engagement - Endline year 1 report 		
End line year2 survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Train the field staff - Manage field work - Monitory data quality - Generate endline values for the selected indicators - Conduct final analysis with baseline and year 1 indicators - Partner engagement - Endline year 2 report 	2 months	50,000\$
Regular monitoring of schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This activity would be spanned over the entire 2 years to monitor school compliance with the research design. 	6 months - 6 visits in 2 years	50,000\$
Dissemination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Final report - Policy discussion - Advocacy of final results 	2 months	20,000\$

N.B: The budget does not consider the personnel directly employed for the management of the impact evaluation and for the provision of the school feeding program. The budget refers only to the costs for the implementation of the research.

Limitations

Some of the major limitations and potential risk, including mitigation strategies for this research project are:

1. Attrition of the school management for the school that ended up in the control group
 - a. Mitigation: engage school management and communities early in advance, communicate clearly the intent of the research and the prospects for Nyanda education
2. Schools and students' non-compliance with the intervention.
 - a. Mitigation: regular monitoring and checks attendance logs
3. Data quality issue:
 - a. Mitigation: regular and real-time data quality checks
4. External shocks such as natural disasters or political instability
 - a. Mitigation: contingency budget plan for potential delays
5. Limited sustainability after the intervention
 - a. Mitigation: acquire full-buy in from the government and work closely in every stage of the research with the ministry of Education