

Malawi - Protecting Early Childhood Development in Malawi Impact Evaluation Survey 2011-2012, Baseline

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Report generated on: March 7, 2019

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Sampling

Sampling Procedure

This study is a cluster-randomized controlled trial with one control arm and three treatment arms. Four study districts (Balaka, Thyolo, Dedza, Nkhata Bay) that provide adequate representation of the regions in Malawi were chosen by the MGCSW for inclusion in the study. Sample size calculations for a multi-site, cluster-randomized trial estimated that 240 CBCCs and 12 children from each of the CBCCs would be necessary to detect small to moderate impacts (0.2 to 0.25 standard deviations) on child development measures (the PPVT, specifically) with 95% confidence and 80% power. A full listing of all CBCCs eligible to receive the intervention from the MGCSW produced only 199 CBCCs in the four districts, however; therefore, all 199 CBCCs were included in the study.

Randomization was conducted in each district separately to ensure that equal numbers of CBCCs were allocated to each of the study arms within each district. To ensure a balance of important baseline characteristics, which are strongly prognostic of cognitive development outcomes of interest, a "block randomization" procedure was used. Information about the variables used for blocking (child anthropometrics and scores on developmental tests) was collected during the baseline survey.

The sample includes 2,120 children, ages 3-4 years, attending the CBCCs from the village. These children were randomly selected (blocked by age and sex) from the group of children attending the CBCCs on the day the baseline data collection teams visited the school. Therefore, selection bias should not be an issue.

The PECD project focuses on four interventions:

1. Play and learning materials: kit of basic play and learning materials and supplies
2. Caregiver training and mentoring: enhanced 5 week residential training program for caregivers including fieldwork and mentoring
3. Caregiver incentives: small monthly cash incentive to encourage retention and performance
4. Parenting education: 12 group sessions for parents with 3- and 4-year olds focused on practical activities

Control and treatment groups are to receive the following interventions:

1. Control Group: Play and Learning Materials Only
2. Treatment Group 1: Caregiver Training + Play and Learning Materials
3. Treatment Group 2: Caregiver Training + Incentives + Play and Learning Materials
4. Treatment Group 3: Caregiver Training + Parenting Education + Play and Learning Materials

Response Rate

Data was collected from all 199 CBCCs. Included are developmental test scores and anthropometric measures from all 2,120 children, as well as responses from 2,030 mothers/guardians who completed the mother/guardian questionnaire and whose children were included in the analysis. The child data excludes 15 cases in which the child was disqualified (due to age) or refused to participate in the study. The four refusals from the mother/guardian survey are included.

Questionnaires

Overview

Data collection at baseline involved the administration of the mother/guardian questionnaire, measurement of child development and anthropometric status, administration of the CBCC questionnaire, and enumerator observations at the CBCC.

Data can be linked across datasets using the 3 digit CBCC ID. Each child respondent participating in the study has a unique 6 digit ID consisting of the CBCC ID (3 digits) + Child Listing Roster ID (2 digits) + 1/2/3 (indicating whether the child was the first, second, or third child with the same mother/guardian to be entered). Each mother/guardian interviewed has a unique 5 digit ID which is the first 5 digits of the (6 digit) Child Respondent ID. For example, a child attending CBCC 399 and listed 12th on the child listing roster with no other siblings listed will have the ID of 399121. His/her mother/guardian would have the ID of 39912.

Data Collection

Data Collection Dates

Start	End	Cycle
2011-09-30	2012-02-17	Baseline

Data Collection Mode

Face-to-face [f2f]

DATA COLLECTION NOTES

Baseline data collection took place over a period of two days at each CBCC. On the first day, the study team introduced the study and administered the CBCC questionnaire to the CBCC director, conducted CBCC observations, completed the CBCC caregiver roster/interview, completed the child listing exercise to randomly select child participants, and contacted the mothers/guardians of selected children. On day two of data collection at the CBCC, enumerators screened each mother/guardian to ensure they met the basic qualifications (at least 16 years of age, and spend at least 20 hours per week with the child respondent). If the mother/guardian did not meet the criteria, the enumerator tried to identify the adult who spends the most time with the child and asked if they could come to the CBCC. Enumerators explained the research study to the mothers/guardians and requested their participation and permission for their child's participation. Then, the enumerators conducted the mother/guardian interviews using the mother/guardian questionnaire, administered the child developmental assessment tests, and completed the child anthropometric measurements.

Data collection was put on hold between December 10 and January 9 as CBCCs were closed due to the national school holidays. Reaching remote centers in the months of January and February was more challenging due to poor road conditions during rainy season.

Data Collectors

Name	Abbreviation	Affiliation
Wadonda Consult	WACO	

SUPERVISION

Data collection was overseen by an Impact Evaluation Field Coordinator from the World Bank who conducted spot-checks in the field as well as data entry.

Data Processing

No content available

Data Appraisal

No content available

Related Materials

Questionnaires

CBCC Questionnaire - PECD 2011

Title CBCC Questionnaire - PECD 2011
Country Malawi
Language English
Filename PECD CBCC Qx ENGLISH Baseline FINAL.pdf

Mother/Guardian Survey - PECD 2011

Title Mother/Guardian Survey - PECD 2011
Country Malawi
Language English
Filename PECD MotherSurvey ENGLISH Final.pdf

Child Assessments - PECD 2011

Title Child Assessments - PECD 2011
Country Malawi
Language English
Filename PECD Child Assessment Baseline FINAL.pdf

CBCC Classroom Observation Questions

Title CBCC Classroom Observation Questions
Country Malawi
Language English
Filename Class Obs Baseline FINAL.pdf

Technical documents

Child Measurements Variables

Title Child Measurements Variables
Country Malawi
Language English
Filename Variables from PECD_ChildMeasurements.pdf

Protecting Early Childhood Development in Malawi - Rapid Social Response (RSR) Project Information Document

Title Protecting Early Childhood Development in Malawi - Rapid Social Response (RSR) Project Information Document
Author(s) World Bank
Country Malawi

Language English

Filename Project Information Document PECD Malawi.pdf
