



Education for Marginalized Children of Kenya II (EMAK)

What is EMACK II?

Education for Marginalized Children of Kenya (EMACK II) is a USAID supported initiative of the Ministry of Education (MOE) and Aga Khan Foundation. It increases opportunities for quality education for primary and lower secondary school children historically marginalized by cultural practices and poverty such as those living in informal settlement areas. EMACK II focuses on improving learning outcomes and implementing evidence-based school management reforms.

EMACK II works in close partnership with community based organizations in each county where the program operates to encourage effective learning through parental participation, promotion of local initiatives and improved teaching and education management.



Photo: EMACK II

Amina Mwituu, of the Madrasa Resource Center-Kibera supports teacher Doreen of Charity Pre-school in Kibera to improve her lesson plans

Project Duration and Budget

November 2006-December 2014
\$17.8 million

Who implements EMACK II?

The Aga Kahn Foundation
www.akdn.org

Where does EMACK II work?

Nairobi, Coast, and North Eastern provinces

What does EMACK II do?

EMAK II is improving access and retention rates for children historically underserved by the education system by using a number of key strategies: encouraging community and parental participation in all aspects of school life; strengthening school management and leadership practices; improving coordination and dialogue with education policymakers and leaders to inform national education strategy and enable key officials in the Ministry of Education to scale up successful practices; and improving teaching practices and learning environments at the early childhood development, lower primary, upper primary, and lower secondary school levels.

The program is works with Koranic schools to introduce literacy and numeracy and is sensitizing teachers and school managers to the needs of students from marginalized populations (i.e., pastoralists, girls, people with disabilities, orphans and other vulnerable children.)

How is EMACK II making a difference?

2,900 teachers have been trained through EMACK II to date. Trainings topics include active learning skills in language, mathematics and science, Reading to Learn, and transition to primary.

To enhance accurate data capture, analysis, and utilization at the district levels, the EMACK core team trained 51 Education Officials in Coast Province and Nairobi using facilitators from the Education Management Information System (EMIS) Department in the Ministry of Education and the Kenya Institute of Education's Information Technology and Curriculum Development Departments. The participants recommended the revision of EMIS tools by the Ministry of Education and the introduction of an electronic EMIS system.

In the first quarter of 2012, mentors conducted classroom observations of 136 teachers. The findings from these observations suggest that 74% of the observed teachers showed good mastery of all active learning components which include lesson planning, mastery of the subject content, classroom management, and active engagement of learners.

In early 2012 a number of trainings were conducted to enhance the planning, management and implementation capacity of education managers and leaders reaching 36

members from 5 District Education Boards, 295 School Management Committee members.

In addition, 35 new school communities were trained on the Whole School Approach, bringing to total number so far to 157 schools. 38 schools received support to review their 2011 School Development Plans.

What key challenges does EMACK II face?

Instability and security concerns in North Eastern Province hinder community and parental participation, as well as overall program implementation. To ensure continued implementation of activities in high risk areas, EMACK has continues to use area education officials to conduct school visits and provide mentoring and support to schools in these areas.

Education for Marginalized Children in Kenya II in action

Mdengerekeni School is a community school originally established by a self-help group in Kisauni District in the informal settlements of Mombasa County in Coast province. The school is among 24 non-formal education centers supported by EMACK in partnership with Kenya School Improvement Project in Mombasa.

When an induction meeting was proposed by EMACK to familiarize community members and school administration with the Whole School Approach, it became evident that conflict between the two groups had grown serious with the administration threatening to cancel the meeting. After much discussion, the school's Senior Chief allowed the meeting to proceed. The two-day meeting engaged the community, including members of the self-help group which had started the school, and the administration in a series of role play exercises intended to explain the Whole School Approach and demonstrate to participants that whatever challenges there were in their school, *they* were best placed to come up with solutions instead of waiting for outside agencies or the government to step in.

Summarizing the lessons from the role play, Mzee Kadege, a parent in the school said, "We have the solutions to all our problems as we are the people who see these problems, live with them and feel them". "This kind of awareness is so good and no organization has ever come to Mdengerekeni to teach us using such an approach", commented another parent.

The group agreed to establish a School Management Committee incorporating all relevant stakeholders, and committed to ensuring the School Development Plan (SDP) objectives are achieved.

For more information

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Photo: USAID/Kenya

EMACK II is improving educational outcomes and improving school retention rates for some of Kenya's most vulnerable children.

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