



Laterite

CAPACITY STATEMENT

Early childhood development research
in Rwanda

About Laterite

Laterite is an African firm specialized in research for social impact. Honed over more than ten years of experience in East Africa, our approach is structured, data intensive, and embedded in the local context.

Over the past ten years, we have completed more than 100 research projects with clients active in social impact and development research including large foundations and international organizations, universities, and NGOs. Our core sectors of expertise are education, public health, agriculture, livelihoods, urbanization and migration, and gender. We have offices in Rwanda, Ethiopia, Kenya, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Uganda and the Netherlands, with our team predominantly based in East Africa.

7
offices

80+
full-time staff

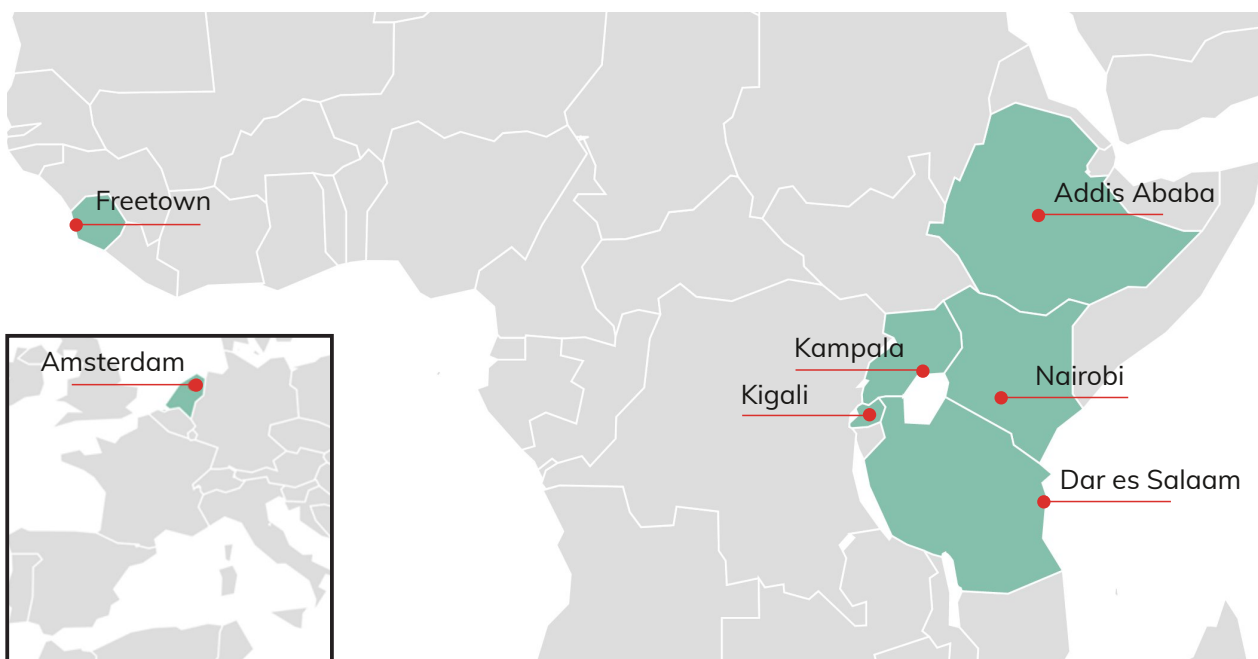
2,000+
enumerators available

100,000+
interviews completed in 2022

30,000+
enumerator days spent on
projects in 2022

30+
reports published in 2022

Our offices



What we offer

Our strengths



Expert team of technical professionals with experience in emerging markets



Top quality at every step of the process, from enumerator training to data monitoring



Strong understanding of the context via our local teams, networks and relationships



Emphasis on **ethically sound research**, from child safeguarding to COVID-19 protocols



Full-cycle research project support capabilities, from design to data collection to analysis



Focus on **innovation** in the way we work, always seeking new and better ways to do research

Our services



Data

- Quantitative & qualitative data collection
- Phone & SMS surveys
- Audio-assisted surveys
- Behavioral games
- Anthropometric & biometric measurements
- Observational learning and child development assessments



Research

- Program / impact evaluation
- Socio-economic household surveys
- Poverty analysis
- Policy / program landscape mapping
- Learning partnerships
- Design of MEL frameworks



Analytics

- Machine learning
- Predictive analytics and modeling
- Geospatial data and analysis
- AI tools to accelerate research

Early Childhood Development



Laterite has expertise in early childhood development projects in East Africa, with a focus on Rwanda.

We have completed early childhood development projects for clients such as the World Bank, the Mastercard Foundation, UNICEF, the Rwandan Ministry of Health (MINEDUC), Boston College, Promundo International, RTI, FHI 360, Save the Children, and more.

Our team includes several specialists in early childhood development. One of our core team members is certified as an expert trainer on the MDAT, and we have more than 30 enumerators specifically trained on this tool in Rwanda.

We have used a range of tools to assess child development, including:

- observational measures of child development such as the Malawi Development Assessment Tool (MDAT), the Kauffman Assessment Battery for Children (KABC), and Mullen Scales of Early Learning (MESL)

- other observation measures such as the Home Observation for Measurement of the Environment (HOME) assessment and Observation of Mother Child Interactions (OMCI)
- caregiver-report tools such as the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ-3) and the Caregiver-Reported Early Childhood Development Instrument (CREDI)
- child development modules from the Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) and UNICEF Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys.

Laterite also has extensive experience with anthropometric measurements, diet screening questionnaires, and medical history and health-seeking behavior questionnaires to assess child and maternal health and nutrition.

Examples of our work

Data collection

Data collection for a baseline evaluation of a program to prevent stunting in Rwanda

World Bank

The baseline evaluation of the Stunting Prevention and Reduction (SPaR) program was the first stage of a prospective impact evaluation of the World Bank and Rwanda Biomedical Centre program to address malnutrition and stunting in young children. The nationally representative study sought to identify the causal impacts of the program by collecting data from children under five and their biological mothers in 11,250 households. For this project, Laterite conducted interviews with the primary caregivers from each household and 1,600 community health workers who serve them. Interviews with caregivers covered household resources, health care access and birth history, knowledge of child nutrition, and an assessment of child development using the CREDI. Height, weight and mid-upper arm circumference measurements were taken from all children, their biological mothers and any other pregnant women in the sampled households. Interviews with community health workers assessed their training, supervision, and knowledge of maternal and child health.

Cover image: Enumerators and the baby's mother measure the length of the baby for the SPaR baseline evaluation in September 2019.

Impact evaluation

Impact evaluation of a program on early childhood development in Rwanda

Save the Children

Save the Children's *Intera za Mbere* (First Steps) program aims to improve parenting practices, child development outcomes and emergent literacy promotion in homes across Rwanda through 18 weekly parenting education group sessions using blended radio programming and community-based activities. The program targets caregivers of children under three years of age. Laterite designed and conducted a baseline and endline survey for a cluster randomized controlled trial (RCT) in three districts: Gasabo, Ruhango and Kirehe. Child development was assessed using the MDAT. Face-to-face interviews were conducted with 1,184 primary caregivers, including modules on characteristics of the caregiver and their household; parenting attitudes and practices; exposure to parenting messages; and an assessment of the home environment of the child using an abbreviated version of the HOME inventory. The findings confirm that the First Steps program positively impacted responsive parenting and positive discipline practices - in both the light and full versions of the program.

> Read the [endline report](#)

Data collection

Evaluation of Strong Families, Thriving Children "Sugira Muryango" intervention

Boston College

With researchers from Boston College, Laterite led three waves of data collection at baseline, endline, and a one-year follow-up for a cluster RCT to evaluate the Sugira Muryango program. Sugira Muryango—designed for families living in extreme poverty—is a preventive, family-based model that uses home visiting and coaching to encourage responsive parent-child interactions while discouraging violence against children. Working with a sample of 1,040 households with at least one child between six and 36 months, Laterite collected data from primary caregivers, their intimate partners, and eligible children. In addition to structured interviews, data collection also included anthropometric measurements of children and assessment of child development using the ASQ-3 and the MDAT. Laterite's role on this project comprised design and operationalization of the sampling and cluster strategy, data collection, data quality monitoring, and data cleaning.



Data collection

Evaluation of the expansion of Sugira Muryango

Boston College

Laterite managed data collection for this implementation science evaluation of the expansion of the Sugira Muryango intervention, implemented by Boston College in cooperation with FXB International-Rwanda. Laterite collected quantitative and qualitative data to investigate implementation processes and impact at multiple levels, including community, interventionist and family. Data was collected from about 600 households in 186 villages in rural Rwanda and included modules on child care and discipline, diet and nutrition, WASH, and health. The team also collected child development data using the MDAT as well as child anthropometric data; and caregivers from 60 households participated in semi-structured interviews. In addition, mixed-methods data was collected from interventionists, local and national government officials and several other stakeholders involved in implementation.



Data collection**Longitudinal 4-year follow-up and sibling spillover study of Sugira Muryango****Boston College**

This longitudinal follow-up study investigated the longer-term outcomes of the Sugira Muryango intervention. In particular, the research looked at indicators of long-term positive outcomes for children such as school readiness. The study aims were:

- for the longitudinal study, to examine whether Sugira Muryango continues to be associated with sustained effects and with effects more relevant to older children, such as school-readiness; and
- for the spillover study, to examine whether a family's participation in Sugira Muryango has an impact on older and younger siblings in the household who were not eligible at the time of intervention.

As part of this project Laterite is working with Boston College and FXB to conduct an extensive pilot and adapt several new standardized child development measures to the Rwandan context including: the MSEL, the KABC, the Wechsler Preschool & Primary Scale of Intelligence, Infant Behavior Questionnaire, Early Childhood Behavior Questionnaire, Child Behavior Check-list, and the Preschool Self-Regulation Assessment. Data collection for this study also included other assessments that have already been adapted and used in Rwanda including the MDAT, International Development and Early Learning Assessment (IDELA), Early Grade Reading / Math Assessments (EGRA/EGMA), ASQ-3, HOME Inventory, and OMCI, among others.

Research study**Follow-up study of a program to assess the impact of education for new fathers****Promundo International**

The Bandebereho couples' intervention, implemented by RWAMREC and Promundo in partnership with the Rwanda Ministry of Health, focused on increasing male engagement in reproductive and maternal health, caregiving and healthier couple relations. The aim of this follow-up study was to assess the longer-term impact of Bandebereho on participating couples and their children after six years, when compared to the control group, including the longer-term impacts (i) on men's and women's behaviors and experiences, including caregiving, couple dynamics, parenting, reproductive health, and intimate partner violence; and (ii) on young children's cognitive and social-emotional development. Laterite was the data collection partner for this study, and led all aspects of data collection and logistics for this project including conducting a survey with about 1,000 couples (2,000 adults) on sexual and reproductive health, relationships, couple communication and decision making, caregiving, parenting, unpaid and paid work, alcohol and mental health, violence, and gender attitudes. In addition, the study included assessments of 800 children of these couples using the IDELA, a global tool that measures early learning and development of children from 3.5 to 6 years.

> Read the [case study](#)

laterite

DATA | RESEARCH | ANALYTICS

From data to policy

Rwanda | Ethiopia | Kenya | Sierra Leone | Tanzania | Uganda | The Netherlands

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