CAPACITY STATEMENT

Laterite Kenya

Data, research and analytics

laterite
DATA | RESEARCH | ANALYTICS

About Laterite

Laterite is a data, research and analytics firm rooted in Africa and specialized in research for social impact. Our goal is to make development research more impactful, by using rigorous techniques to provide context-relevant evidence. Our team combines technical excellence with a deep understanding of the context to deliver high-quality data and insights.

Over the past ten years, we have completed 150+ evaluations, surveys and 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, and gender. We have offices in Rwanda, Ethiopia, Kenya, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Uganda and Peru, with a support services office in the Netherlands. Our team of 95+ full-time researchers and data experts is based primarily in Africa.

Laterite strives to carry out impactful research that helps decision-makers find solutions to complex development problems.
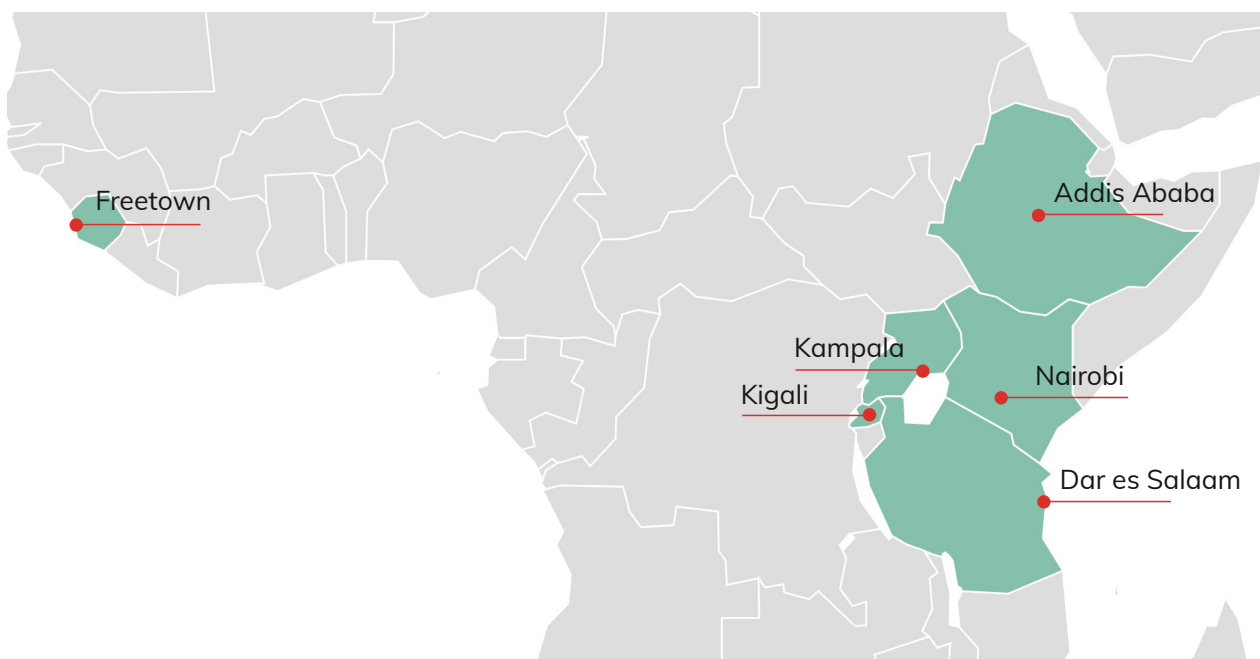
Want to know more?

Get in touch:
services@laterite.com

Follow us on social media:
LinkedIn: Laterite
Twitter (X): @LateriteGlobal

Our offices in Africa

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What we offer

Our strengths

Expert team of technical professionals with experience in emerging markets

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

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

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

Emphasis on **ethically sound research**, prioritizing the dignity of our participants

We deliver **tech-enabled research**, and continuously seek innovative, data-driven ways to improve our work

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
- Large language models (LLMs) to power Intelligent Knowledge Hubs
- AI tools to accelerate research

Laterite in Kenya

Laterite Kenya specializes in long-term embedded research advisory projects, as well as monitoring and evaluation (M&E) with a focus on projects in agriculture, gender, nutrition, livelihoods and public health. Our team in Nairobi includes both research and data collection specialists. We work with a roster of 260+ trained local enumerators who carry out both in-person and remote data collection. Our enumerators are competitively recruited, hold Bachelor's degrees, and are fluent in local languages as well as English and Swahili.

Laterite Kenya at a glance

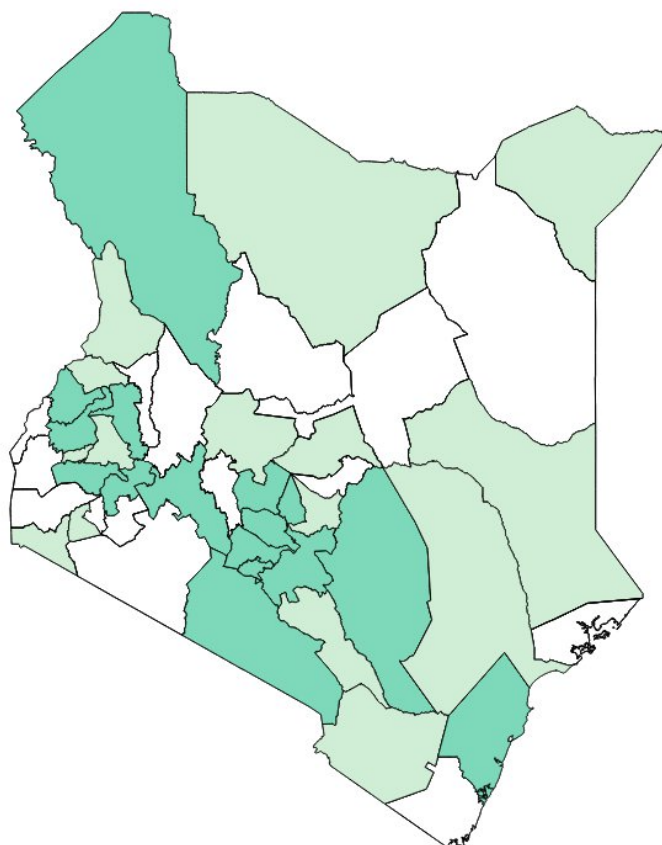**16**
full-time staff

260+
enumerators

3,300+
households surveyed in 2024

28
organizations provided with tailored M&E support

We have worked in 30+ counties across Kenya

Examples of our work

Embedded research advisory and decision-focused research for IGNITE

Tanager

Impacting Gender & Nutrition through Innovative Technical Exchange in Agriculture (IGNITE) program is a five year multi-country initiative implemented by Tanager. The program aims to strengthen African institutions' ability to integrate nutrition-sensitive and gender-integrated approaches into their agriculture interventions and way of doing business. Laterite provides M&E support to Tanager and participating IGNITE clients in Ethiopia, Nigeria, Burkina Faso and Tanzania on a variety of technical assistance, capacity building, monitoring, data collection and evaluation activities. Laterite also leads mixed-methods research to support clients to make evidence-based decisions about gender- and nutrition-sensitive agriculture programming.

> Read the **library of IGNITE publications**

Randomized controlled trial (RCT) of the Grevillea Tree Program in Kenya

One Acre Fund

Laterite designed and implemented baseline and midline studies with 1,850 treatment and control farmers to measure the impact of One Acre Fund's Grevillea Tree Program in Kericho and Uasin Gishu counties in Kenya. The study also aimed to investigate the opportunity costs of planting trees compared to other income generating activities. Along with quantitative surveys at baseline and midline, Laterite also led focus group discussions with farmers to give a nuanced picture of perceptions of tree planting and use in focus communities; phone surveys with a subsample of farmers interviewed at baseline and midline; and a market study to establish the prices of grevillea trees in the study areas. Due to COVID-19, the endline study took a qualitative approach to ensure respondent health and safety.

A tea farm in Kericho county visited for the One Acre Fund evaluation

Phone-based survey of refugees in Kenya

Maastricht University / UNU-Merit

Phone survey targeting 2,100 refugee households in three refugee settlements in northern Kenya, to provide insight into the food security, nutrition, livelihoods, and well-being. Laterite was responsible for coding and translating the survey, obtaining ethical and research approvals, recruiting and training enumerators, and carrying out data collection, monitoring, cleaning and field reporting.

> Read the **case study**

Data collection to adapt and test LEGO PLAY tools in Kenya

RTI International

RTI received funding from the LEGO Foundation to develop a suite of Playful Learning Across the Years (PLAY) tools to measure the activities, processes, and interactions through which playful learning takes place and the environments that support deeper learning through play. Laterite partnered with RTI to assess the reliability and appropriateness of the tools for two age groups (6-8 years & 9-12 years) in Kenya. The toolkit was piloted in two phases. First, to adapt the tools to the context, Laterite assessors interviewed teachers and learners using structured interviews and conducted classroom observations in 5 primary schools in Nairobi and Kiambu counties. To test the adapted instruments, Laterite teams visited 30 schools in Kilifi county and 40 schools in Mombasa. This team conducted 280 classroom observations, 1,120 learner interviews and 280 teacher interviews.

> Learn more about the **PLAY toolkit**

Research partner for coffee agronomy training programs

TechnoServe

Laterite works TechnoServe in Ethiopia, DRC, Kenya, Puerto Rico, Uganda, and Zimbabwe to maximize learning, improve research functions, and increase harmony between implementation and research. Services include helping clients design research strategies that feed into their operations while meeting monitoring and reporting requirements; helping clients design discrete research projects that are rigorous, pertinent, and feasible within operational and budget constraints; training across the research cycle; and back-stopping from our experts across East Africa.

> Read the **case study**

Data collection for longitudinal study of pregnant women in Kitui and Kiambu counties

Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) - Wellcome Trust

The QuEST Network conducted a longitudinal study of women's experiences during pregnancy and childbirth in Kenya, Ethiopia, South Africa, and India. In Kenya, this study followed 1,000 women at 20 health facilities throughout their pregnancy via monthly surveys. KEMRI conducted in-person baseline and endline surveys, and Laterite conducted the monthly phone surveys. Laterite also developed an Electronic Data Capture System and database hosting for all modules, trained enumerators, and carried out piloting, data quality control and cleaning, and frequent transfer of data to the client. These efforts saw a retention rate of 89% of study participants.

Key contacts in Kenya

Dr. Rosie Emerson
Principal Investigator
Rosie brings over a decade of expertise leading high-impact research and program evaluation initiatives across Sub-Saharan Africa. She specializes in quantitative research methods, specifically in the areas of education and gender. She has led evaluations for UNICEF, USAID, Plan International and the World Bank.

Laura Baensch
Senior Research Associate
Laura is an economist specialized in quantitative and qualitative research evaluations, with a focus on livelihoods of displaced populations, education and agriculture. She has led several of Laterite's projects in Kenya for partners such as the World Food Programme, the Howard G. Buffett Foundation and the Mastercard Foundation.

Anne Wagaturi
Data Manager
Anne has 10+ years' experience in team management, field logistics and data quality control for research projects in Kenya, where she has worked in 46 out of 47 counties. She holds a Diploma in Project Management from the Kenya Institute of Management and a Bachelor's in Geography and Environmental Studies from the University of Nairobi.

Get in touch

Want to learn more about our work in Kenya, or discuss a potential opportunity? We look forward to hearing from you!

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From data to policy