Laterite Rwanda

Data, research and analytics

laterite

DATA | RESEARCH | ANALYTICS

About Laterite

Laterite is an African firm specialized in research for social impact. We provide data collection and research services including technical advice on the design and implementation of research projects and development interventions. 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 over 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 a team of over 85 full-time researchers and data experts, based primarily in East Africa.

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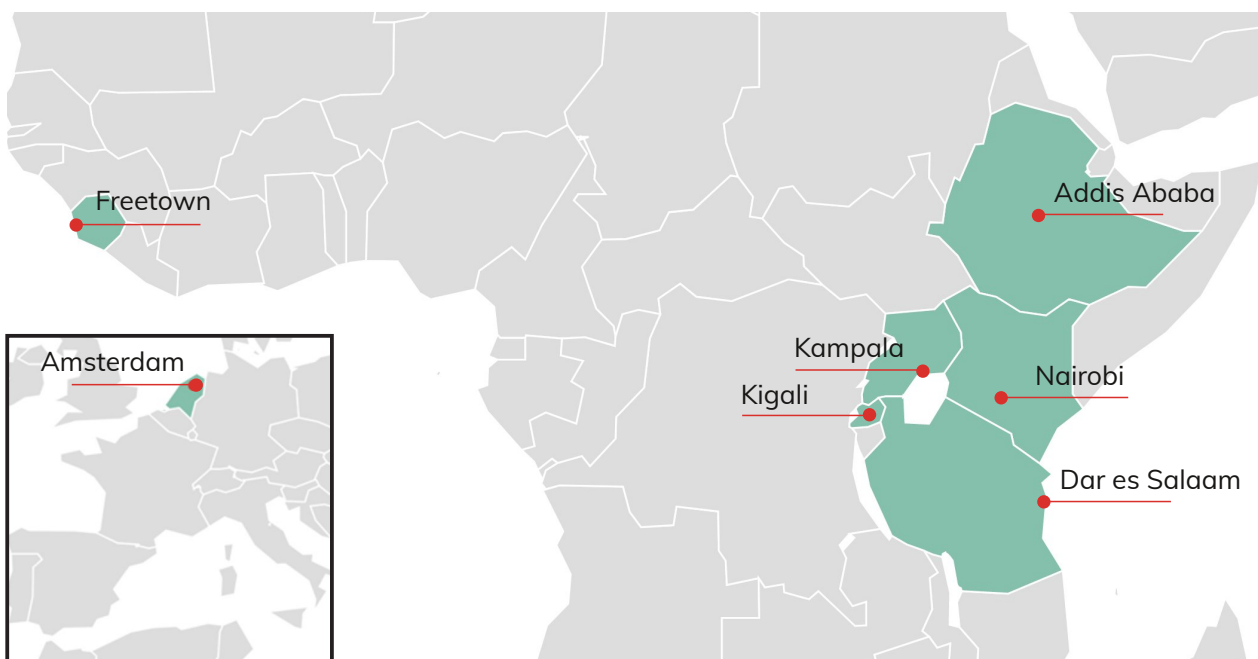
Want to know more?

Get in touch:
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Follow us on social media:
Twitter: @Laterite_Africa
LinkedIn: Laterite

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
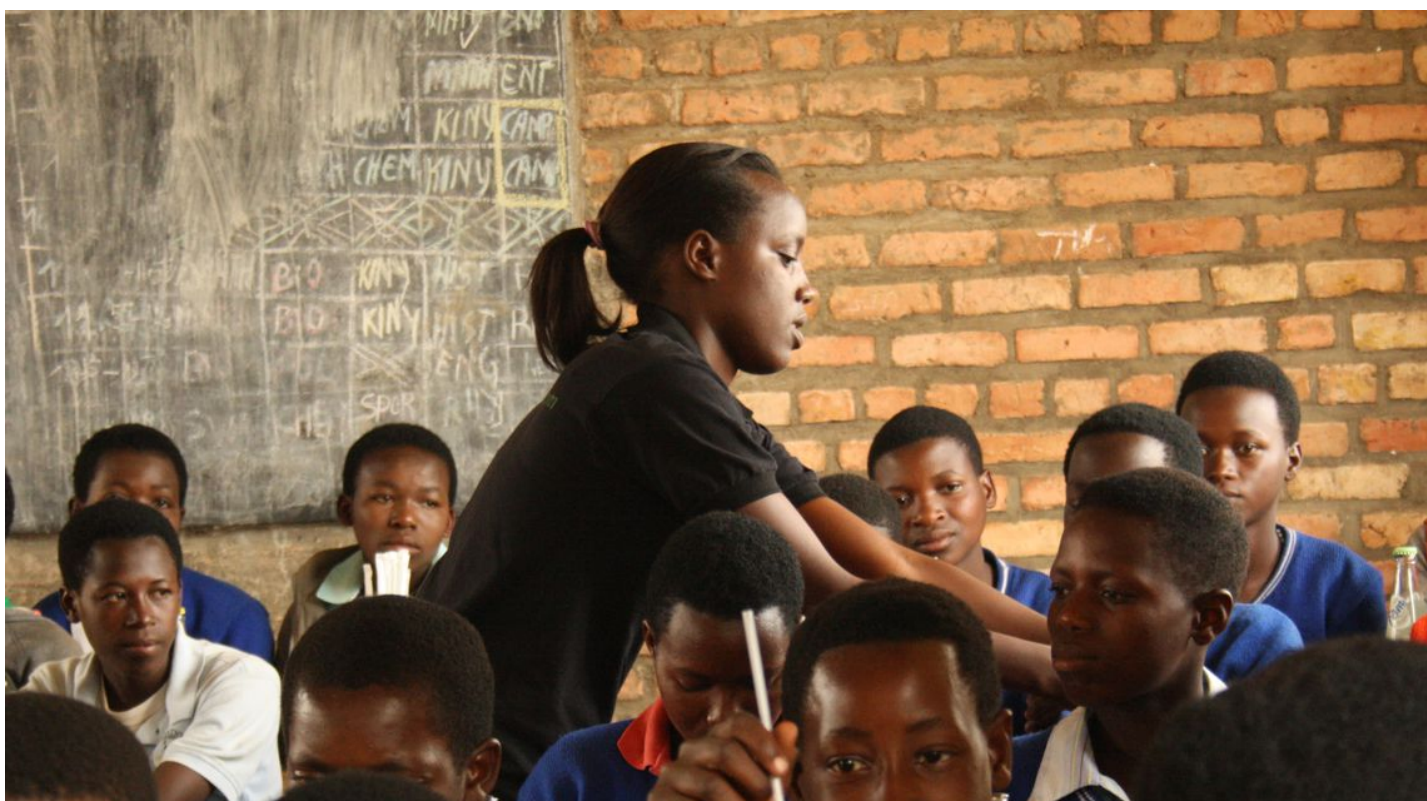- Learning partnerships
- Design of MEL frameworks

Analytics

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

Laterite in Rwanda

Laterite Rwanda specializes in large-scale, complex research and data collection projects. Our office in Kigali has been in operation since 2010 and includes experts in research and both quantitative and qualitative data collection. We work with a roster of over 450 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 Kinyarwanda as well as English. We have worked in all regions of Rwanda on topics including primary and secondary education, teaching quality, agriculture, youth and livelihoods, public health, early childhood development, urbanization and migration, and gender.

Laterite Rwanda at a glance

25
full-time staff

450+
enumerators

11,000+
interviews completed in 2022

360+
schools visited in 2022

3,600+
enumerator days in 2022

We have worked in all regions of Rwanda

Leaders in Teaching learning partnership in Rwanda

Mastercard Foundation

Laterite has partnered with the Mastercard Foundation and the Research for Equitable Access and Learning (REAL) Centre at the University of Cambridge to lead strategic monitoring, evaluation, research and learning for the Leaders in Teaching initiative. Leaders in Teaching supports Rwandan secondary school teachers throughout their careers and prepares them to deliver high-quality, relevant education. As a long-term Learning Partner, Laterite is assessing the initiative's impact on teacher performance and student learning in Rwandan secondary schools, testing and refining the theory of change, and strengthening implementing partners' capacity to collect and use high-quality data for adaptive management and program design. The evidence we are collecting will be used to facilitate continuous improvement within the program.

> Read the **library of publications**

Data collection partner: Evaluation of Sugira Muryango

Boston College

Laterite led the data collection for a cluster randomized control trial to evaluate Sugira Muryango (Strong Families, Thriving Children), an intervention delivered by FXB Rwanda. 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. Laterite collected data from primary caregivers, their intimate partners, and eligible children in 1,040 households with at least one child aged between 6-36 months. In addition to structured interviews and anthropo-metrics, Laterite also carried out observational assessments of child development using the Ages and Stages Questionnaire and the Malawi Developmental Assessment Tool. Laterite is also evaluating the expansion of the intervention in three districts in Rwanda.

Mapping the EdTech landscape in Rwanda

Mastercard Foundation

The study provides a detailed overview of the EdTech ecosystem in Rwanda to inform the design of interventions by the Mastercard Foundation Center for Innovative Teaching & Learning in ICT, the Ministry of Education and the ICT Chamber. These interventions aim to support EdTech entrepreneurs in Rwanda and to develop a thriving EdTech ecosystem in the country. The study draws on key informant interviews with more than 30 EdTech firms in Rwanda, a literature and policy review, and insights from an EdTech workshop attended by 80 government and private sector stakeholders in November 2022. The study outlines the supply- and demand-side factors influencing the success of the EdTech ecosystem in Rwanda, and defines the term 'EdTech' in the Rwandan context.

> Read the **summary brief**

Phone survey on agricultural extension in Rwanda

IFPRI

Laterite led phone-based surveys of the capabilities, practices and needs of approximately 500 public and private extension agents in Rwanda (i.e., agronomists, crop advisors, livestock advisors, and other individuals who inform and promote good agricultural practices in the public, private, and non-profit sectors in Rwanda). The purpose of this work was to inform IFPRI's capacity needs assessment of Rwanda's Agricultural Extension under the Feed the Future: Developing Local Extension Capacity program. The results will be used to shed light on trends in extension activities and inform the Ministry of Agriculture's Customized Agriculture Extension System to support the work of extension agents.

An assessment of dropout and repetition in primary and secondary education in Rwanda

UNICEF Rwanda, Rwandan Ministry of Education (MINEDUC)

In coordination with the Ministry of Education and UNICEF Rwanda, Laterite completed a study to understand the processes of dropout and repetition in primary and secondary education in Rwanda. The study involved a nationally representative data collection effort - targeting over 3,600 households and almost 8,000 children - and interviews with about 450 local community leaders, 185 head teachers, and children, parents, and teachers. Innovations included: (i) a method to reconstruct the individual schooling trajectory for each child to understand dropout and repetition as a long term, dynamic process; (ii) Markov-chain modelling of the future dynamics of the education sector; and (iii) the use of machine learning methods to develop a predictive scorecard. This study led to new insights on the drivers of dropout and repetition in Rwanda and highlighted structural issues within the education sector. Laterite managed all stages of this study, including sampling, survey design, data collection, analysis, report writing, and the dissemination of findings to relevant stakeholders.

> Read the **policy brief**

Evaluation of an early childhood development intervention

Save the Children

The *Intera za Mbere* or First Steps program, implemented by Save the Children in Rwanda, aimed to improve parenting practices, child development outcomes, and emergent literacy promotion in homes through weekly group sessions. Laterite designed the evaluation as a cluster randomized controlled trial (RCT), with a sample size of 1,200 children and their care givers. Child development was assessed using the Malawi Developmental Assessment Tool (MDAT). Face-to-face interviews were conducted with 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 Observation for Measurement of the Environment (HOME) inventory. Laterite conducted the baseline survey in September 2019 and completed the endline survey in the September 2021.

> Read the **endline report**

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From data to policy