



# Laterite

CAPACITY STATEMENT

Data, research and analytics in East  
and West Africa

## About Laterite

Laterite is an African firm specialized in research for social impact. Founded in Kigali, Rwanda in 2010, our approach is structured, data intensive, and embedded in the local context.

Over the past ten years, we have completed 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.

**7**  
offices

**80+**  
full-time staff

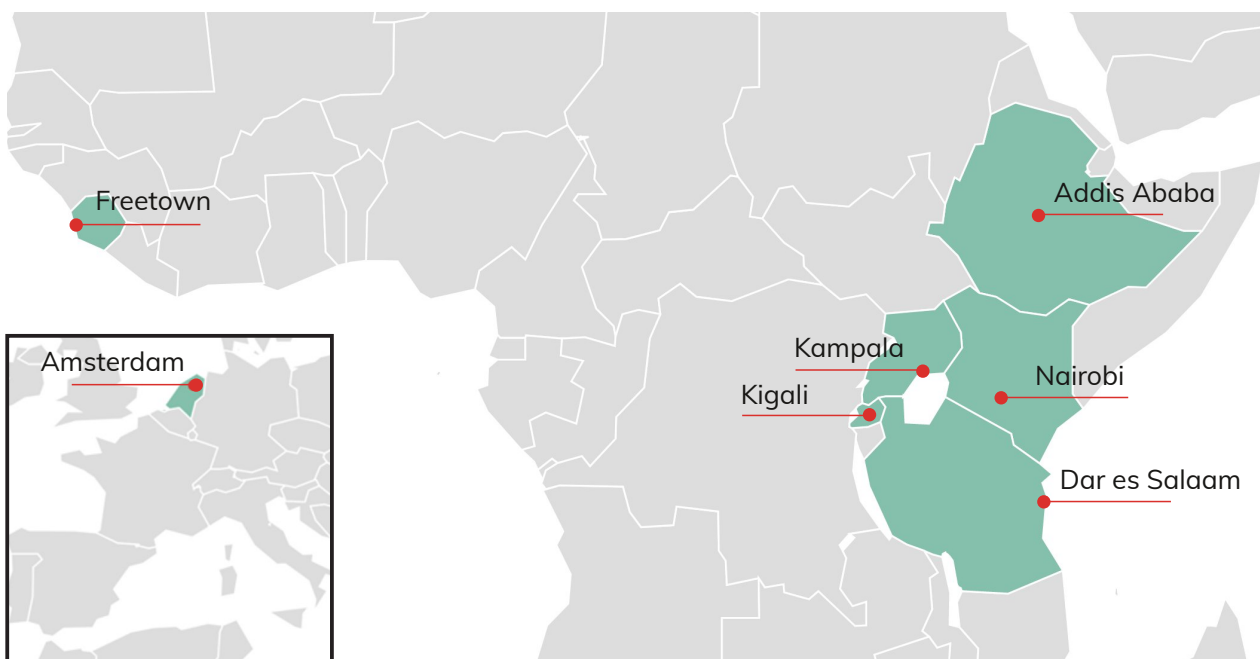
**2,000+**  
enumerators available

**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

## Examples of our work

### Learning partnership

#### **Embedded research advisory and decision-focused research in four countries 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. From our Nairobi office, 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 [IGNITE diagnostic case study](#)

### Learning partnership

#### **Independent research services for coffee agronomy training programs in East Africa**

##### **TechnoServe**

Laterite works within TechnoServe's Coffee East Africa program to maximize learning, improve the research function, and increase harmony between implementation and research. Services include helping clients design research strategies that directly feed into their operations, while meeting monitoring and reporting requirements; helping clients design research projects in a way that is rigorous, pertinent, and feasible within budget and operational constraints; training at all stages of the research cycle, from instrument and research design to data management and cleaning to analysis; and back-stopping and access to our network of expert researchers across East Africa. Together with TechnoServe, we test new approaches to ensure that research and data continue to inform operations.

> Read the [case study](#)





## Learning partnership

### 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 collected is being used to facilitate continuous improvement within the program.

> Read the [case study](#)

## Research study

### Study of dropout and repetition in Rwandan basic education

#### Rwandan Ministry of Education (MINEDUC) and UNICEF Rwanda

In coordination with MINEDUC and UNICEF, Laterite completed a nationally representative study to understand the processes of dropout and repetition in Rwandan primary and secondary education. The study involved a data collection effort targeting over 3,600 households and almost 8,000 children, plus interviews with 450 community leaders, 185 head teachers, as well as children, parents, and teachers. Laterite also developed a method to reconstruct the individual schooling trajectory for each child; Markov-chain modeling of the future dynamics of the education sector; and a predictive scorecard for students using machine learning. The study led to new insights on the drivers of dropout and repetition in Rwanda and highlighted structural issues within the education sector.

> Read the [policy brief](#)

## Impact evaluation

### Impact evaluation of a program on early childhood development in Rwanda

#### Save the Children

Intera za Mbere or First Steps is a program that aims to improve parenting practices, child development outcomes, and emergent literacy promotion in homes across Rwanda. Laterite designed and led an evaluation of the intervention through a cluster randomized controlled trial (RCT) in three districts: Gasabo, Ruhango and Kirehe. Laterite conducted developmental assessments with 1,184 children under the age of three using the Malawi Developmental Assessment Tool, as well as face-to-face interviews with 1,184 primary caregivers. This included 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 inventory. Laterite completed the endline survey in summer 2021.

> Read the [endline report](#)

## Data collection

### Data collection for an impact evaluation of a social security program on livelihoods and nutrition in Ethiopia

#### International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)

The Strengthen PSNP4 Institutions and Resilience (SPIR) Development Food Security Activity (DFSA) is a five-year project supporting implementation of the PSNP in Ethiopia. IFPRI is carrying out an RCT impact evaluation of the SPIR DFSA to compare the impact of different combinations of livelihood and nutrition components of the project on measures of household wellbeing, food security, child and maternal nutritional status and related outcomes. For the RCT, Laterite collected quantitative data across a sample of 4,000 households in the most remote areas of Oromia and Amhara at midline and endline, including anthropometric measurements of recent mothers and their infants. Laterite also carried out an additional household listing exercise across 180 kebeles. The survey includes socio-economic modules and sensitive modules related to intimate partner violence, maternal depression, and gender-based violence.

> Read the [case study](#)



Our enumerators traveling in rural Amhara to carry out in-person surveys for the IFPRI SPIR DFSA midline in 2019

### Phone survey

## High-frequency phone survey to understand the impact of COVID-19 on refugees in Uganda

The World Bank, UNHCR, the Uganda Bureau of Statistics

High-frequency phone survey with a panel of 2,100 refugee households over three months. The surveys identified the impacts of COVID-19 and related restrictions on the refugee population, and provided near real-time data to the Government of Uganda, the World Bank, UNHCR and partners, supporting an evidence-based response to the crisis. Laterite carried out all aspects of data collection, including monitoring and cleaning.

### Phone survey

## High-frequency phone survey to understand the impact of COVID-19 in Ethiopia

World Bank

Laterite carried out high-frequency phone monitoring surveys that tracked 3,300 rural and urban households over a one year period (12 rounds), 1,600 urban refugee households over a two month period (two rounds), and 800 firms over eight months (eight rounds) to gain insights into how the unfolding COVID-19 health and economic crisis is affecting families in Ethiopia. Laterite was responsible for the implementation of the survey, managing all aspects of remote data collection from enumerator recruitment and training; to data collection; to enumerator supervision, data quality monitoring, and data cleaning. The data from these surveys has been used in several key studies regarding the impact of the pandemic in Ethiopia.



### Innovation

## Developing a digital data ecosystem to manage data in the education sector

VVOB Rwanda

Laterite worked with VVOB to advise on and develop a digital data ecosystem to monitor and evaluate VVOB's professional development program for teachers in Rwanda. The ecosystem provides key stakeholders with up-to-date information about the implementation of the program and its effects. Laterite advised on the structure and content of M&E instruments for needs assessments to monitor progress against key performance indicators; coded the M&E instruments for digital data collection; developed scripts to automate data quality checks, cleaning and analysis; and developed an online dashboard using PowerBI to combine all content from the planning, monitoring and evaluation tools into a digitized system for visualizing, reporting and sharing results.

> Read the [case study](#)

# laterite

DATA | RESEARCH | ANALYTICS

**From data to policy**

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

**[www.laterite.com](http://www.laterite.com)**