Laterite Rwanda

Data, research and analytics

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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 100+ 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 85+ 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.
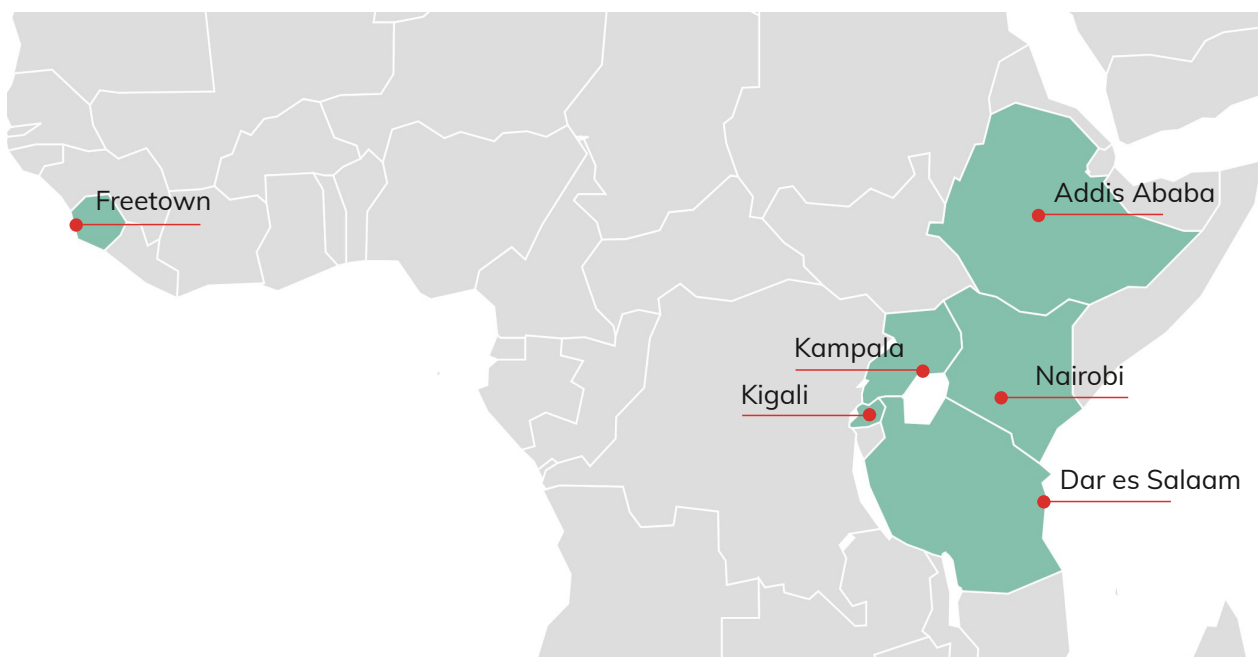
Want to know more?

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

Our offices in Africa

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 & analysis

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

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

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

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 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.

Laterite Rwanda at a glance

25
full-time staff

450+
enumerators

8,300+
interviews completed in 2023

530+
schools visited in 2023

3,900+
student assessments conducted in 2023

Some of our projects in Rwanda

Agriculture
> Randomized impact evaluation of the Rwanda tree program (**One Acre Fund**)
> M&E partner for regenerative agriculture project in Rwanda and Kenya (**SNV**)

Education
> Learning partner to develop e-training and certification course for lower primary teachers in Rwanda (**Right to Play**)
> Global education policy dashboard: data collection partner (**World Bank**)
> Study of the EdTech landscape in Rwanda (**Mastercard Foundation**)

Gender
> Phone survey on COVID-19 impacts on caregiving and family dynamics (**Promundo**)
> Gender and social inclusion assessment (**USAID / Rwanda Health Office**)

Livelihoods
> Future Drivers of Growth Policy Assessment in Rwanda (**World Bank**)
> Study on the economic geography of Rwanda (**IGC**)
> Study of school to work transitions in Rwanda, Ethiopia, Kenya and Senegal (**Mastercard Foundation**)

Public Health
> Qualitative research on beliefs regarding vaccinating children against COVID-19 (**Johns Hopkins Center for Communications Programs**)
> Evaluation of *Intera za Mbere* (First Steps) parenting program (**Save the Children**)
> Evaluation of health and poverty effects of a clean cookstove initiative: data collection partner (**University of North Carolina**)

Leaders in Teaching learning partnership in Rwanda

Mastercard Foundation

Laterite 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. Through teacher training and mentorship programs, Leaders in Teaching supported Rwandan secondary school teachers to deliver high-quality, relevant education, with a focus on STEM. As Learning Partners, Laterite and the REAL Centre were responsible for assessing evidence of improved teaching and learning within the initiative through a large-scale mixed-methods research program in 355 Rwandan secondary schools over 5 years. Laterite also worked closely with implementing partners to strengthen their capacities to collect and use high-quality data for adaptive management and program design.

> Read the **library of publications**

Intersectional gender analysis of basic education in Rwanda

World Bank

Laterite conducted an in-depth analysis of the role gender and other inter-sectional factors play in basic education achievements in Rwanda. This study included a desk review of existing evidence on the role gender plays in educational achievement of primary age children in Rwanda, looking at school-, classroom- and community-level aspects. Based on the identified evidence gaps, Laterite designed questionnaires structured around three themes (structural factors, health & safety, and gender norms) and collected quantitative and qualitative primary data from a nationally representative sample of 658 students, 661 parents, 300 teachers and 150 school leaders. Laterite also conducted audits in 150 schools to assess the quality of WASH facilities. The team conducted descriptive and inferential survey data analysis, and validated the findings - and formulated policy recommendations - with stakeholders.

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, uses home visiting and coaching to encourage responsive parent-child interactions and discourage violence against children. Laterite collected data from primary caregivers, their intimate partners, and 6-36 month old children in 1,040 households. In addition to structured interviews and anthropometrics, Laterite also carried out observational assessments of child development using the Ages and Stages Questionnaire and the Malawi Developmental Assessment Tool (MDAT). Laterite also supported the evaluation of the intervention's expansion in Rwanda.

Impact evaluation of Advancing Citizen Engagement (ACE)

Spark Microgrants

Laterite is leading a quasi-experimental evaluation of ACE - a pilot community-driven development program that was rolled out in 249 villages in the Northern Province of Rwanda. In a first phase of the evaluation, Laterite used propensity score matching and geospatial data to select 48 pairs of control villages and treatment villages. The quantitative midline took place in 2023, and included focus group discussions, semi-structured interviews, and observations of village meetings. The endline consisted of a qualitative tracer study with semi-structured interviews and a quantitative component with house-hold surveys in 96 villages.

> Read the **blog post** on matching treatment and control groups using geospatial data

Drivers of dropout and repetition in Rwandan basic education

UNICEF Rwanda, Rwandan Ministry of Education

Laterite led a study to understand the processes and drivers of dropout and repetition in primary and secondary education in Rwanda. The study involved nationally representative data collection with 3,600 households and 8,000 children, as well as interviews with 450 local community leaders, 185 head teachers, and parents and teachers. Laterite developed a method to reconstruct the schooling trajectory of each child to understand dropout and repetition as a dynamic process; modeled the future dynamics of the education sector using Markov-chains; and used machine learning to develop a predictive scorecard. This unique study resulted highlighted structural issues within the sector.

> Read the **policy brief**

Impact assessment of the Nasho irrigation project

Howard G. Buffet Foundation

In 2016, the Nasho irrigation project established irrigation infrastructure to support small-scale farmers in drought-prone areas of Kirehe District. Laterite designed and led a mixed-methods evaluation to assess the impact of the project on yields, agricultural and marketing practices, and financial sustainability. The study used a geo-graphic regression discontinuity design, consisting of surveys with farmers of 609 plots within the center irrigation pivots, and 609 outside the pivots. This was complemented with semi-structured interviews of project stakeholders.

Data collection: baseline survey of project to reduce stunting

World Bank

Laterite led nationally representative data collection for the baseline assessment of the Stunting Prevention and Reduction project, set up by the World Bank and the Rwanda Biomedical Centre to address malnutrition and stunting in young children. Laterite collected anthropometric data from children under five and their biological mothers in 11,250 households and interviewed the primary caregivers from each household and the 1,600 community health workers who served them. This included an assessment of child development using the Caregiver Reported Early Childhood Development Index. Laterite designed the sampling strategy, adapted survey instruments to the Rwandan context, led a listing exercise, managed a field team of over 100 enumerators, and led data quality assurance, cleaning and reporting.

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From data to policy