

Development Impact Bonds in Rajasthan for Improvement of Learning Outcomes and Mainstreaming of ‘Out of School’ girls

Summary:

The case study is the first instance of usage of Development Impact Bonds in India for improvement of Learning Outcomes at scale in 166 schools in 140 villages impacting 7,300 girls in Rajasthan during the first phase for the three-year project.

Objectives and Rationale:

Project called for enrolment of 662 ‘Out of School’ Girls as well as an increase in Learning Outcome in Literacy and Numeracy for all children in Grades 3 to 5 during three year period

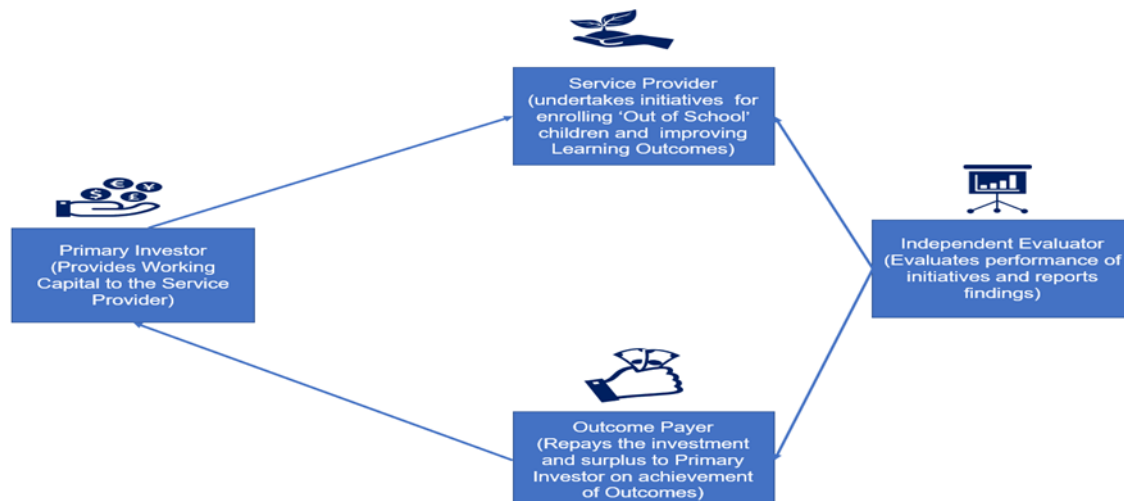
Key Stakeholders:

The key stakeholders involved were as follows:

1. Primary Investor: UBS Optimus Foundation
2. Service Provider: Educate Girls
3. Independent Evaluator: ID Insights
4. Outcome Payer: Children’s Investment Fund Foundation
5. Other Stakeholders: Government of Rajasthan (MoU signed for undertaking initiative) and Instiglio (for Design and performance Management)

Implementation Strategy:

The implementation strategy is as described below



Resource Utilization:

The overall value of the Development Impact Bond was USD 270,000, which was Educate Girls’ project budget. The learning outcome measurement was based on ASER test undertaken on the target students during baseline and end line. Village based volunteers undertook door to door surveys to help identify as well as mainstream ‘Out of School’ girls through community-based initiatives. Activity based remedial teaching with micro level monitoring and interventions to improve the learning outcomes were undertaken.

Impact:

The programme helped mainstream 768 'Out of School' girls against the target of 662. Learning Outcome of target group grew by 79% more than that of children in other schools

Key Challenges and Lessons Learnt:

The greatest challenges encountered were in helping change community misconceptions about the effects of girl child education. The project team also reported instances of absenteeism and dropouts which had to be addressed after the mainstreaming of the girls.

Replicability and Sustainability:

The programme has been scaled up to cover over 13,000 villages in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, reaching more than one million children. Participation of an independent evaluation agency also helped ensure accountability of the programme.