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# Application to Policy & Practice

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# Outline

1. Overview of pre primary delivery in Tanzania.
2. MELQO in Tanzania
3. MELQO use for Sector Policy/Plan
4. MELQO use for new Curricula/Training.
5. Challenges & Next Steps.

# Overview of the pre primary system in Tanzania

- ▶ Basic education is decentralized
- ▶ Ministry of Education Science and Technology is responsible for policy formulation and regulation, quality assurance and curriculum, teachers training, examination and assessment and setting of standards, planning, monitoring and evaluation.

# .....Overview of the pre primary system in Tanzania

- ▶ PORALG is responsible for administration of basic education which include pre primary, secondary, adult and non formal, special needs

# MELQO in Tanzania-what have been done

- ▶ Tanzania joined MELQO initiative and Launched MELQO in Tanzania in July 2015
- ▶ October-November 2015 Interviews and group discussion conducted with national key stakeholders to share their opinions for the need to measure early learning at national level (global comparability, need national assessment data like primary ed, define quality pre primary ed etc
- ▶ Translated the instruments in Swahili language and adapted and field tested

# MELQO in Tanzania-what have been done

- ▶ The report of the pilot study will inform the planned 2016 study design
- ▶ Tanzania is planning to conduct national assessment this year by using the MELQO adapted tools

# MELQO use for Sector Policy & Plan

## Overview of ETP 2014

- ▶ Education and Training Policy (ETP) 2014 calls for 1 year pre-primary education for pupil aged 3-5 years.
- ▶ 1,015,030 of children are enrolled in Government pre-primary classes while 54,793 are enrolled in non- government pre- primary classes (Tanzania's Basic Education Statistics, 2015).
- ▶ MELQO data will be used for planning and ETP implementation in for example, curriculum and development of teaching and learning materials like what has been done after 3Rs assessment-EGRA,EGMA &SSME

# MELQO use for Curriculum and Training

## National-level MELQO Data will:

- ▶ Inform implementation of the new curriculum which have **Six learning areas**:
  - ✓ Personal, social and emotional development;
  - ✓ Communication, language and literacy development;
  - ✓ Expressive and creative development;
  - ✓ Mathematical and logical thinking;
  - ✓ Health and physical development;
  - ✓ Body and environment.



# .....MELQO use for Curriculum and Training

- Identifying Pre 3Rs and competences for pre primary teachers and students.

- **Training**

Development of pre-primary teachers in service and pre - service training, orient educational officials at regional, district and national level basing on the curriculum content.

# Challenges

## Challenges for Informing Policy Dialogue and Influencing Practice

- ▶ Quality pre-primary is getting more attention but it still have some challenges including inadequate teaching and learning materials,
- ▶ No national assessment of pre primary pupils which have been done-National assessment conducted for STD II
- ▶ Poor teaching and learning environment-ETP stipulate that in every primary school there should be pre-primary classes of good quality but in practice most of public schools have poor no pre primary classes,
- ▶ some parents and guardians are not sensitized enough to enroll their children in pre- primary classes.

# .....Challenges

- ▶ Practice of data to inform quality improvements not well established-eg school inspection reports/data/ recommendations are not taken on board
- ▶ Most of public pre primary teachers are unqualified-in 2014 Tanzania introduced ordinary diploma course for early childhood education in 19 TTC

# Next Step

- ▶ Conduct national MELQO study this year.
- ▶ Disseminate findings and discuss implications for policy/practice.
- ▶ Dissemination as advocacy opportunity to build investment in pre-primary.
- ▶ Ensure pre-primary education is given priority by provision of the required resources eg capitation grant which initially did not include pre primary pupils
- ▶ Develop culture and effective feedback mechanisms use data (school- to national-level) to inform policy & practice.
- ▶ Strengthen M&E, research and capacity building on assessment



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# Thank you for your attention!