

Ghana – Evidence and Innovation Driving Foundational Learning Nationwide

In Ghana, three million children are on a stronger path to succeed in school and beyond thanks to a combination of nationwide reform and targeted support from the Foundational Learning Compact (FLC).

The Ghana Accountability for Learning Outcomes Project (GALOP), supported by the World Bank, is transforming basic education by scaling foundational learning interventions to every public kindergarten and primary school. Additional Financing 2 will expand its reach to an additional 6,000 schools, building on the 10,000 already benefiting from earlier investments.

The FLC grant has played a catalytic role in this transformation. Its three programs — Accelerator, Implementation Science, and ALMA — are embedded in GALOP and work together in a mutually reinforcing way. By operating in the same country at the same time, they create a multiplier effect: evidence generated by one program informs the design and implementation of another, and capacity building in one area supports progress across the others. This integrated approach ensures that reforms are informed by real-time learning, aligned with policy priorities, and scaled with confidence.

Generating the Evidence to Scale What Works

Through the Implementation Science program, Ghana is piloting and rigorously evaluating Differentiated Learning and Coaching and Mentoring across 150 schools. Baseline data collected in mid-2025 is already influencing the design of national training programs, with a full-scale rollout planned for August 2025. This means the country will scale strategies that are tested and proven in its own classrooms.

Improving Teaching and Learning at the Core

The Accelerator program is reviewing Ghana's literacy and numeracy curriculum and assessing the effectiveness of its teacher in-service training model. These reviews feed directly into policy dialogue, ensuring that curriculum updates and teacher development programs are grounded in evidence and designed to strengthen early-grade reading and mathematics outcomes.

Strengthening National Assessment Systems for Global Benchmarking

With support from the ALMA program, Ghana is overhauling its national assessment system to

meet UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) standards for SDG 4 reporting. By aligning the National Standardized Test with global benchmarks, Ghana will be able to measure progress more accurately and compare results internationally, helping to drive accountability and guide decision-making.

Results That Matter

Already, schools participating in GALOP have seen teaching practices meeting inspection standards rise from 3 percent in 2020 to 19 percent in 2024, and mathematics proficiency improve from 48 percent in 2022 to 53 percent in 2024. With the FLC's combined and coordinated support, these gains are expected to accelerate.

A Model for Convergence and Impact

Ghana's experience shows how aligning multiple targeted programs within a large-scale reform can amplify impact. The presence of Accelerator, Implementation Science, and ALMA in the same country has created a virtuous cycle where evidence, capacity, and systems improvement reinforce each other. This multiplier effect is helping Ghana build a stronger, more equitable education system that equips every child with the foundational skills needed to thrive.

"The FLC is not just an add-on. It is the engine that helps us sharpen our interventions and ensure they deliver results at scale," says a senior official from the Ministry of Education.

With political will, technical expertise, and integrated support from the FLC, Ghana is showing that foundational learning for all is within reach.