

Impact Opportunities 1: Inputs or Accountability? How to improve the supply of education services?

School grants in Africa

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Dakar, Senegal
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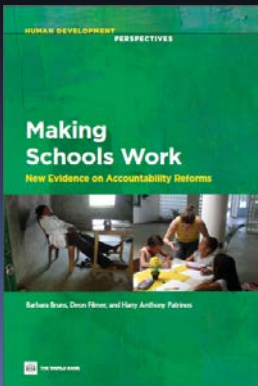
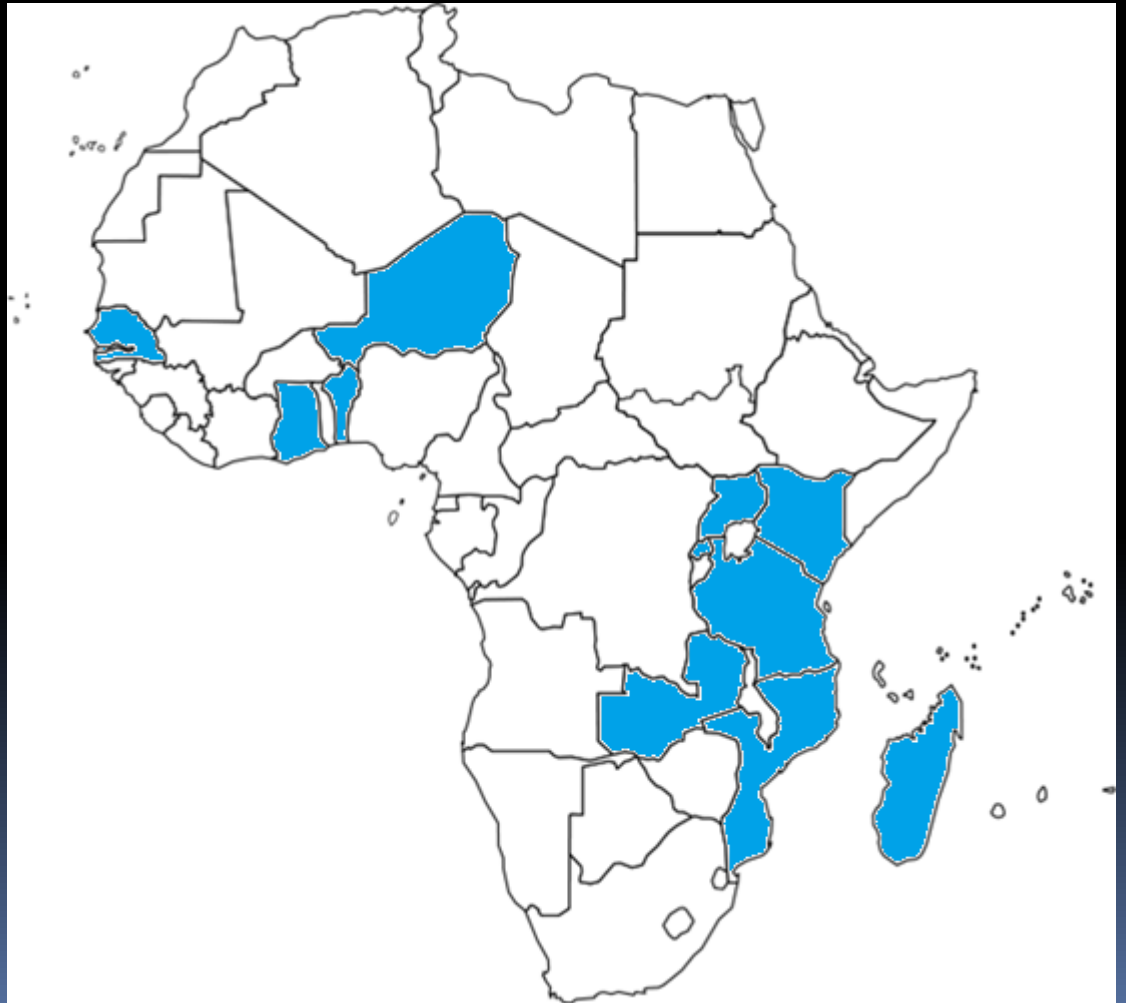
Why school grants?

Who will best decide what this school needs?



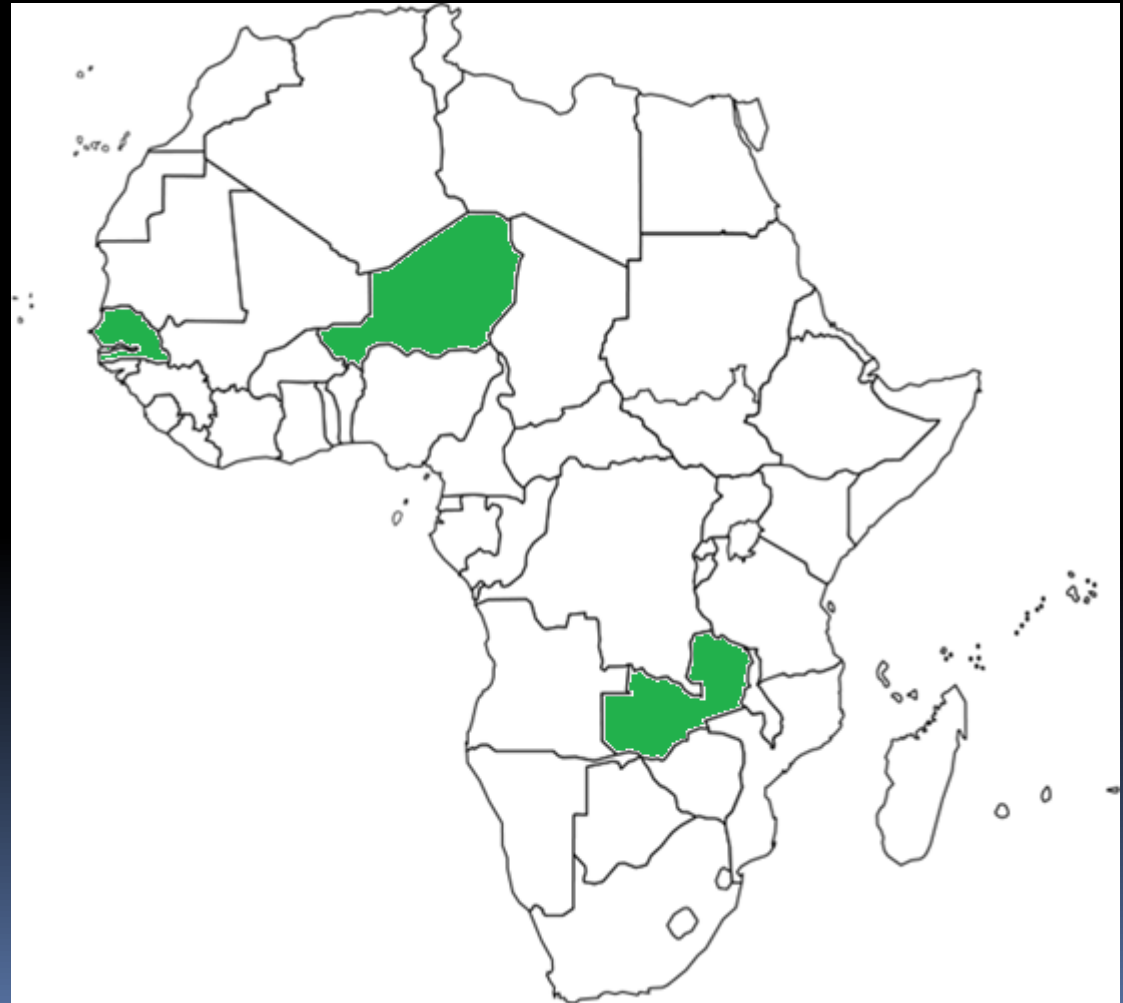
Where school grants?

Here is the experience



Where school grants?

Here is the evidence



The Gambia School grants + Management Training



273 schools

School Grant



School Grant + Management Training




Comparison

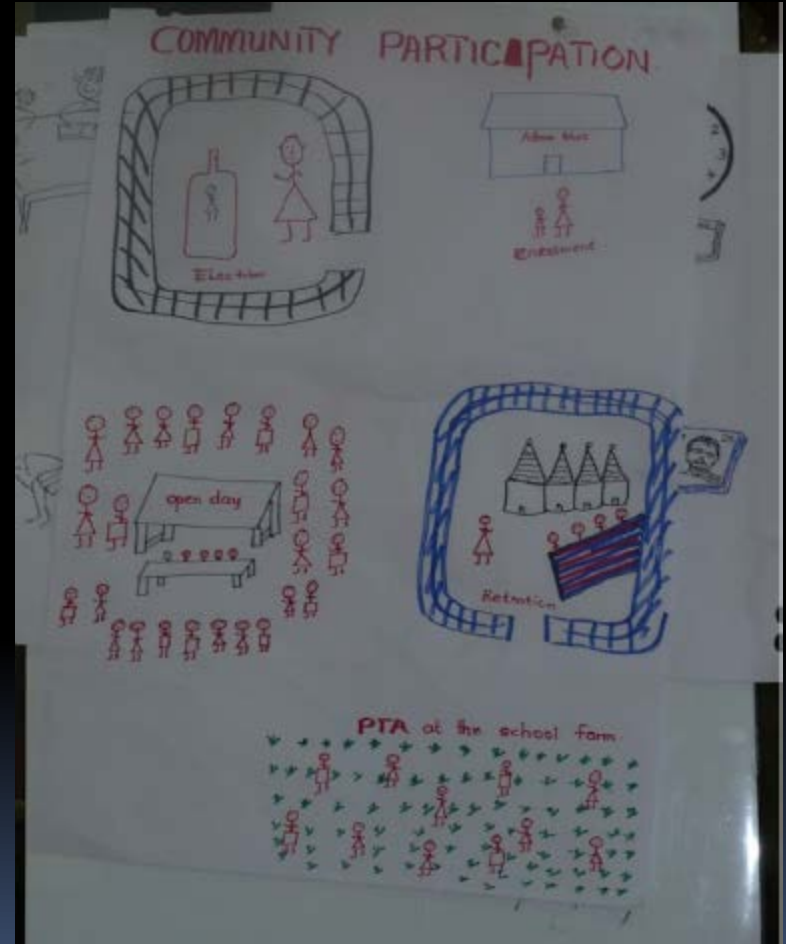




The Gambia: The Program

- 1 time grant
 - About US\$500
(1-1.5 years teacher salary)
 - Intended for activities in School Development Plan
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Second set of schools: Grant + Training



Impact of grant + training

- Reduction in teacher absenteeism
- Reduction in student absenteeism



- Better tests ONLY
in areas with
higher adult literacy




Impact of grant alone: Zero

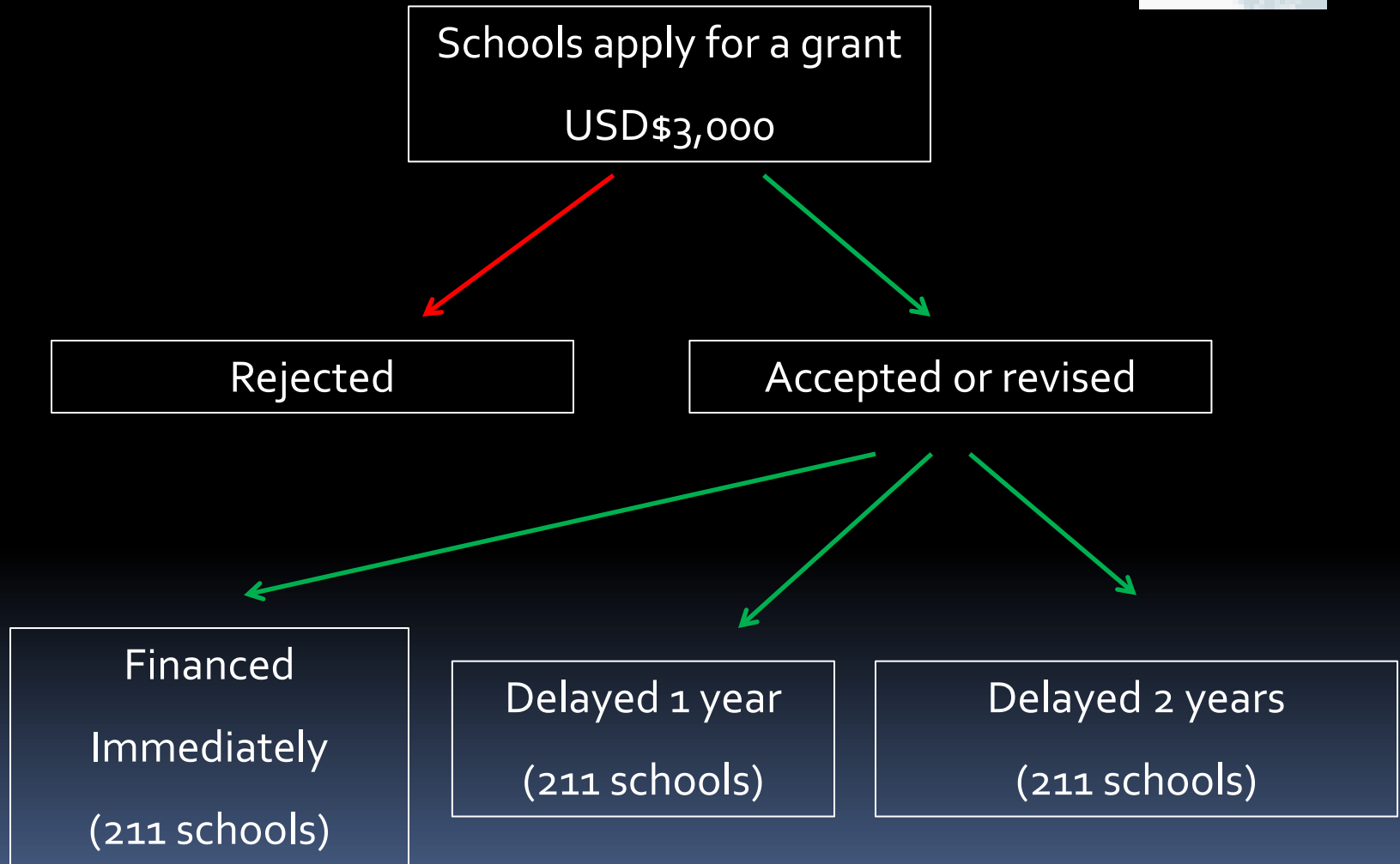
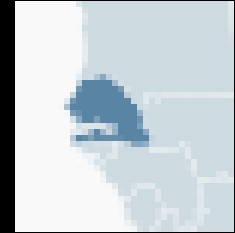
- Teacher attendance
- Teacher activities
- Student attendance
- Student test performance



Bottom line

- School grants alone didn't improve learning
 - Grants with training only worked to improve student outcomes in the most literate communities
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Senegal



Winners and .. non-winners

- Significant & persistent improvement in math and reading
 - For younger students in the South
- No measured impact
 - For students in the North
 - For older students

How did schools plan to use the grant?

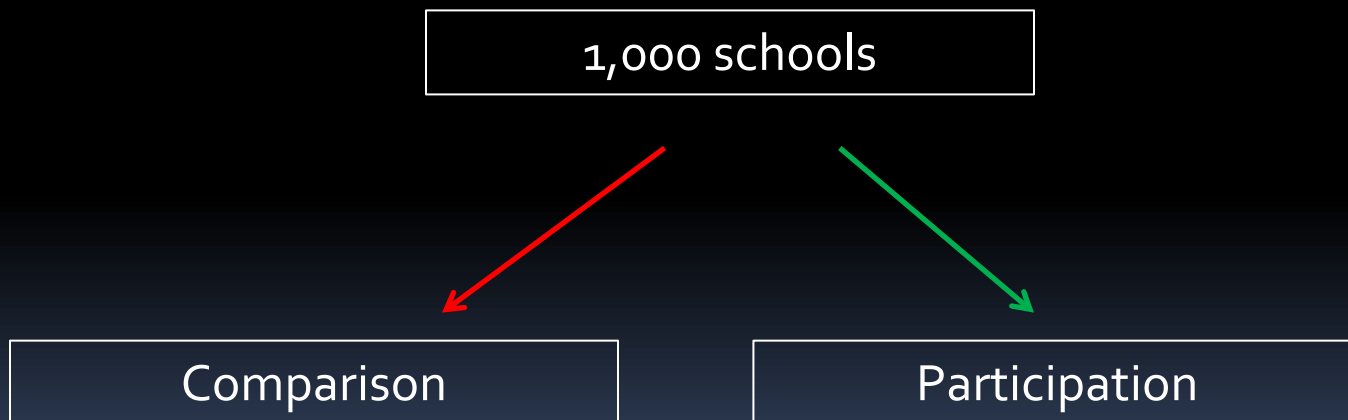


- Northern: More on books
- Southern: More on
 - Teacher training
 - Remedial education
 - School management training

Niger



One time grant of US\$209 per school



Impacts in Niger

Yes

- Infrastructure
- Parent supervision
 - with literate parents
- Higher enrollment for youngest children

No

- Negative impact on teacher attendance

Zambia – 2 types of grants

Predictable

- Households adjusted inputs
- No impact on test scores


Unpredictable

- Positive test score impact




Lesson 1: Grants may not be the best bet for learning

- No average improvements in Africa
 - China, India, Indonesia
 - No significant positive impacts on test scores
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Lesson 2: Grants have *sometimes* improved school outputs and outcomes

- The Gambia: teacher & student attendance
 - Senegal: test scores (for some)
 - Niger: infrastructure
 - Zambia: test scores (sometimes)
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Lesson 3: Local Capacity is Key

In the Gambia & Niger, local literacy and training were important.





Lesson 4: Give guidance

In Senegal, how the grant was spent seemed to matter.

In the Gambia, the training may have helped schools spend the grant better.

Lesson 5: Learn more!

- What about repeated grants?
- What is the optimal amount?
- If you are going to give school grants, test whether they work!



Thank you!



What was the biggest item you used the grant for?

