

Insights for Education Annual Report

JULY 2020 – JUNE 2021



FOREWORD

As we look back on the second year of Insights for Education, we are filled with optimism and eager for the journey ahead. Despite the unprecedented challenges the COVID-19 pandemic has brought, we have solidified the key building blocks of our foundation and made progress on our pioneering projects.

We have forged strong partnerships with critical individuals and groups; partnerships that have fuelled our first steps. With our partners, we:

... crafted a White Paper “Calling for an Education Knowledge Bridge”, which stands as our manifesto to reshape education and enable better decision making and implementation by more systematically consolidating, synthesising, and applying evidence, and by strengthening links across research, policy and practice,

...conducted a successful live experiment with our COVID-19 & Schools Guidance. Applying a user-centred approach to testing and learning, we developed a set of interactive resources to support decision-makers in real time with evidence-based guidance in shifting circumstances.

... further laid the groundwork for our first country programme in Kenya to strengthen capacities and capabilities for embedding evidence more deeply in policies and practices, working closely with the Ministry of Education and civil society leaders, with the establishment of our first in-country team, and a close support of our counterparts throughout the pandemic,

...designed the fundamentals for our first global evidence syntheses to begin in late 2021/early 2022 around Accelerated Learning,

At the heart of all this is a visionary Co-Investor Collective and a growing team of talents who share a determination to do “business unusual” and lead these efforts over the coming years.

As we look to the journey ahead, we will build on and deepen this work and strengthen our partnerships and networks.

We are deeply grateful to all those who offer their trust and support and join us in taking these first steps towards advancing evidence, for every learner, together.



Dr Randa Grob-Zakhary, Chief Executive Officer and Founder

ANNUAL REPORT JULY 2020 – JUNE 2021



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FOUNDATION OVERVIEW



THE CHALLENGE:

EDUCATION EMPOWERS PEOPLE AND SOCIETIES, BUT...

260 MILLION

children are not in school

Education reforms are **NOT SCALING UP**

A wealth of evidence and experience is **NOT BEING USED** by policymakers and practitioners

6 IN 10

are not achieving basic proficiency

The world is not on track to achieve **SDG 4***

COVID-19 is causing **LEARNING LOSS** and further widens **LEARNING DISPARITIES**

* United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 4: "Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all"

ABOUT INSIGHTS FOR EDUCATION

Independent, non-profit foundation established in 2019 to advance evidence and improve education for every child

Team of diverse experienced education professionals with education at our heart

We create global public goods and work at country-level with education leaders

Registered in Switzerland; investors and partners in Africa, Asia, Middle East, Europe, North America

Supported by an early-stage co-investor collective and growing partnerships across governments, agencies, NGOs, universities, businesses and foundations



OUR VISION

A world where the best evidence
guides education leaders
to improve education for every learner.

OUR MISSION

We build resources for education leaders to reach each learner,
by synthesising and translating an inclusive range of evidence.
We enable these resources to be used by those who make education happen,
by building bridges across knowledge actors, policymakers and practitioners.

OUR VALUES

Independence

Transparency

Inclusion

Collaboration

Impact



**WE AIM TO BE A
BENEVOLENT
DISRUPTOR AND
AN EAGER
BRIDGE-BUILDER
ACROSS THE
EDUCATION
ECOSYSTEM**

OUR CORE PRINCIPLES

-  Maximise use of existing evidence, rather than create new evidence
-  Focus on concerns of decision-makers across government and society
-  Combine evidence with practical experience and purposeful coalitions among current networks
-  Broaden the range of evidence used: translate global evidence into local contexts and elevate local evidence/experiences
-  Enable implementation of evidence into sector plans, policies and practices that address barriers to learning
-  Build on successful transformation from the health sector

**WE ARE
EAGER TO
MAKE A
UNIQUE
CONTRIBUTION
TO ACCELERATE
PROGRESS
IN EDUCATION**

ADDING VALUE TO EXISTING INITIATIVES

RIGHT TIME, PLACE & CHANNEL

Tailored engagement and communications to facilitate transfer of evidence into policies and practices.

RIGHT PEOPLE

Purposeful matching of individuals and groups around specific needs, goal-oriented convening of policy and practice leaders.

RIGHT CONTENT

User-centered, action-oriented, context-specific, inclusive of wide range of sources and languages.

OUR GOALS



GREATER USE OF EVIDENCE FROM WIDE RANGE OF COMMUNITY FRONTLINE EXPERIENCES IN EDUCATION



STRONGER CAPACITY, CULTURE, SUPPORT & NETWORKS FOR EVIDENCE-LED POLICY AND PRACTICE WORK FOR BETTER USE OF SCARCE RESOURCES



POLICY AND PRACTICE IMPROVEMENTS FOR LONG-STANDING PROBLEMS

QUALITY

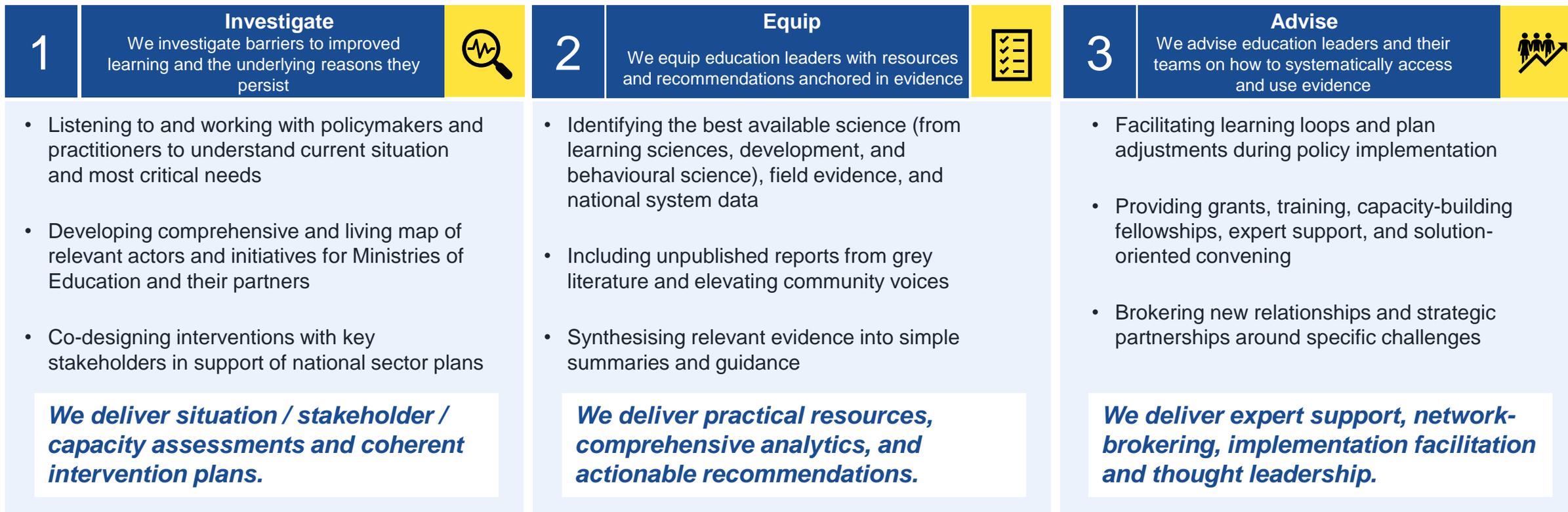
IMPROVED LEARNING OUTCOMES (SDG 4.1, 4.2)

EQUITY

REACHING ALL LEARNERS, ESPECIALLY THE MOST MARGINALISED (SDG 4.5)

HOW WE ADD VALUE

We seek to enable and ease the use of evidence to improve education, for every learner.



We differ from existing initiatives by focusing on the USE, and not the creation of evidence.



KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

MILESTONES JULY 2019 – JUNE 2020

Legal Establishment & Board of Directors

Evolved from a concept into a start-up, legally established on 17 July 2019 and established a Board of Directors with first members.

Co-Investor Collective

Mobilised a visionary group of co-investors who share a determination to achieve “business unusual” so that education decisions better reflect the best available evidence to unlock opportunity and unleash talent everywhere.

Education Knowledge Landscape

Conducted a comprehensive due diligence of the education knowledge landscape, based on interviews with 80 education sector leaders, a review of 45 organisations, 80 major reports and 8 collaborative initiatives in education.

LEARRN KENYA

Selected Kenya as first country implementing partner, conducted a situation analysis and laid the ground for the development of LEARRN KENYA, a programme designed in close collaboration with leaders from the Ministry of Education and civil society.

Global Results Framework

Created a Global Results Framework forming a scaffold for concrete and measurable programme objectives, inspired by analogous efforts from the health sector.

COVID-19 & Schools Reopening

Developed COVID-19 Back to School Tracking and Syntheses. Prompted by the meeting of opportunity and need, we rapidly developed tools for supporting decision-makers in considering how best to plan reopening under shifting circumstances.

MILESTONES JULY 2020 – JUNE 2021

Team & Board Development

Key leadership roles recruited and Board of Directors and Advisors expanded. Certified as equivalent to a U.S. public charity through NGO Source's equivalence determination process.

Network of Collaborators

Worked with collaborators based in the USA, Ireland, Portugal, UK, Italy, Somaliland, and Switzerland.

Partnerships

Strengthened existing initial partnerships with founding investors. Inaugurated strong partnerships with critical individuals and groups to fuel our first stage of growth.

COVID-19 & Schools Guidance

Developed an additional set of COVID-19 & School interactive tracking tools to support leaders across governments and society, published regular reports, and featured in prominent mainstream media.

LEARN KENYA

Designed a first programme in Kenya to strengthen capacities for embedding evidence more deeply in policies and practices, in close collaboration with leaders from the Ministry of Education and civil society.

White Paper

Crafted our "White Paper: Calling for an Education Knowledge Bridge", through further analysis of the COVID-implications and through a deep dialogue with 80 leading actors - to be released in Fall 2021.



The next pages provide more detail on these three milestones

COVID-19 & SCHOOLS GUIDANCE

PURPOSE

Prompted by requests from global education leaders in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis, we have developed a set of COVID-19 & School interactive tracking tools - [Country Tracker](#), [Regional Explorer](#), and [Data Story](#) - to support leaders across governments and society. To complement these tools, we have published regular [analyses](#). All these resources are freely available on [education.org](#).

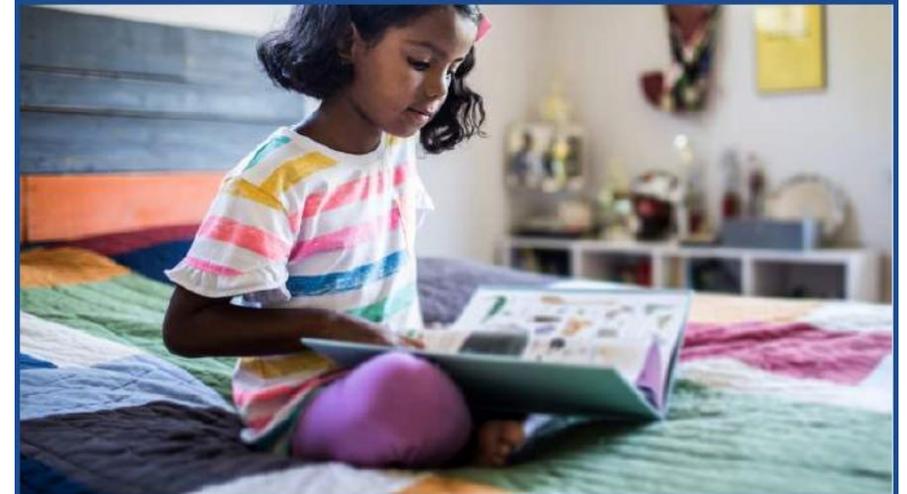
IMPACT

- ✓ **Evidence sharing:** Challenging assumptions, establishing findings and offering resources to help inform policy with real-time evidence:
 - ❑ Key finding #1: “There are distinct policy choices supporting successful school reopening” (Aug 2020)
 - ❑ Key finding #2: “There is no link between school status & infection levels” (Oct 2020)
 - ❑ Key finding #3: “There is no link between length of school closures & COVID-19 deaths” (Jan 2021)
- ✓ **Policy guidance:** Supporting country reopening teams & education leaders across the globe in unprecedented crisis
- ✓ **Thought-leadership:** Helping shift the global public debate from “Can we reopen?” to “How can we safely reopen and stay open?”

We will continue to adapt this initiative over the coming year, with a planned synthesis effort of the best available evidence around Accelerated and Catch-up Learning to guide the development of post-pandemic Learning Recovery policies and practices.



COVID-19 and Schools: What We Can Learn from Six Months of Closures and Reopening



October 1, 2020



COVID-19 & SCHOOLS GUIDANCE

GLOBAL TRACKING TOOLS

User-centred, comprehensive, live, interactive tools

COUNTRY TRACKER

REGIONAL EXPLORER

Found: 186 countries

| Region | Number of countries |
|---------------|---------------------|
| North America | 23 |
| South America | 12 |
| Europe | 45 |
| Asia | 38 |
| Africa | 25 |
| Oceania | 10 |
| Other | 13 |

Data Story of COVID-19 & Schools

Updated daily

More than 30,000 visitors in 115 countries

ANALYSES & POLICY GUIDANCE

Evidence-based, unbiased, equity-focused, timely insights

Reopening Schools:

Facts & insights from synthesising country experiences

MAY 23, 2020

COVID-19 and Schools:

What We Can Learn from Six Months of Closures and Reopening

October 1, 2020

ONE YEAR OF SCHOOL DISRUPTION

27 January 2021

BLOG & OPINION PIECES

Forward-looking and evidence-based pieces

25 November 2020

School closures are the exception, not the rule

CONVENING

Engagement in action-oriented and inclusive dialogue

Featured in



LEARRN KENYA

Leading with Evidence to Achieve Real Reform Now (LEARRN) is a three-year programme designed by Insights for Education and Kenya's Ministry of Education, with input from civil society leaders, to strengthen access and improve outcomes for Kenyan learners in basic education by strengthening and embedding evidence use in policy and implementation.

The programme seeks to ensure that the most relevant national and global research and data are inclusive, accessible and actionable, and can be put to the best use possible to support Kenya in reaching its objectives in improving access and quality for all learners, especially the most marginalised.

During the programme design phase, Insights for Education worked to better align the programme activities with the increased educational challenges of the pandemic, while providing the Ministry with evidence-based resources and support for COVID's reopening decisions.

With the hiring of our first Nairobi-based Programme Director, LEARRN will further accelerate in 2021/2022.



WHITE PAPER

The gap between what we know ... and what we do in education lies at the heart of a global learning crisis.

The learning crisis demands dramatic system improvement urgently. Despite huge progress and many important initiatives, the communities of research, policy and practice are often independent islands of activity making worthy, but uncoordinated attempts to bridge the gaps.

This White Paper, created for anyone interested in improving education outcomes, responds to discussions with policymakers, practitioners and researchers. It reflects interviews with 80 education sector leaders, analysis of more than 45 organisations and a review of 80 major reports and 8 collaborative initiatives in education. It highlights that it is not the lack of new research that is the greatest obstacle to progress, but the failure to use what we already know.

The result is a call for collective action across education actors to span the knowing-doing gap by building an “Education Knowledge Bridge”.

This White Paper is scheduled for publication in the Fall of 2021.

Calling for an Education Knowledge Bridge

A White Paper to Advance Evidence
Use in Education





FINANCIAL REPORT

OVERVIEW OF EXPENSES

YEAR OF TRANSITION & GROWTH

Insights for Education doubled its project activities in 2021, fueled by strong investor support and a significant increase in grants received.

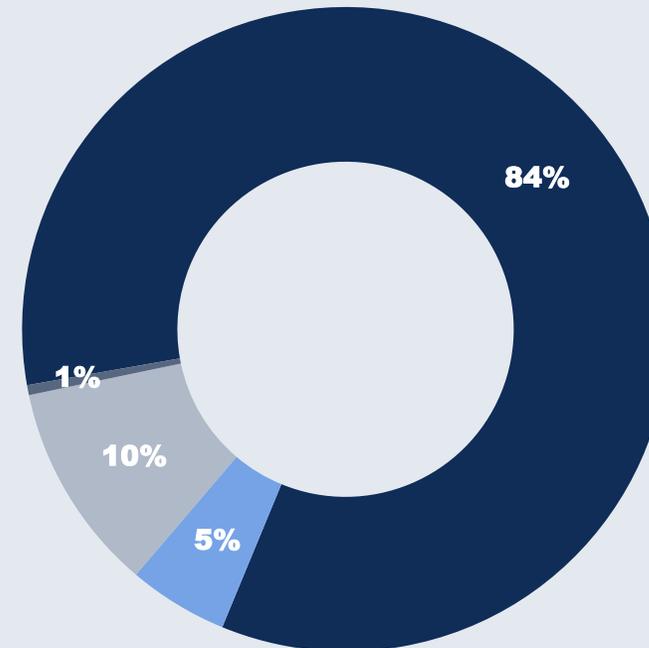
Project costs most heavily reflected analysis and synthesis of national school system reopening experiences in 190 countries and the initial phase of the LEARRN Kenya programme.

Administration Costs: 11%

- General organisational support
- Currency loss
- One-off start-up costs

Project Costs: 89%

- COVID-19 Education Analysis & Guidance
- LEARRN Kenya Initiation



■ Project Expenses - Specific

■ Project Expenses - Shared

■ Administrative Expenses - General

■ Administrative Expenses - Shared

100% = CHF 1,213,099 FY 20-21
(vs. CHF 556,420 FY 19-20)

BALANCE SHEET

As of 30 June 2021 (in CHF)

| ASSETS | FY 19-20 | FY 20-21 |
|---|----------------|------------------|
| Cash and cash equivalents | 852'104 | 1'205'374 |
| Trade receivables | 1'272 | 0 |
| Accrued income and prepaid expenses | 6'319 | 6'395 |
| TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS | 859'695 | 1'211'769 |
| Furniture, installations | 7'500 | 6'800 |
| IT, communications technology | 2'200 | 2'000 |
| TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS | 9'700 | 8'800 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | 869'395 | 1'220'569 |
| LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY | | |
| Trade creditors | 74'652 | 24'396 |
| Deferred income and accrued expenses | 194'756 | 293'720 |
| TOTAL SHORT-TERM LIABILITIES | 269'408 | 318'116 |
| EARMARKED FUND CAPITAL | 97'594 | 29'140 |
| Available earnings | - | 452'393 |
| Foundation Capital | 50'000 | 50'000 |
| Annual result | 452'393 | 370'920 |
| TOTAL FOUNDATION CAPITAL | 502'393 | 873'314 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES, EARMARKED FUND CAPITAL AND FOUNDATION CAPITAL | 869'395 | 1'220'569 |

INCOME STATEMENT

01 July 2020 to 30 June 2021 (in CHF)

| OPERATING INCOME | FY 19-20 | FY 20-21 |
|---|----------------|------------------|
| Received Grants | 1'008'813 | 1'584'019 |
| PROJECT EXPENSES | | |
| Project-Related Salaries and Benefits | 280'247 | 514'087 |
| Contracted Services | 147'607 | 483'457 |
| Travel, Conferences and Meetings | 38'319 | 68 |
| Project-Related Grants | - | 28'727 |
| Project Shared Costs | N/A | 57'988 |
| TOTAL PROJECT EXPENSES | 466'173 | 1'084'326 |
| ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES | | |
| General Administration Staff Costs | 23'711 | 67'671 |
| Other General Administration Costs | 30'055 | 25'795 |
| Finance Cost | 36'048 | 30'975 |
| Total General Administration Costs | 89'814 | 124'442 |
| Administration Shared Costs | N/A | 920 |
| Depreciation and amortisation of fixed assets | 433 | 3'411 |
| Total Shared Administration Costs | 433 | 4'331 |
| TOTAL ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES | 90'247 | 128'773 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | 556'420 | 1'213'099 |
| ANNUAL RESULT | 452'393 | 370'920 |

Notes: In 2021, Insights for Education approved and enacted a new policy to define and allocate costs between projects and administration, specified below. Therefore, not all categories can be compared to the previous fiscal year. **Project Specific Costs** are those costs that are required to meet objectives of specific projects, such as staff salaries, project travel, project training, external technical support or services, research, communications, and materials. These costs would not be incurred if the projects did not exist. **Project Shared Costs** are the portion of Shared Costs allocated to projects. Examples of such costs include occupancy and facilities, utilities, telephone/internet access, etc. **General Administration Costs** are costs for activities or services that support the organisation as a whole rather than any particular project. These are not costs associated with the delivery of projects; nonetheless, they are essential costs of maintaining and managing the organisation through which project objectives are achieved. Examples: fees for personnel relating to general administration and fundraising, finance and accounting support, human resources, bank fees, and board meetings. **Administration Shared Costs** are the portion of Shared Costs allocated to administration. Examples of such costs include occupancy and facilities, utilities, telephone/internet access, etc.

MANAGEMENT'S STATEMENT

The Board of Directors and executive management have considered and adopted the annual report of Insights for Education for the financial year 01 July 2020 – 30 June 2021.

The annual report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Swiss law. In our opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the Foundation's financial position on 30 June 2021, and of the Foundation's activities and cash flows for the financial year 01 July 2020 – 30 June 2021.

We believe the management's review includes a fair review of the development in the Foundation's activities and finances, the result for the year and the financial position of the Foundation, as well as a review of the most significant risks and elements of uncertainty facing the Foundation.

AUDITOR'S REPORT



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5001 Aarau

Report of the statutory auditor on the limited statutory examination

To the Board of Foundation of

Insights for Education, Oberrieden

As statutory auditor, we have examined the financial statements (balance sheet, income statement and notes) of Insights for Education for the business period from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021.

These financial statements are the responsibility of the Board of Foundation. Our responsibility is to perform a limited statutory examination on these financial statements. We confirm that we meet the licensing and independence requirements as stipulated by Swiss law. An employee of our company assisted in the bookkeeping during the reporting year. This individual was not involved in the limited statutory examination.

We conducted our examination in accordance with the Swiss Standard on the Limited Statutory Examination. This standard requires that we plan and perform a limited statutory examination to identify material misstatements in the financial statements. A limited statutory examination consists primarily of inquiries of company personnel and analytical procedures as well as detailed tests of company documents as considered necessary in the circumstances. However, the testing of operational processes and the internal control system, as well as inquiries and further testing procedures to detect fraud or other legal violations, are not within the scope of this examination.

Based on our limited statutory examination, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial statements do not comply with Swiss law and the foundation deed and regulations.

Aarau, 25 August 2021

BDO Ltd

Stephan Spichiger
Auditor in Charge
Licensed Audit Expert

Pascal Zünd
Licensed Audit Expert

NOTES – 1/2

RESPONSIBILITY OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT FOR THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Board of Directors and executive management are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in Switzerland; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Board of Directors and executive management are responsible for assessing the Foundation's ability to continue as a going concern; disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern; and using the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements unless the Board of Directors and executive management either intends to liquidate the Foundation or to suspend operations or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

LIMITED STATUTORY AUDIT

The Foundation was audited in accordance to the Swiss standard of Limited Statutory Examination, since an Ordinary Examination is to be performed if two of the three following values are exceeded on average over the year in two consecutive financial years (Art. 727 para. 1 no. 2 and 727b para. 2 of the Swiss Code of Obligations in conjunction with Art. 83b para. 3 of the Swiss Civil Code): a balance sheet total of 20 million Swiss francs; a turnover of 40 million Swiss francs; 250 full-time positions on average over the year. Furthermore, the regulatory authority may require an Ordinary Examination if it seems to be necessary for a proper assessment of the financial situation of the Foundation.

TRANSLATION OF FOREIGN CURRENCY

Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into Swiss francs using the foreign exchange rates applicable on the transaction date. Monetary assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated into Swiss francs using the foreign exchange rates applicable on the balance sheet date. Realised and unrealised foreign exchange gains and losses are recognised in the income statement under financial income and expenses.

NOTES – 2/2

GENERAL INFORMATION

The financial statements are presented in Swiss francs. Unless otherwise stated, all values are to be understood in CHF.

The foundation was established as per 16 July 2019. The year of business presented in these financial statements encompasses the period from 01 July 2020 to 30 June 2021.

STATUTORY BASIS

The financial statements were prepared in accordance with the provisions of Swiss law, in particular the article on commercial bookkeeping and accounting of the Swiss Code of Obligations (Art. 957 to 962).

OPERATING INCOME AND EXPENSES

Expenses and income are recorded on an accrual basis. The changes in earmarked fund capital are disclosed in the notes.

TAXES

Insights for Education is domiciled in Switzerland and exempt from direct taxation by the Swiss federal government, the canton of Zurich and the municipality of Oberrieden owing to its exclusively charitable purpose.

DETAILS ON POSITIONS OF THE BALANCE SHEET

YEARLY AVERAGE OF FULL-TIME POSITIONS

Average number of full-time employees less than 10.

LONG-TERM LEASE OBLIGATIONS

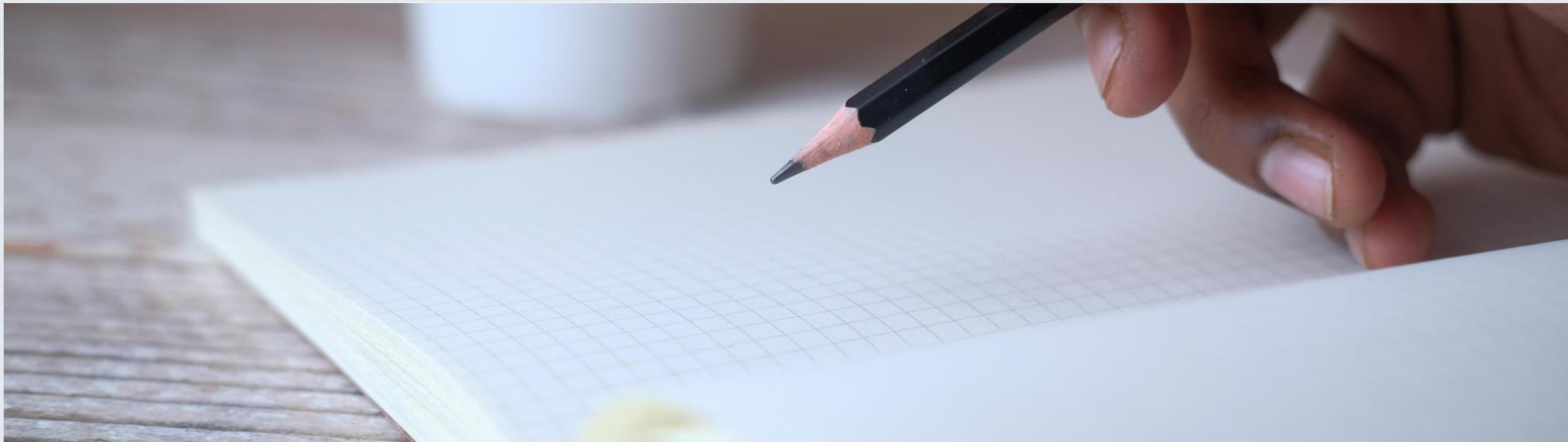
Residual amount of the liabilities from sale-like leasing transactions and other leasing obligations, unless these expire or may be terminated within twelve months after the balance sheet date: 36'800.00

EARMARKED FUND CAPITAL

| | |
|---|----------|
| Earmarked Fund Capital as per 1 July: | 97'594 |
| Inpayments, Chan Zuckerberg Initiative: | 69'803 |
| Use of fund for corresponding projects: | -138'256 |
| Earmarked Fund Capital as per 30 June 2021: | 29'140 |

REQUIREMENTS FROM REGULATORY AUTHORITY

Currently there are no pending requirements from the regulatory authority.



INSTITUTION AND GOVERNANCE

TEAM & BOARD

LEADERSHIP

- ▶ Dr Randa Grob-Zakhary, CEO
- ▶ Graham Marshall, Chief Product Officer
- ▶ Domitille Harb, Chief of Staff and Communications
- ▶ Dr Suzanne Grant Lewis, Chair of Education Science & Policy
- ▶ Dr Evangeline N. Nderu, Programme Director

BOARD

- ▶ Dr Jan Mischke, Partner, McKinsey Global Institute (Director)
- ▶ Eric Grob, CFO and Co-Founder, Greenreb (Director)
- ▶ Eunice Zehnder-Lai, Vice Chair, Geberit Group (Director)
- ▶ Sandro Giuliani, Executive Director, Impact Fund/Forum, Geneva Science and Diplomacy Anticipator (Advisor)
- ▶ Hendrina Doroba, Manager - Education Human Capital and Employment Division, the African Development Bank (Advisor)
- ▶ Larry Cooley, Founder and President Emeritus of Management Systems International (Advisor)
- ▶ Mark Wilson, Independent Advisor, former CEO, Cochrane Collaboration (Advisor)

INSTITUTION AND GOVERNANCE

AUDITOR

BDO AG

SUPERVISORY AUTHORITY

Swiss Federal Supervisory Board for Foundations (ESA)

CONTACT

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info@education.org

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BANK

Zürcher Kantonalbank
Bahnhofstrasse 9
8001 Zurich, Switzerland
SWIFT: ZKBKCHZZ80A

Beneficiary:
Insights for Education

CHF (Swiss francs) account:
1148-2805.339
IBAN: CH28 0070 0114 8028 0533 9

USD (US Dollars) account:
1300-9166.599
IBAN: CH23 0070 0130 0091 6659 9

Company number: CHE-325.156.341
Tax Exempt Ruling in Switzerland: 002117611 19/10 423

For U.S. based funders:
U.S. public charity equivalence determination certificate can be requested from NGOsource.

Insights for Education is an independent non-profit foundation working to advance evidence and improve education for every learner. Its mission is to build resources for education leaders by synthesising and translating an inclusive range of evidence, and to enable these resources to be used by those who make education happen by building bridges across knowledge actors, policymakers and practitioners. Established in 2019 and registered in Zurich, Switzerland, the foundation is supported by a visionary co-investor collective and is growing partnerships across governments, agencies, NGOs, universities, businesses and foundations in Africa, Middle East, Europe, and North America.

EDUCATION.ORG