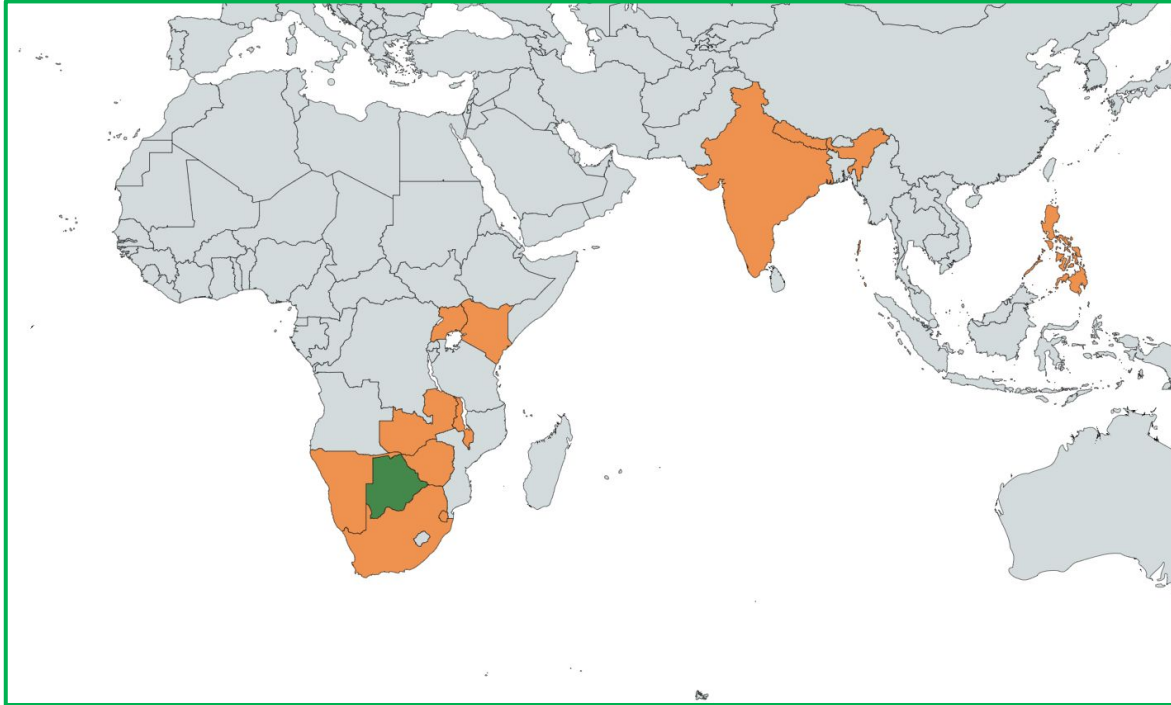# Building Resilient Education Systems

Evidence of the Effectiveness of mEducation

July 2023

Youth Impact: Who Are We?

- **150,000+ youth reached** with health & education programs

- Implemented in **11 countries** with partners w. Govts, NGOs, multilaterals

- **25+ rapid trials** in 3-years

- **MOU in Botswana** to scale evidence-based programs nationally through government.

Botswana Trial Results: Phone-Tutoring Works!

- A study conducted in Botswana **some of the first released in education since the start of the pandemic.**

- Effects equal to roughly **1-year of high quality schooling per USD 100.**

- This led to an increase in interest for further evidence.

Experimental evidence on learning using low-tech when school is out

Noam Angrist [1,2,3] ✉, Peter Bergman[4,5] and Moitshepi Matsheng[1,6]

School closures occurred extensively during the COVID-19 pandemic, and occur in other settings, such as teacher strikes and natural disasters. The cost of school closures has proven to be substantial, particularly for households of lower socioeconomic status, but little evidence exists on how to mitigate these learning losses. This paper provides experimental evidence on strategies to support learning when schools close. We conduct a large-scale randomized trial testing two low-technology interventions—SMS messages and phone calls—with parents to support their child in Botswana. The combined treatment improves learning by 0.12 standard deviations, which translates to 0.89 standard deviations of learning per US$100, ranking among the most cost-effective interventions to improve learning. We develop remote assessment innovations, which show robust learning outcomes. Our findings have immediate policy relevance and long-run implications for the role of technology and parents to support education provision during school disruptions.

Phone Tutoring Effective in Multiple Settings

	SMS only	SMS and call
Botswana	0.02	⬆ 0.12
Average	⬆ 0.08	⬆ 0.33
Kenya	-0.02	⬆ 0.09
Nepal	0.05	⬆ 0.14
India (Telangana)	N/A	⬆ 0.21
Philippines	⬆ 0.09	⬆ 0.45
Uganda	⬆ 0.21	⬆ 0.89

5-country study

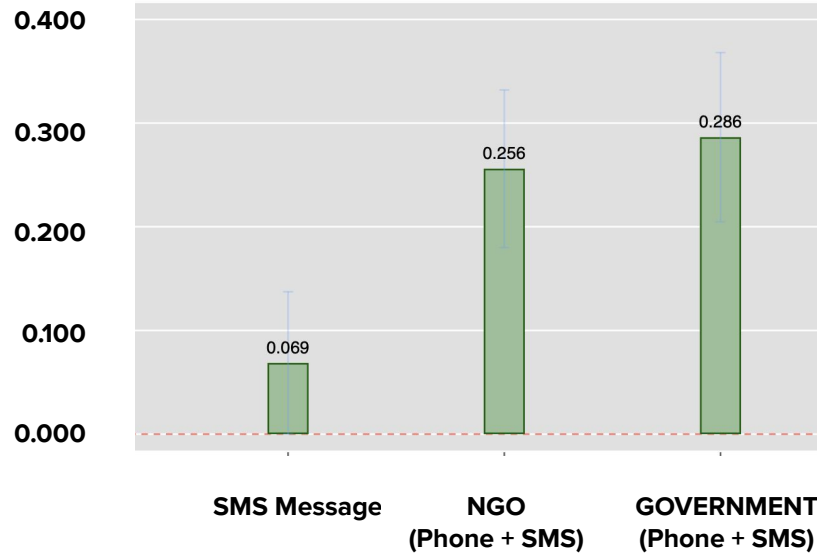On average cost $12/child (PhP650)

Among most cost-effective edtech and pedagogy interventions in education

Results in standard deviaitons

⬆ Statistically significant result

Phone Tutoring Works in all Trials and w/ Government
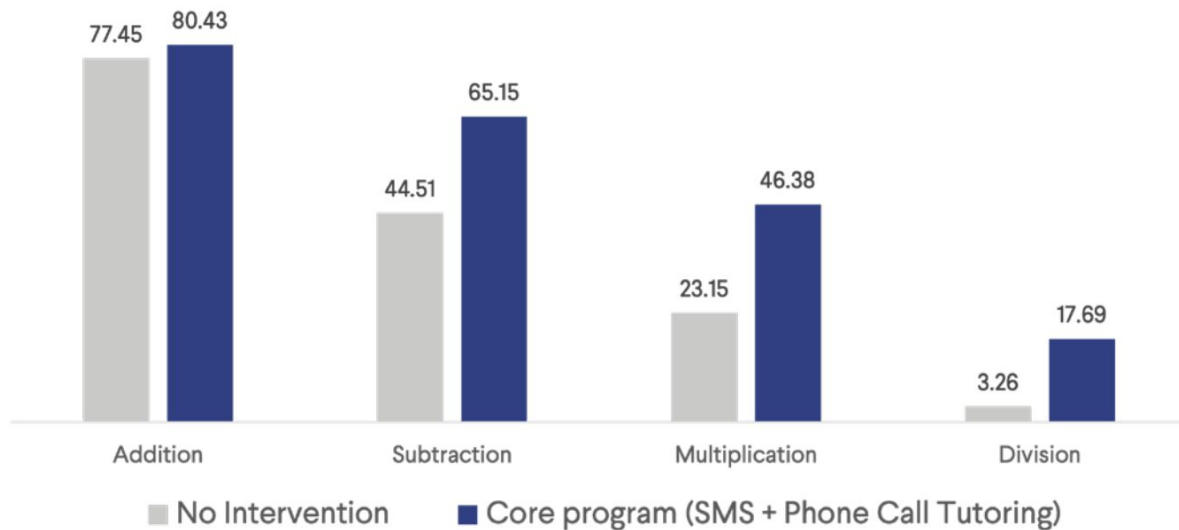

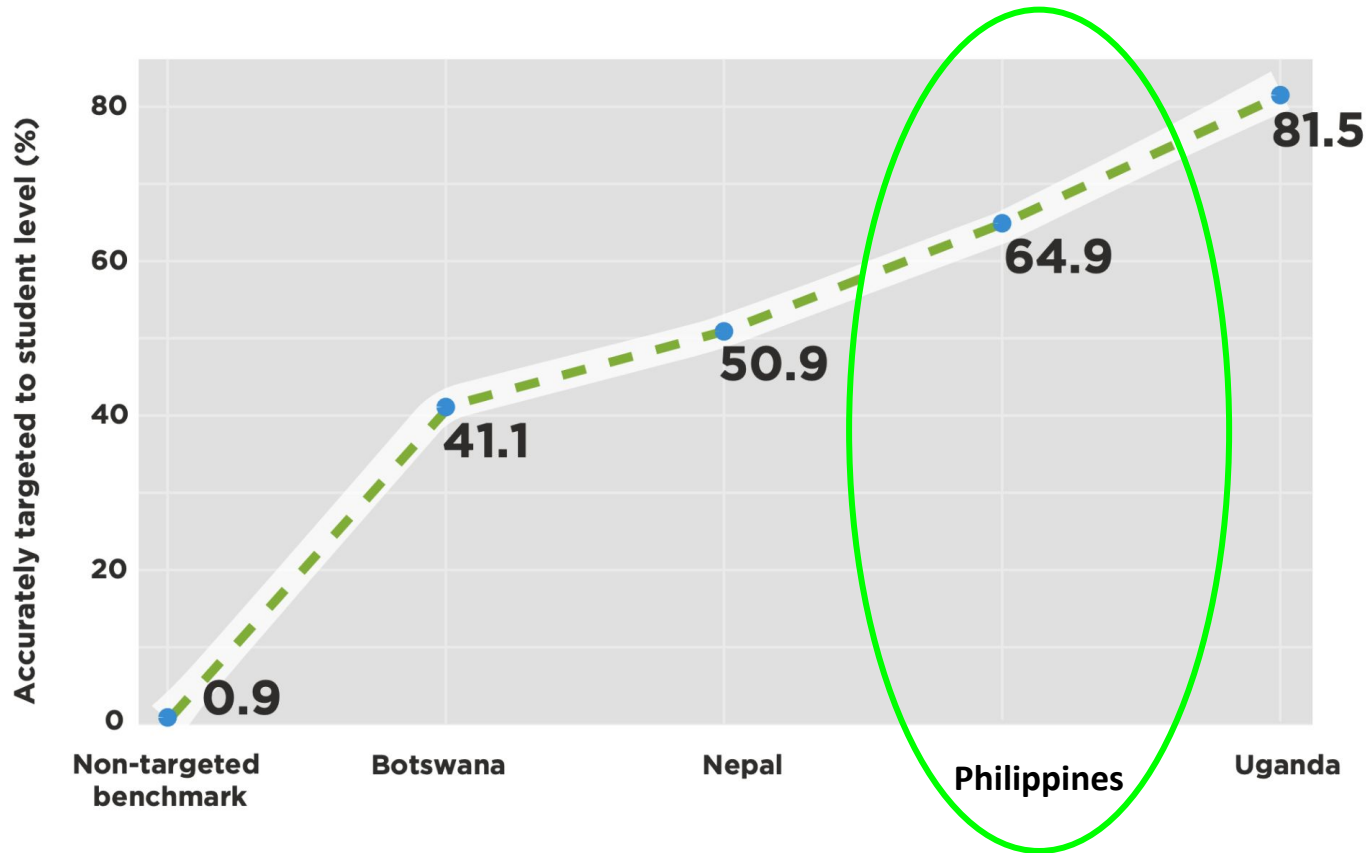Legend: Government vs. NGO implementation in the Philippines & Nepal

Government Delivery in the Philippines is Effective

GAINS IN LEARNING FROM MEDUCATION IMPLEMENTED BY DEPED

(% of students who answered operations correctly)

	Addition	Subtraction	Multiplication	Division
No Intervention	77.45	44.51	23.15	3.26
Core program (SMS + Phone Call Tutoring)	80.43	65.15	46.38	17.69

Targeting Instruction: A Key Ingredient of Success

Other Outcomes from the Philippines

Phone tutoring is popular. Among households that did not receive the program, **97 percent of caregivers reported an interest in receiving the phone call tutorials.**

mEducation has benefits beyond learning. The program had a range of positive effects such as on **perseverance and ambition and enjoyment school**.

mEducation is extremely cost-effective. The program improved learning for **USD 12 (PHP 650) per child**, placing it among the **top 10 out of 150 education interventions evaluated**.
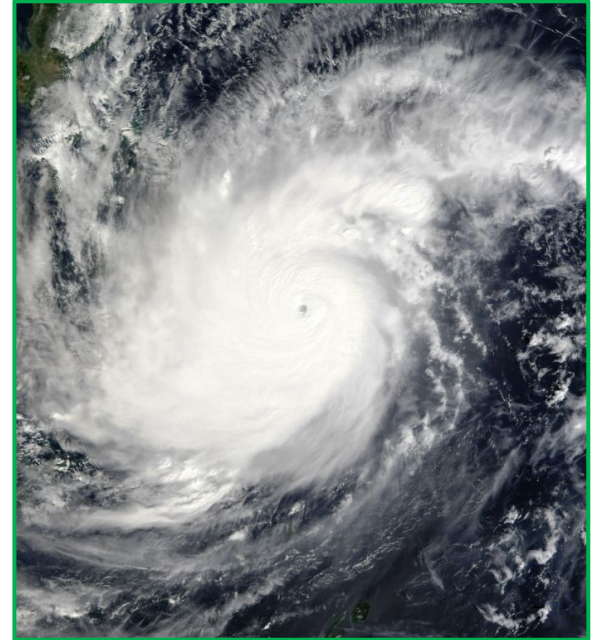
ConnectEd boosts learning in multiple emergencies

Typhoon Rai – December 2021
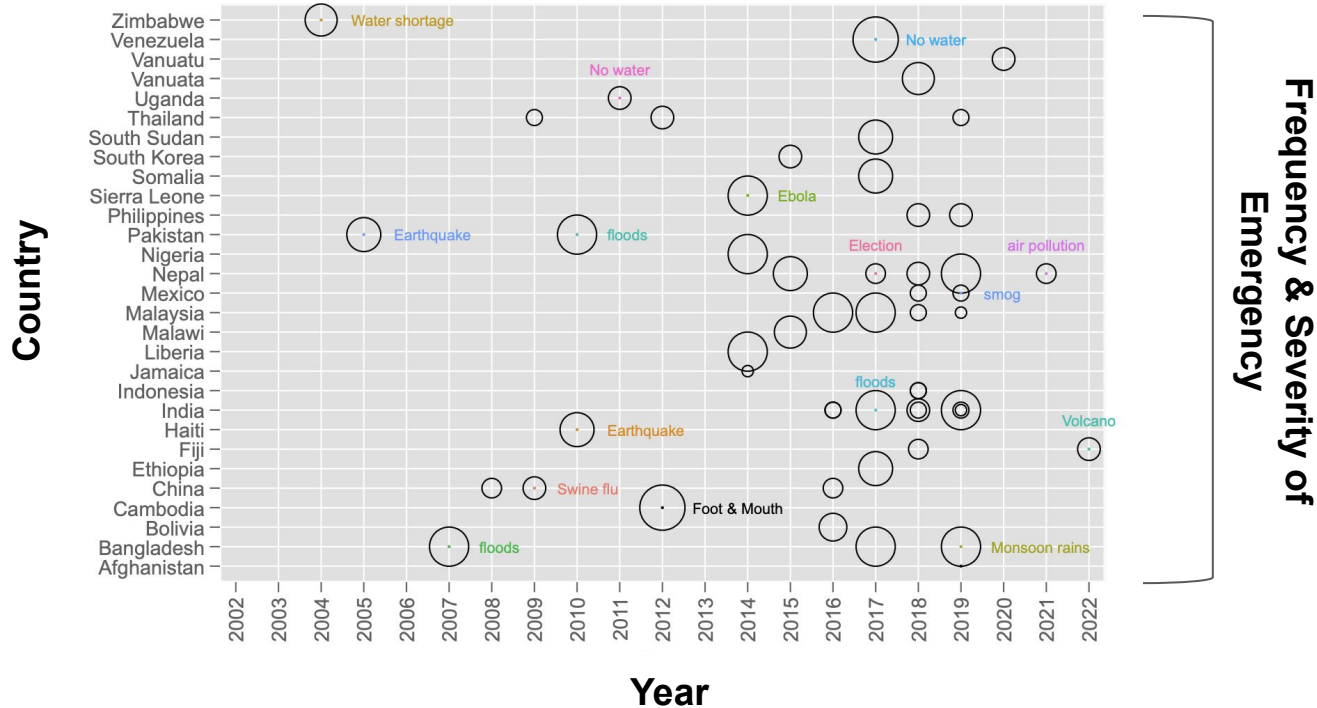- Disrupted learning for 2 million children
- Destroyed 4000 classrooms

ConnectEd proved feasible and effective
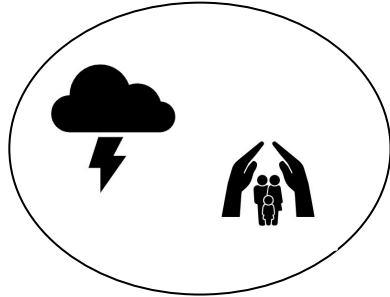- Learning *increased* by **0.23 SD** with phone tutoring compared to control in typhoon-affected areas

Context: Emergencies are common

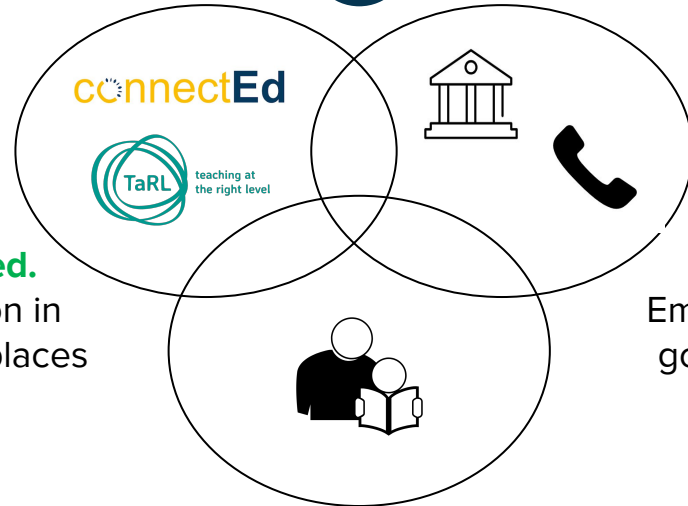Figure 1: Documenting a Set of Education in Emergencies (2002-2022)

Next Steps: Applications for mEducation

1

Implemented in **emergency response settings** as a cheaper, more impactful disruption to prevailing EiE programs.

2

connect**Ed**

TaRL teaching at the right level

Targeted.
Instruction in Targeted places

Tech.
Embedded within government ICT agendas

Tutoring.
An more cost-effective alternative.

Next Steps: Continued Testing & Scale

Collaborate in partnership with the Department of Education to **scale mEducation in Philippines** as a cheap, effective remote learning modality, linking to national efforts such as remediation, tutoring, numeracy initiatives, and blended learning.

Conduct short, rapid comparative testing in key regions to **further optimize mEducation approaches for impact, cost-effectiveness & scale.**
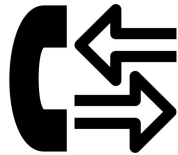
Test mEducation in difficult and disrupted settings. Work with Ministry of Basic, Higher, and Technical Education (MBHTE) Curriculum and Instruction Division, and UNICEF BARMM to test mEducation in Bangsamoro Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao

July 27,, 2023

Thank You!