

Theory of Change: CEE Program “A Good Life for Our Children”

Vision: Ultimately, we want for children to grow up to be happy, fulfilled adults who achieve their full potential in life. We want them to have the courage to strive for their dreams, and if they come up short, the resilience to try again

Three Pathways to Success: Program participants grow and develop along three pathways - Grow&Achieve, Love&Support, and Impact&Sustain. The program builds around the belief that children Grow&Achieve in a stimulating environment that takes into consideration their individual needs and potential, and allows for a space to express dreams, needs, opinions; at the same time children need a supportive environment where parents, caregivers and teachers have the ability to Love&Support while improving their skills to interact with children in an encouraging and positive way; finally, organizations participating in the program and implementing children-targeted projects increase their capacity to Impact&Sustain, and to achieve long-term impacts through sustainable interventions.

Building a Strong Foundation: The three pathways want to establish an environment devoted to children’s healthy development that begins in their families and extends to care givers, teachers, adults in the community and peers. Existing interventions by national organizations show positive results but they are limited in their possibility to achieve the long-term sustainable goal of full-personal development of children. Children who are at risk of the poorest outcomes in learning, health and behavior, are children who experience a cumulative burden of risk factors: poverty, neglect, violence, abuse, drug-abuse, etc. This burden is more than what any child can take and overcome alone. Thus, focusing on children solely gives only partial outcomes. The organizations involved in the CEE program asked themselves “What could we be doing to strengthen the capacity of everyone who interacts with children?” Skill-building is at the heart of it and shall target children, parents, caregivers, teachers as well as the national organizations that provide services for children.

Grow & Achieve Pathway:	Love & Support Pathway:	Impact & Sustain Pathway:
<p>Children establish a sense of self-worth and resilience to grow and blossom as human beings. Innovative tools and technology are used to stimulate creativity and to improve children’s ability to find solutions; self-paced and personalized approach to learning allows students to adjust and progress while respecting their own specific needs; active participation in social and civic life allows children to become engaged community members and active citizens.</p>	<p>Parents, caregivers and teachers increase their capacities to better-focus on children-development. By introducing innovative methodologies to interact with children and to support them in achieving educational and personal goals, parents, caregivers and teachers improve their skills to address the multiple needs of children and to play a positive role in their growth.</p>	<p>Implementing organizations are agents of change and by improving their capacity to lobby and advocate and mobilize civil society, they can create environments conducive for children’s development. Also, by introducing innovative methodologies and by showcasing quality in their projects, organizations increase their leverage vis-à-vis of governments and donors.</p>

<p>What is the problem you are trying to solve?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Targeted children have limited access to environments and resources that allow them to grow and blossom 2) Families, caregivers lack skills to encourage children in a stimulating way 3) School systems and children services are not focused on the needs of the individuals 4) Local organizations implementing projects for children have different levels of capacities and achieve limited long-term impact 	<p>Who is your key audience?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Children and youth 2) Parents, caregivers and teachers 3) Local implementing non-government organizations 	<p>What is your entry point to reach your audience?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Existing projects by local NGOs: after-school centers, youth clubs, local community initiatives 2) Local schools 3) State social service providers 4) Local NGOs : key staff responsible for advocacy, lobbying, and management of children's projects 	<p>What steps are needed to bring about change?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Engagement of children, youth and their families/communities (holistic approach that takes into consideration the multiple-needs of children) 2) Engagement of organizations in sharing best practices, lessons learnt and in joining forces on a country or multi-country level to advocate for systemic changes 	<p>Measurable effects of your work</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1) Children and youth achieve educational and personal goals and improve performance; 1.2) Children and youth become active members of the community 2.1) Parenting skills are improved; 2.2) Teachers and caregivers learn and apply innovative methodologies for children 3.1) Organizations develop advocacy and fundraising strategies 3.2) Organizations increase their capacities and knowledge in the fields of Education, Psychosocial Support and Child Protection 	<p>What are the wider benefits of your work?</p> <p>Children have access to environments conducive to their growth and their personal fulfillment</p> <p>Parents and communities are capable of creating environments conducive for full personal development of children</p> <p>Organizations become agents of change and increase their long term impact on communities and governments</p>	<p>What is the long term change you see as your goal?</p> <p>Ultimately, we want for children to grow up to be happy, fulfilled adults who achieve their full potential in life and as members of their community. We want them to have the courage to strive for their dreams, and if they come up short, the resilience to try again.</p>
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