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Webinar series to share the findings of the Program with education development partners

Webinar #2

Using data to improve learning: the « Shawara Karatu » initiative in Niger



September 28th, 2023

2:00 pm - 3:30 pm GMT



PRESENTATION 3: REFLECTION ON THE CONDITIONS FOR SCALING UP SHAWARA KARATU

How can the cost of organizing a Shawara Karatu be covered?

Organizing a Shawara Karatu in an inspection costs an average of \$3,000¹. One of the strategies envisaged to ensure the financing of Shawara Karatu could be to couple them with other activities carried out at commune level, which would already be financed. Furthermore, to be viable, all the ideas and solutions developed should be integrated into the action plans of the deconcentrated levels, or into the sectoral policies currently being drawn up, in the programs of the PTFs, so that scaling up can be more easily envisaged.

How often is Shawara Karatu carried out?

Initially, one Shawara Karatu was planned per quarter (at the end of each quarterly composition), bringing together town halls and inspectorates. In practice, however, and given a number of constraints, notably a heavy workload for those involved due to the organization of the school year, only two were organized. Frequency will be a factor to consider when scaling up: should we opt for a quarterly organization, or plan for two a year?

It should be pointed out that what's important is to be able to discuss the problems highlighted by the data, identify the solutions to be implemented and follow them up, and finally take stock of what's been done. This approach is currently lacking in our systems, and penalizes the effectiveness or adjustment of the actions undertaken.

An important point to emphasize: the problems identified must be derived from the data (quantitative or qualitative). By way of illustration, during the analysis, we noted a specific problem of a lower performance for girls in French and Mathematics in CM2, which came as a surprise to the educational actors, as they were not aware of this reality in their system. Today, they want to understand why.

The results of intermediate class compositions are sometimes biased. Do the Shawara Karatu provide for other external learning assessments to gain a better understanding of learning levels?

The Shawara Karatu Initiative is not intended to initiate new assessments, but rather to analyze and use data already available within the education system. This may include termly compositions as well as external learning assessments, if they exist and their use is relevant to the commune. However, during a Shawara Karatu, stakeholders may identify the need to collect new data as a priority for the commune. This could then be included in the action plan.

Is it possible to share details of the initiative with participants and offer the opportunity to react beyond this webinar?

Presentations are available on the webinar series page at:

<https://dakar.iiep.unesco.org/serie-de-webinaires-de-partage-des-resultats-du-programme-avec-les-ptf-en-education>

¹ If we were to organize two Shawara Karatu per year in one commune, this would require an average budget of 6,000 USD per commune over the course of a year.