

Pan-African Launch of the CoL

Theme: Unlocking Data Across Africa: Shared Challenges, Shared Solutions

The banner features a blue background with white text. At the top left is the 'UNLOCKING DATA' logo with a green globe icon. To the right are logos for GPE KIX and IDRC-CRDI Canada. The main title 'Unlocking Data Across Africa: Shared Challenges, Shared Solutions' is in large white font. Below it, the date '8 April 2026' and times '3 PM EAT / 2 PM CAT / 1 PM WAT' are listed. A 'ZOOM LINK' is provided as <http://bit.ly/40rtNGB>, along with a 'REGISTER NOW' button and a QR code. At the bottom, logos for eBase Africa, EdTech Hub, ESSA, and MIZIZI are displayed.

The Unlocking Data Initiative (UDI) is a three-year project implemented in Kenya, Malawi, and Cameroon, aimed at expanding the uses and users of education data to improve foundational learning outcomes. The initiative is implemented through a consortium of partners, including eBase Africa, EdTech Hub, Education Sub Saharan Africa (ESSA), University of Malawi's Centre for Educational Research and Training (CERT) and Mzizi Elimu Afrika Foundation, with support from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC).

At the core of the initiative is the recognition that although African countries generate substantial education data, it remains fragmented, inaccessible, or underutilised, limiting its potential to inform policy and practice.

To address this challenge, UDI is establishing national Communities of Learning (CoLs) – platforms that bring together education stakeholders to collaborate, share knowledge, and strengthen national data ecosystems. This concept note outlines the official launch of the CoL across Africa.

Purpose of the Community of Learning (CoL)

The Community of Learning aims to:

- Facilitate Knowledge Exchange and Capacity Building: Connect policymakers, researchers, CSOs, teachers, data practitioners, and other actors to share experiences and strengthen capabilities in education data use. This aligns with UDI's broader focus on mapping data systems, promoting evidence sharing, and strengthening capacities for data-informed decision-making.

- Promote Collaborative Action on Education Data: Create country-level and cross-country collaborations that enable members to jointly diagnose data challenges, co-create solutions, and learn from each other's experiences.
- Create Feedback Loops Between Data Insights and Decision-Making: Ensure that evidence generated within the ecosystem is actionable and used to inform resource allocation, policy decisions, and classroom practice. UDI emphasises transforming data from static reports into meaningful insights, while the practical questions and priorities of decision-makers actively shape what data is collected, analysed, and shared to strengthen systems
- Strengthen National Education Data Ecosystems: Address fragmentation, improve accessibility, and foster trust among stakeholders involved in data generation and use.
- Enable Inclusive Engagement: Bring together actors at national, subnational, and community levels, ensuring representation of diverse voices with gender equity and social inclusion as a driving factor across all stakeholder groups. UDI's approach centres on cultivating communities of learning at national and regional levels.

3. Objectives of the Community of Learning Launch

The official launch of the Community of Learning seeks to:

- Introduce the CoL, its purpose, modalities, and value proposition.
 - Formally welcome participants into the CoL and onboard them onto engagement platforms.
- Bring together stakeholders across the education sector to build collective ownership of the platform.
- Share initial insights from UDI's country-level data mapping and situational analysis work, and welcome contributions from the community.
 - Showcase examples of challenges and opportunities in strengthening data use in Kenya, Malawi, and Cameroon.
- Provide a space for members to align on priority themes and engagement pathways for the coming year.

Event outline

Item	Time	Notes	Presenter
Opening Music	1 Minute		Jill
Welcome & housekeeping	5 minutes	Nafisa welcomes us as Jill launches the poll	Nafisa
Opening remarks	4 minutes	The Vision of the Unlocking Data Community of Learning and why it matters at this point	PI/CO-PI

Country Reflection - Cameroon	5 minutes	<p>What is the country vision of Unlocking Data Community of Learning</p> <p>What data gaps are we looking to address with these activities</p> <p>What activities are we hoping to engage the community with</p>	Rigobert Pambe/Claude
Country Reflection - Kenya	5 Minutes	<p>What is the country vision of Unlocking Data Community of Learning</p> <p>What data gaps are we looking to address with these activities</p> <p>What activities are we hoping to engage the community with</p>	Charles Gachoki
Country Reflection - Malawi	5 Minutes	<p>What is the country vision of Unlocking Data Community of Learning</p> <p>What data gaps are we looking to address with these activities</p> <p>What activities are we hoping to engage the community with</p>	Esme Kadzamira
Breakout Rooms	30 Minutes	<p>Themes of Focus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Education data systems and infrastructure - Generating and utilising evidence for policy planning and decision making - Expanding data sets and addressing equity issues 	<p>Rigobert Pambe/Claude</p> <p>Esme Kadzamira</p> <p>Charles Gachoki</p>
Reflections from breakout rooms	30 minutes		

Close	5 minutes		
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