

MINEDULAB

Innovation Lab for Education Policy

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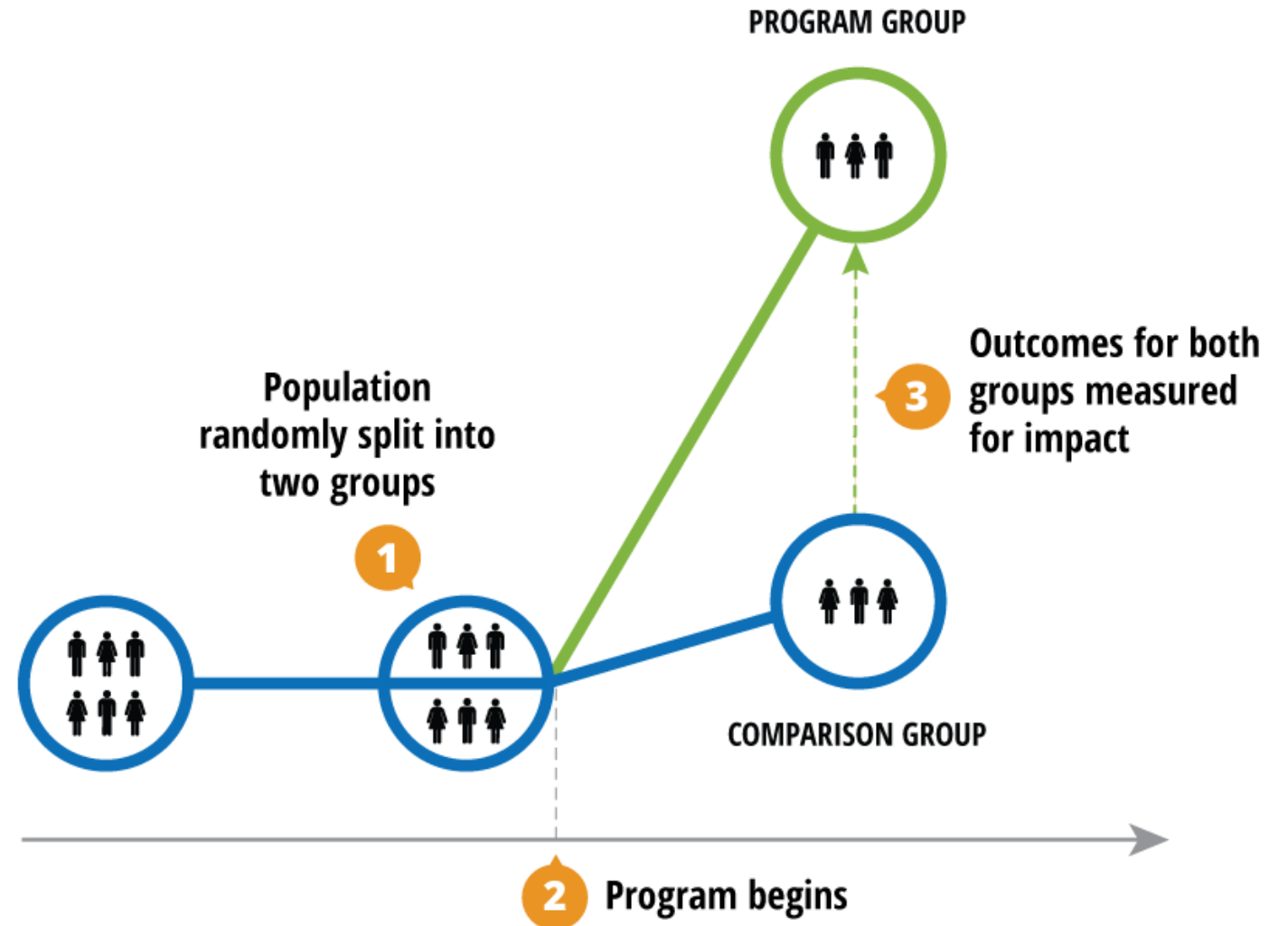
MORE EVIDENCE → MORE IMPACT

Policies where cost-effectiveness is proven with rigorous evidence can have large social returns on investment.



How do randomized evaluations work?

1. The group we are looking at is divided *randomly* in two
2. One group receives the program or intervention
3. Outcomes for both groups are measured for impact



How can we
institutionalize the
creation and use of
rigorous evidence within
government institutions?



Outline

- **What is MineduLAB?**
- **Examples**
- **Design and implementation**
- **Key factors for success**
- **Challenges**
- **Next steps**



MineduLAB

Innovation lab for education policy nested inside the Ministry of Education of Peru



Allows Ministry to improve education and management outcomes with innovative policies



Designs, rigorously evaluates, and implements low-cost improvements of existing policies or new interventions



MineduLAB



PERÚ

Ministerio
de Educación





LABORATORIO DE INNOVACIÓN COSTO EFECTIVA DE LA POLÍTICA EDUCATIVA



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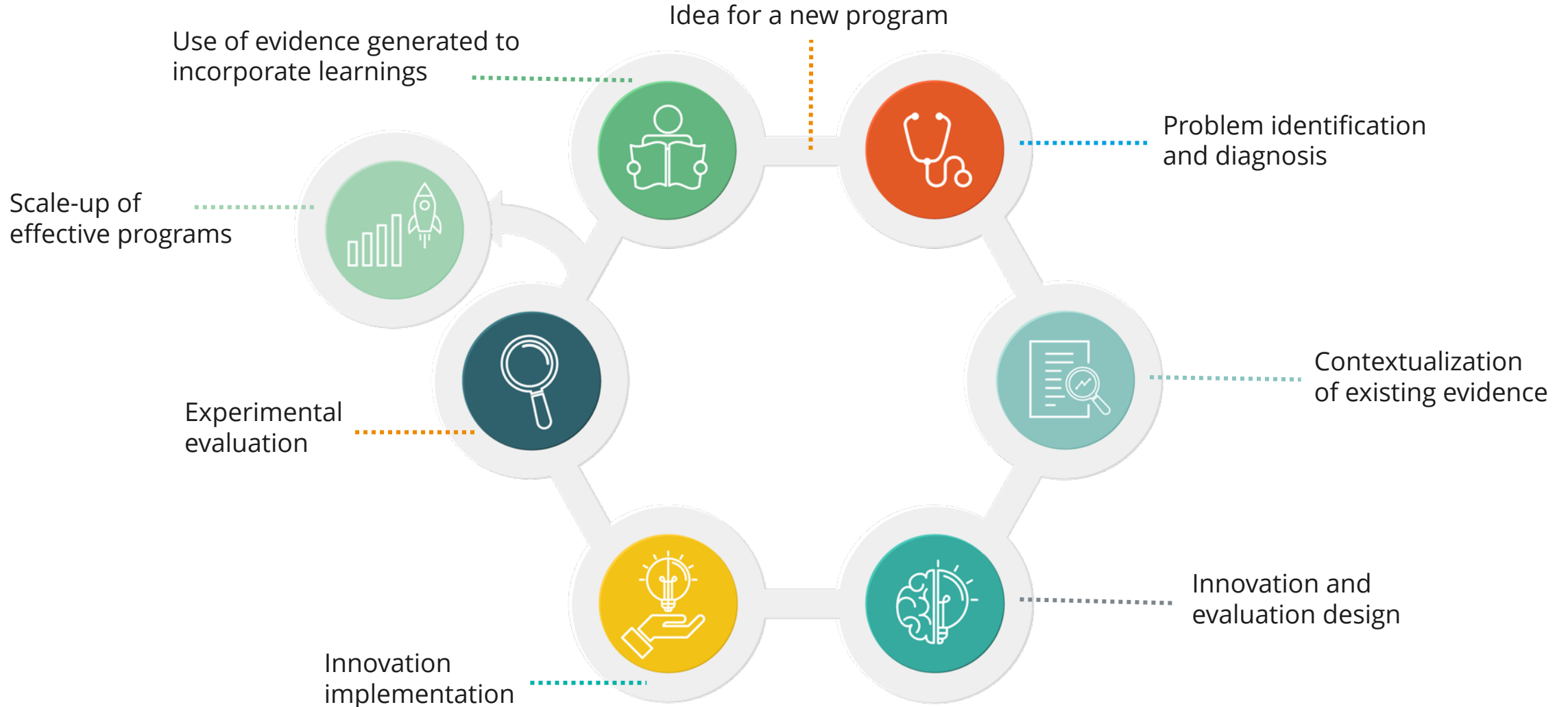
J-PAL

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Learning Cycle

Idea for a new program



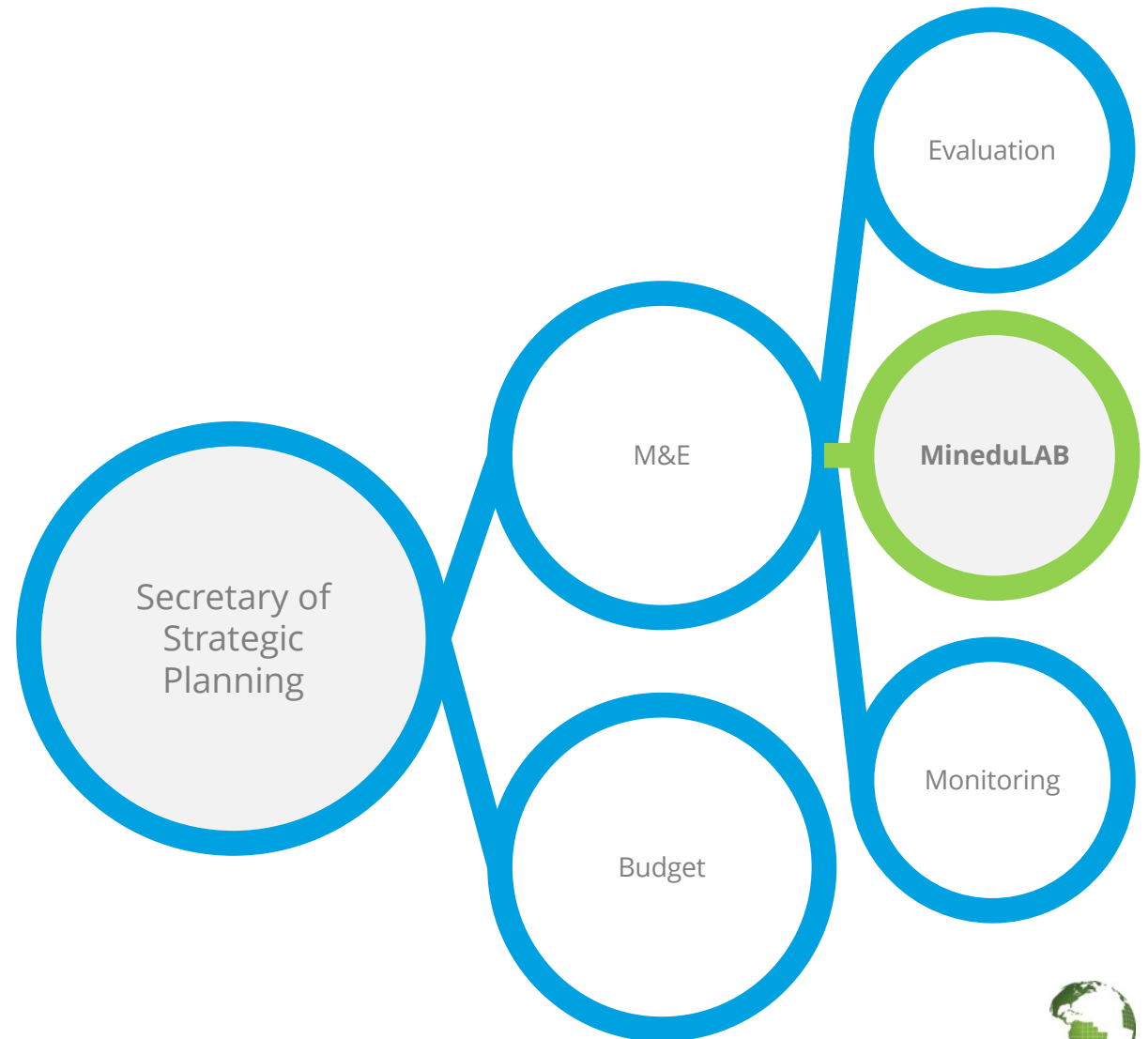
Institutional positioning

Team embedded in the Secretary of Strategic Planning

➔ Provides M&E and budgeting services to implementation units

➔ Centralization of information: Access to Ministry's administrative data

➔ Control over budget: Capacity to "persuade" units within the ministry

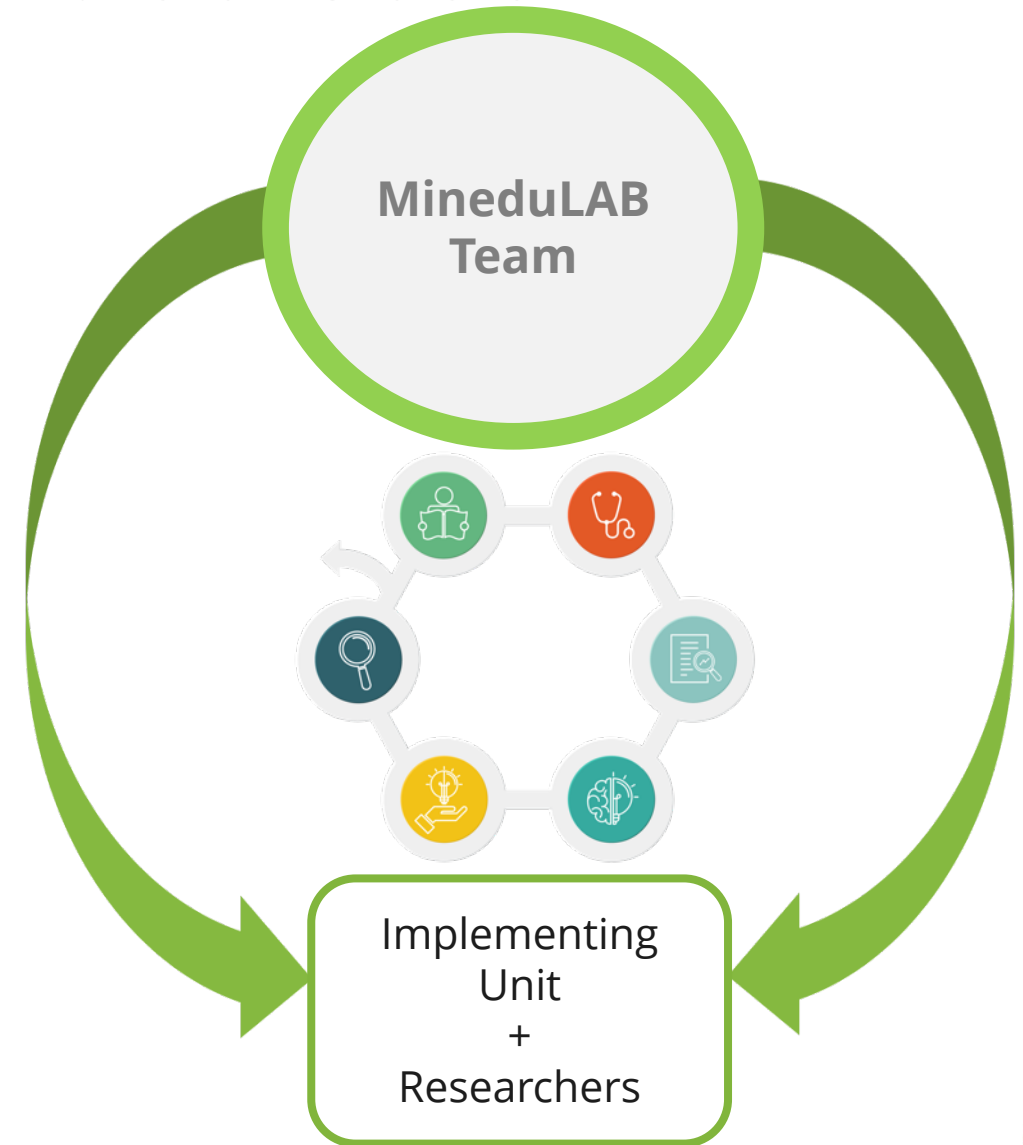


Research support and translation

Team creates partnerships between academics and implementation units following learning cycle

➔ The team is composed of evaluation professionals trained on RCTs

➔ Intermediates/translates interaction between academics and implementation units



Cost-effective innovation

The lab uses administrative data for evaluation and low cost interventions

➔ Large quantity of administrative data

➔ Heavy focus on tweaks to existing policies and incorporation on behavioral economics



Policy and academic relevance

MineduLAB decision making process guarantees innovation's policy and academic relevance

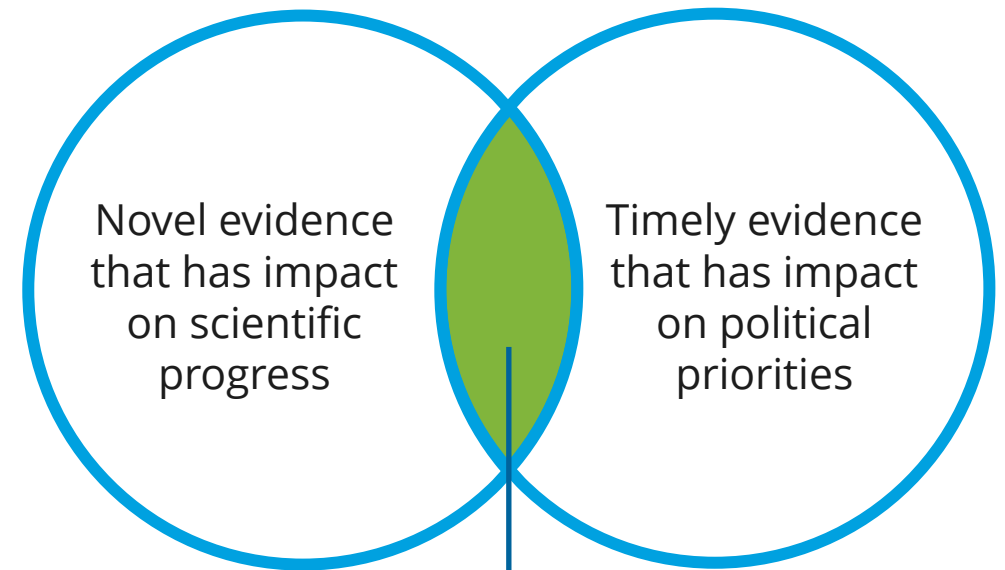


MineduLAB team creates demand by dissemination workshops and internal-external call for proposals.



Innovations are selected by the Secretariat team with advisory from the board of academics.

Working at the intersection of two sets of incentives:



MineduLAB



Impact

Minedulab completes the learning cycle

- ➔ Supports implementation units on decision making based on results
- ➔ Supports implementation unit on implementing innovation
- ➔ Disseminates learnings by publishing and presenting results (public goods)



Current MineduLAB Projects

Innovations with results



Text Messages to improve school Management

School Principal



"Grow your Mind"

Students



Booklets with comparable information on results of similar schools

School Principal, Teachers and Parents



Videos sharing the financial benefits of secondary and higher education

Parents and Students



Text Messages to motivate teachers

Teachers



Non-monetary incentives for teachers

Teachers

Innovations in design or implementation phase



Feedback on schools' key indicators

School Principal, Teachers and Parents



Information to outstanding students

Parents and Students



Access to technology for teaching purposes

Teachers and Parents



Increase the visibility of teacher absenteeism

Teachers



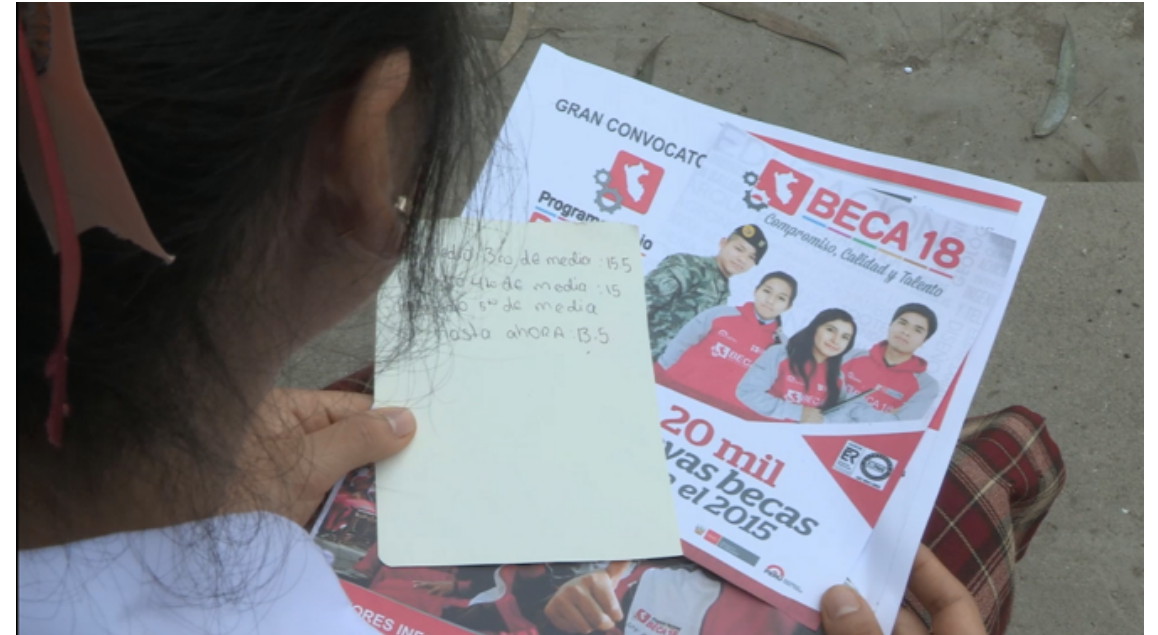


Videos to reduce school dropout: Preliminary Results

F. Gallego, C. Neilson, O. Molina

Videos with information on economic and social returns to education, combined with higher education financing options

- ➔ 18% decrease in dropout rate for urban areas, and higher for rural
- ➔ Improvements in test scores for girls – 4% math, 3% reading
- ➔ Ministry of Education is scaling up the innovation





SMS to improve policy implementation

A. Dustan, J. M. Hernández-Agramonte, S. Maldonado

SMS for school principals to improve the implementation of a maintenance program (preliminary results)

- ➔ 4.4 pp increase in the delivery of expenditures reports
- ➔ For each 3 cents invested the expense report increased by \$266
- ➔ Program has been scaled up to more than 20,000 schools



Design and implementation

How was the lab created?

1. Identifying “champions” within the Ministry and hiring technical staff
2. Embedding technical assistance (IPA/J-PAL)
3. Mapping and checking of existing administrative data
4. Designing and testing processes
5. Achieving quick wins
6. Launching the laboratory

Creation

2014 to 2016

Innovation

2014 to Present



Key factors for success

1. Evaluation “champions”
2. Prominent technical teams (attractive position)
3. Excellent institutional positioning
4. Large quantity of administrative data
5. Low cost focus
6. Quick and relevant results (impact)



Challenges

1. Focus on administrative data restricts the set of questions the Lab can answer (limited learning capacity)
2. Data management: merge of existing datasets and data publication
3. High turnover within Ministry threatens scale-ups and learnings
4. Unstable political landscape and weak institutions threaten continuity



Next steps

1. Providing support to Minedulab during political transition
2. Generating an innovation fund to support Minedulab
3. Replicating model in other sectors (AyniLab) – Latam fertile environment



Thank you



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