What is Geneva Global?
Who Are We?

Geneva Global is a philanthropic consulting company that works with philanthropists, charitable organizations, and corporations to help them achieve the extraordinary.
What is Speed School?
What is Speed School?

• Speed School is an accelerated learning program implemented by Geneva Global and funded by private donors
• Goal is to help out-of-school children reenter the formal school system
• 3 years of primary school content condensed into 10 months
• Currently operational in Ethiopia and Uganda
• Contextualized for each country
What is a Speed School Classroom?

• A vibrant dynamic classroom where students are surrounded by learning materials
• A noisy classroom where students are active and engaged
• A collaborative space where students work in groups
• A classroom where facilitators are also active and empowered to establish a safe, creative classroom
Is my Classroom full of learning Materials?
What is a Speed School Classroom?

• Led by a local facilitator
• 25 students per class
• Seated in 5 groups of 5 students each
• Taught in the local language
• Condensed curriculum is based on the formal school curriculum
Building the Evidence Base
Evidence Base

- Six-year longitudinal study complete by University of Sussex
- Tracked students from the first Ethiopia Speed School student cohort in 2011
- Sample of 625 students from 25 Speed School classrooms
- Control group of 1,250 students from government schools
How is Speed School Implemented?
Implementing Partners

- Geneva Global identifies and vets local implementing partners (IPs) to execute the Speed School model
- IPs engage the local community to conduct outreach and recruit facilitators
- IPs serve as a critical link with local government authorities
- IPs identify out-of-school children to enroll in the Speed School classes

DANFE, a local partner in Ethiopia
Who attends and who teaches Speed School?
Who Attends Speed School?

- Focus on out-of-school children
- Aim is for students to enter formal primary school in 4th grade
- Speed School targets children between 8 and 14 years old
Research Results

• Speed School students attended school more regularly:

  - Absent 1.2x per week (Control Group)
  - Absent .26x per week (Speed School)

  vs.

• Speed School students were more likely to stay enrolled:

  - 60% remained in school (Control Group)
  - 75% remained in school (Speed School)
Who is the facilitator?

- Local community member
- Speaks the same mother tongue as the students
- Has at least a Grade 10 education
- Receives 21 days of intense training in Speed School model
- Creates learning tasks and opportunities

“When the children came, they were empty. Now they are learning fast with the activities... Every day I can see they learn new things and I learn new things. Every day we are both learning.”

- Mebrahtu Birhanu, facilitator
What is the Pedagogical Model?
Pedagogy

• Student-centered, activity-based learning through:
  o Games
  o Music
  o Nature
  o Family interaction
• Independent & group work
• Peer instruction
• Projects and activities
• Low-cost and no-cost materials
How are Students Assessed?
Continuous Assessment

• Initial diagnostic test
• Facilitators engage in continuous assessment
• Students engage in regular peer assessment
• Facilitators analyze in-class assessment to provide feedback to students and adjust lesson plans
• Students take an exam at the end of each phase of curriculum, aligning with the formal school grade levels
Cumulative Assessment

- Students take a placement test at the end of the program
- Created in collaboration with government schools
- IPs and government schools review the test and determine the appropriate grade level for the student
What are the Complementary Components?
The Speed School Model

1. Speed School
   - Children Who Have Never Attended School
   - Mothers: Self-Help Groups

2. Children Who Have Dropped Out of School

3. Teachers: Primary School Capacity Building

4. Preschoolers: Child-to-Child Learning

- Speed School Facilitators: Trained in Activity-Based Learning Techniques
Primary School Capacity Building

- Geneva Global and IPs identify schools that will enroll Speed School students when they transition to formal school, referred to as “Link schools”
- Provide ongoing support
- Includes training for Link School teachers in student-centered methodology
- 15 guiding conversations where the principal and teachers discuss how to use student-centered methodology in the classroom – these form the basis for professional development trainings
- 3 formal trainings per school year from IPs
Self-Help Groups

- IPs organize Self-Help Groups (SHGs) for mothers of Speed School students.
- Groups meet on a monthly basis.
- Meeting topics introduce mothers to savings models:
  - Savings helps to ease the opportunity cost of sending the child to school.
  - Helps cover school fees for the transition to formal school.
- Research has shown that household assets of Speed School students have improved by about 45%, and the average livestock had also increased by 53%.

“We learned the savings concept from this project... When the chickens lay eggs, we sell them and save the money... We believe if [the Speed School students] have a chance to finish school they will help the communities and families break poverty”

- Meseret Alemayoh, Mother at Ezeban Alban school.
Child-to-Child

- Geneva Global and IPs implement a child-to-child early childhood education program
- Link Schools select 5 young facilitators from Grades 5 and 6
- Each young facilitator receives training
- Young facilitators are assigned groups of 5 pre-schoolers between 4 and 6 years old
- Provide basic numeracy and literacy lesson 2-4 hours per week
What are the Results to Date?
Research Results

*Impact of Speed School after 10 months - Cumulative change in score for literacy test*

- Children enrolled in Speed Schools achieved 19 cumulative points (out of total of 45 points) between the baseline and the endline.
- Children enrolled in Link School achieved 12 cumulative points.
- Children enrolled in government schools achieved 7.7 cumulative points between the baseline and the endline surveys.

Data source: Speed School Survey
Research Results

Impact of Speed School after 10 months - Cumulative change in score for numeracy test

- Results show a cumulative improvement in the numeracy test with the greatest improvement achieved for children in the Speed Schools (11 points), followed by children in government schools (7.5 points) and finally children in improved schools (5.1 points).

Data source: Speed School Survey
Research Results

• Speed School students have higher aspirations to progress beyond primary education

69% desire to go beyond G12
Speed School

vs.

49% desire to go beyond G12
Control Group
Thank you

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