

Assessing EdTech interventions for cost-effectiveness

? Why this matters

As education decision-makers increasingly look to EdTech tools and interventions to help catalyse impact on education outcomes, cost-effectiveness is among their most important concerns. Put simply, cost-effectiveness is about how much an intervention will cost to deliver a specific level of impact over a given length of time. But while effectively calculating the cost-effectiveness of EdTech interventions is crucial to maximising the impact of scarce resources available for investment in education, it is not a straightforward process.. Given the depth of the learning crisis in many LMICs, significant pressure to adopt EdTech solutions exists, which can be risky without adequate consideration for the total cost of implementing such interventions and inconsistencies that exist around learning outcome measurement. To fully realise the promise of EdTech in addressing global learning poverty decision-makers will need to ensure that interventions are cost-effective and contextually relevant. Read on to explore practical insights on how this kind of cost-effectiveness analysis can be done when making decisions on EdTech investments.

A guide for:

- Policymakers
- Implementers
- EdTech Investors

Key themes:

- Cost-effectiveness
- EdTech
- Education policy
- Total cost of implementation
- Affordability
- Learning-Adjusted Years of Schooling

Read the full brief:

<https://edtechhub.org/evidence/learning-brief-series/assessing-cost-effectiveness-for-investments-edtech/>

💡 Key insights to improve practice

1. Compare the gains of programmes with and without tech components to determine whether procuring technology is an optimal and cost-effective solution within any given scenario.
2. Calculate the total cost of implementation (TCI) by accounting for obvious and non-obvious costs over the lifespan of implementation.
3. Work in alignment with existing frameworks and tools for cost-effectiveness calculations to increase the capacity of decision-makers to make consistent cost comparisons.
4. Require detailed, context-specific and transparent data from EdTech providers on cost and scale of outcomes from proposed implementations.

🔍 Areas for further exploration

To ensure higher standards and expectations in cost-effectiveness analysis are embedded into decision-making, we need to consider:

- How to equip decision-makers with tools to improve comparability, transparency, and accountability in EdTech cost-effectiveness analysis.
- How to understand the specific barriers and constraints that decision-makers currently face when trying to operationalise cost-effectiveness tools.

