Global Learning XPRIZE: Beyond the Competition

Location: UNESCO Headquarters, Room 8
Date and time: 23 March 2017, 14:00 – 17:00
Facilitators: Matt Keller, XPRIZE; Zulmira Rodrigues, UNESCO; Emily Church, XPRIZE
For more information and registration: Ana Gonçalves (a.goncalves@unesco.org)

About this strategy lab:

Five finalist teams out of the 38 competing teams representing 17 countries from 6 continents, will soon be selected to begin the massive field test (4,000 Children) in Tanzania of the Global Learning XPRIZE, to determine the most effective software for child-driven early learning.

Beyond the competition, we seek to make this open source software readily available to the international community to serve children most in need, including those in emergencies and crisis contexts. The purpose of this Strategy Lab is to engage the mobile learning community in refining the impact work of the Global Learning XPRIZE. What do we need to do to make sure the software is properly and effectively scaled? What steps should we take to enable swift adoption of the software, including by governments around the world? What partners should we engage to ensure this option is part of a global campaign to support the education of the world’s most vulnerable children? The session will begin with a brief overview of the Global Learning XPRIZE project, and the strategic and evaluative work by UNESCO and WFP in Tanzania, followed with an outline of the overarching goals for evaluation and adoption of the learning software.

The brainstorming will be organized by splitting the lab participants into 4 or 5 groups, divided by field. Each group will have 1 hour to brainstorm, after which plenary presentations of the group work, including outcomes of the brainstorming, will take place. Such is to be followed by a joint discussion and sharing of resources. The session will be wrapped up with an exchange on next steps to ensure this project has the maximum impact to provide education for out-of-school children and children in crisis situations.

Meet the facilitators:

Matt Keller is Senior Director of the Global Learning XPRIZE. Previously he was the Vice-President of One Laptop per Child, and was a senior program officer with the United Nations World Food Programme serving in Rome. He has served as Legislative Director for Common Cause – the pre-eminent citizens lobby in the United States -- where he led the organization's efforts in Washington, DC to enact the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2002. Mr. Keller has also served as a legislative aide in the United States Senate, and as a lawyer working on behalf of migrant farmworkers.

Zulmira Rodrigues is Head of the UNESCO Dar es Salaam Office and UNESCO Representative to the United Republic of Tanzania since August 2014. She has over 20 years’ experience with support to the formulation and implementation of government education policies in different African countries, particularly in Mozambique, Angola and Tanzania. She has a broad experience in cooperation with state institutions, UN agencies and development partners.

Emily Musil Church is the Director of Education and Impact for the Global Learning XPRIZE. She has 15 years of experience in higher education and education nonprofit organizations. Prior to joining XPRIZE, Dr. Church was a professor at Lafayette College where she specialized in African history and women’s global issues. She has conducted in-depth research in over a dozen countries on three continents and has a particular focus on the history and strategy of human rights movements.