CLCs in Africa

Preconditions and good practices
Recent research and literature review commissioned by UNESCO UIL on CLCs in Africa

Many African countries experimented with and implemented CLCs over time with successes and failures

Different names, but similar conceptual understanding, practice, rationale and objectives

Typology/trajectory of CLCs:

- Physical infrastructure and equipment
- Types of services delivered (functions)
- Target group(s)
- Institutional arrangements (including ownership, staffing, etc.)
- Management and administration
- Financing
- Enabling Environment
General lessons learned and good practices

• CLCs are imbedded within ALE and LLL

• The rationale for establishing CLCs (local and global perspectives)

• CLCs cannot be viewed only as local level institutions or purely literacy centers

• CLC pilot projects have to be purposefully designed with the objective of up-scaling

• Consensus building among all stakeholders is crucial from the establishment to up-scaling of CLCs: Each stakeholder has its own role and responsibility

• CLCs’ need their own staff allocation (permanent and part-time)

• Community engagement should be planned for and institutionalised in different ways

• CLCs should respond to the local context and challenges, e.g., youth unemployment, ethnic conflict, the effects of climate change, etc.

• Advocacy is a continuous process throughout the life cycle of CLCs and an advocacy strategy is needed
## CLCs within the ALE system

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Enabling Environment for CLCs

- The successful implementation of CLCs depend on the existence of a strong ALE system
- Belém Framework for Action, RALE, etc.
- ALE and policies from other sectors
- Medium and long term strategies
- Programme implementation guidelines
- Qualifications framework with accreditation and validation of nonformal and informal learning (links with learner assessments, etc.)
- Rights based approach to education, ALE and LLL
- Legal Framework
- Advocacy strategy to strengthen enabling environment
Management and financing of CLCs

- The benefit of regular participatory and transparent planning processes involving all stakeholders
- Budgeting and resource allocation:
  - Multiple sectors
  - Sphères of governance
  - Different stakeholders
  - Community engagement
  - Imbedded within existing system
- Monitoring and evaluation – link with ALE system
- Management Information System – link with ALE system
- Coordination and cooperation processes - examples
Governance and institutional arrangements at CLCs

- From local to national levels
- Across sectors and stakeholders
- Community structures – CMC
- Implementation and coordination structures – complexities and solutions
- Sufficient and qualified human resources
- Leadership and management
- Accountability mechanisms
- Partnership structures:
  - Government, CSOs, universities, private sector, etc.
  - Roles and responsibilities
Delivering quality services at CLCs

- Importance of relevant and localised curricula
- Links to national curricula
- Programme design and methodology – quality indicators
- Material development
- Learner assessments – links with national qualifications frameworks, accreditation and validation
- Capacity development:
  - At all levels and for all sectors
  - Institutional and organisational
  - Types of training – examples
- Service delivery from the supply and demand side
Concluding messages

• CLCs have the potential to form the nexus of ALE systems and service delivery (the main infrastructure)

• CLCs need to be institutionalised within ALE and LLL systems

• The life cycle of CLCs should be considered, from establishment, to implementation and upscaling

• The implementation structure should consider horizontal (sectoral) and vertical (across spheres of governance) integration

• Both the financial and institutional sustainability of CLCs should be considered

• African countries should develop advocacy strategies for CLCs as the main infrastructure for ALE and LLL

• Capitalise on the evidence and impact stories of successful CLCs

• Guideline for CLCs in Africa to promote CLC establishment, management and up-scaling
Thank you / Merci!

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