

THE MASTERCARD FOUNDATION
Scholars Program



MATHEMATICA
Policy Research

Measuring Multi-Dimensional Change: **Challenges and Opportunities in The MasterCard Foundation Scholars Program**

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The MasterCard Foundation Scholars Program: Program Vision and Network Approach

- **The Vision:**

- Create positive social and economic change through education of talented youth.
- Unify an estimated 15,000 Scholars with a common philosophy of change and ethical leadership that encourages them to serve as mentors, role models, and problem solvers in their communities.

- **The Approach:**

- The Foundation is creating a network of educational institutes and NGO partners who share this vision.
- Partners were selected for their shared values, commitment to academic excellence, nurturing environments, and programs relevant to growth sectors in Africa, such as manufacturing, telecommunications, banking, and agriculture.



The MasterCard Foundation Scholars Program: Partners

The MasterCard Foundation Scholars Program: Program Components

- Comprehensive scholarships that provide wrap-around support
- 21st century skill building
- Transition support to school and to the workforce
- Give-back and go-back components – mentorship, leadership development, internships
- The MasterCard Foundation Scholars and alumni community

The MasterCard Foundation Scholars Program: Key MEL Considerations

- **Design Considerations**

- The MasterCard Foundation Scholars Program's long-term goal
- Measuring The MasterCard Foundation Scholars Program outcomes *and* impacts

- **Intervention Approach Considerations**

- The MasterCard Foundation Scholar's Program partnership across multiple entities and countries
- Partner diversity in approach to achieving Program goals

Design Considerations: Challenges

Challenges	Opportunities
Monitoring long-term outcomes over time.	
Tracking Scholars and comparison group over time.	
Managing attrition.	

Design Considerations: Practical Solutions

Challenges	Opportunities
Monitoring long term outcomes over time.	Set up evaluation design and data collection with a long horizon; focus on what can be learned in the short, medium, and long term.
Tracking Scholars and comparison group over time.	Develop tracking system that leverages partners, carefully consider attributes and motivations of each group and tailor data collection plans.
Managing attrition.	Plan for attrition in sampling plans.

Intervention Approach Considerations: Challenges

Challenges	Opportunities
Working across multiple partners with different priorities.	
Working in geographically and culturally diverse contexts.	
Defining what to measure and how to measure it.	

Intervention Approach Considerations: Practical Solutions

Challenges	Opportunities
Working across multiple partners with different priorities.	Use a collaborative approach to clarify overall vision, prioritize cross-cutting questions, and identify key indicators.
Working in geographically and culturally diverse contexts.	Bring partners together to discuss differences and find commonalities.
Defining what to measure and how to measure it.	Understand Program versus project definitions and consider multiple ways to measure key outcomes.

Summary

- **Design Considerations**

- Developing a MEL framework early in the process allows for key issues to be identified and built into the overall design.

- **Intervention Approach Considerations**

- A highly collaborative approach between funders, implementers and evaluators yields buy-in for the evaluation.

Contacts

Barry Burciul

- bburciul@mastercardfdn.org

Matt Sloan

- msloan@mathematica-mpr.com