

PlayMatters

Sparking Lifelong Learning Through Play



Beatrice teaches a class of more than 60 pre-primary children, keeping them engaged using locally made teaching and learning materials. Photos: IRC, 2024

About PlayMatters

PlayMatters seeks to build sustainable capacity in existing education systems to integrate Learning through Play (LtP) approaches for 800,000 refugee and host community children ages 3-12+ in Ethiopia, Uganda and Tanzania. The objective is to give children the opportunity to improve holistic learning and wellbeing in contexts of crisis and poverty.

Amount

USD \$100M

In partnership with
The **LEGO** Foundation

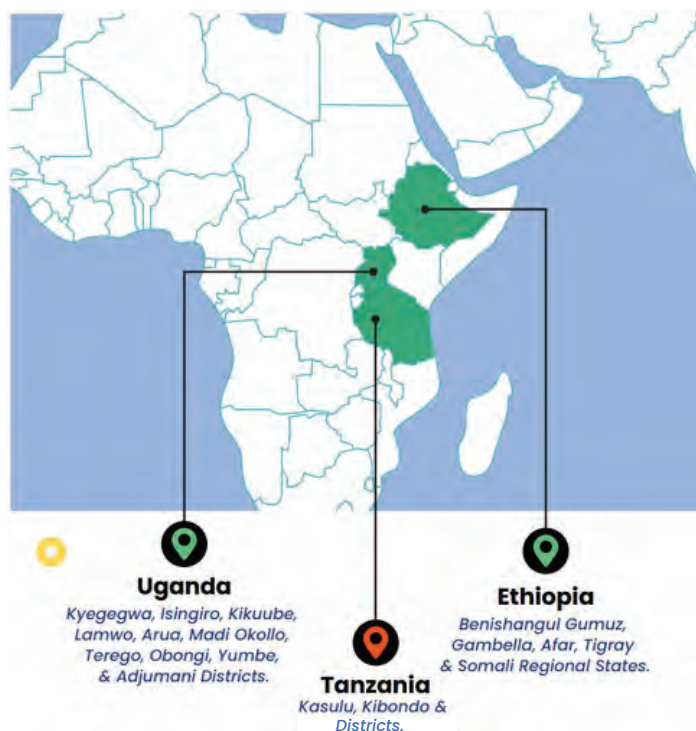
Project timeline

Start: 1. January 2020

End: 31. March 2026

6 years 3 months

Where we work



Our approach

Learning through Play is at the heart of PlayMatters.

We work with local and national education stakeholders to improve and secure the quality of education in schools, in refugee camps and in host communities.

We do this by training teachers and educators in play-based teaching methods that aims to strengthen children’s creative, emotional, social, physical and cognitive skills.

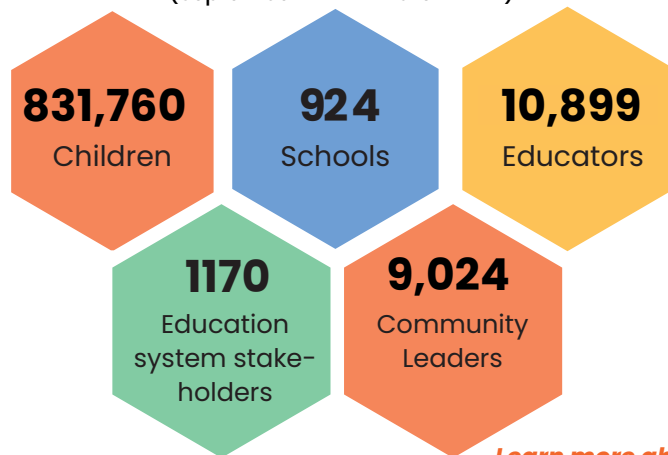
At the same time, PlayMatters challenges a traditional approach to education based on rote learning, and works with parents and their local community to strengthen understanding of play for children’s development, well-being, learning and education.

Who we are

The PlayMatters consortium is led by the International Rescue Committee (IRC) and is being implemented in collaboration with Plan-Børnefonden/Plan International (Plan), War Child Holland (WCH), Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA) and Behavioral Insights Team (BIT).

PlayMatters' current reach count

(September 2022 – March 2025)



Learn more about PlayMatters [here](#)



What we mean by Learning Through Play (LtP)?

Learning through Play (LtP) is an **active teaching and learning method** that capitalizes on a child's natural desire to engage in play. Core elements include:

01



The adult facilitator (a teacher or community volunteer) **intentionally plans and delivers** contextually and age-appropriate guided playful experiences with **clear learning objectives**.

02



LtP experiences **promote interactions with people and/or materials** that allow children to question, experiment, practice, and discover, developing critical skills that they need to thrive today and in future.

03



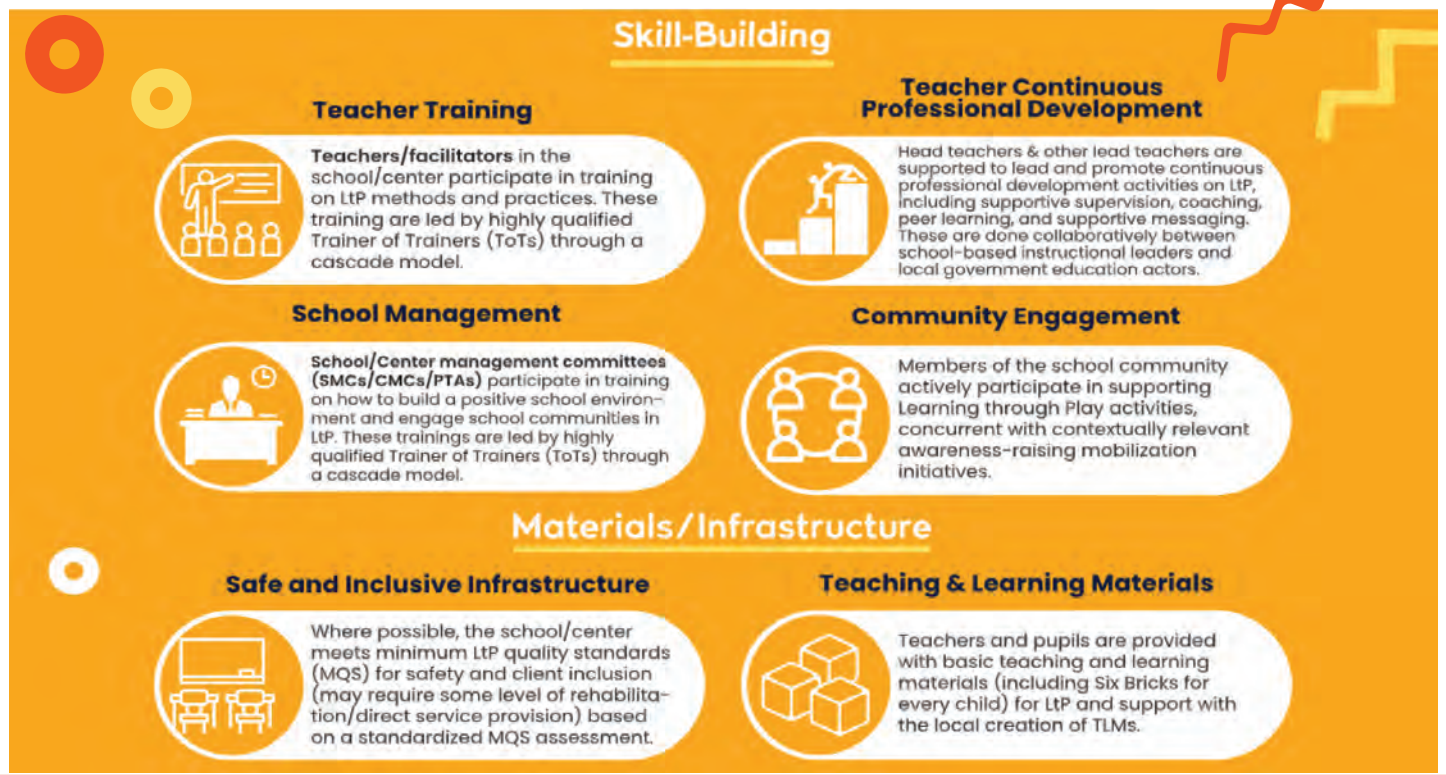
The facilitator deliberately creates and maintains a **positive, safe, and inclusive environment** for children, allowing children to feel comfortable and joyful.

PlayMatters Core Package

PlayMatters applies a **whole-school approach**: to the extent possible, all teachers, non-teaching staff, and pupils in the school are targeted and reached. The PlayMatters Core Package illustrates the key inputs that are necessary to ensure that children's holistic skills improve, in line with the project framework. **All six components of the package must be delivered** in a school for the package to be considered complete.

Core Package for Schools/Centers

Expected Duration: One School Year



In partnership with

