





### How do we know it works?

Three examples of monitoring and evaluating community-based programs with a focus on parent engagement

EXPLORING PARENT PARTICIPATION AND COMMUNITY-BASED SUPPORTS

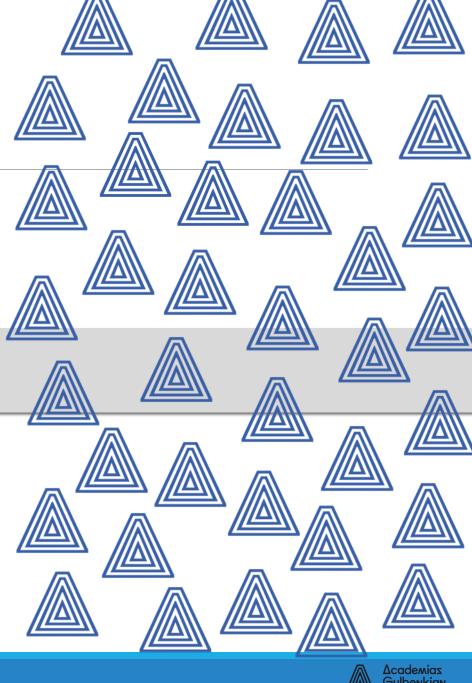
PARENT ENGAGEMENT RESEARCH PROJECT - FINAL CONFERENCE

5<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2022

# Equipa de Monitorização & Avaliação (M&A)

Academias Gulbenkian do Conhecimento (AGC)











How do we know it works? Three examples of monitoring and evaluating community-based programs with a focus on parent engagement

## Key takeaways:

1

Community-based programs with a focus on parent engagement may have impacts on a wide set of skills

- A. infants and toddlers' abilities to explore social environments;
- B. children's skills, including optimism, empathy,
- C. teen's skills, such as critical thinking.

2

The diversity in communitybased programs is complicated, but also the most important source of information. 3

When handling complex program evaluations, words are as important as numbers, and monitoring is key.

4

(unfortunately) No actual measures of parent engagement.





## **Our presentation:**









Monitoring & Evaluation Team (M&E)
Capacitation process







# Gulbenkian Academies for Knowledge





#### Common goals...

- Promote children and youth's social and emotional skills
- Experiment innovative solutions for complex societal problems
- Apply rigourous monitoring and evaluation methods



Levels of program maturity

Methodologies

Approaches

Contexts

**Products** 

**Know-how** 

Resources









FUNDAÇÃO CALOUSTE GULBENKIAN

















#### Intervention settings and domains of activity

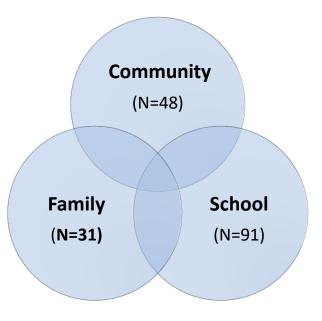


100 interventions



Participants 0-25 yo

50 179







- Arts
- Sports
- Science
- Culture
- Technology
- Civic engagement









Monitoring & Evaluation
Our M&E model

Practices of
Excellence in
Monitoring and
Evaluation (M&E) of
Community and
Educational
Intervention
Projects

1. Linking goals, resources and mechanisms

8. Data leadership 9. Investing in learning networks

2. Robust impact assessment

3. Detailed description of implementation

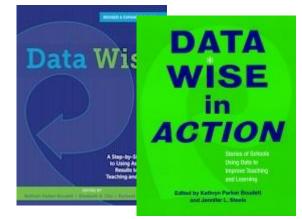
4. Using words and numbers

7. Data protection policy

6. Use and dissemination of data

5. Measuring rigorously

10. Continuous and active M&E training













#### Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E)

The Team's mission is twofold:



63 with an experimental methodology

Each Academy has its own methodology, aiming to validate it

37 with a "reference methodology"

8 different validated methodologies, which are replicated by several Academies

#### **Training & Monitoring**

Providing training, feedback, & solutions to the Academies







#### Monitoring & Evaluation Team (M&E)

Capacitating & Monitoring the Academies

## **Each Academy...**





Theory of Change (e.g., Weiss, 1995)



Monitoring
Implementation dimensions
(Durlak & Dupree, 2008)

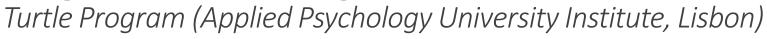


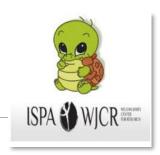
**Impact Evaluation** 





## Programa da Tartaruga (ISPA)







- Help parents learn and implement strategies to strenghthen parent-child relationships through play
- Promote children's confidence to face new situations
- Increase child cooperation and self-regulation



- Group sessions with parent-child dyads
- Intervene directly with children, with parents and with the parent-child dynamic
- Importance of support from other sets of dyads







## Programa de Envolvimento Parental em Questões de Carreira (Universidade do Algarve)

Parent Engagement in Career Choices (University of Algarve)





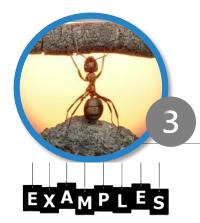
- Develop youth's curiosity, cooperation, problema-solving, and self-regulation skills
- Increase youth's sense of autonomy and responsibility in choosing their academic & professional paths
- Increase parent's self-eficacy in guiding and supporting teen's career decision-making.



- In-class activities with young participants, & family activities (parent-child sessions);
- Collaboration with school psychologists who guide the process







## Envolver (Escola Básica da Ribeira Grande, Açores)

Engage (Ribeira Grande Elementary School, Azores)



- Mobilize parents & teachers to the importance of being present and involved in children's well-being ("bring the families to the school" approach)
- o Promote children's resilience, communication, adaptability, and problem-solving skills.





- Mindfulness, storytelling, and artistic activities with children;
- Teacher training & other school staff coaching
- "Parent Interaction" sessions







## What did we learn about the process?

#### Responsivity



Parents tend to report higher levels of program satisfaction

#### Quality

Session climate & Interactions

When involving families, the interactions between children, parents, and facilitators/teachers play a key role in program quality and success



Monitoring the process of implementation informs on program quality & sucess (e.g., focus on the words of participants, on observation...)

We need the "how" of implementation to make sense of the "How much" of impact







# What did we learn about impact?



- Empathy and optimism significantly improved (1 AGC)
- Participants (especially teens) showed increased awareness and critical thinking regarding their social and emotional skills (when compared to a control group) (1 AGC)
- Decrease in young children's **reluctancy in approaching other children**, hesitation in exploring new environments, anxiety when in new situations... (for e.g.) (1 AGC)



One Academy could not evaluate their impact on children or families through an (quasi)experimental design





## Thank you for your attention



# Without data, you are just another person with an opinion.

Andreas Schleicher, Director of the OECD's Directorate for Education and Skills, and member of the Gulbenkian Knowledge Academies' Advisory Board