

Hogan Lovells supports the expansion of secondary Education in East Africa through public private partnership

Hogan Lovells supports the expansion of sustainable secondary education in East Africa

Background - the shortage of secondary school places in East Africa

- 20 million children in Sub-Saharan Africa do not have access to secondary education
- In Uganda and Zambia, as few as one in four children attend secondary school
- A Ugandan girl increases her average earnings by 25% for every year that she spends in secondary school
- The children of a mother with secondary education are twice as likely to live beyond the age of five

PEAS - a pioneering approach to increasing access to affordable secondary education

Governments in the region lack the resources to build and operate sufficient secondary schools. Promoting Equality in African Schools (PEAS) is a charity and social enterprise hybrid that works with governments to increase access to quality, affordable secondary education. PEAS raises funds in the UK to finance the capital costs of constructing new schools and works with governments to place them in areas of high demand. After completion of the construction phase, the schools must become financially self-sufficient. They do this by charging affordable fees (approximately £12 per term, about half the cost of education at a government school), running income generating agriculture projects and attracting government subsidies.

Hogan Lovells: pro bono support for PEAS

PEAS' approach to financing education is largely unprecedented and requires advocacy and legislative reform. Adrian Walker and Rebecca Cifelli in the London Infrastructure, Project and Public Finance team recently advised PEAS on a pioneering public private partnership with the Ugandan Ministry of Education. Under the PPP, the Ministry of Education provides PEAS with a subsidy of £11.60 per term for every pupil enrolled at a PEAS school. From the perspective of the Ministry of Education, this represents a considerable saving on the cost of educating a child at a government secondary school. From the perspective of PEAS, it allows fees to be reduced to a level that is affordable to families that cannot afford the fees at a government school.

Additionally, the PPP sets out an agreed procedure by which PEAS can take over the management of existing, government secondary schools and run them more efficiently and effectively. The overall outcome has been the rapid, cost-effective expansion of quality secondary education in Uganda.

Hogan Lovells has also used its network of African business and government contacts to help PEAS continue its growth. As a result, PEAS is in negotiations with the Rwandan High Commissioner and the Ministry of Education with a view to opening a Rwandan office next year. Hadija Murangwa, a former Hogan Lovells employee now working with government in Rwanda is advising PEAS on their expansion into Rwanda and a possible partnership with the Rwandan Ministry of Education.



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The London Infrastructure, Project and Public Finance team has also fundraised for PEAS. Taking advantage of a scheme under which the UK Department for International Development offers to match funding from individuals, the team recently raised enough to fund sixty, permanent secondary school places.

PEAS: future expansion

PEAS currently operates fifteen schools in Uganda and Zambia. It has already created 10,000 sustainable secondary school places and aims to create a further 90,000 in Uganda and 10,000 more in five new countries by 2017. In order to support this rapid expansion, PEAS has recently formed partnerships with the Costa Foundation, the UK Department for International Development and ARK (the education charity founded by Arki Busson). It is also negotiating a memorandum of understanding with the Zambian Ministry of Education to secure a per pupil subsidy. Hogan Lovells looks forward to continuing to support PEAS in its expansion.

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