



Inspiring Change  
Through our Stories:  
*Migrant parent  
storytelling*





# Welcome Message

My name is Gulburak, and I am a teacher at the Zhoogazyn-Murdash preschool in the Alai district, Osh oblast, Kyrgyzstan.

# The Challenge

Poor learning outcomes due to student absenteeism and lack of parental engagement



1

- Due to the shortage of job opportunities, the majority of youth and adults are forced to seek work opportunities elsewhere.

2

- Currently, 75% of children's parents are in labor migration.
- Disruption of the family dynamic, lack of parental guidance and emotional support translate into poor learning outcomes of students.

# Context Framework

## History of the Problem?

- Some 800,000 to 1,000,000 Kyrgyz citizens (about 40 % of the country's labor force) regularly work abroad, with approximately 50,000 Kyrgyz leaving the country to work every year.

## Who are the students?

Children aged 5 and 6, preschool cohort

## What is the community like?

A mountainous rural community with 300 households located at an altitude of more than 2400 meters above sea level. The only source of income for villagers is cattle breeding.



# The Solution



IDEA

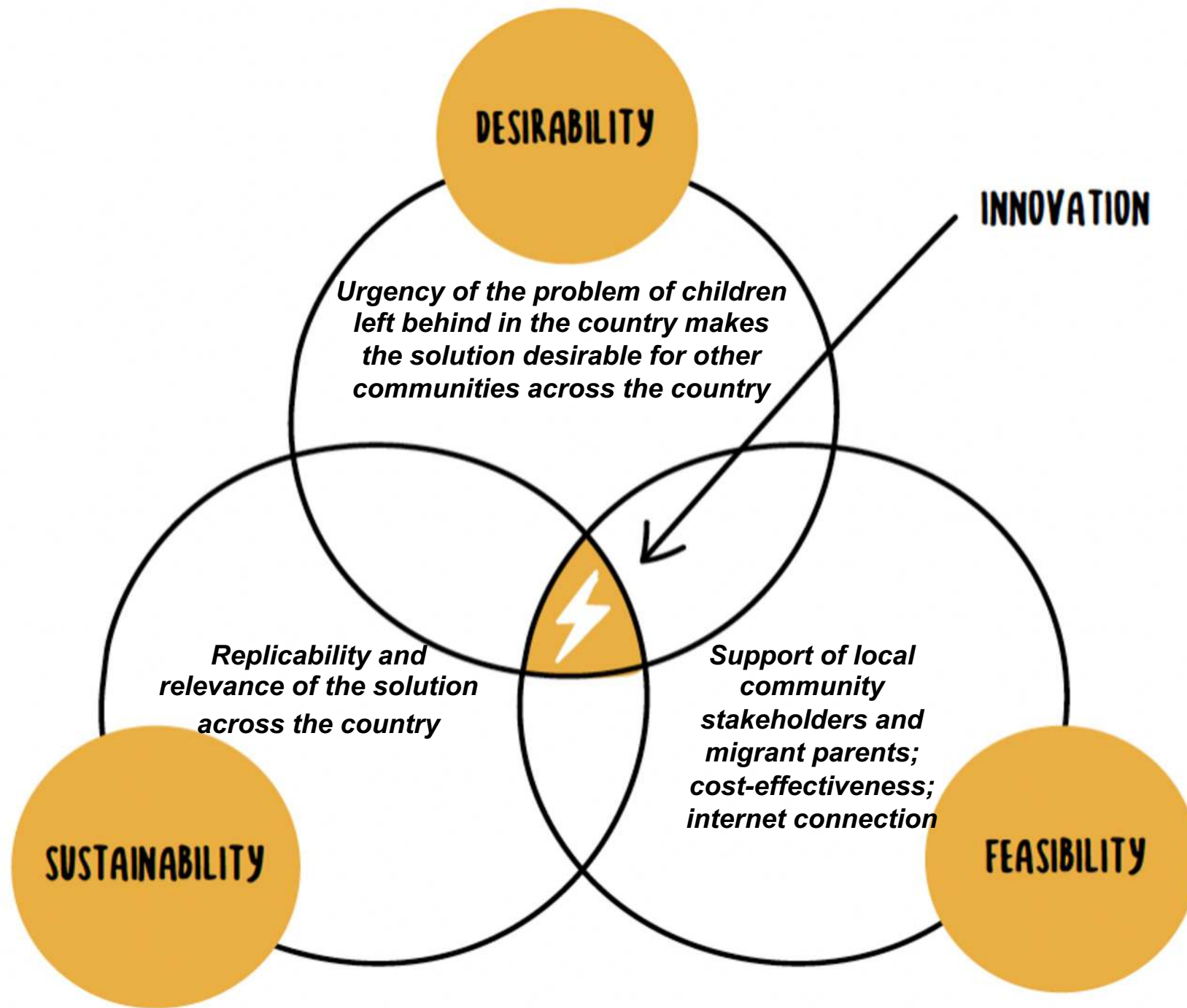
— Migrant parent storytelling

GOAL

— Improving students' literacy and communication skills through strengthening long-distance, parent-child relationships

METHOD

— Organizing an online curricular & extracurricular programs that connected migrant parents with children through storytelling



# Design Process | Empathy

What did we learn from those we interviewed?

1

**We met...**

Hadicha, a little girl aged five and her grandmother Nurgul aged 70.

2

**We noticed/ saw/heard...**

- Hadicha is an emotionally stunted girl. This makes it incredibly difficult for her to communicate with others, including her grandmother, Nurgul
- Nurgul is a very strict and conservative old woman, who holds a more traditional view on child upbringing.

3

**Our insight...**

Hadicha lacks parental guidance and emotional support from both her mother and grandmother. As a result, she finds it difficult to express herself and build relationships.

# Prototyping and Testing

## Design Process

1

We developed a concept note with the list of activities and resources; developed lesson plans

2

- Children interacted positively with the solution
- Migrant parents were interested and motivated to participate
- Solution improved children's wellbeing and motivation to learn

3

- It is important for children to interact with their parents through storytelling
- Despite it being an emotional process, it can strengthen a parent-child relationship



# About Our Innovation

1

- Organized online inception meetings with migrant parents
- Developed lesson plans with migrant parents
- Created/prepare d supplementary learning resources

2

- Screen, projector, computer, and internet connection
- As an alternative, a smartphone or tablet can be used in the case of poor or limited Internet connection.

3

## PHASE 1: Pre-launch



(Approx. 1 Week)  
Inception meetings with parents & caregivers; Create a Whatsapp group with migrant parents

(Approx. 2 Weeks)  
Development of scope of work ( e.g. lesson plans and learning resources, schedule)



## PHASE 2: Planning

## PHASE 3: Testing



(Approx. 2 Weeks)  
Organizing online sessions

(Approx. 2 Weeks)  
Collection of feedback and revision of lesson plans and adaption of resources



## PHASE 4: Iteration

## PHASE 5: Implementation



(Approx. 12 Weeks)  
Organising online sessions

(Approx. 1 Week)  
Diagnostic test and observations



## PHASE 6: Assessment

# Gauging Success

**What is the potential impact in the short-term?** Stronger parent-child relationships, increase in children's interest and motivation towards learning, and improvement in well-being.

**In the long-term?** Reduction in child absenteeism, enhancement of literacy skills, improvement of children's communication and collaboration skills.

1

2

**How will we know if our solution is successful?** We will carry out observations; interview children, parents, and caregivers; and gather teacher reflections.

Children's learning outcomes will be measured based on the series of assessment tools developed by the S2030 team.



# Call to Action

## Support needed

1

### Call to Action #1 Expert guidance

School psychologist, family counsellors;

2

### Call to Action #2 Teacher capacity development

IT skills, facilitation skills, training in teaching non-academic skills

3

### Call to Action #3 Communications and policy wise support

Support from regional and national level education policymakers, media coverage for scale-up



**WITH MANY THANKS TO OUR  
GLOBAL COALITION OF PARTNERS**

