



**Consortium for Research on
Educational Access,
Transitions and Equity**

**Free Primary Education and After in Kenya:
Enrolment impact, quality effects,
and the transition to secondary school**

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Summary

Based on case-study data from a small group of Kenya primary schools, this paper first examines local-level variations in the impact of the 2003 Free Primary Education programme. The effects varied widely: in two ‘high-impact’ schools, intakes more than doubled; while in several others, effects were negligible, either because local demand was already fully met, or in two cases because the schools had erected barriers to increased enrolment (the ‘high-barrier’ schools). A second section enquires into secondary-school transition patterns among the graduates from the case-study schools. Although overall transition rates were high, there were wide variations in the type of secondary school entered; and these in turn had massive consequences for the leavers’ chances of ultimately qualifying for access to university. The policy implications of these findings are discussed in a final section.

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