

# **NTUNGAMO DISTRICT UWEZO ANNUAL LEARNING ASSESSMENT REPORT**

## **LAUNCH**

**Date:** 17<sup>th</sup> Jan 2018

**Venue:** District council hall

**Purpose of the launch:** Communicate the key findings from 2015 learning assessment

### **I.I.BACKGROUND**

Uwezo, meaning “Capability” in Kiswahiri, is a citizen-led programme of Twaweza East Africa which aims to improve competences in literacy and numeracy among children aged 6-16 years, through an innovative, civic-driven and public accountability approach to social change. In implementing the UWEZO program, a simple household-based assessment that measures actual learning abilities in basic literacy is undertaken in order to focus attention and galvanize action towards learning. In undertaking the household-based assessment, Twaweza collaborates with various district based civil society organizations across the country.

Uwezo is for the sixth year undertaking one of the biggest civil society-led assessment in education in Uganda and from 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2015 we started with the recruitment of the district-based partners, researchers and volunteers who through a series of training sessions were able to undertake household-based learning assessment during the course of June-November 2015.

The assessment aimed at generating information that would stimulate various stakeholders to take keen interest in acting towards improving the quality of learning nationally.

The whole idea of Uwezo national assessment is that we send children to school because we expect them to learn the basic skills and competencies necessary to thrive. So Uwezo, instead of focusing on impressive numbers of classrooms built, teachers recruited and books supplied, asks the simple question “**Are our children learning?**”

### **Uwezo’s 3 Key intentions**

- Measure to understand
- Measure to communicate
- Communicate to inspire debate and action about learning

## **KEY COMPONENTS OF UWEZO**

- It's a household-based assessment
- It's done on a national scale
- It uses simple tools as sample tests
- It is citizen-driven – Uses volunteers to assess children
- Instant feedback is given to the parent & children
- It focuses on basic skills in literacy & numeracy

Results of assessment are shared widely

## **1.2. OBJECTIVES OF THE LAUNCH**

To communicate the key findings on 2015 annual learning assessment to the stakeholders to trigger debate and then forge a way forward on how to improve the quality of education (learning levels and academic performance of children) in Ntungamo district.

## **1.3. PARTICIPANTS IN THE LAUNCH**

The targeted and attracted various stakeholders who included the following among others; Local government officials including the RDC, CAO, LCV Chairperson, DEO, District speaker, CDOs, Inspectors of schools, Head teachers, chairperson PTAs of schools, sub county chiefs, village coordinators, representatives from different NGOs, pupil representatives and media groups. A total of 71 participants attended.

## **1.4. PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT**

The report was presented by District Coordinator (Arise Coordinator) who briefed the participants on the process and the study area in Ntungamo district, 776 children from 357 households in 30 villages that were assessed for basic literacy and numeracy skills using primary two level works between September and October 2015.

The pre-assessment exercise was implemented by TWaweza East Africa in partnership with Appropriate Revival Initiative for Strategic Empowerment (ARISE Ntungamo). UWEZO being a citizen led and household based initiative, it involved various structures that voluntarily assist in penetrating into the communities during pre-assessment, assessment and post-assessment. These are District Coordinator (DC), District Communications Contact Person (DCCP), Village Coordinators (VCs) and Volunteers

The report also indicated the key assessment areas which included;

- How well can children read and count by class in Ntungamo district
- How do government schools compare to private schools
- How many children are in pre-primary school compared to the national average
- How many pupils for each teacher compared to the national target
- Are teachers and pupils in school?

The statistics of the key areas were also given as reflected in the report card

Ntungamo District ranked 19<sup>th</sup> out of the 112 districts across the country with an average performance of 41.3 and this shows that learning levels in the district are still low

### **1.5. Reactions from the presentation.**

- The discussion in regard to the presented report and the area of focus was based on the issues leading to the poor performance of the district and interventions that can be made. The discussion was opened by the senior inspector of schools western region (Directorate of Education Standards) who highlighted some of the issues affecting education standards. He said that there is an ongoing measures to improve education standards through engagement of sub county chiefs and other stakeholders by (DES) to enhance efficiency of learners

The main issues included

- Ntungamo getting to the 19<sup>th</sup> position out of 112 districts across the country did not guarantee a good performance since its average performance (41.3) was still not to the required standards as the test sample was a P.2 level work.
- Issues of coaching children only to pass exams. (Should be eliminated and instead focus on giving them the basic concepts)
- Direct/automatic promotion in UPE system.
- A loop hole in the supervision of government schools and this has been attributed to few inspectors charged with many schools in the district, inactive structures in schools, lack of commitment of school heads and lack of parents' ownership of their.
- The CAO also expressed concern about low learning levels in the district and tasked all responsible officers and other concerned stakeholders to research on issues that led to failure of some pupils in PLE Exams.

## **Challenges contributing to the poor performance of government schools in the district**

From the discussions, some key challenges were raised and these were;

- Parents are not fully sensitized on their roles and responsibilities like provision of scholastic materials and meals to their children.
- Pupils walk long distances to school hence fail to attend lessons in time
- Lack of seriousness in schools like using outdated timetables hence the district technical team and the parents are called upon to visit those schools regularly
- Lack of teachers accommodation at schools and this contributes to their late coming and absenteeism
- There is a problem with supervision and monitoring especially in government schools
- Structures in schools especially the SMCs and PTA are not active
- Head teachers not doing their supervisory roles in government schools
- Rampant absenteeism of Head teachers, teachers and pupils
- Lack of enough teachers in schools
- Lack of substantively recruited head teachers due to lack of qualifications
- Some of the parents refuse to send their children to school during planting and harvesting periods while others involve in petty businesses.

## **Recommendations and Way forward**

- Enhancing mobilization and sensitization of parents on their roles and responsibilities especially sending children to school and providing them with the basic necessities like food, uniform and other scholastic materials
- Effective involvement of all stakeholders like Parents, District leaders, Head teachers, sub-county officials and foundation bodies in intensifying monitoring and supervision in schools mostly to help reduce absenteeism.
- Formulation of bye-laws on feeding children in relation to Ministry of Education and Sports school feeding and nutritional guidelines
- Provision of accommodation for teachers at schools by the government.
- Promotion of parent / Teachers Associations in schools.
- Government policies on direct promotion should be revised because some of the pupils do not attend class for a term and in the end they are just promoted hence such they are not expected to perform any better.
- Recruitment of enough teachers for each class in schools so that pupils are fully attended to.
- The responsibility of educating pupils should not be entirely left for the government. Parents should undertake paying some money to enable school activities run smoothly like provision of meals for teachers among others.

- Parents need to motivate the teachers in terms of providing meals at school so that they become much committed to doing their work.
- There is need to provide a pre-primary section in government schools since it prepares the children for the primary section
- Government to construct enough class rooms.
- Sensitizations of parents not to always rush to take their children to private schools since most of them teach exams. It has been observed that pupils from government schools out compete those from privates when it gets to secondary Education
- Need to ensure that there is a healthy competition between private and government schools in order to achieve a better performance in the entire district
- Need to involve stakeholders who are management committees , foundation bodies like the religious leaders to fully supervise their schools

### ACTION POINTS DEVELOPED DURING THE REPORT LAUNCH

S/N	ACTION/STRATEGY	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	TIME FRAME
1	Mobilization and sensitization of parents	Political leaders Foundation bodies PTA committees	Term 1
2	Supervision by all stakeholders	All stakeholders	
3	Bylaws	C/Person Speaker DEC All Local Gov't levels	
4	Promoting and activating parent teacher association in schools	DEO & CAO	
5	Provision of houses to teachers	Foundation bodies	
6	Handling the Direct promotion policy	Council	

#### HEAD TEACHER

- Continuous involvement and sensitization of parents in the management of the school

#### DEO

- No of schools vs no inspectors
- Fuel allocated vs the coverage ( entire District)
- Head teachers are not always at school ( teacher absenteeism)
- Schools not having enough teachers ( District lacks 516 teachers)

- Schools don't have substantive head teachers ( lack degrees)
- Div 1 1019 Div II 4874 68.8% DIV III 1954 80% DIV IV 1106 90.7% DIV U 736 X 181

#### SEC EDUCATION

- Continuous sensitization of parents
- Exploit all platforms to advocate for better education
- Sensitize parents that Gov't schools are as good as private schools

In conclusion, I wish to acknowledge Uwezo Uganda with support from Twaweza East Africa for work done in the government of Uganda through Ministry of education and sports. I also want to thank the Executive Director Arise for the great support through lobbying for resources in ensuring that the organization meets its Vision and Mission.

*“Together everyone achieves more”*

### Appendix

#### Attendance list for the UWEZO launch

	NAME	ORGANISATION	DESIGNATION	CONTACT
1	Singahache D	NDLG	District chairperson	0701530856
2	Ampeire Sakina	NDLG	Vice chairperson	-
3	Atuhaire Elijah	Ntungamo	District speaker	0772481211
4	Kweyamba Ruhembe	NDLG	CAO	0772443736
4	Taritweba Dan	NDLG	ACAO	0772421822
6	Twesigye Nesterio	NDLG	Health educator	-
7	ArigyeM.Odo	NDLG	DEO	
8	Najuna Charles	NMC	Ag.DTC	0703530354
9	Bashaija Benison	NDLG	SAA	0772055710
10	Byaruhanga Anthony	NDLG	Sec for production	0772636734
11	Turyasingura Edson	NDLG	Sec for Educ. & Health	0782399066
12	Kobutungi Deborah	NDLG	DCAO	0782493121
13.	Edward Natamba	SOPIWA	E.D	0772864224
14	Nuwamanya Julius	Rubaare T/C	T/C	0784838918
15	Niwamanya Morgan	Ntungamo p/s	Headteacher	0772828806
16	Akankwasa claire	URCS	Field Supervisor	0706617292
17	Semugabi Shem	NMC	Ag. DTC	0702530354
18	Asaph Bindiire	Vision group	Reporter	0783544052
19	Beegire B Zabron	Kitwe Mixed p/s	Head teacher	0772903111

20	Asingwire Ian	Kitwe Mixed p/s	pupil	-
21	Taremwa Owen	Maato p/s	pupil	-
22	Kagireneza John	Mutanoga p/s	Head teacher	0703255792
23	Muheereza Adson	Katooma p/s	D/head teacher	0774230608
24	Katabarwa Clement	Kizaara p/s	C/P PTA	0779171956
25	Tumwiine cypriano	Muriisa p/s	Head teacher	0773109228
26	Turinawe Annah	Maato p/s	Head teacher	0772339933
27	Kakuramatsi Goleti	Maato p/s	C/P PTA	0777409098
28	Turyahabwe Gedion	APROCES	YPO	0701471049
29	Tindimwebwa Esau	Rugarama s/c	Village coordinator	0772060278
30	Asiimwe Nicholas	Kayonza s/c	LC3 Chairperson	0772657567
31	Rev.Nahooru Benson	Kitunga boarding p/s	D/Head teacher	0782859514
32	Tukahirwa Judith	NDLG	Rep RDC	0782558071
33	Tindimwebwa Alex	Ntungamo s/c	SAS	0774176130
34	Khainza Ritah	Ntungamo s/c	CDO	0775871716
35	Bashaija Beston	NDLG	SAA	-
36	Mugarura Lauben	NDLG	SIS	0772909382
37	Musasizi Francis	Rubaare Central p/s	D/Head teacher	0782558071
38	Mpamize Juliet	NDLG	Sec for CBS	0703910367
39	Muzoora Isaac	Ntungamo Dev.network	Prog .coordinator	0772981827
40	Tumusiime Allen	Itojo S/C	Ag. SAS	0704690174
41	Ainomugisha Coleta	Ihunga S/C	SAS	0703394509
42	Rumanzi Perez	Monitor publications	Journalist	
43	Namuddustella	NDLG	For Probation officer	0756805866
44	Asiimwabantu Steven	Rushooka central p/s	C/PTA	0772984436
45	Kweyamba Stephen	Rushooka central p/s	Head teacher	0772659052
46	Byamukama Emmanuel	Kayonza S/C	SAS	0782209135
47	Banyenzakyi James	Ntungamo P/S	C/SMC	0701657257
48	Mwesigye Innocent	ARISE	V/C	0774618989
49	Edward Natamba	SOWIPA	ED	-
50	Katahinga Elly	Radio Ankole	Journalist	-
51	Joga Bright	Nyakyera	SAS	-