Illuminating the Covid-19 learning losses and gains in Uganda

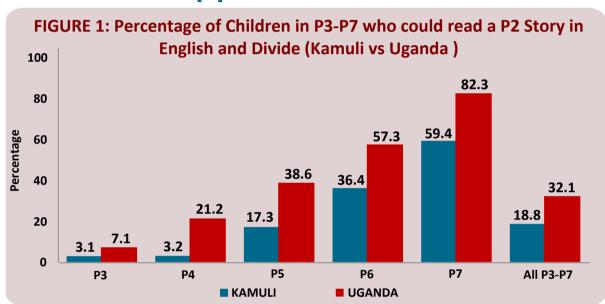
KAMULI DISTRICT REPORT, BASED ON UWEZO 2021 LEARNING ASSESSMENT

About the Kamuli District Report Card

Amidst the Covid-19 pandemic that led to the closure of schools for almost two years, in August 2021 Uwezo Uganda in partnership with selected district-based Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) conducted a national household-based learning assessment for children aged 4-16 years across 29 districts in the country. The assessment focusing on literacy and numeracy was pegged on primary 2 curriculum. The assessment conducted with the support of citizen-surveyors (volunteers) reached 15,033 children nationally. In Kamuli district, a total of 573 children (270 boys and 303 girls) participated in the assessment. This report card illuminates selected key findings on learning in Kamuli district. In some instances, the report compares the learning situation in Kamuli district with the national situation.

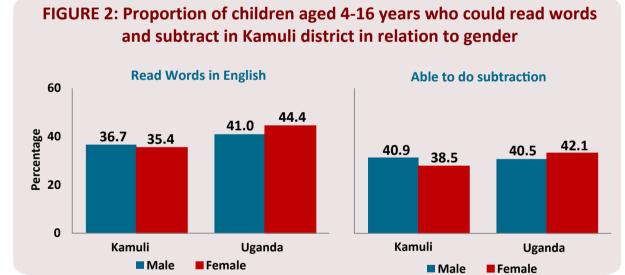
1. How well can children read and count, by class in Kamuli district? [%]

The aim of education is to ensure that children learn. Thus, if effective learning occurred in primary education, assessments should provide evidence attesting that learners are able to meet the expected competencies. Once again, Uwezo finds that children do not perform to standard, very few children (3%) in Primary 3 are able to do Primary 2 work. And even by Primary 7, the end of the primary cycle, a significant proportion of children (41%) are unable to do Primary 2 reading and mathematics. Generally, learning levels in Kamuli are way lower than the national averages.



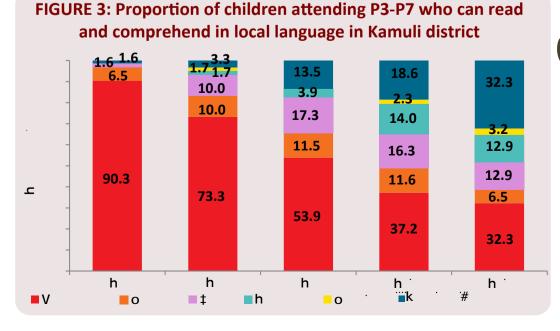
2. Are boys and girls in Kamuli district able to read words and do subtraction? [%]

Ability to read words and do subtraction is a foundation to literacy and numeracy. Figure 2 shows the proportions of children aged 4-16 in Uwezo samples who were able to read words, in English and to do subtraction tasks (when presented in mathematical symbols). More than a half of the 4-16 children aged years in Kamuli district cannot read P2 words and do subtraction tasks. There are minimal gender differences in the learning outcomes.



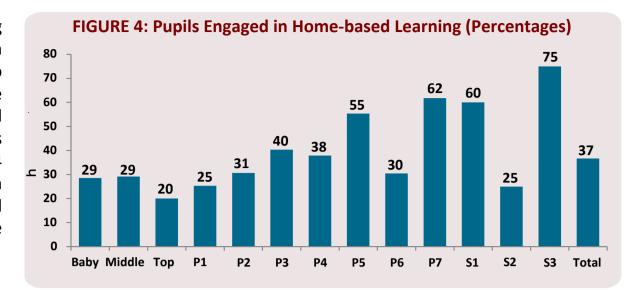
3. How competent are children attending P3-P7 in Kamuli district in reading in the local language? [%]

The language of education policy requires children in P1-P3 to be instructed in the language of the catchment area (local languages) where the prevailing language spoken in an area is just one (monolingual). Figure 3 shows the proportion of children in Kamuli who can read a text in the local language by class. Even for P3 who are supposed to be learning in the local language, 90% are non-readers in the local language. Even in P7, 32% of the learners can read and comprehend a text in local language - 68% cannot.



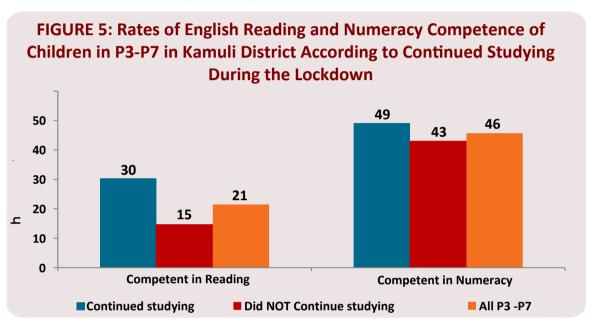
4. Were children in Kamuli district engaged in home-based learning during the Covid-19-induced lockdown? [%]

Some home-based learning took place during the Covid-19 lockdown to keep children engaged. These activities included radio lessons; printed materials from the government, television-learning lessons and printed materials from other sources apart from the government. Figure 4 shows that less than half of the children in Kamuli district engaged in home-based learning while schools remained closed due to the Covid-19-induced lockdown.



5. How are reading and numeracy competencies related to learning during the Covid-19-induced lockdown? [%]

A number of interventions happened when schools closed during the lockdown. **Figure** 5 shows reading and numeracy competencies with reference to studying whether children continued during the lockdown. Children who continued studying when schools closed realised better learning outcomes in literacy and numeracy. The difference in the two groups was most significant in literacy (15%) compared to 6% for numeracy.



Uwezo Assessment in Kamuli District

The Uwezo assessment in Kamuli district was conducted in August 2021. Three hundred (300) households were randomly sampled from 15 enumeration areas. A total of 573 children (270 boys and 303 girls) aged 4-16 participated in the assessment conducted by 30 citizen-volunteers

The assessment was conducted by Uwezo Uganda in partnership with Uganda Development Services (UDS), the Uwezo partner in Kamuli district.

This report card was produced by Uwezo Uganda in April 2024

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