

KiuFunza Randomized Evaluation: methodology and sample

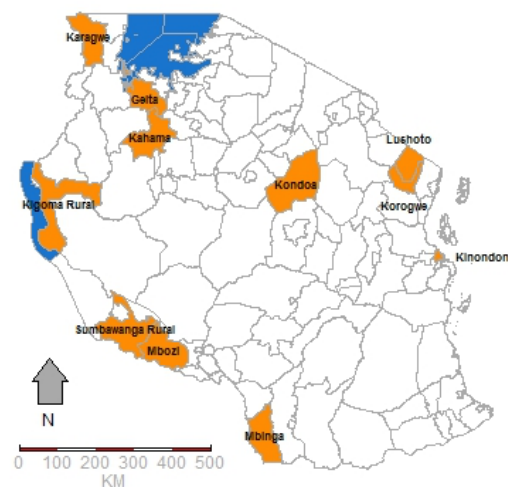
Methodology

KiuFunza is a teacher incentive programme aimed at teachers in Standards I-III of public primary schools. Teachers are targeted by the programme, but bonuses are paid based on the main deliverable of teachers: the reading and math skills that children in their classrooms learn.

KiuFunza is a school based **randomized control trial (RCT)**: this means that the bonus programme was implemented in one group of schools while intentionally keeping another group of schools under “business as usual” conditions – a control group. A key feature is that the programme schools were selected by chance. Before the selection each school had the same chance of being selected into the incentive programme group. This means that at on average the programme schools and the control schools were “the same” before the programme started. Therefore we have a fair comparison between control and treatment. In both programme and control schools the same measurements take place. We analyze the effectiveness of KiuFunza by comparing these measurements. The main interest in this evaluation is in the programme effect on the skills that children learn.

Sample

To be able to finance and manage the project Twaweza implemented the interventions in 11 districts only. KiuFunza districts have been sampled *randomly* from all districts in Mainland Tanzania, with probability of selection proportional to the number of primary school students in the district. That is, districts with a higher number of primary school students had a higher chance of being in the sample.¹ The selected sample includes the following 11 districts (districts that split during the study period are still labeled as part of the mother district): Geita, Kahama, Karagwe, Kigoma, Kinondoni, Kondoa, Korogwe Rural, Lushoto, Mbinga, Mbozi, Sumbawanga Rural.



¹ The exception is Kigoma, which was selected purposively for the *implementation sample* as the leadership had expressed early interest in the initiative. Kigoma was the intervention training and pilot district and it is not represented in the KiuFunza *research sample*.

In each district all primary government schools were *eligible* to participate; but only 12 schools were selected for the intervention. These schools were randomly selected and assigned to the different interventions (six in each district for Stadi; six in each district for Mashindano). In each district 10 other randomly selected schools are monitored in the a “control arm”, consisting of schools not receiving any financial flows or other support.

However, in both control and COD schools data on learning outcomes teachers and school characteristics are collected. Within the selected districts schools were sampled randomly. And again, within Standards I, II and III, students are sampled randomly for testing. Random sampling means that every school and student had an equal chance to be selected for the study. This also means that findings from KiuFunza are **nationally representative** and are relevant for the education system.

The full sample is summarized in Table 1.

Table 1 – KiuFunza sample 2015-16

Sample of schools for	Stadi	Mashindano	Control	Total
Research	60	60	100	220
Intervention	67	67	60	194
Intervention by district				
Geita	7	6	6	19
Kahama	6	6	6	18
Karagwe	6	6	6	18
Kigoma	5	5	-	10
Kinondoni	7	7	6	20
Kondoa	6	6	6	18
Korogwe	6	6	6	18
Lushoto	6	7	6	19
Mbinga	6	6	6	18
Mbozi	6	6	6	18
Sumbawanga	6	6	6	18
TOTAL	67	67	60	194
Notes	Added for intervention piloting: 5 Kigoma, 1 Kinondoni. 1 Geita school split into 2.	Added for intervention piloting: 5 Kigoma, 1 Kinondoni. 1 Lushoto school split into 2.	The research sample tracks 40 schools that have been in KiuFunza since 2013	