

Press Release
For immediate release

**Nationally, learning outcomes are low, 3 out of 10 in Class 3 can do Class 2 work
 In Nyeri, the best performing county, 6 in 10 Class 3 pupils have basic numeracy and literacy skills**

Nairobi, 16 June 2015: While 100% of children in Class 3 and higher classes should be able to read basic English and Kiswahili, and do simple mathematics, a new citizen-led assessment report reveals that very few are able to do so.

Kiswahili

- Fewer than 4 out of 10 Class 3 children can read a Class 2 Kiswahili story while in the same class, 2 out of 10 cannot read a Kiswahili word.
- In Class 8, 4 out of 100 children cannot read a Class 2 Kiswahili story.

English

- Just 3 out of 10 Class 3 children can read a Class 2 level English story while 2 out of 10 children in the same class cannot read an English word.
- In Class 8, 4 out of 100 children cannot read a Class 2 English story.

Numeracy

- Just 3 out of 10 children in Class 3 can solve a Class 2 division problem. In the same class 1 in 10 children cannot recognize numbers between 11 and 99.
- By the time children reach Class 8, 1 in 10 still cannot solve Class 2 division.

These findings, released today by Uwezo at Twaweza, are from the fourth national learning assessment conducted in 2013. Uwezo partners tested over 135,000 children, aged 6 to 16, from all 47 counties in the country.

These data were collected in 2013, on the eve of the implementation of Kenya’s new devolved structure. The national figures mask some significant regional differences.

The top five counties are

Nyeri	58
Kajiado	54
Nairobi	52
Kiambu	44
Kirinyaga	42

The bottom five counties are

Mandera	10
Samburu	13
Turkana	14
Busia	17
Tana River	18

The figures indicate the average percentage of children in Class 3 who can read and understand a Class 2 level story in English and Kiswahili, and do division at the same level.

Although Nyeri was the strongest county in Kenya in terms of learning outcomes, performance there was still poor. A Class 3 child in Nyeri was six times more likely to be able to do Class 2 work than a child in Mandera.

Nyeri was the top county for English reading and division. A total of 6 out of 10 Class 3 pupils could read English and the same number could do division at Class 2 level. The top county for Kiswahili reading was Kajiado where 6 out of 10 Class 3 pupils were able to read at Class 2 level.

Uwezo also collected rich data on the quality of school facilities and whether children and teachers were attending school. In terms of facilities:

- In Nairobi, almost all schools (96%) provided clean drinking water.



- In Isiolo, almost all schools (95%) provided sanitary towels to girls.
- Isiolo was also the county in which the highest proportion of schools provided training for teachers who teach pupils with special needs, but this was still generally low at 19%.
- Almost all the schools assessed in Mombasa (96%) provided in service training for Class 2 teachers.

In terms of enrolment and attendance:

- Murang'a had the lowest number of out of school children, 1 out of 100 children of school age were not in school.
- In Elgeyo Marakwet, almost all enrolled pupils (96%) were in school during the Uwezo visit.
- Similarly in Mombasa, 9 out of 10 teachers were in school on the day of the Uwezo visit.
- Kisii was the best performing county for the number of young children in pre-school; 8 out of 10 children aged 3-5 were in pre-school.
- In terms of parents attending meetings at schools, Nyeri was again the front-runner with 8 out of 10 parents attending school meetings.

“Although the Uwezo results have been showing and continue to show low levels of learning for a number of years, there is significant regional variation” commented Dr Emmanuel Manyasa, Country Manager for Uwezo Kenya. “The top performing county still only has 6 out of 10 pupils in Class 3 able to do Class 2 work, but the variation between counties provides an opportunity for sharing experiences and improving outcomes in the poorer performing counties.”

Dr John Mugo, Director of Data and Voice at Twaweza commented *“The data appear to show a positive relationship between the proportion of parents in a county that attend school meetings, the daily attendance of pupils and teachers, and learning outcomes. However, the low level of learning outcomes overall continues to be a major challenge to the country. Uwezo provides rich data with which to examine trends and identify factors that contribute to learning. This citizen-led assessment ought to help focus our education policy towards ensuring that children are not only in school, but that they are also learning.”*

The Uwezo learning assessment is conducted in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda by thousands of volunteers. Children aged 6 to 16 are assessed in basic literacy and numeracy using a test based on the Class 2 curriculum. Uwezo aims to create a national dialogue about education, learning outcomes and policy priorities.

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For more information:

Izel Kipruto

Assistant Communications Officer, Uwezo

e: ikipruto@twaweza.org

m: +254 724374904

Juliana Atemi

Media Support, Uwezo

e: jatemi@gmail.com

Notes to editors

- The full report, including samples of the tests used, is available on www.uwezo.net.
- **About Twaweza**
Twaweza means “we can make it happen” in Swahili. Twaweza works on enabling children to learn, citizens to exercise agency and governments to be more open and responsive in Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda. We have programs, staff and offices across all three countries, and a world respected practice of learning, monitoring and evaluation. Our flagship programs include *Uwezo*, Africa’s largest annual citizen assessment to assess children’s learning levels across hundreds of thousands of households, and *Sauti za Wananchi*, Africa’s first nationally representative mobile phone survey. We undertake effective public and policy engagement, through powerful media partnerships and global leadership of initiatives such as the Open Government Partnership.