

# NEWSLETTER

UWEZO UGANDA NEWSLETTER - ISSUE NO. 2, JULY/AUG 2020



Uwezo's Programmatic Areas (2020-2023)

1. Assessment of Learning
  - a) Basic Assessment (4-16): Broadened to include early years
  - b) Assessment of young people's workplace skills (14 years)
  - c) Assessment of learners with Special Needs (e.g. Retarded and the hearing impaired)
2. Research and Experimentation
3. Policy and Public Engagement

**“ALL CHILDREN LEARNING AND REALISING THEIR FULL POTENTIAL.”**

## WELCOME TO THE 2ND ISSUE OF OUR NEWSLETTER!

**By now it is clear to everyone that we're, as it has been widely acknowledged, in unprecedented times.**

Community cases are rising and any semblance of normalcy that we were accustomed to is fast receding. Nonetheless, we must remain positive and focused. Armed with information in the guidelines we have repeatedly received from health experts, we have the power to curb spread of this novel Covid-19 virus.

Needless to say, please wear your mask, wash your hands/sanitise and

keep a social distance. This shall eventually be over.

For avoidance of doubt, we at Uwezo Uganda are taking all the precautions as advised. Take a journey into our past month and see what we have been up to.

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# NEWS & PROJECT UPDATES

## WE PRESENTED AT MINISTRY OF EDUCATION BASIC EDUCATION WORKING GROUP (BEWG)

Uwezo Uganda was privileged to share the methodology and findings from a pilot assessment of young people's literacy and numeracy competencies required in the workplace and everyday life. The assessment was conducted in collaboration with Oxford Policy Management Limited (OPML) under the Strengthening Education Systems for Improved Learning (SESIL) program; supported by the UK's Department for International Development (DFID) and Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES).

From the findings, young people demonstrated low functional abilities, implying that a large proportion of school leavers seem to remain 'unskilled' for employment purposes. Overall, the pilot demonstrates that it is possible to objectively assess the functional learning outcomes of young people in literacy and numeracy that are required in the workplace and everyday life. Plans are underway to scale-up the study to a nationally representative sample in 2021. The full report can be accessed [here](#).



Uwezo Uganda presenting to the basic MoES Basic Education Working Group on 19/08/2020

## PARTNERING TO BOOST LEARNING VIA TECHNOLOGY

Uwezo Uganda will utilise its expertise in conducting assessments to support a new partner [Hello World](#), to conduct an assessment for technological learning. Hello World uses technology to enable children from poor backgrounds access learning. This planned assessment is focused towards enabling Hello World improve learning outcomes and quality of education for families that use Hello World Hubs.

Through this partnership, existing learning gaps in 200 families will be identified. This should enable understanding of what and where their more urgent learning needs are. Hello World will also use the data to evaluate the role of technology as an intervention towards improving learning outcomes for the children benefiting from their Hubs. This is one certain way to demonstrate that assessment data can be used to design meaningful action.

## PARTICIPATION IN NATIONAL DIALOGUE ON COVID-19 IMPACT

Uwezo took part in the e-dialogue about the impacts of Covid -19 pandemic on the education sector, where the Executive Director discussed about how learning has been implemented pre, during Covid-19 and how it can be improved after. The 3-panel discussion, which took place on 15/07/2020, was hosted on NBS television. Find the full conversation [here](#).

## WE HAVE BEEN GROWING THE UWEZO FAMILY

In July, the finance department witnessed the fruits of Uwezo's practice of identifying young talent, engaging them in productive arrangements geared towards their own learning and the benefit of the organisation. One of the interns working under the mentorship and supervision of the finance department was confirmed as a member of the finance department and the organisation. This has further strengthened the finance team that greatly supports the implementation of our activities.

During the same month, finance has continued to work on building systems and carrying out in-house finance activities geared towards strengthening controls in finance operations.

The team underwent training on the use of the Xero financial accounting system, expected to enhance financial reporting.

With a more solid team, the finance unit will continue to support the day to day finance and entity-wide operations in a more seamless manner.

## OUR WEBSITE IS LOADING...



In an effort to boost our communication and advocacy goal, we have developed a one-stop information website, which gives firsthand insights into our work, assessment reports, detailed datasets, and activities from our partners, and pictures from our projects. Stay tuned for the launch in our next issue.



GCHI Co-founder & Chief of Strategy Bwanika Charles during a 5Cs interaction with Adolescent girls in Kimuli village, Maanyi sub county, Mityana in observation of the MoH guidelines.

## MASTERING GCHI'S 5CS SKILLS COVID-19 COMMUNITY PROGRAM

5C's = Creativity, Curiosity, Collaboration, Critical-thinking & Communication. This is a Giving Children Hope Initiative (GCHI) community skills program which engages parents, caregivers and children, equipping them with these skills. It integrates both academic experiences with community norms to support the rightful upbringing of children. The prevailing situation calls for passionate foot-soldiers, who can carry out a series of coordinated intentional interventions to serve the most vulnerable groups in the face of Gender Based Violence (GBV) & Violence Against Children (VAC). It is against this background that GCHI is using her existing community programs and the supportive structures to contribute to the cause.

[GCHI](#) is Uwezo Uganda partner organisation in Mityana District.

## CHILD PROTECTION TRAINING

Child protection is a very important aspect in our line of work, as children make up majority of our beneficiaries and assessment respondents. It is therefore crucial that our team and volunteers are well versed with these policies.



Uwezo team during the child safeguarding training with the [Justice Studio](#) on 06/07/2020.

## PARTICIPATION AT INTERNATIONAL LEVEL IN ICAN LAUNCH

Uwezo Uganda participated in the global e-launch of the [PAL Network International Common Assessment of Numeracy \(ICAN\) report](#) where it's a partner. ICAN initiative is an open-source, robust, and easy-to-use assessment tool, available in 11 languages, that offers international comparability of results aligned to SDG 4.1.1 (a).

It was developed through collaborative efforts between PAL Network member organisations including Uwezo Uganda in 13 low and middle-income countries across Africa, Asia, and America. ICAN serves as a large-scale proof of concept that a common tool can be used to assess foundational numeracy skills across contexts.



### Global e-launch of PAL Network's International Common Assessment of Numeracy Report

WEBINAR

9 JULY 2020 | 5:00-6:30 PM (GMT+03:00)  
[info@palnetwork.org](mailto:info@palnetwork.org) | [www.palnetwork.org](http://www.palnetwork.org)



Dr. Silvia Montoya  
 Director, UNESCO Institute for Statistics



Dr. Rukmini Banerji  
 CEO, Pratham Education Foundation



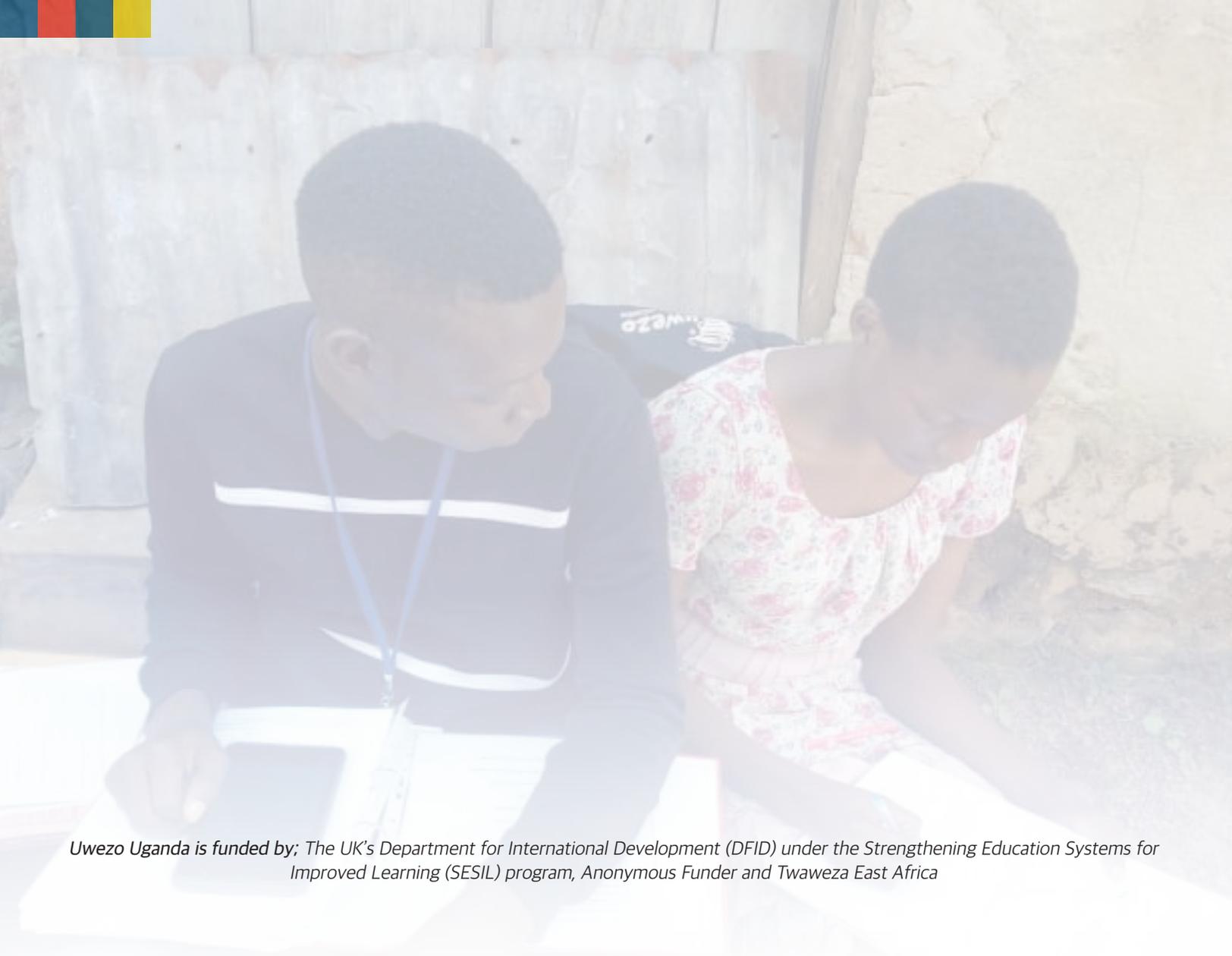
Dr. James Otieno Jowi  
 Principal Education Officer  
 East African Community



Dr. Sylvia Schmelkes  
 Academic Vice-President, Universidad  
 Benemérita in Mexico City



Mr. Boureima Allaye Touré  
 Chairperson, National Council of  
 Civil Society Organisations in Mali



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