

ARE OUR CHILDREN LEARNING?

Illuminating the Covid-19 learning losses and gains in Uganda

NAMISINDWA DISTRICT REPORT, BASED ON UWEZO 2021 LEARNING ASSESSMENT

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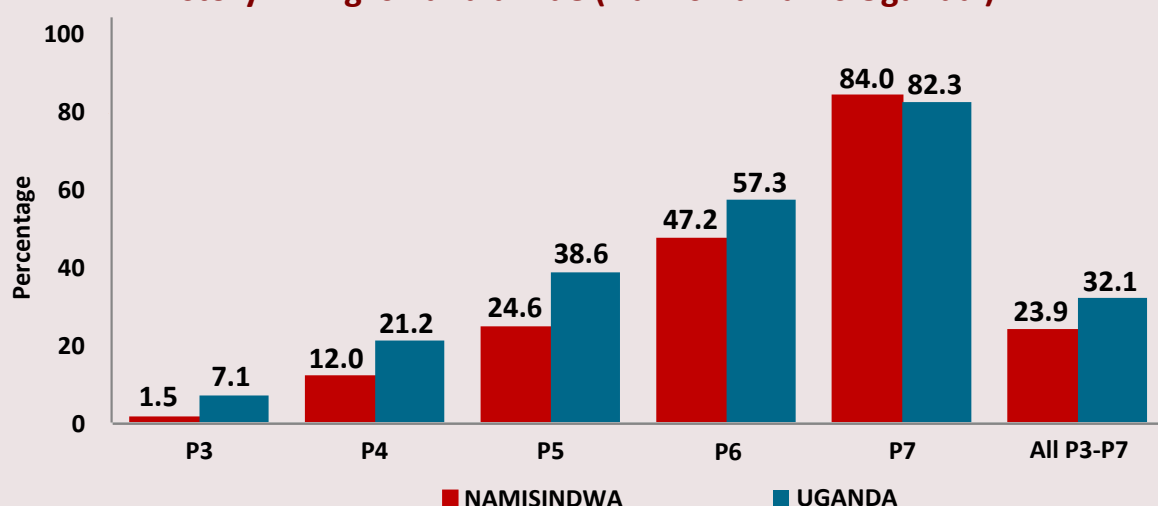
About the Namisindwa District Report Card

Amidst the Covid-19 pandemic that led to the closure of schools in Uganda for almost two years, 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 Namisindwa district, a total of 584 children (288 boys and 296 girls) participated in the assessment. This report card presents selected key findings on learning in Namisindwa district. In some instances, this report compares the learning situation in Namisindwa with the national situation.

1. How well can children read and count, by class in Namisindwa 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 (less than 2%) in Primary 3 are able to do Primary 2 work. And even by Primary 7, the end of the primary cycle, a significant minority of children (16%) is unable to do Primary 2 reading and mathematics. Overall, learning levels in Namisindwa are lower than the national averages.

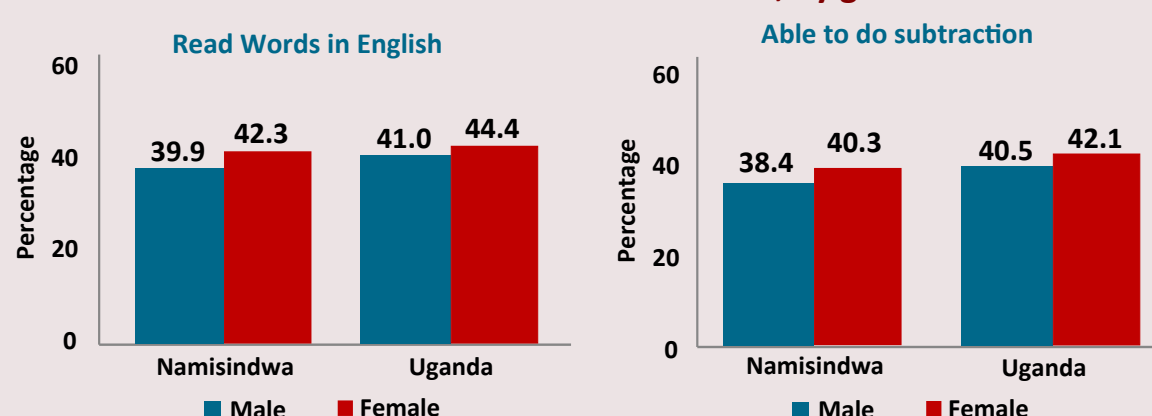
FIGURE 1: Percentage of children in P3-P7 who could read a P2 story in English and divide (Namisindwa vs Uganda)



2. Are boys and girls in Namisindwa 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). The proportion of children who can read words and do subtraction sums is lower in Namisindwa than the national averages. There are minimal gender differences in favour of girls.

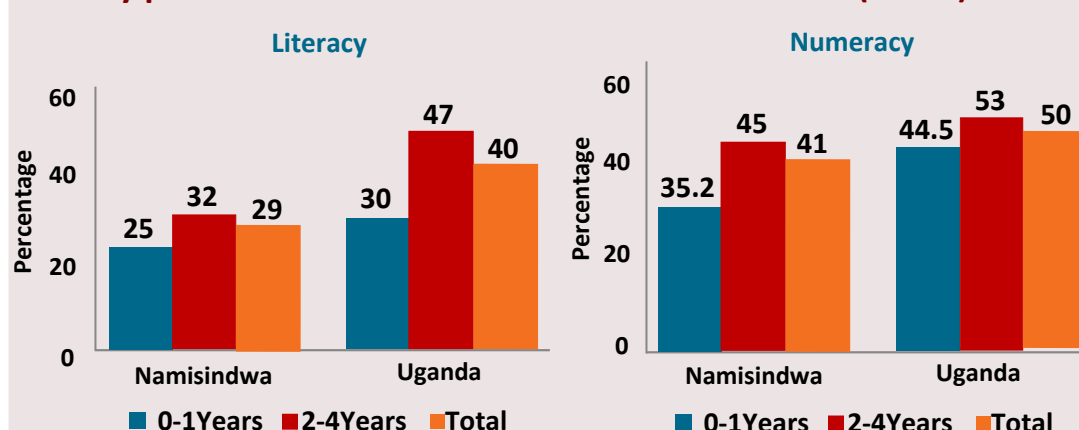
FIGURE 2: Proportion of children aged 4-16 years who could read words and subtract in Namisindwa district, by gender



3. How are the reading and numeracy competencies relating to pre-school attendance in Namisindwa district? [%]

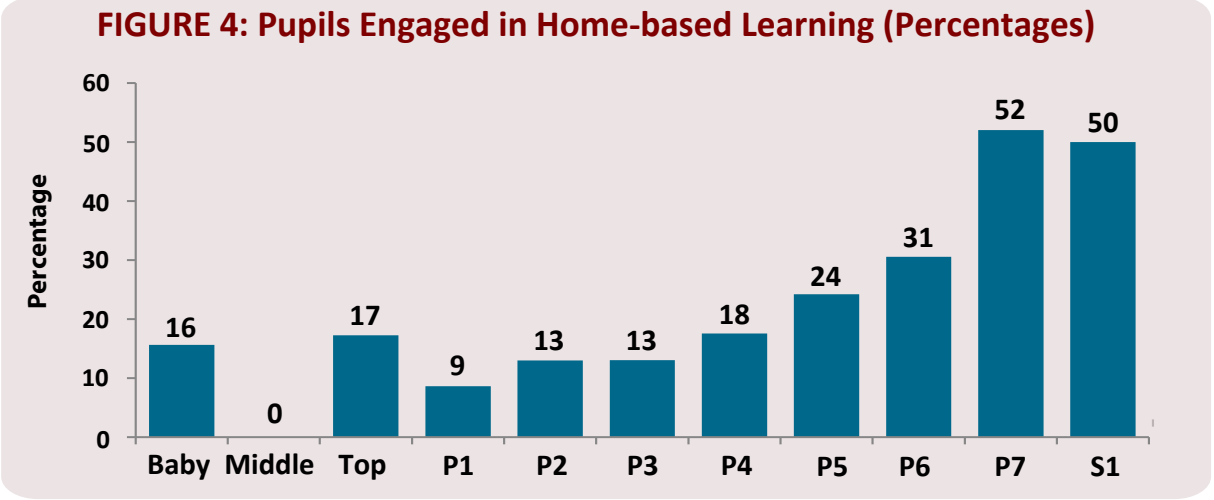
Evidence from around the world indicates that pre-primary or early childhood education can provide a solid foundation for children entering primary school and support them to achieve expected learning outcomes. Children with two or more years of preschool education tend to post better learning outcomes than their counterparts with one or less years of preschool attendance.

FIGURE 3: Children's reading and numeracy competencies, by pre-school attendance in Namisindwa district (P3-P7)



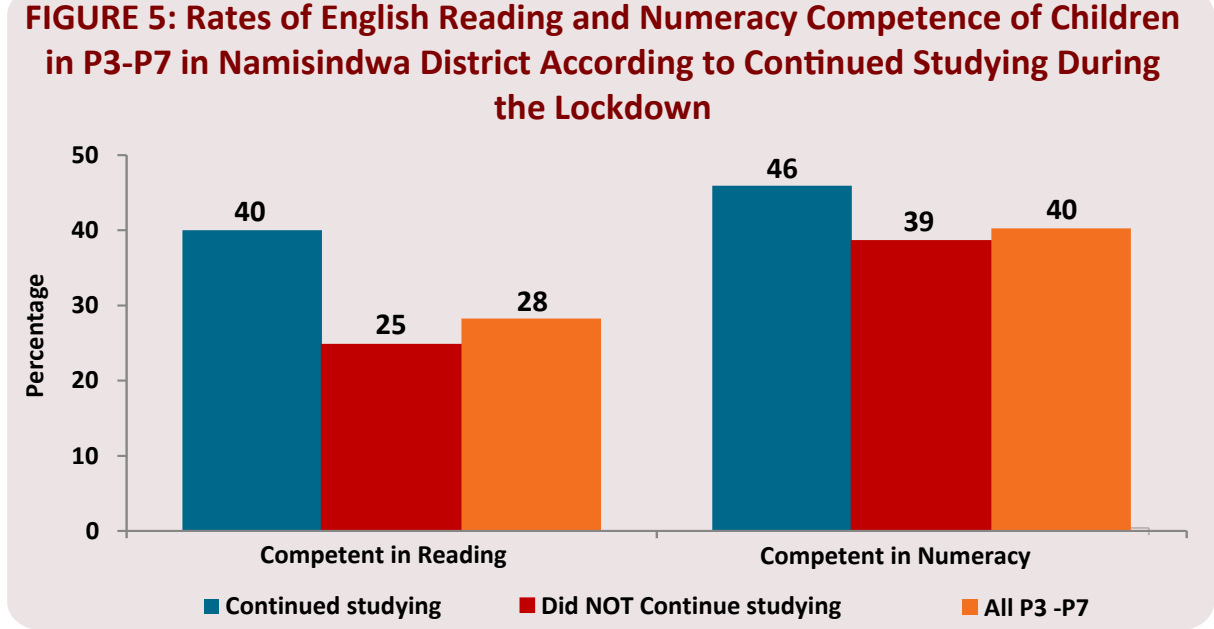
4. Were children in Namisindwa district engaged in home-based learning during the Covid-19-induced lockdown? [%]

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 government. Children in higher classes were more engaged in learning activities during the pandemic than children in lower classes.



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 whether children continued studying during the lockdown. Children who continued studying when schools closed realised better learning outcomes regardless of their grade.



Uwezo Assessment in Namisindwa District

The Uwezo assessment in Namisindwa district was conducted in August 2021. Three hundred (300) households were randomly sampled from 15 enumeration areas. A total of 584 children (288 boys and 296 girls) aged 4-16 participated in the assessment conducted by 30 citizen-volunteers.

The assessment was conducted by Uwezo Uganda in partnership with African Rural Development Initiative (ARDI), the Uwezo partner in Namisindwa district.

This report card was produced by Uwezo Uganda in April 2024

Uwezo Uganda
Corner House, Suite B1
Plot 436/437, Mawanda Road, Kampala
P.O Box 33275, Kampala, Uganda.

African Rural Development Initiatives (ARDI)
P.O Box 611 Mbale
Mbale
Uganda

