

ARE OUR CHILDREN LEARNING?

Illuminating the Covid-19 learning losses and gains in Uganda

PALLISA DISTRICT REPORT, BASED ON UWEZO 2021 LEARNING ASSESSMENT

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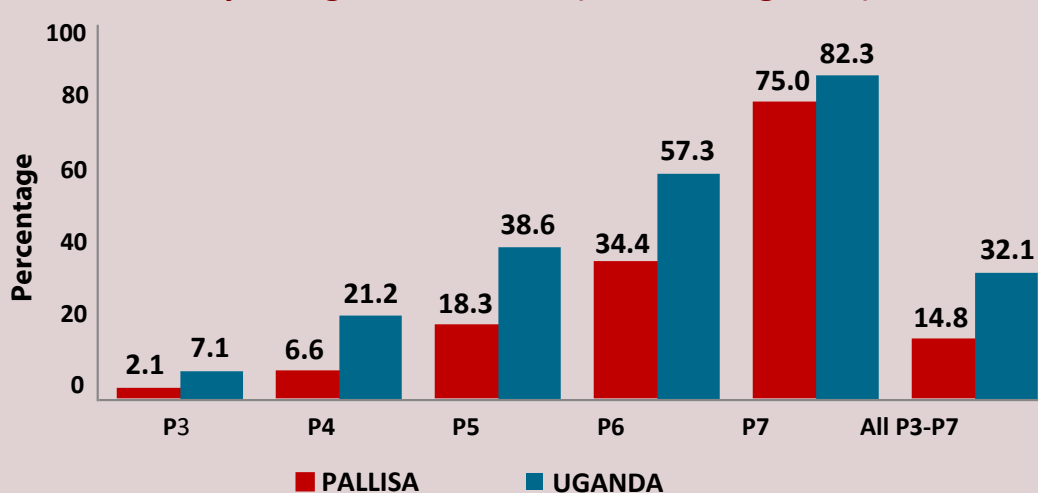
About the Pallisa Report Card

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 Pallisa district, a total of 663 children (329 boys and 334 girls) participated in the assessment. This report card presents selected key findings on learning in Pallisa district. In some instances, this report compares the learning situation in Pallisa district with the national situation.

1. How well can children read and count, by class in Pallisa 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 in Primary 3 (2%) are able to do Primary 2 work. And even by Primary 7, the end of the primary cycle, a significant proportion of children (25%) are unable to do Primary 2 reading and mathematics. Overall, learning levels in Pallisa are way below the national averages.

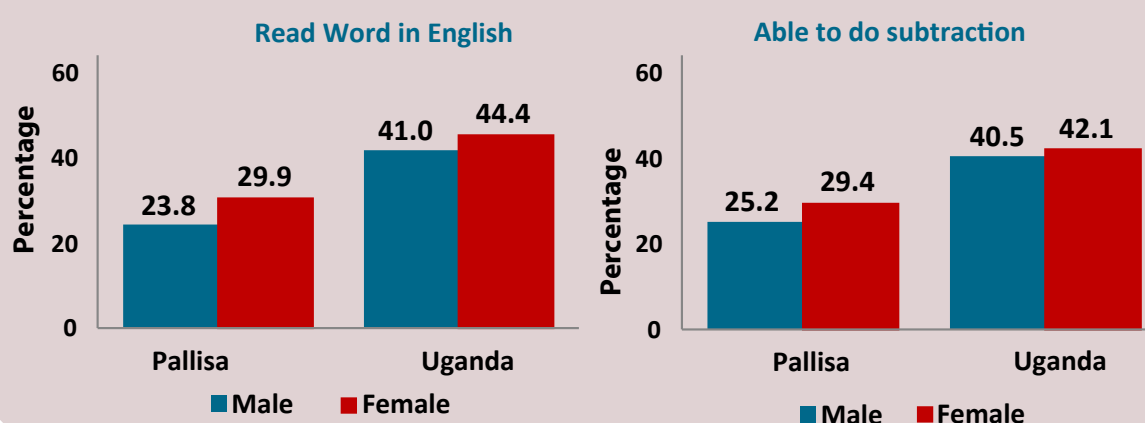
FIGURE 1: Percentage of children in P3-P7 who could read a P2 story in English and divide (Pallisa vs Uganda)



2. Are boys and girls in Pallisa 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). There are more girls than boys in Pallisa district who can read words and subtract.

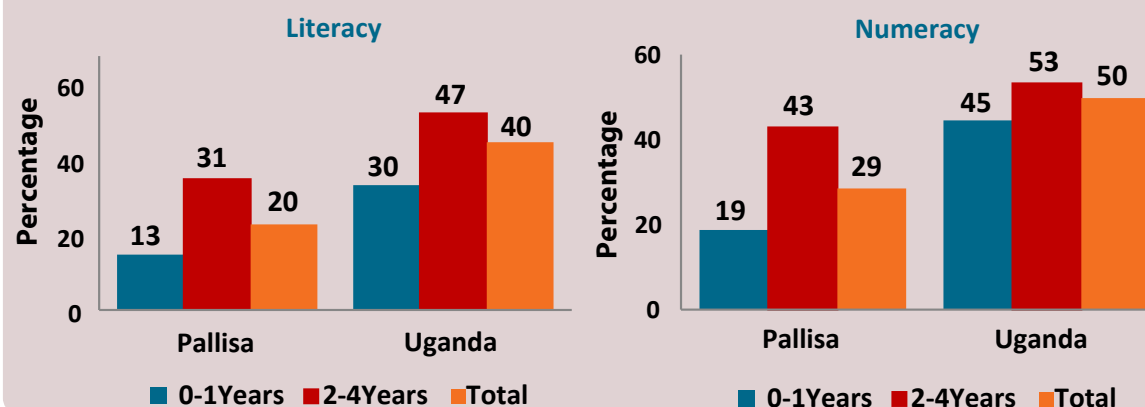
FIGURE 2: Proportion of children aged 4-16 years who could read words and subtract in Pallisa district in relation to gender



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

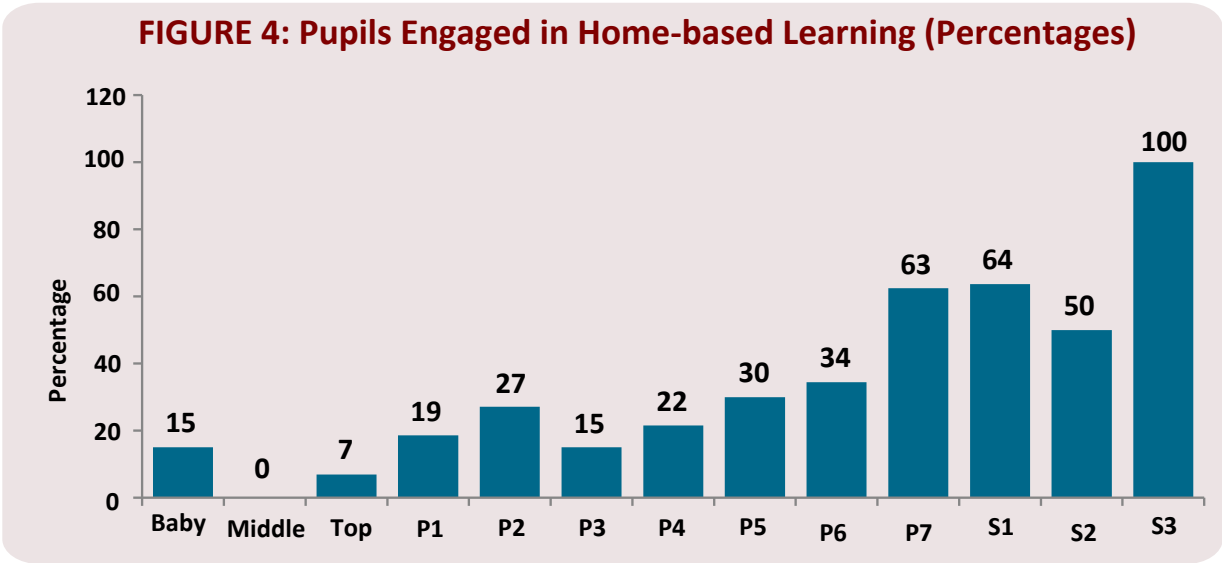
Evidence from around the world indicates that pre-primary or early childhood education can provide a solid foundation for children entering primary school and support them to achieve expected learning outcomes. Children with two or more years of preschool education tend to post better learning outcomes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

FIGURE 3: Percentages of children reading and numeracy competencies relating to pre-school attendance in Pallisa district



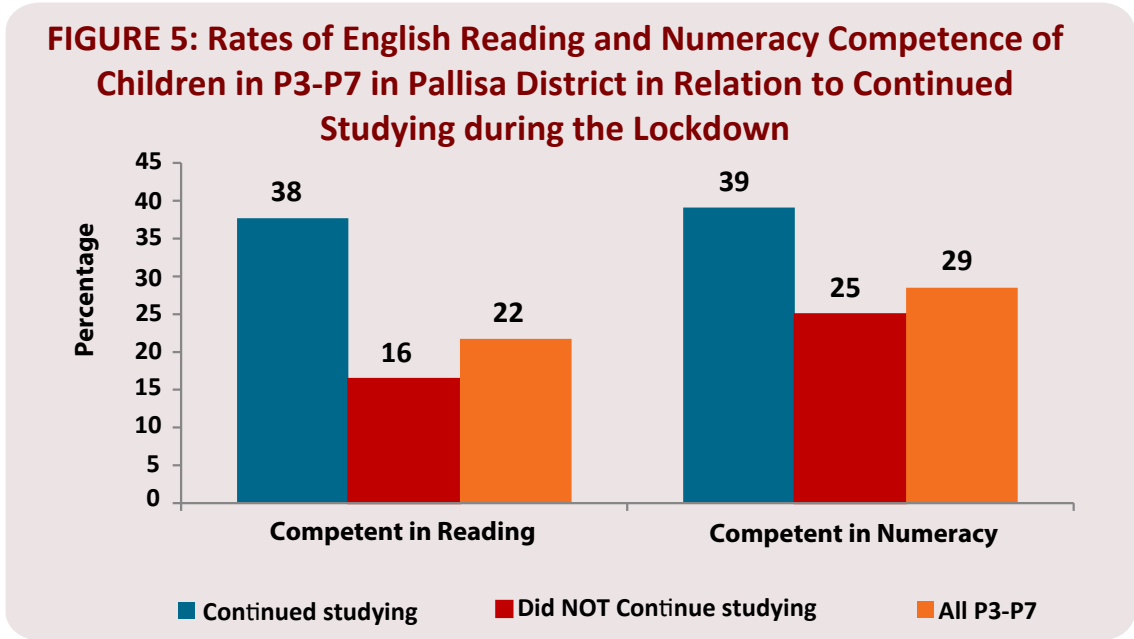
4. Were children in Pallisa district engaged in home-based learning during the Covid-19-induced lockdown? [%]

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. Generally, children in higher grades engaged more in home-based learning than children in lower grades.



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 in literacy and numeracy than their counterparts who never had the opportunity to do so.



Uwezo Assessment in Pallisa District

The Uwezo assessment in Pallisa district was conducted in August 2021. Three hundred (300) households were randomly sampled from 15 enumeration areas. A total of 663 children (329 boys and 334 girls) aged 4-16 participated in the assessment conducted by 30 citizen surveyors (volunteers).

The assessment was conducted by Uwezo Uganda in partnership with Citizens Initiative for Democracy and Development Uganda, the Uwezo partner in Pallisa district.

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