

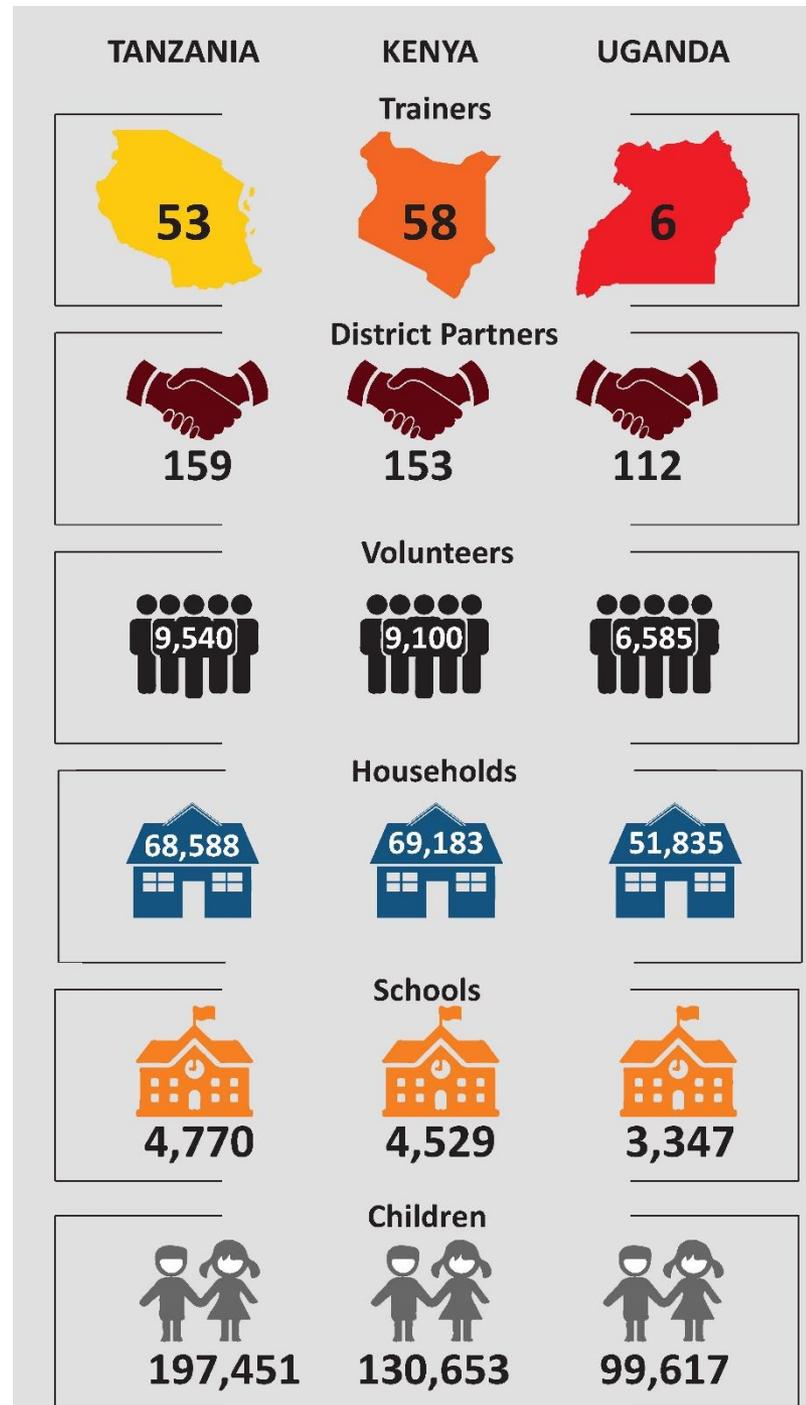


# Are Our Children Learning? Malnutrition and learning outcomes



# What is Uwezo?

- Citizen-led learning assessment
- Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.
- All children 7-16 (in Tanzania) tested at Standard 2 level
- Kiswahili, English, Maths
- All mainland districts
- Over 10,000 local partners and volunteers



# Beyond learning

- Cascade model
- Strong infrastructure for data collection
- People:
  - district coordinators and assistants (coordinating, managing)
  - regional coordinators (monitoring)
  - volunteers (collecting data)
- Data on other services can be collected

# Sharing the infrastructure

- Ministries of Health, Water and Education were given opportunity to use the Uwezo infrastructure in 2015
- 4 panelists from TFNC, ministries of education, health and water



# Process

- Uwezo+ questions developed by panelists
- Relevant ministries (health, water, education) could insert questions
- Questions incorporated into tools, pre-tested and piloted

# Selected topics



water sources (home and school)



school meals



nutrition (Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) test)



meals and eating habits (home)



iodine test in salt



guidance and counseling (school)



# Reach

- **159** districts
- **68,588** households (meals)
- **55,011** households (iodine test)
- **197,451** children (6 months-14yrs – MUAC test)

# MUAC Tests

- MUAC Test: circumference of the left upper arm, measured at the mid-point between the tip of the shoulder and the tip of the elbow
- IMUAC assesses nutritional status / malnutrition risk

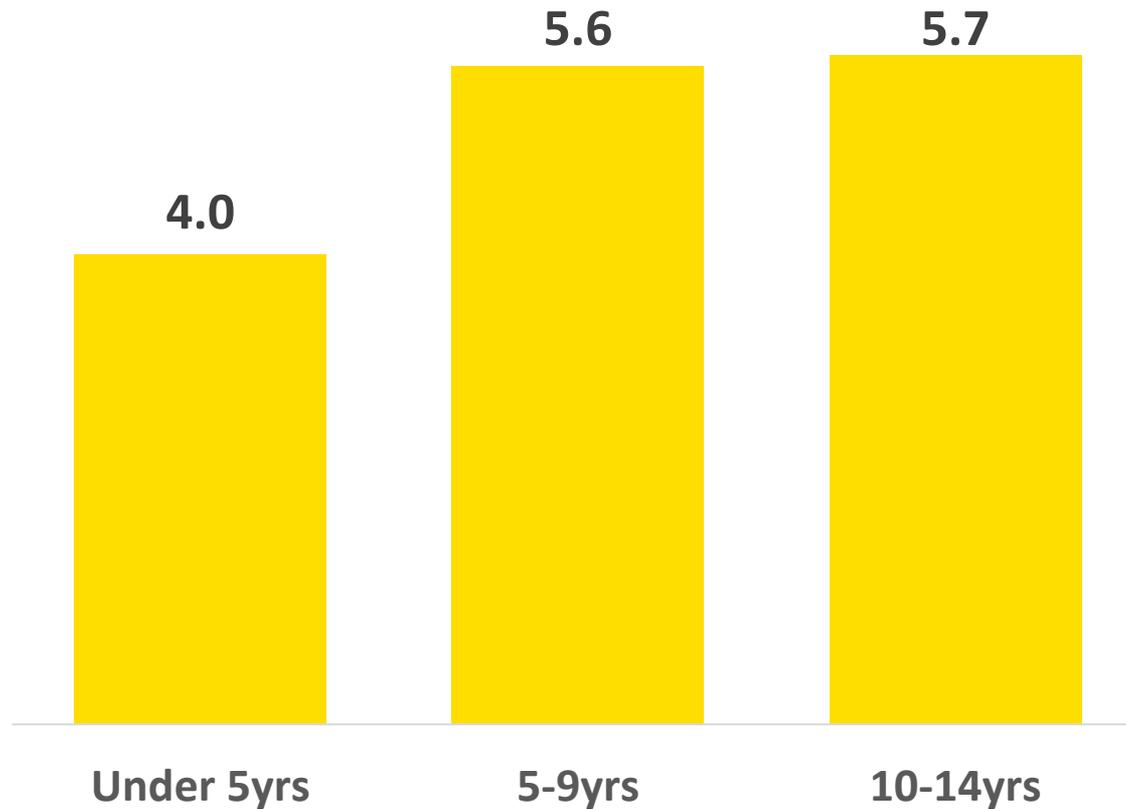


# Reading MUAC

Age	MUAC measurement	Nutritional status
Under 5	less than 11.5cm	severe malnutrition
	11.5cm - 12.4cm	moderate malnutrition
	greater than / equal to 12.5cm	no malnutrition
5 - 9 years	less than 13.5cm	severe malnutrition
	13.5cm - 14.4cm	moderate malnutrition
	greater than / equal to 14.5cm	no malnutrition
10 - 14 years	less than 16cm	severe malnutrition
	16cm - 18.4cm	moderate malnutrition
	greater than / equal to 18.5cm	no malnutrition

# Malnutrition

**Figure 1: Nutrition status of children up to 14 years, by age groups**



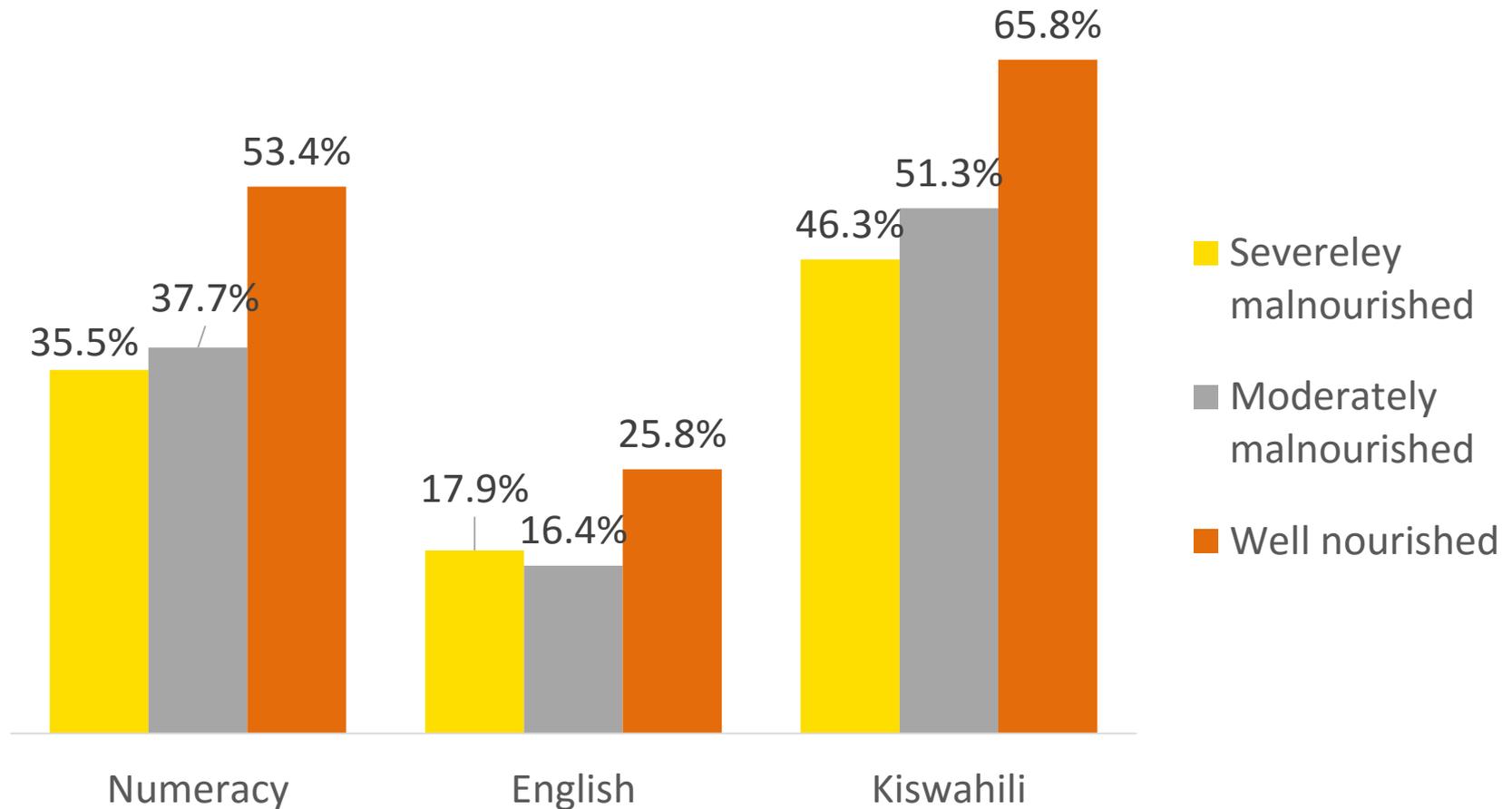
Why does malnutrition appear to be worse among slightly older children?

# District Variations

- Children under 5 with severe malnutrition, worst district: Songea Mjini (23.9%)
- Children under 5 with severe malnutrition, best districts: Musoma Urban (0.3%) Tabora Urban (0.3%)

# Links to learning

**Figure 2: Learning outcomes among children aged 10 to 14 years, by nutrition status**



# Frequency of Meals

## At home

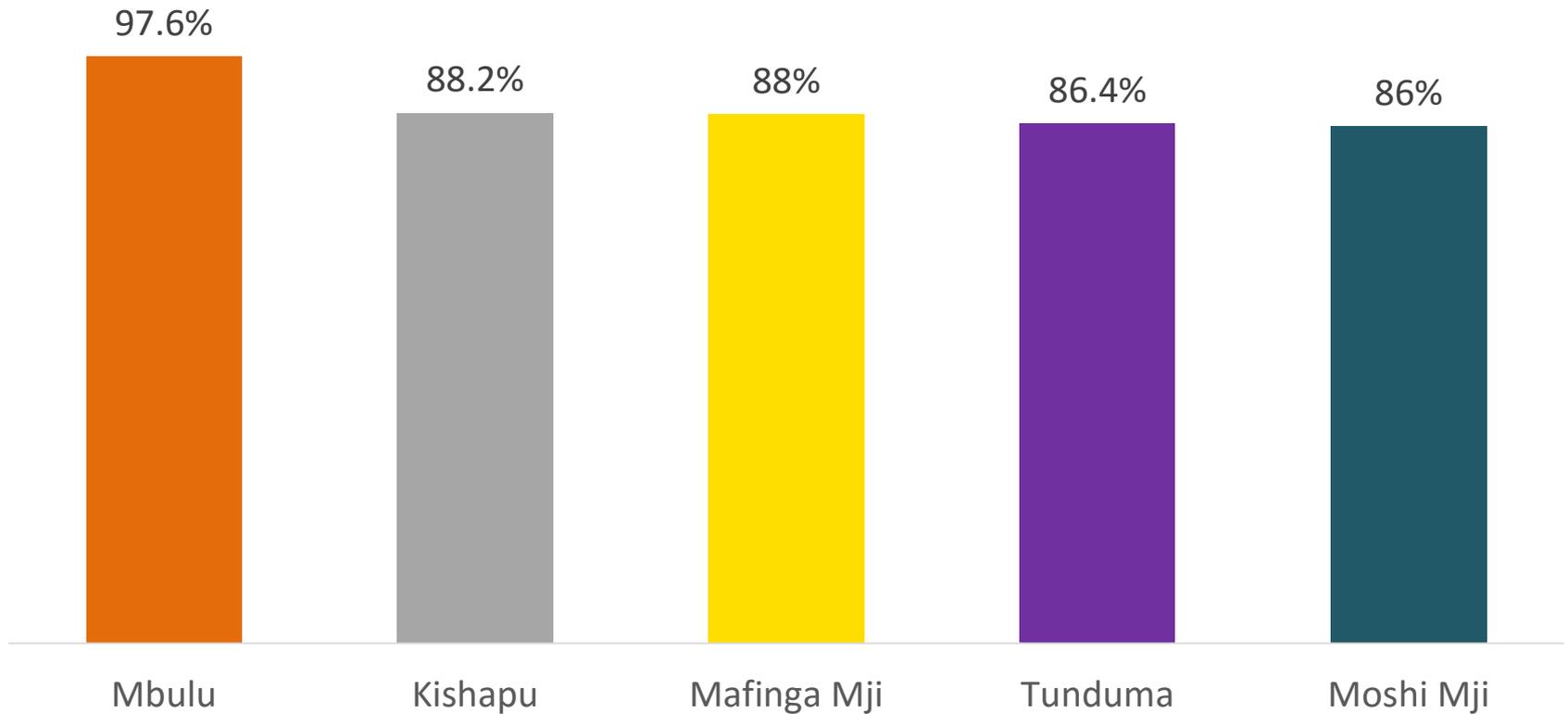
- 50% of the families can afford 3 meals a day
- 3.8% of Tanzanians survive on 1 meal a day

## At school

- Nationally, only about one in five schools have a lunch feeding program (23%).
- Kilimanjaro region 79% schools provide lunch, in Geita 5%

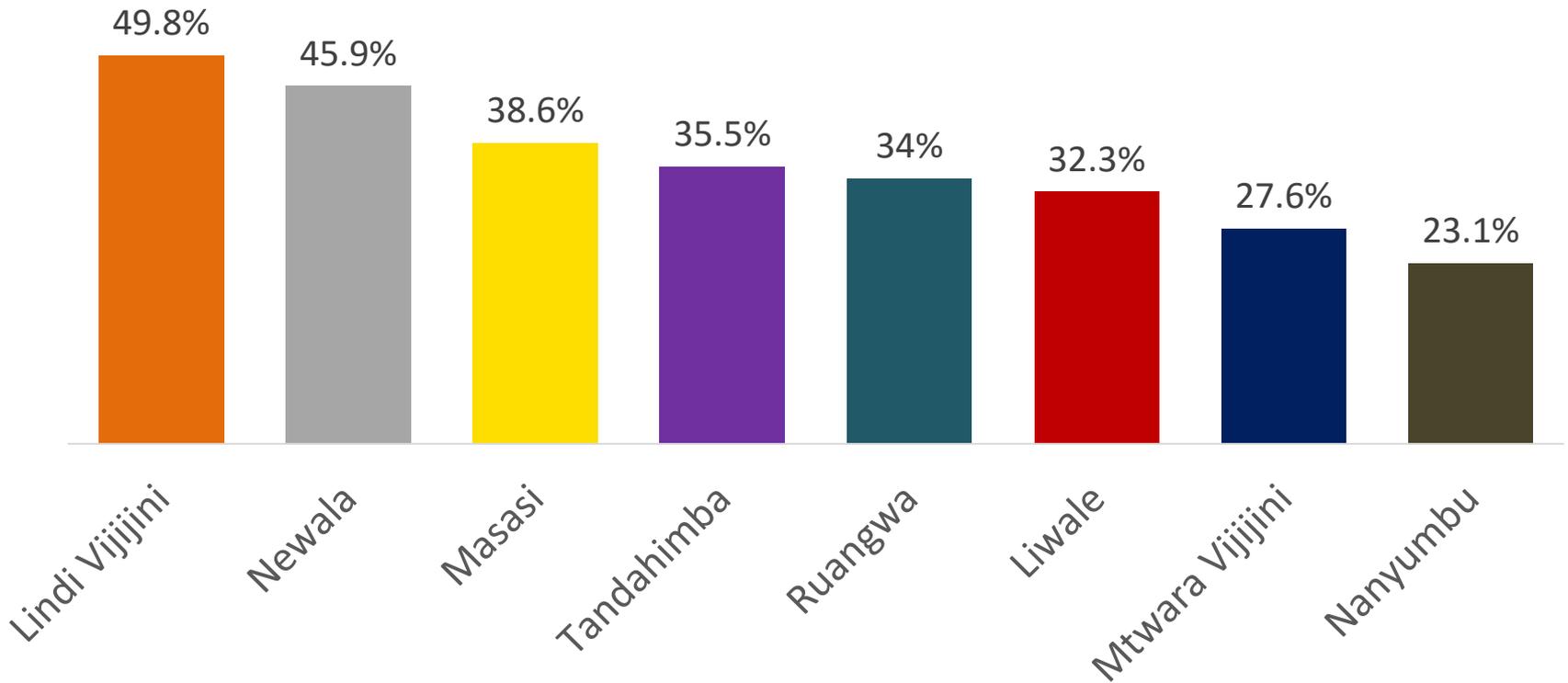
# District Variations

**Figure 3: Districts with more than 85% households that can afford 3 meals**



# District Variations

**Figure 4: Districts with less than 50% households that can afford 3 meals**



In 8 districts, less than 50% of families can afford 3 meals

# Conclusion

1. Relationship between nutrition status and learning outcomes.
2. Malnutrition is more severe among older children. Schools could and should be important sites for interventions
3. Many schools in Tanzania do not provide meals.



# Reflections

1. So what? Is research confirming common sense?
2. Should the fifth phase government to release a statement encouraging parents to contribute to feeding programs at school?

