

ARE OUR CHILDREN LEARNING?

Literacy and Numeracy in Kenya

2014



UWEZO 2013 FIVE FACTS

FACT 1 | LEARNING LEVELS ARE STATIC



NATIONALLY, ONLY 3 OUT OF 10 CHILDREN IN CLASS 3 CAN DO CLASS 2 WORK, THE SAME AS IN PREVIOUS YEARS.



ALTHOUGH 9 OUT OF 10 CLASS 8 CHILDREN CAN DO CLASS 2 LEVEL WORK, THIS STILL MEANS THAT 1 OUT OF EVERY 10 KENYAN CHILDREN ARE COMPLETING PRIMARY SCHOOL WITHOUT HAVING FULLY MASTERED CLASS 2 SKILLS.

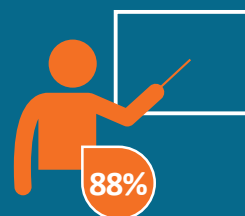
FACT 2 | MORE PUPILS AND TEACHERS ARE IN SCHOOL DAILY



PUPIL ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL ON THE DAY OF UWEZO'S VISIT IS HIGH, AT 91%.



GIRLS ATTEND SCHOOL MORE REGULARLY THAN BOYS, ESPECIALLY IN UPPER PRIMARY.



TEACHERS' DAILY ATTENDANCE IS ALSO HIGH, AT 88%.

FACT 3 | THE NUMBER OF OUT OF SCHOOL CHILDREN IS INCREASING GRADUALLY



IN 2013, 10% OF CHILDREN AGED 6-13 WERE OUT OF SCHOOL.



SLIGHTLY MORE BOYS THAN GIRLS AGED 6-13 WERE OUT OF SCHOOL BUT THESE DIFFERENCES ARE UNLIKELY TO BE STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT.



MOST OF THE OUT OF SCHOOL CHILDREN WERE FOUND IN ARID COUNTIES SUCH AS BARINGO AND WEST POKOT, AND URBAN DISTRICTS WITH LARGE SLUM POPULATIONS, SUCH AS NAIROBI NORTH.

FACT 4 | GEOGRAPHIC DISPARITIES PERSIST



ARID DISTRICTS HAVE MUCH LOWER LEARNING LEVELS THAN URBAN AND AGRICULTURALLY RICH RURAL DISTRICTS

FACT 5 | MORE CHILDREN AGED 3-5 YEARS ARE ENROLLING IN PRE-SCHOOL



MANY CHILDREN DO ATTEND PRE-SCHOOL, IN TOTAL 64% OF CHILDREN AGED 3-5 ARE ENROLLED.

HOWEVER, 21% OF CHILDREN IN PRIMARY SCHOOL HAD NEVER ATTENDED PRE-SCHOOL.



READING KISWAHILI, ENGLISH AND NUMERACY

READING KISWAHILI 2013

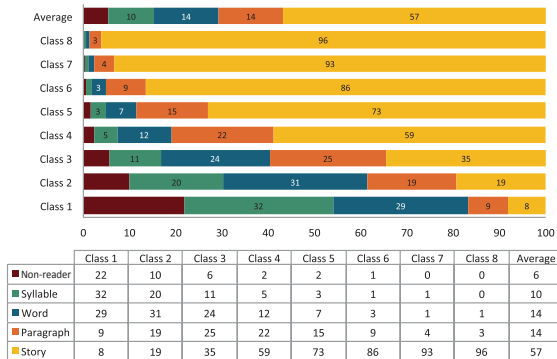


Fig 1: Children who can read Kiswahili by class (%)

Nationally, just under 6 out of 10 children aged 6 to 16 can read a Class 2 Kiswahili story. Just over 2 out of 6 Class 3 children can read a Class 2 Kiswahili story while in the same class, 1 out of 6 cannot read a Kiswahili word. In Class 8, 4 out of 100 children cannot read a Class 2 Kiswahili story.



READING ENGLISH 2013

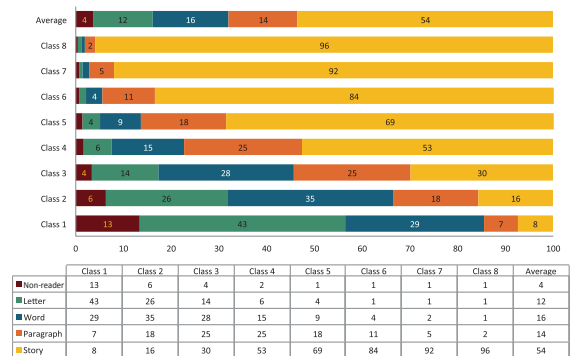


Figure 2: Children who can read English by class (%)

Nationally, more than 5 out of 10 children aged 6 to 16 can read a Class 2 level English story. Only 3 out of 10 Class 3 children can read a Class 2 level English story and 1 out of 6 children in the same class cannot read an English word. In Class 8, as with Kiswahili, 4 out of 100 children cannot read a Class 2 English story.

NUMERACY LEVELS 2013

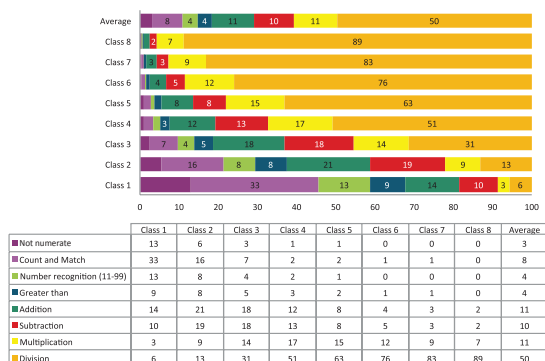
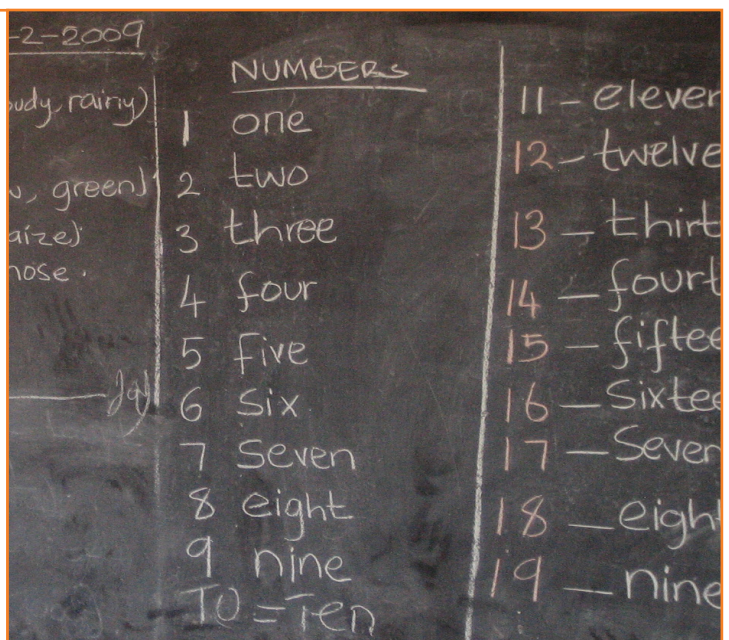


Figure 3: Children who can do numeracy by class (%)

Nationally, 5 out of 10 children aged 6 to 16 can do Class 2 division. Only 3 out of 10 children in Class 3 can solve a Class 2 division problem. In the same class 1 out of 10 children cannot recognize numbers between 11 and 99. By the time children reach Class 8, 1 out of 10 still cannot solve Class 2 division.



COUNTY RANKS: CLASS 3 WHO CAN DO CLASS 2 WORK

Rank	County	Percentage
1	Nyeri	58%
2	Kajiado	54%
3	Nairobi	52%
4	Kiambu	47%
5	Murang'a	42%
5	Meru	42%
7	Uasin Gishu	39%
7	Tharaka - Nithi	39%
7	Laikipia	39%
10	Mombasa	38%
11	Machakos	37%
11	Lamu	37%
13	Nyandarua	36%
14	Nakuru	35%
15	Embu	34%
16	Kericho	33%
17	Kilifi	32%
17	Nandi	32%
19	Kisumu	31%
20	Nyamira	30%
20	Kisii	30%
22	Taita Taveta	29%
23	Trans Nzoia	28%
23	Elgeyo Marakwet	28%
23	West Pokot	28%
26	Kwale	27%
26	Makueni	27%
28	Baringo	26%
28	Kitui	26%
30	Kakamega	24%
30	Isiolo	24%
32	Bungoma	23%
32	Siaya	23%
34	Homabay	22%
35	Bomet	21%
36	Narok	20%
37	Vihiga	19%
38	Wajir	18%
38	Migori	18%
38	Marsabit	18%
38	Tana River	18%
42	Garissa	17%
42	Busia	17%
44	Turkana	14%
45	Samburu	13%
46	Mandera	10%

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

Nyeri was the top county in English reading and division. A total of 6 out of 10 Class 3 pupils could read English and do division at Class 2 level.

The top county in 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 portion of schools provided training for teachers who teach students with special needs, but this was 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.
- Teacher absenteeism from school has significantly reduced between 2011 and 2013 from 16% to 12% nationally, but there is variation between counties.

Twaweza East Africa
22 School Lane
Nairobi, Kenya
t: +254 715 563720; +254 786 563722
e: info@uwezo.net
w: www.uwezo.net | www.twaweza.org

Note: Data from Kirinyaga are not available and are not presented here