Uwezo!

Shifting the focus from enrollment to learning

Sara Ruto
Presented at the World Bank, Washington DC.
9th March 2010
Throughout East Africa High priority is accorded to formal schooling
In Kenya, the number of registered schools has increased from 24,643 in 2004 to 26,204 in 2008.
Consistently allocated to Schools
...from the Ministry of Education
...from Constituency Development Funds
More trained teachers

...though Public primary schools have an average shortfall of TWO teachers per school.

... 40,000 more teachers are needed
Many more children are in school

2004
7.3 million

2008
8.5 million

2008
NER 92.5
(Girls 90.5)
Has the all the investment led to increased learning?

Has the right to education been construed as a “right to schooling?”

How do we refocus to core issues that impact on learning outcomes?
Use national assessments to trigger the public imagination. In short:

1. Establish actual literacy/numeracy levels
2. Communicate the findings broadly to
3. Stimulate broad public pressure for change.
How it works...two in distinct parts

**ASSESSMENT**
- Rigorous.
- Annual.
- Simple tools.
- Measure basic literacy and numeracy levels.

**COMMUNICATION**
- Millions to be reached.
- The right to know.
- All contact is communication.
- Communication is two way...always interactive.
Basic Literacy and Numeracy Skills

There was little rain last year. Many rivers are now dry. There are no crops on the farms. All plants have dried up. People do not have enough food. The animals do not have water to drink. The farmers are waiting for the rain to fall.

Maria is a farmer in our village. When it rains, she will plant vegetables. She will also plant maize, beans and sweet potatoes. She will sell the maize at the market. Maria will plant one hundred and eighty trees. Maria likes trees because they give fresh air. Trees also give shade and bring more rain.

1. What are the farmers waiting for?
2. Why does Maria want to plant trees?
Unprecedented Scale

Pilot Year (2009) Sample
- 70 Districts
- 30 Villages
- 1 school per village
- 20 Households

Uwezo 2009 reached
40,388 Households
2013 Schools
104,472 Children
Communication

KEY ACTORS

PUBLIC through media that already reach people in large numbers

VILLAGE

HOUSEHOLD
Household Level

Instant feedback – targeted communicated to parents

In popular formats [Sun story.pdf]

Call to be “Friends of Education”

Periodic SMS Communication
OUT OF SCHOOL CHILDREN
NYANZA PROVINCE

Must be More accessible…

More visual (rather than only percentages)

Power of comparisons - Rank the districts

Messages as stories
Electronic Media

The Households we reached…

66% - Have Radio
47% - Mobile phone
16% - TV

Use what reaches people!
Greater public understanding and debate about learning

Over the next 3 years:
- Children will be tested
- Engage Millions to ask “what are our children learning?”
- Citizens to discuss and seek answers in “public space”
- Stimulate pressure from the bottom
Parents take an active interest
Change...the extent depends on the pressure citizens exert.

ACTION
Parents attend school meetings

...Follow up