Press Release
Embargoed until 23 July 2013, 1PM

Latest learning assessment shows inequalities across counties
Top positions taken by urban and farming counties while bottom positions comprise arid counties, and those in Western regions

Nairobi, 23 July 2013: Children in Class 3 in Nairobi have the strongest mastery of basic literacy and numeracy skills. On average, a Class 3 child in Nairobi or Nyeri has nearly four times the chances of being able to do Class 2 work, over their counterparts in Samburu, Garissa, Siaya and Turkana.

These findings, released today, are from the Third Uwezo National Learning Assessment. Uwezo tested over 153,000 children, aged 6 to 16, from all 47 counties in the country between February and March 2012.

The top five counties are

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Rank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nairobi City</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nyeri</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muranga</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kiambu</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tharaka Nithi</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The bottom five counties are

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Rank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Samburu</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garissa</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Siaya</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkana</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tana River</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Average percentage of children in Class 3 who can read and understand a Class 2 level story in English and Kiswahili, and do division at the same level. County averages comprise only those districts that were assessed in both 2011 and 2012.

Nationally, key findings are

**Numeracy**
- Almost 90% of children in Class 8 can do Class 2 level division. This means more than 1 in 10 cannot.
- In Class 3, 68% of children cannot divide at Class 2 level.

**English Literacy**
- By Class 5, 33% of children cannot read and understand a Class 2 level English story.
- There is progress as the figure for Class 3 is 72%, and by Class 8, only around 7% of children cannot read and comprehend the story.

**Kiswahili Literacy**
- Between Classes 3 and 5, Kiswahili literacy improves dramatically – from 32% to 72% of children reading and comprehending a Kiswahili story.
- As in English, by Class 8, over 90% of children can read and comprehend Kiswahili at a Class 2 level.

The findings demonstrate that it is not enough for the government to concentrate on increasing enrolments, gender parity, improved infrastructure and teacher recruitment. There is need for a radical shift to looking at learning outcomes, as the vast majority of children in Kenyan schools are not able to perform at the required level and too many children complete primary schooling without basic competencies in reading and arithmetic.
“Although the Uwezo results have been showing low levels of learning for a number of years, we have an unprecedented opportunity with a new government, a new constitution and devolved government structures to re-orientate our education sector to ensure a renewed focus on learning” comments Dr John Mugo, Country Coordinator for Uwezo Kenya. “The time to ensure our children’s future is now.”

Sara Ruto, Regional Manager for Uwezo East Africa said “Our children’s levels of learning affect all of us. We are calling on everyone, from parents to policy-makers, to do their part to ensure that the success we have seen in enrolling children in school translates into improved learning outcomes. As parents, we have the greatest motivation and opportunity to help our children learn, and as policy-makers we have a responsibility to use evidence from around the world so that our public education system provides strong outcomes for all.”

The Uwezo learning assessment is conducted in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda by thousands of volunteers. Children aged 6 to 16 are assessed in basic literacy and numeracy using a test based on the Standard 2 curriculum. Uwezo aims to spark actions at all levels of society to improve learning outcomes. Read more at http://www.uwezo.net

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Notes to editors

About Uwezo
Uwezo means ‘capability’ in Kiswahili. It is a four year initiative that aims to improve competencies in literacy and numeracy by using an innovative approach to social change that is citizen driven and accountable to the public. Uwezo promotes debate and dialogue on learning outcomes in East Africa. By engaging all stakeholders in national conversations, Uwezo aims to spark action at all levels of society to improve learning outcomes. Read more. www.uwezo.net. Join us on Facebook at Uwezo Kenya.

About Twaweza
Twaweza means “we can make it happen” in Swahili. It is a ten year citizen-centered initiative, focusing on large-scale change in East Africa. Twaweza believes that lasting change requires bottom-up action. We seek to foster conditions and expand opportunities through which millions of people can get information and make change happen in their own communities directly and by holding government to account. Read more on www.twaweza.org. Like us on Facebook at Twaweza Tanzania and follow us on Twitter Twaweza_NiSisi