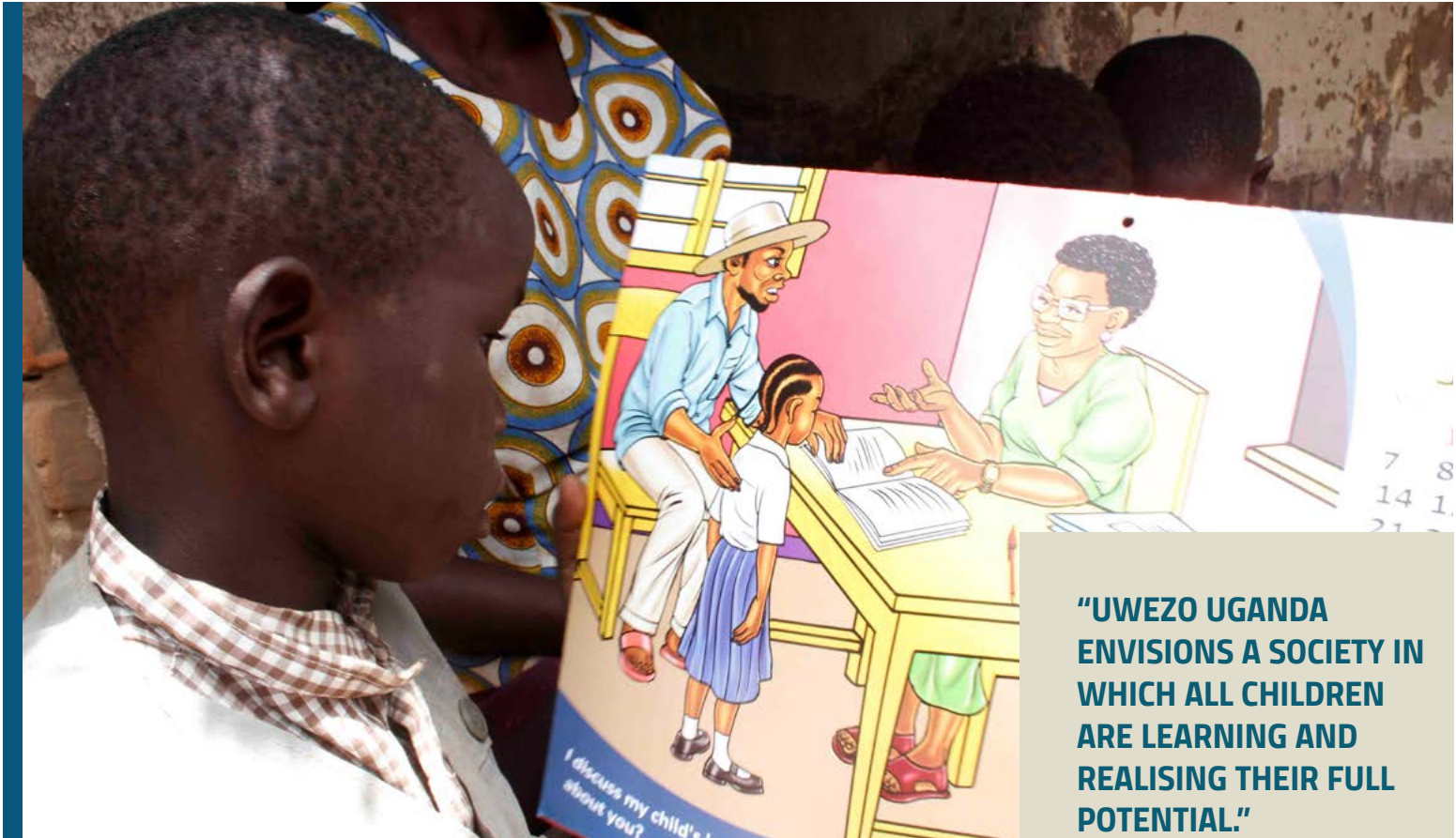


# NEWSLETTER

INAUGURAL UWEZO UGANDA NEWSLETTER – ISSUE NO. 1, JUNE/JULY 2020



**“UWEZO UGANDA ENVISIONS A SOCIETY IN WHICH ALL CHILDREN ARE LEARNING AND REALISING THEIR FULL POTENTIAL.”**

## WELCOME NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



It gives me much pleasure to welcome you most cordially to our first newsletter as a newly independent organisation! As you may already be aware, Uwezo Uganda started operating as an independent not-for-profit organisation in January 2020.

Prior to this, we were, for a period spanning 10 years, a program of Twaweza East Africa, an organisation that spearheads a variety of interventions to influence improvement of learning outcomes, active citizens and responsive authorities in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.

In this scheme of work, Uwezo generated and disseminated independent assessment data, and contributed to amplifying the evidence of low learning outcomes and the fact that schooling does not lead to learning for millions of children.

The new independent Uwezo Uganda envisions a society in which all children are

learning and realising their full potential. We are committed to making our modest contribution to the achievement of this grand agenda by demonstrating how to improve learning outcomes and keeping communities and leaders focused on learning through assessment, research, innovations, partnerships and advocacy.

We look forward to walking this journey with our partners at community, district, national, and global levels.

Yours Sincerely,

Mary Goretti Nakabugo, PhD  
Executive Director, Uwezo Uganda

# UNVEILING UWEZO UGANDA TEAM

As a newly independent entity, the first step was to ensure that we had in place the human resource required to deliver on our contribution to the grand goal of ensuring that all children in Uganda are learning and realising their full potential.

We are happy to unveil the team at the Secretariat that is contributing to making things happen:

**Daphine Karungi**



EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT  
to the Executive Director

**Yovani A.M. Lubaale**



ADVISOR,  
Monitoring, Evaluation  
and Learning (MEL) & Data  
Management

**Azamu Mulikiriza**



ACCOUNTANT

**Mary Goretti Nakabugo**



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Faridah Nassereka**



SENIOR PROGRAM OFFICER  
Assessment, Action & Research

**Judith Nyakaisiki**



COMMUNICATIONS  
OFFICER and HR Associate

**James Urwick**



CONSULTANT ADVISOR,  
Innovations, Fundraising  
& Research

**Vincent Kalibbala**



Accounts & IT Assistant

**Joseph Kasasa**



COMMUNICATIONS  
& Admin Intern

## INAUGURAL MEETINGS OF UWEZO UGANDA BOARD AND ITS COMMITTEES



*Uwezo Uganda Board members in a group photo at the inaugural Boarding held at Uwezo Offices on 20th March 2020. From the left: Dr Charles Tony Mukasa-Lusambu (2nd in a red tie), Prof Albert James Lutalo-Bosa, Mr James Muwonge and Prof Joyce Ayikoru Asimwe. Others in the photo are Dr Mary Goretti Nakabugo (1st from the left) and Mr Kizito Ssekitooleko (back in a red shirt). Missing in the photo is Board member Dr Sarah Ssewanyana*

## On 20th March 2020, the Board of Uwezo Uganda held its inaugural meeting.

The meeting which took place at Uwezo offices in Kamwokya was presided over by the Board Chair, Prof Albert James Lutalo-Bosa (Vice Chancellor, Team University) and attended by all other Board members, including Dr Charles Tony Mukasa-Lusambu (Assistant Commissioner of Basic Education, Ministry of Education and Sports); Mr James Muwonge (Director, Socio economic Surveys, Uganda Bureau of Statistics); Prof Joyce Ayikoru Asiimwe (Dean, Faculty of Education, Kyambogo University) and Dr Sarah Ssewanyana (Executive Director, Economic

Policy Research Centre). Also in attendance at the inaugural meeting was Advocate Kizito Ssekitooleko (Company Secretary) and Dr Mary Goretti Nakabugo (Executive Director and Board Secretary).

The Board approved Uwezo Uganda 2020-23 strategy and the 2020 annual plan. It also constituted two Board Committees (Finance and Audit Committee and Partnerships and Resource Mobilisation Committee) and approved a request from the Secretariat to constitute a Technical Advisor Committee (TAC) to advise on program work.

The two Board committees held their

inaugural meetings on 16th and 23rd June respectively.

Uwezo Uganda Secretariat thanks the Board for the continued support and guidance!

**Judith N Tumusiime**  
Communications Officer  
Uwezo Uganda

## UWEZO UGANDA TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) CONSTITUTED AND INAUGURAL MEETING HELD

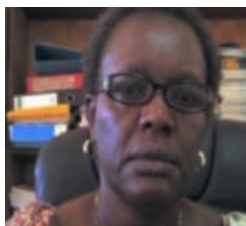
Following approval of the Board to constitute a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to advise on program work, Uwezo Secretariat constituted the committee. The TAC is comprised of the following eminent individuals.

**Dr Albert Byamugisha**



(Chair of the TAC).  
Senior Technical Adviser and Head Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Secretariat, Office of the Prime Minister, Government of Uganda

**Ms. Grace K. Baguma Izio**



Director, National Curriculum Development Centre (NCDC) Kampala, Uganda

**Mr. Baguma Filbert Bates**



General Secretary, Uganda National Teachers Union (UNATU)

**Mr. Patrick Kaboyo**



Secretary, Federation of Non-State Education Institutions (FENEI)

**Dr Yusuf K Nsubuga,**



Former Director for Basic and Secondary Education, Ministry of Education and Sports, Uganda

**Dr Ssekamatte Ssebuliba John**



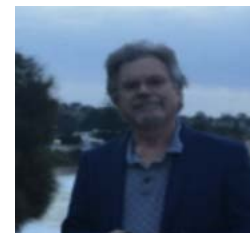
Ag Head, Population and Social Sector Planning, National Planning Authority (NPA), Uganda

**Prof Leon Tikly**



Global Chair in Education and Director Centre for Comparative and International Research in Education, School of Education, University of Bristol, UK

**Dr Reg Allen**



Director, Curriculum, Assessment and Certification Systems Architects (CACSA), Tasmania, Australia

**Ms. Ruth Kyambadde**



Ag Head of Department, Teacher Education and Extensions Kyambogo University

**Dr Jacqui O'Riordan**



Lecturer, School of Applied Social Studies University College Cork, Ireland

The inaugural meeting of the TAC, which was attended by all members and staff of the Secretariat including the Executive Director, was held on 24th June 2020 via zoom. The TAC gave feedback on Uwezo Uganda strategy and advised on our planned scaled-up study on the assessment of young people's literacy and numeracy skills that are required in the workplace and everyday life.

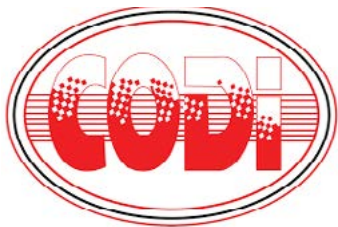
We thank the TAC for the technical guidance!

**Faridah Nassereka, Senior Program Officer and Secretary to the TAC, Uwezo Uganda**

## NEWS FROM UWEZO UGANDA DISTRICT PARTNERS!

Right from its inception as a program of Twaweza in 2010, Uwezo Uganda has been implementing its learning assessments and communication programmes in collaboration with district-based Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in Uganda. In this issue, we profile two of our partner organisations to share the impressive work they have been doing in their districts in response to Covid-19.

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CHILD WELFARE INITIATIVES (CODI), Luwero District



### CODI's Response to Education of children during Covid 19

In response to the unprecedented pandemic Covid -19, the Ministry of Education and Sports under the guidance of the National Curriculum Development Centre (NCDC) formulated a framework to provide standardised study lesson packages in core subjects for primary and secondary levels for distribution to all learners. The focus in the short term was to provide remedial lessons targeting topics that could have been covered by learners while at school.

For the medium and long term strategy, the Ministry would develop lessons for the proceeding terms. The framework emphasises an inclusive and equitable approach for all learners irrespective of their social and economic status, geographical location or disability status. However, the pandemic situation being a new experience for most stakeholders, it wasn't to be minus challenges. It turns out that the learning materials distributed were inadequate, requiring some parents to reproduce copies for their children. Many parents were constrained by lack of

money to photocopy materials for their children. Most parents were economically affected by Covid 19 thus having no option but to abandon the whole exercise. The few parents that endeavored to reproduce copies of materials for their children were constrained by closure of stationery shops with secretarial services because of the lockdown. Besides, majority of the parents did not have capacity to guide their children on the lessons obtained from the Ministry due to literacy gaps. So most children were left to work on their own as the parents or guardians didn't have the requisite knowledge on the work sent to their children.

Community Development and Child Welfare Initiatives (CODI), which is a child focused non-governmental organisation operating in Luwero district, undertook to help a few parents to reproduce the materials using the office equipment. Given the low capacity amongst the parents to give guidance to the learners, one of the CODI staff with a teaching background and exposed to Teaching at the Right Level (TaRL) courtesy of Uwezo support, supported a few households following the Ministry of Health guidelines to help learners.



*A CODI staff helping a learner to understand the concept of place values using the "Number Wheel"*

**Andrew Lubega**  
Programme Manager, CODI  
Uwezo District Coordinator, Luwero District

## GIVING CHILDREN HOPE INITIATIVE (GCHI) – MITYANA DISTRICT COVID 19 LOCKDOWN CHILDREN'S LEARNING INTERVENTIONS



*Empower | Mentor | Inspire*

During this COVID 19 Lockdown, Giving Children Hope Initiative has carried out and continues to carry out child protection interventions and creating possible children's learning environment in line with the Ministry of Health guidelines in the fight against the spread of corona virus. Most of these interventions are embracing the use of digital and online platforms to continue engaging children in learning while fronting children's mentoring model of emphasising parents, guardians and caregivers to nurture the children's 5Cs skills; Creativity, Curiosity, Collaboration, Critical thinking and Communication.

**DAY OF THE AFRICAN CHILD 2020**

**THEME: ACCESS TO A CHILD FRIENDLY JUSTICE SYSTEM IN AFRICA**

**Venue : Giving Children Hope Initiative online platforms**

**16 JUN 2020**  
**#STAYS SAFE**

+256704481947 @givingchildren  
GivingChildrenHopeInitiative www.givingchildren.org

At the start of the lockdown in mid – March, when all schools were closed including the GCHI founded school called Hope Children’s School in Mityana, we knew it from day one that what children needed most during these times of uncertainty, was psychosocial support to help them understand the prevailing circumstances of the day, and boost their mental health. Children would also require support with their lessons especially the primary seven and primary six pupils. As such, by using our GCHI community program contacts, we have been making routine phones calls to parents making follow ups on the children’s learning progress and to understand how our children are acclimatising to the new normal but also to offer guidance on top of providing mentorship. Parents who own smart phones have had an extra benefit because we have routinely shared learning aids and held discussions via the WhatsApp platform.

As of 16-6-2020 we had reached out to over 90 parents and caregivers via phone calls where we have interacted with over 130 school going children in the age bracket of 9 – 17 years in Mityana, Mubende and Kampala.



## ON-LINE AND ROUTINE PHONE CALLS

Providing  
Psychosocial  
Support to children

Ensuring children’s mental health  
throughout the **COVID 19** crisis

**#StayHome #StaySafe**

+256704481947

@givingchildren

Giving Children Hope Initiative [www.givingchildren.org](http://www.givingchildren.org)



Poster of the ongoing psychosocial support intervention



GCHI Cofounder and Chief of Strategist Bwanika Charles during a radio program at Mboona FM in Mityana

We have also been partners with Mboona FM a Mityana district-based radio station now and before the COVID 19 crisis and have been in position to use this radio platform to emphasise the Ministry of Health guidelines on how people should support in curbing the spread of corona virus, but more so to rally parents to embrace our 5Cs child mentoring model especially now that children’s normal school environment has been disrupted indefinitely.

**Bwanika Charles**  
Co-Founder, GCHI  
Uwezo Uganda District Coordinator, Mityana district

# HIGHLIGHTS OF UWEZO UGANDA PROGRAM WORK FROM JANUARY-JUNE 2020

## Finalisation of the 2019 Young People Assessment report



We finalised a report of the 2019 pilot assessment of young people's literacy and numeracy competencies required in the workplace and everyday life. The assessment was conducted in collaboration with Oxford Policy Management Limited (OPML) under the Strengthening Education Systems for Improved Learning (SESIL) programme supported by the UK's Department for International Development (DFID) and Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES). The pilot report will be officially launched in July 2020 ahead of the planned scaled up assessment in four districts of Uganda. The tasks used for the assessment can be accessed at the following link:

<https://www.twaweza.org/go/uwezo-learning-assessment-survey-tasks-2019>

## Contribution to Ministry of Education and Sports Program for continued learning during school shutdown

In March-April 2020 Uwezo Uganda collaborated with the National Curriculum Development Centre (NCDC) in the drafting of the framework for continued learning during COVID-19 and in the development of the self-study print materials for the foundational classes.



*Uwezo Uganda participating in the joint meeting with the Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES) Covid-19 Task-force and NCDC on 14th April 2020 to review the self-study materials that had been developed to facilitate continued learning during school shutdown. Uwezo was represented at the meeting by the Executive Director, Dr Mary Goretti Nakabugo.*

## PRESENTATION AT NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

### Participation in the CIES Conference

The 2020 Comparative International Education Society (CIES) was to take place in Miami in March but due to Covid-19 crisis, it could not happen as planned. Live online sessions were organised, and Uwezo Uganda was able to present as part of a panel titled 'Strategies for Cultivating Critical Thinking in Sub-Saharan Africa'. Link to the session; [https://youtu.be/Doe7\\_qn6gyE](https://youtu.be/Doe7_qn6gyE)



THE 2020 CIES COMPARATIVE INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION SOCIETY WAS TO TAKE PLACE IN MIAMI IN MARCH. CONFERENCE OFFERINGS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AS LIVE SESSION IN THE MONTH OF APRIL

#### PANEL SESSION TITLE

**Strategies for Cultivating and Assessing Critical Thinking in sub-Saharan Africa**

#### SESSION DATE

**Wednesday April 22, 2020**

#### SESSION START [EASTERN TIME]

10:00 AM

#### SESSION END [EASTERN TIME]

11:45 AM

#### MEETING INVITATION

Zoom Meeting ID: 509 417 8390 (password: vcies417) Zoom Link:

<https://nam05.safelinks.protection.outlook.com?url=https%3A%2F%2Fzoom.us%2Fj%2F50941783908&data=02%7C01%7Csum82%40pitt.edu%7C273afcb4f2f346892b1e08d7df3738d5%7C9ef9f189e0a04eeb87cc3a526112fd0d%7C1%7C0%7C637223300582870770&amp;sdata=7pe6j7837V6f5Kf-d01e0RyUkhoJv789%2Fq51EXa19y1Y%3D&reserved=0>

#### LINK TO FULL ABSTRACT IN ALL ACADEMIC

<http://tinyurl.com/rmt6xq>

#### KEYWORDS

Learning

Youth Development

Teacher Education

#### GEOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTOR

Africa: Middle Africa

Africa: Eastern Africa

#### PARTICIPANTS IN THIS SESSION

Lynn Murphy, Independent (Discussant), Barbara Gagliotti, AVSI-USA (Chair), Mauro Giacomazzi, Luigi Giussani Institute of Higher Education; Joseph Lample, Kimanya Ngeyo Foundation for Science and Education; Matthew French, Komo Learning Centres; Mary Goretti Nakabugo, Uwezo Uganda

# UWEZO UGANDA PARTICIPATED IN A RISE WEBINAR ON 28TH MAY 2020



## RISE Community of Practice Webinar: 'The politics and process of using information to spur systems change'

Thu, 28 May 2020, 9:30-10:45am Eastern Time (ET): [Join here.](#)

Many of the organizations in our community use information, often in the form of detailed learning outcomes data, to create change in education systems. Such information can play at least three roles: a) reveal the nature and dynamics of the learning crisis, b) enable teachers and school administrators to improve outcomes, c) generate political pressure at local and national level change. Information about learning outcomes does not spur change all on its own. To instigate systemic shift information needs to be coupled with strategies for engaging a range of stakeholders including citizens, researchers, and governments and spurring action.

In this webinar, three members of our community will speak on the politics and process of using information to create change, reflecting on the evolution of their own engagement approaches. They will speak about the kinds of audiences they targeted for engagement, navigating the needs of different stakeholders from governments to communities, the challenges they experienced as their strategy evolved over time.

The webinar will include a breakout session, during which members of the community can help each other and share their own insights and experiences on the politics and process of using information to spur systems change.

### Programme

- 9:30-9:40am** Welcome, aims of the Community of Practice, webinar goals
- 9:40-10:15am** Plenary: The politics and process of using information to spur change  
Chair: **Michelle Kaffenberger (RISE)**  
Presenters:

# PARTICIPATION IN A CIVISOURCE PODCAST

On 4th June, Uwezo Uganda was hosted on a Community Civisource podcast to share on the effects of Covid 19 focusing on the topic; **Returning to the Fundamentals in Education.** [https://soundcloud.com/community\\_civisource/fundamentals-in-education](https://soundcloud.com/community_civisource/fundamentals-in-education)

Drawing on a personal story of learning during Uganda's War in 1985, Uwezo Executive Director highlighted the importance of the basic foundations of learning that allow children to make progress.

# UWEZO UGANDA FEATURED ON THE RISE BLOG

Uwezo Uganda in partnership with RISE provided insights on some of the critical issues that the education systems may need to consider in planning for the reopening of schools, drawing from Uwezo's learning and school surveys in Uganda. The blog, published on 28th May 2020 can be accessed on the following link:

<https://www.riseprogramme.org/blogs/reopening-schools-post-covid-uwezo>

## CONSIDERATIONS FOR RE-OPENING SCHOOLS POST-COVID-19: INSIGHTS FROM UWEZO SURVEYS IN UGANDA

28 May 2020  
Mary Goretti Nakabugo, James Urwick, Michelle Kaffenberger (/people/michelle-kaffenberger)



©Uwezo Uganda 2018

*This blog has also been published on the UKFIET website (<https://www.ukfiет.org/2020/considerations-for-re-opening-schools-post-covid-19-insights-from-uwezo-surveys-in-uganda/>) in a series reflecting on the impacts of the current COVID-19 pandemic on international education and development research work.*

<https://www.riseprogramme.org/blogs/reopening-schools-post-covid-uwezo>

16

## CONTRIBUTION TO THE LOCAL EDUCATION DEBATE IN THE MEDIA

Uwezo Uganda is regularly consulted by the local media to give independent opinion on current and usually contentious education issues. Below are examples of our contribution to the local education debate in recent months:

**Homeschooling can't replace teachers - experts**

<https://www.monitor.co.ug/News/National/Homeschooling-teachers-experts-Nakabugo-dead-year/688334-5587214-n9d997z/index.html>

**Coronavirus: Schools face social distancing dilemma**

<https://www.monitor.co.ug/News/National/Coronavirus-Schools-social-distancing-dilemma-Unatu-/688334-5567152-icscqh/index.html>

**Lockdown may worsen already declining learning outcomes**

<https://www.independent.co.ug/lockdowns-may-worsen-already-declining-learning-outcomes-experts/>

**Schools to open or not to open**

<https://www.independent.co.ug/schools-to-open-or-not-to-open/2/>

## PERSONAL EXPERIENCE FROM AN UWEZO UGANDA STAFF



My son Matthew Atulinda knows that I once worked with Uwezo as a consultant since he saw at home many papers in my house written on Uwezo (2018 assessment tools). As a young man, a teenager for that matter, he enjoys listening to the Christian radio stations, listening to debates on education and sometimes follows them to the end.

So, he asked me, "Dad, is Uwezo part of the Ministry of Education?" I asked why, he said, every radio station you put on, when people are discussing about our education especially the educated who want to use statistics, it is difficult to finish without hearing statements like, according to Uwezo report of year this and that. I am therefore asking that since the Uwezo people are your friends, let them carry out a study about children learning during the Covid-19 Pandemic. Otherwise, the people in Government will think that we are learning when some of us are busy relaxing and enjoying ourselves! What do You Uwezo Uganda guys think about this? You will get answers to this in the next newsletter.


**Prof. Y.A.M Lubaale**

**Advisor, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) and Data Management**  
**Uwezo Uganda**



# PARTICIPATION IN GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS

Uwezo Uganda has continued to participate actively in the following global partnerships

Partnership	Focus of the Partnership	Uwezo Uganda's contribution and activities in Jan-july 2020
<p>Regional Education Learning Initiative (RELI): <a href="https://reliafrica.org/">https://reliafrica.org/</a></p> 	<p>RELI is a member driven initiative working to ensure inclusive learning for all children in East Africa. Made up of over 70 organisations, we share values of respect, trust and equality. We learn together and collaborate towards a brighter future for the children of East Africa.</p>	<p>Uwezo Uganda continues to Co-Chair the Uganda Chapter of RELI, working closely with the country leadership team to ensure sustained engagement of member organisations in the learning of children during and post Covid-19</p>
<p>People's Action for Learning Network: <a href="https://palnetwork.org/">https://palnetwork.org/</a></p> 	<p>PAL Network is a south-south partnership of organisations working across three continents. Member organisations conduct citizen-led assessments and/or citizen-led actions aimed at improving learning outcomes.</p>	<p>Contribution to finalisation of the 2019 International Common Assessment of Numeracy (ICAN) report to be launched on 9th July 2020</p> <p>Part of the successful Global Partnership for Education (GPE) OC1 bid to scale up the ICAN assessment and expand into international assessment of reading</p> <p>Part of the successful Global Partnership for Education (GPE) OC3 bid to Year 0 of Project AWAAZ ("voice" in Urdu) with the PAL Network and ASER Pakistan, a 3-year project to strengthen global and transnational environments for national civil society advocacy to promote inclusive and equitable education across the Global South.</p>
<p>Schools2030 <a href="https://www.schools2030.org/">https://www.schools2030.org/</a></p> 	<p>Schools2030 is a new globally informed, locally rooted 10-year longitudinal action research and learning improvement programme working with 1000 pioneering pre-schools, primary schools, and secondary schools across 10 countries, searching for and supporting positive deviance about 'what works' to improve holistic quality learning for all.</p>	<p>Uwezo Uganda is member of Schools2030 Uganda Steering Committee</p> <p>Uwezo Uganda has been selected to be a Learning Partner for Schools2030 in Uganda working closely with the Agha Khan Foundation</p> <p>Uwezo Uganda is part of the RELI-Schools2030 team</p> <p>We participated in the Schools2030 inaugural workshop on Human Centred Design (HCD) that took place in Nairobi, Kenya, on 25-27 February 2020.</p>



**Promoting Equitable Quality Education in Uganda**

We appreciate the continued support of our funders who include the following:

The UK's Department for International Development (DFID) under the Strengthening Education Systems for Improved Learning (SESIL) program

Anonymous Funder

Twaweza East Africa



Uwezo Uganda, Corner House, Suite B1, Plot 436/437, Mawanda Road  
Kamwokya, Kampala, P.O Box 33275, Kampala, Uganda



+256-772-951762



info@uwezouganda.org



uwezouganda



www.uwezouganda.org



uwezouganda

**Wash your hands regularly,  
keep a distance, stay safe.**