



About Us

Tusome translates in a number of African languages as “*lets learn*.” Tusome Africa’s vision is to “**eliminate illiteracy**” and our Mission is to “**improve the life chances of children in Africa through access to a quality education**.” Quality Education provides the necessary personal and academic skills on which to build a different, more positive, productive future and we are passionate about redefining quality education for marginalised children.

The Context of this work – Education, Uganda and Learning Outcomes

Education is a fundamental human right and yet it is in crisis, in the sense that millions of children in Africa are currently going to **school but are not learning**. Despite significant progress in access to schools, learning outcomes for many children remain unacceptably low, creating a “learning crisis.” This crisis¹ is when children go to school but remain illiterate and innumerate. In a random sample² of 100 children in Uganda, 20 will never go to school, 50 will drop out by year five of primary school without functional literacy and numeracy skills, and about 15 will fail their primary leaving exams. These average masks the true crisis, for children from lower socio-economic quartiles, rural communities and girls and disabled children thus compounding existing inequalities (UNESCO GMR 2013/14). In Uganda, districts in the Eastern and Northern parts of the country even lag behind the rest of the country.³

Our Focus

- Ending the learning crisis for the most marginalised children.
- Focus on primary level education interventions as the foundation of all future learning and where most drop outs happen.
- Targeting improvements in essential skills such as literacy and numeracy as the backbone to all learning.

Our Portfolio of Interventions: Tusome Africa’s work is divided into **three** broad categories:

- **Education System Remodelling:** Delivering learning differently and innovatively for example, establishment of hub libraries, Ed tech to tackle shortages in teaching resources and low cost early childhood learning centres for all children.
- **Enhancing Accountability in Schools:** through parent engagement in the running of schools, school leadership development and use of school data in tracking Learning Outcomes.
- **Enabling Sustainable Schools:** through School-led Entrepreneurship Programmes in order to increase school incomes.

Our Flagship Programmes:

- Hub Libraries as centres of quality learning. One Hub includes one main host library and four smaller supported school sub-libraries.
- The use of M-Tech to enhance access to teaching resources to primary school teachers
- The implementation of low cost Tusome Early Childhood Learning Centres to give every child a timely start to learning.

Cost of Flagship Programmes

- £5,000 to set up one hub of 5 school libraries with 2,500 books, serving 3,500 pupils and 100 teachers.
- £45,000 to develop a M-Tech solution which will enable unprecedented access to M-teaching resources for all primary school teachers eliminating chronic lack of access to the national curricular, teaching aides and assessments. Tusome Africa is leveraging M- technology to solve a longstanding problem of lack of teaching materials. Nearly 80% of all adults in Uganda have access to a mobile phone and a feasibility study by Tusome Africa in Feb 2018, confirmed that 90% of teachers have access to a personal phone or access to a colleague with a phone in school. Annual running costs of £15,000.
- £7,500 to establish a low cost Tusome Early Childhood Learning centre in a public – private run model to enable every child to access a timely and affordable quality start to education.

Our Strategic Impact Targets

- Reduce dropout rates by 50% in key schools enabling 15,000 children to remain in school within the next three years.
- Establishment of 50 hub libraries in the next three years.
- Unlimited access to quality teaching resources for all teachers in the next three years.
- Establishment of 50 low cost Tusome Early Learning Centres in the next three years.

¹ World Bank Report 2018 “Learning to Realise Educations Promise. <http://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/wdr2018>

² https://www.epdc.org/sites/default/files/documents/EPDC%20NEP_Uganda.pdf

³ The Ministry of Education and Sports Annual Statistics Report 2016