



“The Link project improved EGRA results due to regular school based support and guidance by Link staff which transformed targeted primary teachers into strong literacy teachers” (external evaluator, 2015)

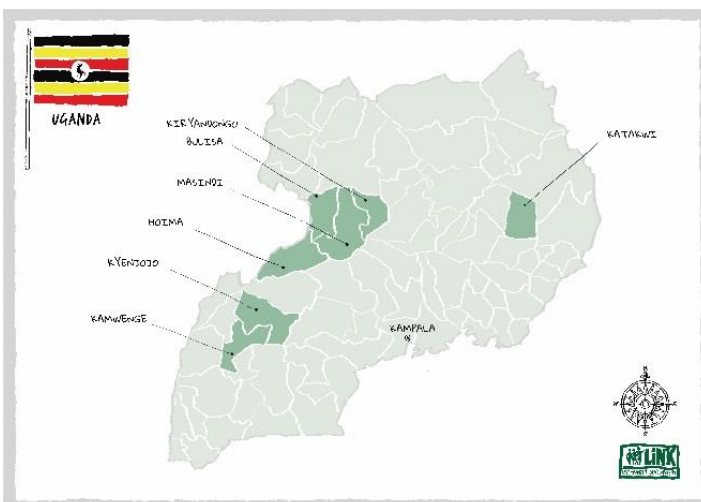
Summary

Link has worked in Uganda since 2000, supporting marginalised rural districts and schools that have been identified on the basis of greatest need according to indicators such as low learning outcomes, displaced communities and poverty levels. In the six prime districts where Link Uganda has run its own ‘core work’ projects (Masindi, Bulisa, Soroti, Katakwi, Kamwenge, Kyenjojo), we have supported a total of 774 schools with a combined enrolment of nearly 410,000 learners.

Link Uganda has received funds from Comic Relief, Trust Africa, The Waterloo Foundation, USAID and Tullow Oil. Elements of Link Uganda’s work which constitute recognised best practice include:

- Local language literacy and numeracy training programmes across all districts
- Capacity building and partnership with district inspectors and education officers
- Head Teacher Training Programme (adopted into national policy)
- School HIV and AIDS Planning
- Healthy Schools Programme (particularly in relation to the provision of improved facilities for female learners)
- School / community demonstration gardening

Background



Uganda has the world’s youngest population, with over 78% aged under 30 and has one of the highest youth unemployment rates in sub-Saharan Africa. 20% of the population is living in poverty and a further 43% is classified as ‘insecure’. Access to good quality education is key to breaking this cycle of poverty.

KEY FACTS

- Link has been working in Uganda since 2000
- Link’s innovative School Performance Review process was modified and adopted for national implementation as part of the Monitoring Learning Achievement (MLA) national schools inspection cycle
- Link piloted the Decentralised Education Management Information System (DEMIS) in our project districts
- Link Uganda pioneered Early Grade Reading Assessment (EGRA) in the Alur and Lugungu local languages
- In all districts where Link works, Primary Leaving Exam results in poor performing schools rise quickly
- Our projects are sustainable – we work with government at all levels and ensure our interventions align with government policy

A snap shot of our projects

Early Learning Enhancement Project (ELEP), 2014-2015

ELEP improves the early learning outcomes for 4,795 pupils in 16 primary schools in Buliisa and Hoima Districts in western Uganda. A key finding of the project was that just 20 hours of individual support for early years' teachers in rural schools was adequate to **improve significantly their learners' literacy skills**. This level of improvement was not seen in the control schools. ELEP results show that teacher support is critical in improving learning outcomes.



Lugungu and School Support Initiative in Buliisa (LaSSIB-1 and 2), 2015-2017

LaSSIB uses learning from our successful ELEP project to improve literacy outcomes. It also uses Link's innovative **School Performance Review (SPR)** to enhance school performance. SPR supports districts to collect, analyse, share and use information to improve education. Schools, and their communities are armed with information allowing them to jointly agree targets for their School Improvement Plan. This allows them to build on good practice and allocate scarce resources to strengthen weak areas. LaSSIB pioneered the use of the **Early Grade Reading Assessment (EGRA)** in the local languages of *Alur* and *Lugungu* to improve local language literacy teaching and student results. In addition LaSSIB raises awareness of the value of reading among the wider communities in order for parents to encourage their children.

Katakwi School Improvement Project (KSIP), 2015-2018

The KSIP project in Katakwi District targets communities affected by two decades of conflict and instability due to violent cattle rustling, ethnic conflict and Lord's Resistance Army insurgency. KSIP is improving the quality of education for over **53,000 pupils in 75 schools**. The Link team work directly with national and district level staff to provide support and training for stronger school management and leadership, improved teaching and learning and enhanced district and school community engagement. KSIP



piloted Link's **School Management Simulation Tool** which facilitates community engagement and ownership of school planning and is endorsed by Ministry and District education authorities. Building on the success of an earlier Comic relief funded project, at some schools land has been made available for community groups to trial new farming techniques thus creating a community hub, which enhances support for education. As a result of the project, nearly 50,000 people have been able to return to their homes and enrol their children in school.

"We have all left the camps now. We are all fully cultivating and out of school children are back in school and we have enough food to support them and we can provide clothing, books and pens – in the camps we couldn't do that". (Community member)

Please see our **Biennial review (2013-2015)** for more information

Delivery Partner



Ministry of
Education, Science,
Technology & Sports