



## **Educational Attainment of Primary, Ordinary, and Advanced Certification Level Outcome Evaluation**

Project: Kampala, Uganda

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### **Program Background:**

Unbound Kampala considers education as a key asset that has the potential of lifting the sponsored children and their families out of poverty. Similar to other programs of Unbound, Unbound Kampala has continued to maintain a strong organizational focus on education. The project not only places school attendance as a requirement for the sponsorship program for children and youth, it also places emphasis on how they are performing at different levels of their education. The project has been utilizing the information on educational attainment and performance for improvement and learning. At the same time, it utilizes this information to share evidence of their programs and impacts with the local and state community stakeholders. By gathering information on evidence of the impacts of Unbound programs, the project aims to inform the wider communities of the potential benefits of education to the children, which in turn can create avenues for partnership and collaboration.

### **Purpose of the Evaluation:**

- To assess the educational performance of the Unbound sponsored children at the primary, ordinary, and advanced certification level.

### **Methods:**

- Assessment of project records on educational attainment and performance of 346 Unbound sponsored children who took the Primary Level Examination, 177 Unbound sponsored children who took the Uganda Certificate of Education, and 40 Unbound sponsored children who took the Unbound Advanced Certificate of Education in 2015.

### **Key Findings and Conclusions:**

- Overall, Unbound sponsored children performance highlights greater scores in comparison to national scores at the primary level in 2015.
- The number of candidates for ordinary level certificate of education has been decreasing over the years. The number of candidates who successfully make it through this level has been reducing as well. Because of poor performance, a number of sponsored children are dropping out and choosing other less intensive options. However, the evaluation did highlight that the achievement scores of those who had been successful in this level have steadily improved over the years
- There has also been a reduction in the number of candidates taking the advanced level compared to previous years. However, the achievement scores of those taking this level of examination has improved compared to previous years as well as the national average scores.

### **Learnings and Report Recommendations:**

- To bridge the gap, the project is planning to include various plans in its upcoming strategic plan, including exploration of partnerships with related stakeholders including school officials, parents, and local/state education bodies. Another plan has been to expand the libraries for the sponsored students including the variety of books that can be made available to them. Respective sub projects are also planning to ensure that all the candidates have the knowledge and access to other scholarships, especially as they reach higher levels. For those who do not qualify and complete these levels, the project will highlight other lucrative education and training options.
- The project aims to continue tracking, measuring, and evaluating the educational attainment and performance measures of the Unbound sponsored children every year. The evaluation findings are also going to be shared with the sub-project staff with the aim of utilizing the information for learning and program improvement. This will link back to the overall strategic plan for the Kampala project.
- In coming years, the project is also aiming to analyze and assess the educational attainment and performance data based on demographic features of the sponsored children such as gender, type of location, etc.