



Improving education for thousands of children in Uganda



Only 14% of Ugandan children attend pre-primary school.

68% of children in Uganda are likely to drop out before finishing primary school.

10% of boys and 14% of girls between 15 and 25 are illiterate in Uganda.



Median income per Bridge Uganda Household is 450,000 UGX.

Bridge works closely with the Ugandan Ministry of Education and Sports and the Government of Uganda to improve learning outcomes.

Bridge is committed to supporting SDG4: Ensuring inclusive and quality education for all.



Bridge currently educates over 100,000 children. Our vision is to educate 10,000,000 pupils across 12+ countries by 2025.



Education in Uganda

Bridge understands that whilst there are many strengths within the Ugandan education system, there are also some existing challenges that cause real damage to learning outcomes. Gender inequality, child labour, early marriages, less motivated teachers, and poverty are among the most persistent challenges. UN statistics show that many children in Uganda are enrolled in school, but never attend. While enrolment has gone up to reach the UN sustainable development goals of having 90% of children participating in school, in Uganda approximately 68% of children enrolled in state-run primary schools are likely to drop out before completing. Teacher absenteeism is at 56% in Uganda.

And while many children attend school, they are not learning. In state-run schools, data reveals that only three out of ten pupils in primary level three could read and comprehend a primary two-level story. In the final class in primary schools, only two out of ten pupils could read a primary two-level story. As such, parents are increasingly choosing alternative education providers to educate their children.

In many African countries, USAID is supporting the roll-out of scripted guides for teachers, just like the Bridge model, as research has demonstrated that this approach is highly effective at improving learning for pupils.

Bridge in Uganda

Bridge works in partnership with governments, communities, teachers and parents to deliver great schools and high quality education. Bridge believes every child has the right to education and is working with the Ugandan Ministry of Education and Sports and the Government of Uganda to improve learning outcomes. Bridge is committed to teaching the Ugandan Curriculum in all of its academies and develops lesson plans with world class education experts and in-country advisors. Whilst the majority of Bridge academies are in Central Uganda, there is a presence in every region of the country. Bridge academies are mostly in underserved urban and rural locations. Bridge offers a world-class education to pupils for less than 80,000 UGX on average per term and plans to open academies in all sub-regions of the country, investing 87 billion UGX in Uganda over the next two years.

Bridge believes that teachers are at the heart of achieving learning gains and provides ongoing training and support from selection, into the classroom and then throughout their career. Teacher absenteeism at Bridge Uganda is at 5%.

Independent exams have proven that the Bridge approach is working. In 2016, Bridge pupils scored an average of 59% in the KCPE exams compared to a national average of 49%. In 2015, Bridge pupils scored 63% compared to a national average of 49%. In addition EGRA and EGMA tests, conducted in 2014, showed that pupils made standard deviation gains of 0.31 in reading and 0.9 in maths, gains are equivalent to 64 more days of learning in reading and 26 more of maths, in a single school year. In Uganda, the first cohort of Bridge pupils will sit the Primary Leaving Exam (PLE) in 2017 and we are confident of success.

A 2016 survey of Bridge parents revealed that 92% are happy and satisfied with Bridge, 85% had recommended Bridge to a friend or neighbour and 97% said they will keep their child in Bridge for 2017. In all the communities Bridge serves, there is strong support from parents, community leaders and teachers.