

**USAID/Uganda Literacy Achievement and Retention Activity**

**Focus Group Discussion Guidelines: Pupils**

**Learning Goals**

1. **What pupils enjoyed most about the UKU program?**
2. **The specific UKU activities that pupils loved**
3. **Things about the UKU meetings that pupils did not enjoy**
4. **What pupils learned about violence in the school and projects or actions developed by the UKU teams to improve the school?**

**Facilitator Notes:**

For the student discussion bring a Journeys for Pupils handbook with you.

The pupils will have already been oriented to the research and to the fact that they have been selected to be a part of the study. As an introduction to the focus group discussion, the researchers will review the study again, and will thank the pupils for volunteering to participate in a small group discussion.

Tell the pupils that they are not required to join the group and at any time they may leave the discussion. It is entirely voluntary.

Inform the pupils that:

1. It is very important that they **do not mention any names** in the group discussion;
2. If someone accidently mentions a name, the other pupils in the group should not mention this outside of the group;
3. Some pupils might accidently talk outside of the group even though they are not supposed to, and this could result in some harm to the pupils named. Therefore, please remind pupils again that this is why it is very important not to mention names and that we, as the researchers, will discourage them from mentioning names.
4. Introduction: [After obtaining consent from the participants, start the discussion by introducing yourself again]

 Hello everyone! Thank you very much for volunteering to speak with us today. My name is I have come here with my colleague(s) . Before we start let us introduce ourselves to one another (*Each participant should say their name, and class loud…...*).

Do you remember in the past term when we came to talk to you? We met with you individually and asked questions about the school and other things. Who can remember these interviews? That’s good, can anyone else remember these interviews? Today we are doing something different. We will not be talking to you individually but we will be having a group discussion about the Uganda Kids Unit (UKU) meetings you attended this term.

We encourage all of you to answer as honestly as possible. It is very important that you **do not mention names** of any other person when answering questions. It is also important that you do not talk about what others say in this group outside of this group. Doing so could possibly result in some harm to those individuals named. Please know that even though we are asking people in this group to not talk about what others in the group say, we cannot guarantee that they will not, so please be careful to not disclose names or details that others could use to figure out whom you are talking about.

**Do you have any questions? *[Give time to take and address questions thoroughly and then start with the discussion.]* Thank you. Let’s begin.**

If you have attended the Journeys UKU program, please raise your hand? Do your teams have a name? Tell us the names of your team? Do you enjoy the UKU team meetings? We are going to talk a little bit about this program today. Remember, we are here to learn from you. There are no right or wrong answers. We are here to learn how we can make the program better.

1. Can you remember about how many UKU meetings you attended this term?
2. Please tell us what you enjoyed the most about the UKU program.
3. Were there any specific activities that you loved?
* Note: The students won’t remember the names but may be able to describe the activity. Refer to the handbook to find the name of the activity to record the activity name, if possible.
1. Was there anything about the UKU meetings that you did not enjoy? Please tell us about this and give an example if possible.
2. Did the pupils in your UKU team ever develop a project together to improve the school?
3. Did you learn about violence in the school? What can you tell us about what you learned?
4. Now we want to find out what you have learned and how the school and classroom have changed since Journeys began.
* What have you learned in the Journeys UKU program? Tell us more about this
* PROBE: Please give an example or tell us a story about this so we can understand.
* Have you noticed anything different about your school and classroom since the UKU?
* PROBE: Please give an example or tell us a story about this so we can understand.
* Have you noticed any changes in your teachers?
* PROBE: Please give an example or tell us a story about this so we can understand.
* Have you noticed any changes in the way that pupils interact with each other on the school grounds?
1. Is there anything else you would like to talk about?

***Thank you.***