



Better “M” for better “E”: The Price of Data Ownership



Uganda National Examinations Board: Early Grade Reading Assessment

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The partnership: Uganda National Examinations Board Early Grade Reading Assessment

- Large scale early grade reading programs funded by USAID were using EGRA to monitor progress.
- The Ministry received funds to expand the reading program to additional districts under the GPE funded Uganda Teacher and School Effectiveness Program (UTSEP).
- MoES requested UNEB (as the only mandated body to conduct public examinations and national assessments in Uganda) to conduct EGRA in UTSEP districts whose performance in Literacy was found to be low during National Assessment of Progress in Education (NAPE).
- Due to the ongoing work and support in assessment in general and EGRA, UNEB was prepared to take this on.

Role of USAID/RTI/School Health and Reading Program

Searched for opportunities for “right fit” support. Identifying key offices and individuals within the system.

Started where things were – started discussions based on what was known to the local teams, built on work they had started and were familiar with.

Nurtured relationships through technical discussions and support, teams were ready to capitalize on opportunities that arose.

USAID allowed for flexible programming, collaborating, learning and adapting.

Objectives of UNEB - EGRA

UNEB- EGRA was to address two key issues (as a roll out of two RTI funded projects) in literacy:

- Measure the most basic foundation reading skills for Literacy acquisition in early grades.
- Monitoring the acquisition of reading skills by early grade learners.

Role of Government/Uganda National Examinations Board

- UNEB was to take the lead in assessing EGRA in 27 districts
- Arrange consultative meetings with various EGR stakeholders in Uganda; RTI being a priority.
- Design a survey for conducting UNEB – EGRA
- Develop the EGRA tools according to the 5T's and 5 components of reading
- Purchase tablets and tangerine for rendering of the tools.
- Develop a procedural guide for UNEB- EGRA activities.
- Develop benchmarks for data analysis
- Recruit and train the Assessors for field conduct of EGRA.
- Write and disseminate the UNEB - EGRA report

What made this partnership work?

- A spirit of willingness by USASID/RTI/SHRP to support UNEB achieve the EGRA vision
- Learning EGRA by working together with RTI/SHRP in its activities throughout its surveys – UNEB supported training and monitored field work.
- Holding consultative workshops with to discuss technical issues around learning assessment in general and provided opportunities to share experiences

We did not start with this end in mind.....but were able to capitalize on the opportunity when it arose since we had been moving forward together.

