Are Our Children Learning?
Annual Learning Assessment Report

Here’s the reality

- Pupils are performing below expectations in Kiswahili literacy, English literacy, and numeracy.
- Learning conditions vary dramatically throughout the country, and our schools and teachers are not as strong as we need them to be.

But it’s not all bad:

- More children are going to pre-primary school than before, giving them a head start.
- Parents are getting involved and are eager to support their children.

So what do we do now?

- Reforming education is a huge challenge, but we can solve it together.
- Visit www.uwezo.net to download your own assessments, give them to your children, then discuss the results with your friends in neighbours; this way, we can get the conversation started.
In May 2011, Uwezo Tanzania conducted our 2nd Annual Learning Assessment, recruiting volunteers from 132 districts throughout Tanzania and assessing over 128,000 children in Kiswahili, English, and Numeracy. Our assessments were aimed at the Standard 2 level in each subject, meaning that all pupils Standard 3 and above should have been able to pass them. What we found, however, fell far short.

1 Only 3 in 10 Standard 3 pupils can read a basic Kiswahili story
   - Even many Standard 7 pupils could not read the Standard 2 level story.
   - These results mirror the findings from Uwezo’s first annual assessment.

2 Only 1 in 10 Standard 3 pupils can read a basic English Story
   - Results in English were well below Kiswahili.
   - Fewer than half of the Standard 7 pupils assessed could read a Standard 2 level English story.

3 Only 3 in 10 Standard 3 pupils can add, subtract and multiply
   - Pupils performed slightly better in numeracy than in Kiswahili literacy.
   - Still, the majority of our children have not mastered the fundamentals of learning by Standard 3.

4 Our children learn in strikingly unequal conditions
   - In Standard 7, district results ranged from 84 per cent proficient in Iringa Urban to 14 per cent in Kibondo.
   - Children who attend pre-primary school, who speak Kiswahili at home, who live in urban areas, and who have educated and well off parents generally perform best.

5 Our teachers are often absent
   - Only 4 out of 5 teachers were present when Uwezo visited schools.
   - 9 out of 10 schools visited had at least one teacher absent on that day.