

Quarterly Impact Report

Q2 2021



BUILDING TOMORROW®

A learner participates in a numeracy game during a Roots to Rise Community camp





A note from our founders

George Srour & Joseph Kaliisa

Over the last 18 months, the resolve of our team tested in myriad ways, our staff have never wavered from their commitment to ensure the children we serve are given an opportunity to continue learning. After months of reprogramming Roots to Rise to be held solely in a community setting, Uganda entered a dangerous third COVID wave with the Delta variant sending cases, and the death toll with it, to heights not yet realized during the pandemic.

Our team, as they've done many times, pivoted quickly. Plans were put in place to expand Roots to Rise *Ewaka* from one to five languages, allowing this basic mobile phone-based learning platform to scale, reaching an exponentially higher number of students. As of our writing, these efforts continue, a recognition of the elevated urgency to mitigate learning loss and provide opportunities for children to learn on a schedule that works for both them and their parents.

While the collective health prognosis of many Western countries appears rosier today than it was to start the year, this is not true of Uganda or much of the developing world. The impact of vaccine inequity has only begun, its side effects producing real, tangible ramifications we as an organization must accept and confront. Doing our utmost to protect front-line staff, our largest accomplishment this quarter is, without question, the Government of Uganda's recognition of now over 7,000 Community Education Volunteers as front-line workers eligible for vaccination as soon as supplies allow.

In the interim, like our Fellows in Kiryandongo District who've become integral members of the District COVID-19 Task Force, our team will continue to find ways to keep communities safe while affording students the opportunity to learn. In these ever-changing times, we hope you'll continue to support the work of Building Tomorrow in the months and years ahead—one thing we know for sure is this road we're on is indeed a long one.

Keep Building,

George Srour
Chief Dreamer

Joseph Kaliisa
Country Director

Roots to Rise Community

The COVID-19 pandemic hindered our efforts to scale in-classroom Roots to Rise camps over the past year, yet created the opportunity to adapt the program to be less vulnerable to future shocks like prolonged school closures, and to stem a growing learning crisis exacerbated by the pandemic. Recognizing the criticality of in-person instruction, Building Tomorrow launched Roots to Rise Community in May. Over the course of 30 hours, CEVs and Fellows deliver literacy and numeracy lessons to learners in small groups outdoors—out of the classroom and closer to home.

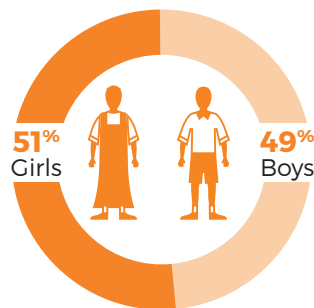
The response to Roots to Rise Community camps was swift—4,803 learners in 200 camps were enrolled and took part over several weeks in May and June. In mid-June, Building Tomorrow had to pause Roots to Rise Community as Uganda experienced a third wave of the pandemic. All results data below reflects only learners who were able to complete a full five-week camp before camps were paused. Early data showed encouraging results comparable to those for traditional Roots to Rise.



Enrollment

4,803

Learners enrolled



4,170

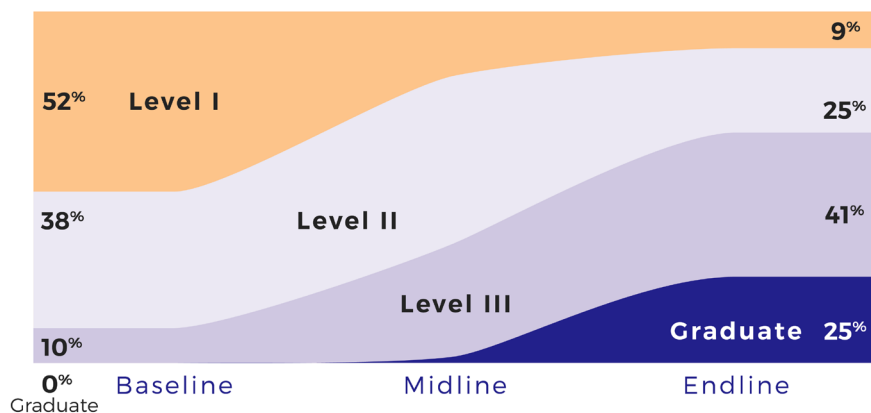
Literacy learners

3,733

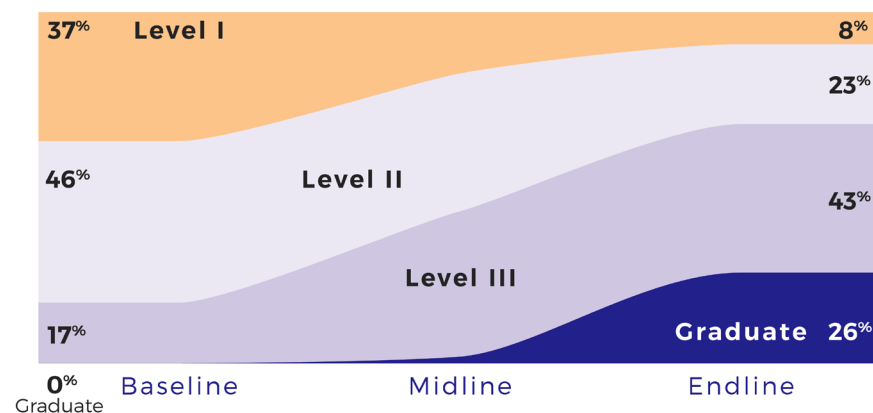
Numeracy learners

Many, but not all, learners participate in both literacy and numeracy camps

Literacy Results for 1,762 learners who completed camp



Numeracy Results for 1,910 learners who completed camp



Nansonyi Rahima (right) is a Primary 3 student who loves playing games through active learning. The oldest in a family of four headed by a single mother, Rahima was expected to care for her younger siblings while her mother worked on the farm to support the family. After one of our CEVs spoke with her mother and convinced her of the importance of education, Rahima was allowed to participate in our Roots To Rise Community camp. Although she was shy at first, she developed confidence as she started learning through our games and activities with other kids in her community. In just a few short weeks, Rahima went from only Level 1 to Level 3!



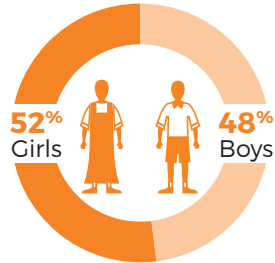
Roots to Rise Ewaka

Building Tomorrow launched Roots to Rise Ewaka in early May. Learners signed up for the basic mobile phone-based learning platform via Building Tomorrow Fellows and Technical Advisors embedded in their community.

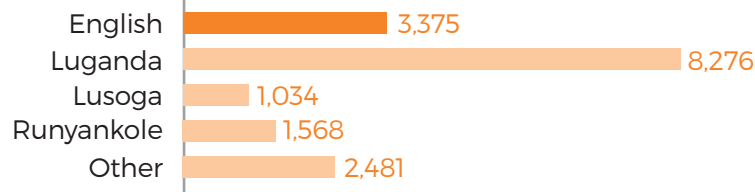
Enrollment

16,734

Learners enrolled since May 1



Learners' Preferred Language



The Building Tomorrow Virtual Learning team gathered valuable insights as thousands of learners engaged with the platform during Q2. These learnings have spurred additional feature development on the platform.

Learnings & Planned Development

Lesson Call Initiation

Built based on a survey of parents' phone familiarity, R2R Ewaka dials out to learners' phones at a pre-scheduled time. Engagement data and feedback gathered after launch demonstrated it is difficult for learners to be ready for a lesson at a specific time. As a result, at the scheduled lesson time, version 2 of R2R Ewaka will send an SMS, allowing the learner to respond when ready and immediately receive their lesson call.

Direct Enrollment

16,734 learners have been enrolled solely via sign-ups through BT Fellows and TAs. Development of enrollment via a free-to-access USSD channel is ongoing and will allow parents themselves to enroll learners over the phone, rather than coordinating with a BT Fellow or TA. This is expected to dramatically increase enrollment and Ewaka's reach throughout Uganda.

Languages of Instruction

English is currently the only language offered on Ewaka as it is the language in which learners are tested in school. However, engagement data gathered after launch suggested the need for learners to receive content in their native language. Translation of learning content into Luganda, Lusoga, and Runyankole was completed in June and will be added in Q3.



Tomorrow is Now

Building MEL Capacity

for 206 technical leaders in sub-county offices

Between March 18 and June 17, Building Tomorrow technical advisors (TAs) trained 206 technical leaders in sub-county offices on various Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) concepts. The main goal consisted of harmonizing existing sub-county MEL initiatives with the national Education Management Information System (EMIS). TAs and district planners helped technical leaders identify specific EMIS indicators and data points that are relevant for each level of local government to collect, monitor, and learn from, which informed further training on how to perform these actions.

541

Community Education Volunteers trained to be Roots to Rise Trainers



3,532

CEVs engaged in pre-service training events.
1,704 Women **1,828** Men

At the start of the quarter, the Tomorrow is Now team trained 3,532 CEVs to prepare for their deployment—including such concepts as community sensitization, identifying & enrolling out-of-school children, and child protection. Of those CEVs, 541 were selected as academic CEVs to be trained on facilitating Roots to Rise Community over an additional seven days. These academic CEVs were then tasked with returning to their communities to train others as instructors of Roots to Rise camps for groups of 10-20 learners.



Thank you to our partners

We thank our amazing partners who have shown solidarity and flexibility in their support as we launched new programs and scaled existing ones to confront the current education emergency in Uganda.



Solso Family Foundation

The John F. and Mary A. Geisse Foundation