



### Welcome and warm greetings from Tusome Africa!

We've had a great start to 2019, from the refurbishment of school libraries to receiving a shipment of nearly 2000 books from Book Aid International.

A lot still needs to be done to improve learning outcomes in primary schools, especially those in the Northern and Eastern regions of Uganda, as our findings of the 2018 Primary Living Exams shows.

Follow the links below to learn more about Tusome Africa's work on reducing the illiteracy levels in the Eastern region and how you too can help support our initiatives.

<https://www.tusomeafrica.org>

### PROJECT UPDATE

#### Tusome Libraries Project

We are refurbishing libraries and reading corners in primary schools that we work at. So far, we have refurbished two libraries; Bishop Willis Demonstration Primary School and Bulubandi Primary School. Three other school libraries are due refurbished in May 2019

In addition, we are running library activities through literacy and numeracy clubs in 10 schools; Nawandala, Bunalwenyi, Canon Ibula, Kakongoka, Idudi Muslim, Bishop Willis, Bukoyo, Walugogo, Bukwya and Bulubandi Primary schools.



Refurbished Library at Bishop Willis Demonstration School



Refurbished Library at Bulubandi Primary School

Thanks to Airtel Uganda, pupils and teachers now have access to a range of board games to help with developing critical thinking.



Teachers at Canon Ibula Primary School playing chess and scrabble

**Our Impact:  
Watch out for the attorney at law!**

"I love debates because I know they will help me one day. I want to be a lawyer when I grow up and a lawyer must know how to express himself well without fear and in good English. When I am debating, I imagine I am a lawyer. I am happy I get to practice what I will use in the future."

**Latif, aged 11, Primary Six pupil at Canon Ibula Primary School.**

Latif is one of the many pupils that are part of the school's literacy /debate club. Always ready to contribute and to defend his point of view, he has actively taken part in every debate session that has been held in his class. In December 2018, he was chosen to represent his school in an interschool debate organised by Tusome Africa; needless to say, he made his school proud

When Tusome Africa introduced the debate clubs in schools, we hoped to see children learn to speak in public and in front of their peers without fear, develop language abilities as well as research and public speaking skills. Watching Latif in action is not only awe-inspiring but also encouraging to know that once you take the first step possibilities are limitless.

Latif and other children like him are the heart of Tusome Africa. We believe that every child is entitled to a quality education that will not only extend knowledge and understanding but also inspire independent thought, a sense of responsibility and a commitment to the common good. One thing is for sure, Latif will make a brilliant lawyer!



Latif (right) argues a point with one of his classmates

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## Engaging with Parents from the start

It has been said that 'a child educated only at school is an uneducated child.' Research has shown that parents and other adult family members have a crucial role to play in enabling a child's future academic success. The pursuit of a quality education calls for a dynamic approach that involves parents and carers, the schools and community working together for the benefit of the children.

Tusome Africa is bringing together parents, schools and the community to find solutions to the problems their children are faced with. We have been actively engaged and committed to attending parent-teacher meetings. In February 2019, we were at Nakalama Primary School, engaging with parents who had just enrolled their children to the pre-primary section.

Tusome Africa discussed issues related to building the cognitive abilities, readiness and preparedness of children when joining primary schools and how best parents can support them. The parents were very engaged, all of them seeking to understand their roles.



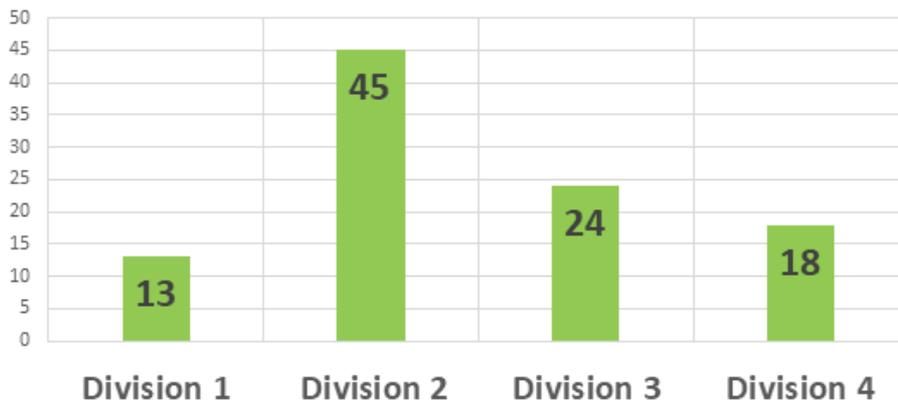
Catherine Mwebaze  
(Tusome Africa - Programmes Coordinator)  
speaks to parents during a parents'  
engagement meeting at Nakalama Primary School

## 2018 Primary Leaving Exams overview

According to Advance Africa.com, "When releasing the PLE results at the office of the president, Dr Daniel Odongo, The Executive Secretary of Uganda National Examinations Board (UNEB) stated that out of the 655,698 candidates who sat for PLE, 91.4% passed in various divisions. 8.6% failed and are supposed to repeat. Mr. Odongo said that a candidate is deemed to have passed if he or she obtains division grades of 1, 2,3, or 4 and such candidates qualify to register for any post primary education..." The graph below shows the division grades percentage score of the candidates that passed.

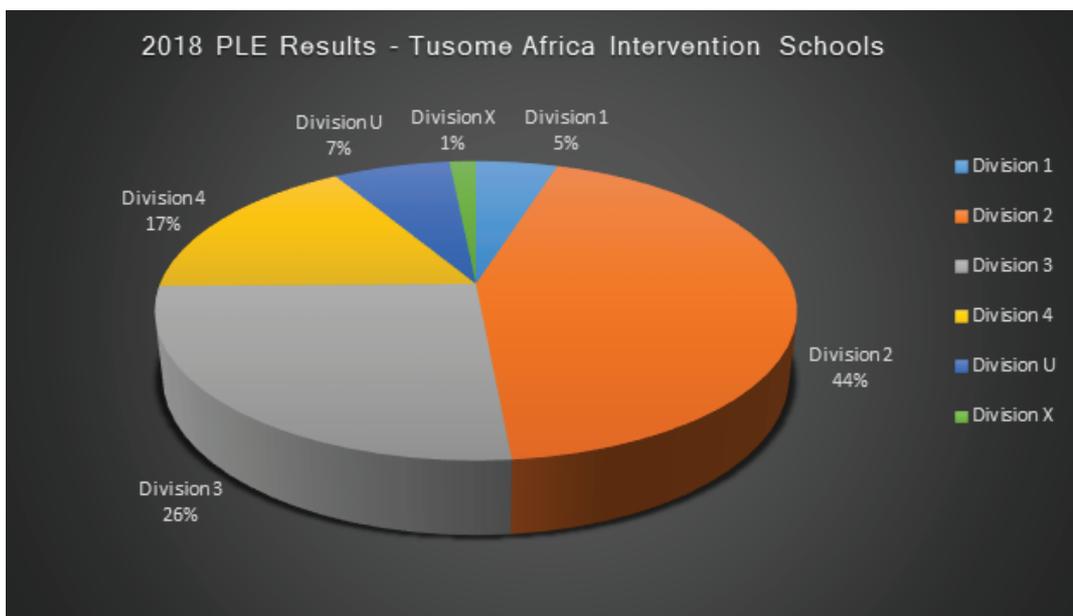
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2018 PLE Percentage Score - National



Tusome Africa is currently working with 10 schools in Iganga and Bugweri Districts, which are among the poorest and most marginalised districts in Uganda. The 10 schools registered 556 pupils, out of which only 5% passed with Division 1, with a majority of the candidates (44%) obtaining Division 2; 26% attained Division 3, 17% attained Division 4 and 7% of the candidates got Division U (Totally Failed or Ungraded) while 1% (Division X) did not sit for the exams. These results are clear evidence that a lot still needs to be done to improve the learning outcomes.

2018 PLE Results - Tusome Africa Intervention Schools



We have learned that success is not just about getting the first division when it comes to PLE results. Schools that manage to get pupils to pass with division 2 and 3 despite the challenging conditions, need to be recognised and inspired that they can perform better.

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As Tusome Africa, our target is to see year on year change and improvement to national level averages and beyond in the schools where we work. Some of the targeted activities that will lead to the achievement of this are;

- Establish high quality learning foundations through Early Childhood Development Centres
- Establishing high quality libraries at each school that we work
- Establishment of Effective Literacy and Numeracy clubs
- Promotion of parents' engagement in school activities
- Ensuring effective accountability systems in schools.

## Meet Agnes Nakirya – Co-founder of Tusome Africa



### How did you get involved with Tusome Africa?

My connection to Tusome Africa is two-fold. Firstly, through Bea, Tusome Africa's Founding Director, whom I had the opportunity to work with at another charity for four and a half years.

Secondly, I grew up in a household where both my parents are/were teachers. Education has opened great doors of opportunity for me. From my rural home and school to graduating with a Master of Public Policy from Oxford in November 2018. Through Tusome Africa, I look forward to shining a spotlight on teachers who, despite the seemingly impossible odds, show up in school every day. That's my dream and ultimate connection to Tusome Africa.

### What makes Tusome Africa so Special?

An organisation is as strong as its vision, leadership, and team. Each person including the Board, the Founders, the staff and volunteers have unique stories about the sacrifices, the incredible gift of education and how it shaped their lives. They have volunteered their time and resources without any hesitation in building and shaping Tusome Africa.

### What makes working for Tusome Africa worthwhile?

The organisation is unwavering in its belief despite the challenges that young organisations face. We can create an environment in which boys and girls in rural primary schools might thrive and achieve their true potential, for themselves and their families. I hope that you can join us and be part of an exciting journey ahead.

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## Where do you see Tusome Africa in the next five to 10 years?

I see Tusome Africa as a leader in education, shining a spotlight on the potential of those pupils and teachers in rural areas we often forget. I see the organisation growing beyond our current geographical locations and to influencing education policy at the national level and beyond.

## What do you do when you are not busy with Tusome Africa business?

I continue to explore what's next following my recent graduation and hope to contribute to identifying and shaping context-specific policy solutions to address the peculiarities of Uganda and Africa's governance challenges. Away from Tusome Africa, I am about laughter, family, hugs (lots of hugs), friends, Liverpool FC, dreams, faith and God, hope and love.

### Join Tusome Africa in eliminating illiteracy

Tusome Africa is at the forefront of stamping out illiteracy. The steps we've made so far could not have been possible without the continued support of our donors and supporters. We have many plans laid out for 2019 and we need your support to realise them. Visit our website( <https://www.tusomeafrica.org/how-to-donate>) and see some of the ways you can support and partner with us.



Staff of Tusome Africa and pupils at Bulubandi Primary school stamp the newly received books

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