

# ACCESS TO PRE-PRIMARY EDUCATION ACROSS UGANDA

## 1 CURRENT NATIONAL STATUS



**41.6%**

of children aged 3-5 currently access any form of pre-primary education



**58.4%**

(approx. 2.5 million children) excluded from early learning, mostly in rural and underserved areas

## 2 REGIONAL DISPARITIES IN ACCESS

Urban vs. Rural:

**80 %** of ECCE centres are in urban areas, while only

**20 %** serve rural areas, despite rural children being the majority.

By Region:

**Buganda:** Has **2,793 ECCE facilities** – the highest in the country.

**Karamoja:** Has only **62 ECCE facilities**, despite having high child population density and extreme poverty.

**Other underserved regions include:**

- West Nile
- Bukedi
- Acholi

## 3 FUTURE DEMAND – PROJECTIONS TO 2050

Currently

**2023**

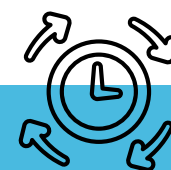
Uganda had 4.2 million children aged 3–5.

Future

**2050**

this number will grow to 5.4 million – an increase of over 1.2 million children requiring ECCE services.

## 4 IMPACT OF PRE-PRIMARY ATTENDANCE



**Children who attended ECCE:**

Repetition rate in primary: **10.7%**

Dropout rate: **3.6%**



**Children without ECCE:**

Repetition rate: **16.7%**

Dropout rate: **4.6%**

### NOTE

ECCE reduces repetition and dropout, improving education system efficiency

## 5 HOW THE PPP MODEL SOLVES THIS

The pre-primary expansion project targets:

- **2.5 million** additional learners **by Year 6** of the rollout (roughly 2031).
- **3.25 million** learners annually **by Year 30 (2050)**, maintaining universal access in line with population growth.

# THE BURDEN OF PRE-PRIMARY EDUCATION ON FAMILIES IN UGANDA

## 1 HIGH OUT-OF-POCKET COSTS



**59.5%** of parents reported that current ECCE fees are unaffordable, especially in rural areas

**33.2%** of households cite cost as the primary barrier to enrolment.

### Note:

- Pre-primary education in Uganda is primarily privately provided, meaning parents bear nearly all direct costs (tuition, uniforms, feeding, materials).
- The high costs exclude most poor and rural families, who cannot afford private ECCE.
- Many parents are willing to enrol their children if services are made free or subsidized, suggesting strong latent demand

## 3 HOW DOES THE PPP MODEL SOLVE THIS?

For private schools,

- Government covers teacher salaries (up to 3 per school).
- Parents continue covering feeding and uniforms.
- They must cap fees at WTP level (UGX 50,486/term) to qualify for support.

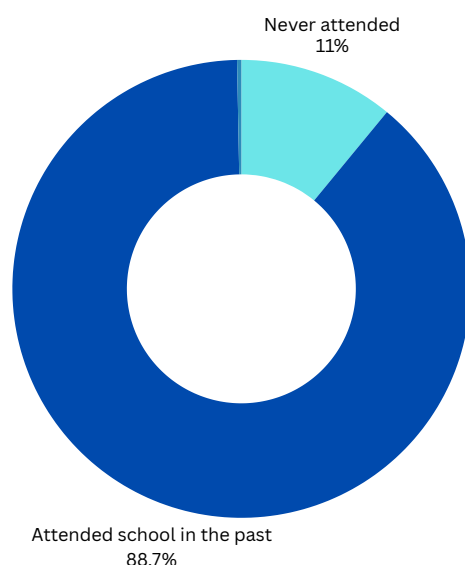
→ This model directly enables broader access without pushing costs to households

## 2 COST OF ECCE SERVICES

AVERAGE COST OF ECCE SERVICES	
ITEM	COST IN UGX
Average fee per term	UGX 105,905 *
Average fee per year (3 terms)	UGX 317,715
WHAT PARENTS CAN ACTUALLY AFFORD	
Per term	UGX 50,486 *
Per year	UGX 151,458
AFFORDABILITY GAP	
$\text{UGX } 105,905 - \text{UGX } 50,486 = \text{UGX } 55,419$ <p>There is a <b>&gt;52%</b> affordability gap per child per term.</p> <p>Over a year, the gap amounts to <b>UGX 166,257</b> per child, which is a significant burden for families living on less than <b>UGX 7,400</b> per day</p>	

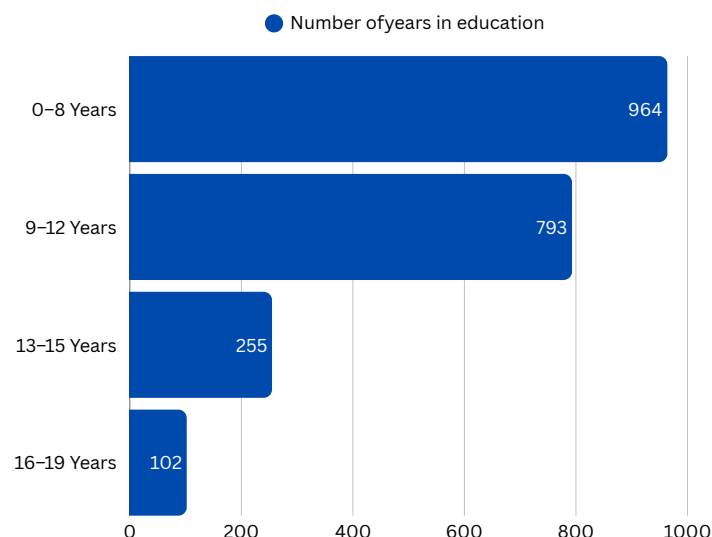
# PARENTAL EDUCATION LEVELS AND ENROLLMENT IN PRE-PRIMARY

## 1 ATTENDANCE HISTORY OF HOUSEHOLD HEADS



Nearly 9 in 10 household heads (parents) have had some form of schooling – an opportunity to leverage parental education for better ECCE outcomes.

## 2 DISTRIBUTION OF HOUSEHOLD HEAD EDUCATION LEVELS



- The majority of parents have **less than 12 years** of formal education, which may limit their awareness or value of early childhood education.
- The relatively low number of parents with post-secondary education shows the critical need to complement ECCE efforts with adult education and awareness campaigns to drive enrollment.

## 3 PRE-PRIMARY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE BY HOUSEHOLD HEAD EDUCATION LEVEL

As parental (household head) education increases, the likelihood of investing in early childhood education rises significantly.

This shows the intergenerational impact of education and suggests that investing in adult education, awareness, and literacy may indirectly boost ECCE participation.

