

# Geneva Global's Speed School Program



## CIES 2019

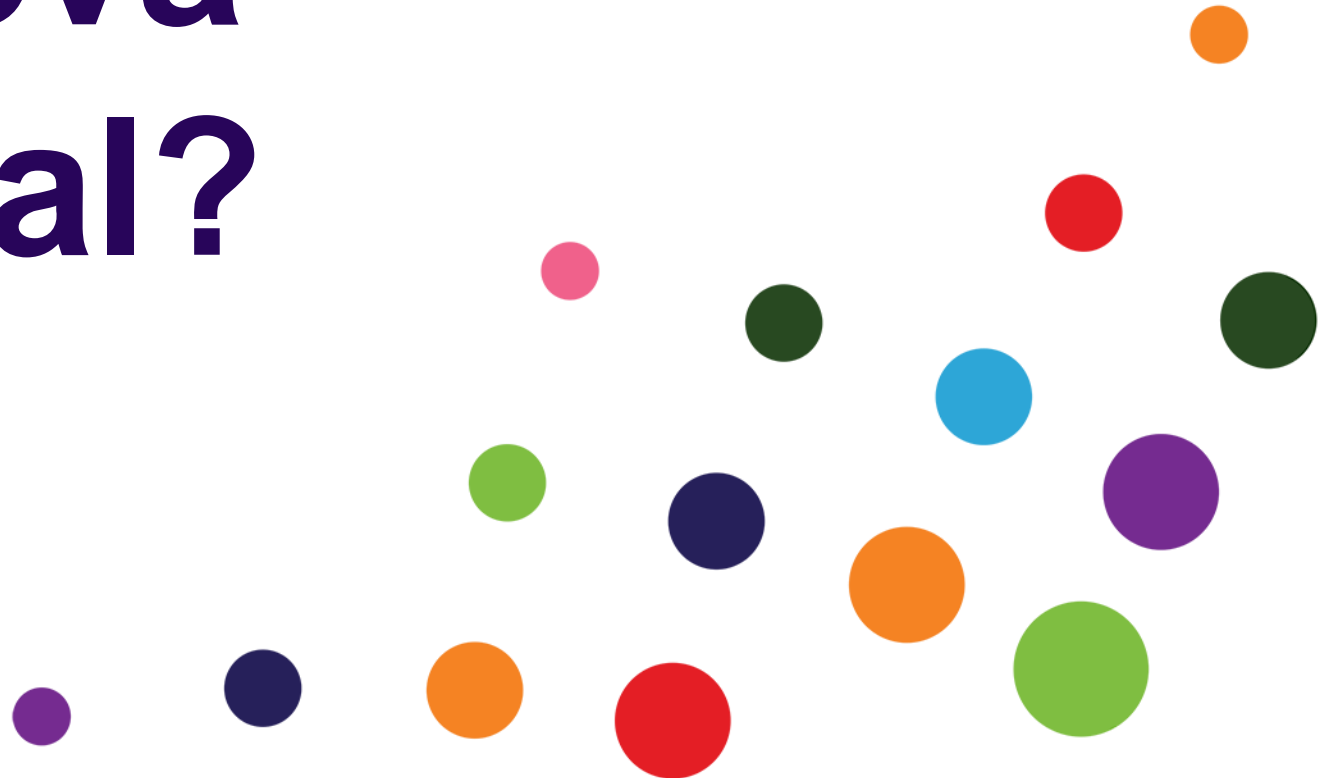
April 16, 2019

Jessica Lowden

Program Director



# What is Geneva Global?



# Who Are We?

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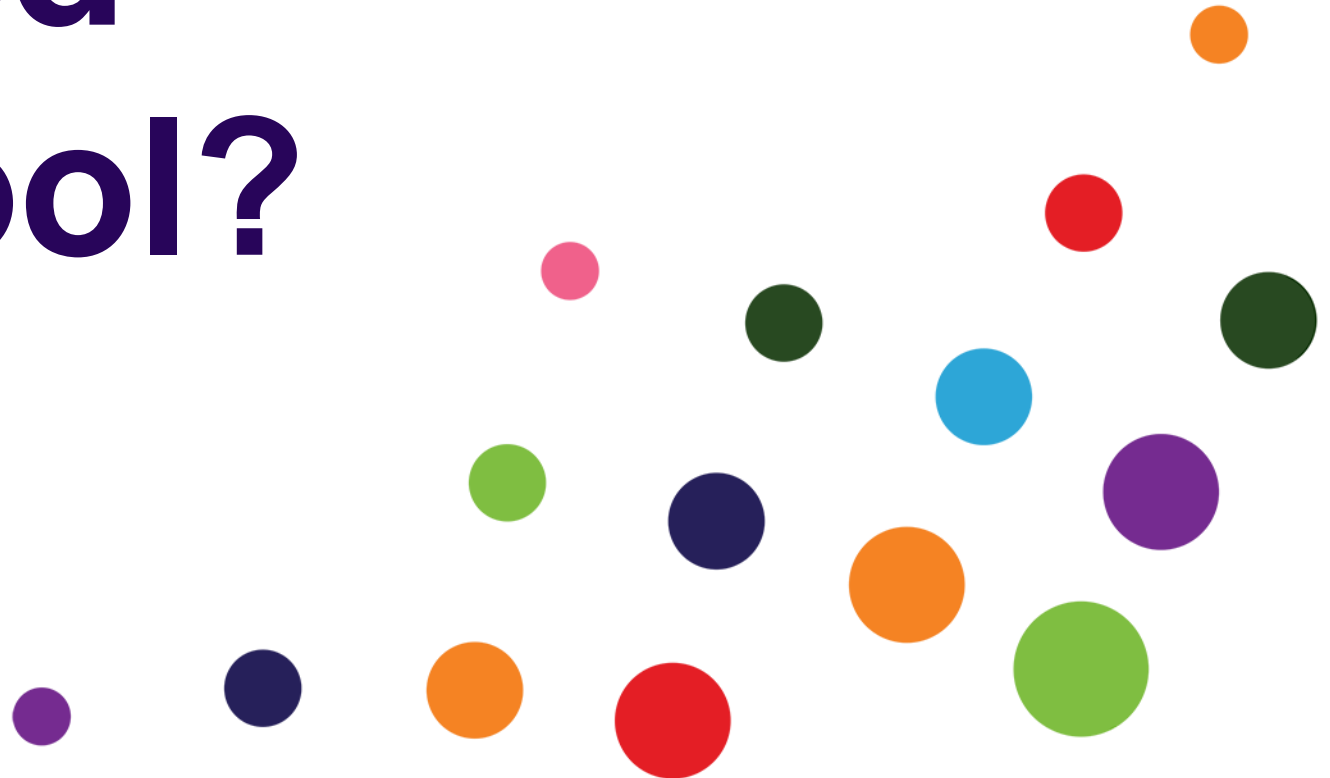
Geneva Global is a **philanthropic consulting** company that works with philanthropists, charitable organizations, and corporations to help them **achieve the extraordinary.**



**Geneva  
Global.**



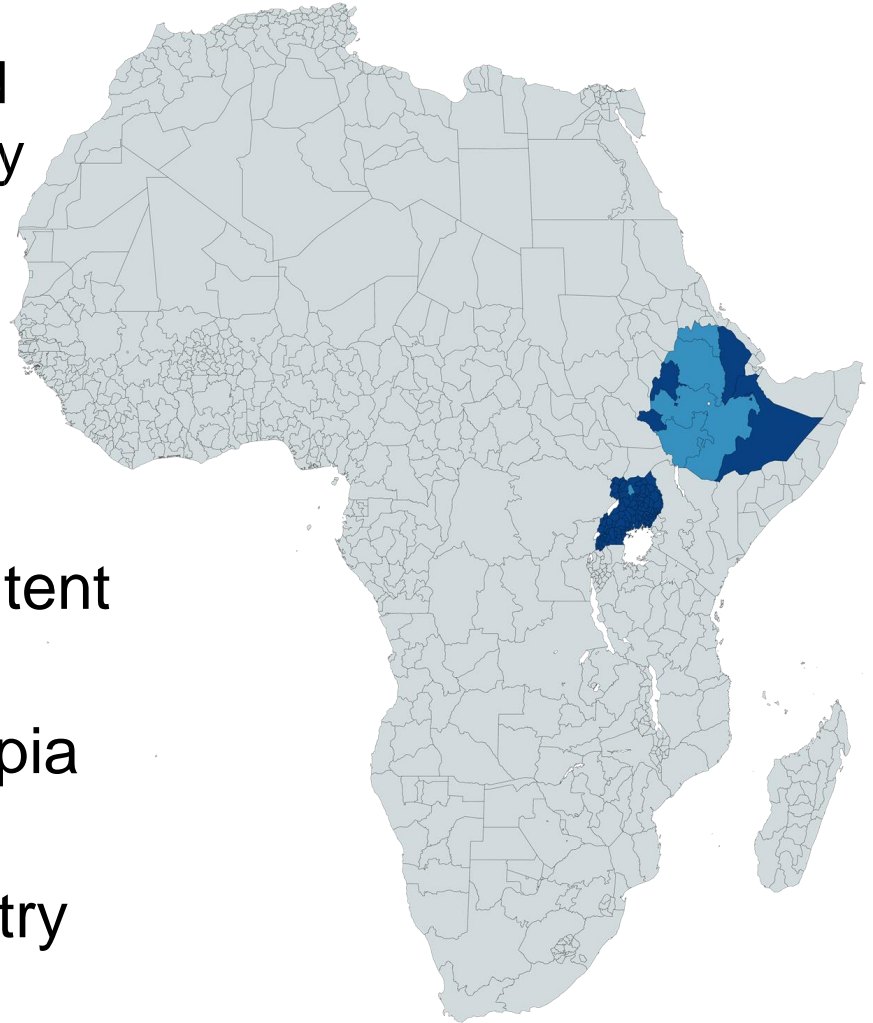
# What is Speed School?



# What is Speed School?

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- Speed School is an accelerated education program implemented by Geneva Global and funded by private donors
- Goal is to help out-of-school children reenter the formal school system
- 3 years of primary school content condensed into 10 months
- Currently operational in Ethiopia and Uganda
- Contextualized for each country



# How is Speed School Implemented?



# Implementing Partners

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- Geneva Global identifies and vets local implementing partners (IPs) to execute the Speed School model
- IPs engage the local community to conduct outreach, recruit facilitators and identify classroom spaces
- IPs serve as a critical link with local government authorities



*DANFE, a local partner in Ethiopia*



# Who Attends Speed School?

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- IPs identify out-of-school children to enroll in the Speed School classes
- Speed School targets children between 8 and 14 years old
- Aim is for students to enter formal primary school in 4<sup>th</sup> grade





# Who is the facilitator?

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- Local community member
- Speaks the same mother tongue as the students
- Has at least a Grade 10 education
- Receives 21 days of intense training in Speed School model
- Creates learning tasks and opportunities



*“When the children came, they were empty. Now they are learning fast with the activities... Every day I can see they learn new things and I learn new things. Every day we are both learning.”*

*- Mebrahtu Birhanu, facilitator*

# What is a Speed School Classroom?

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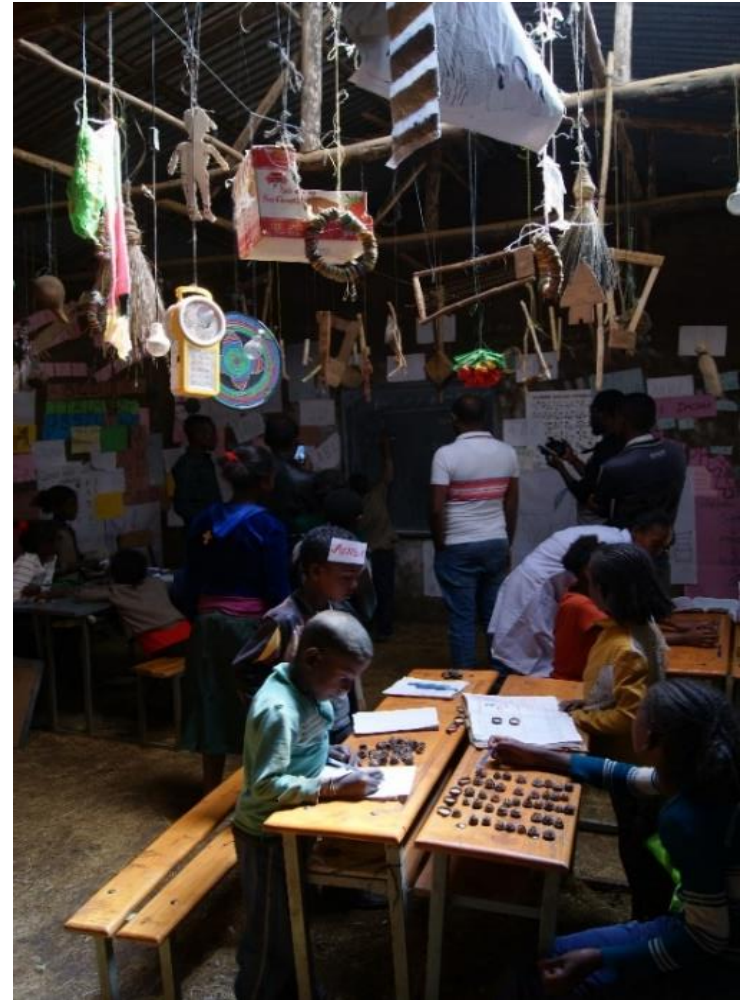
- Led by a local facilitator
- 25-30 students per class
- Seated in 5 groups of 5-6 students each
- Taught in the local language
- Condensed curriculum is based on the formal school curriculum
- Focus on literacy and numeracy with an interdisciplinary approach



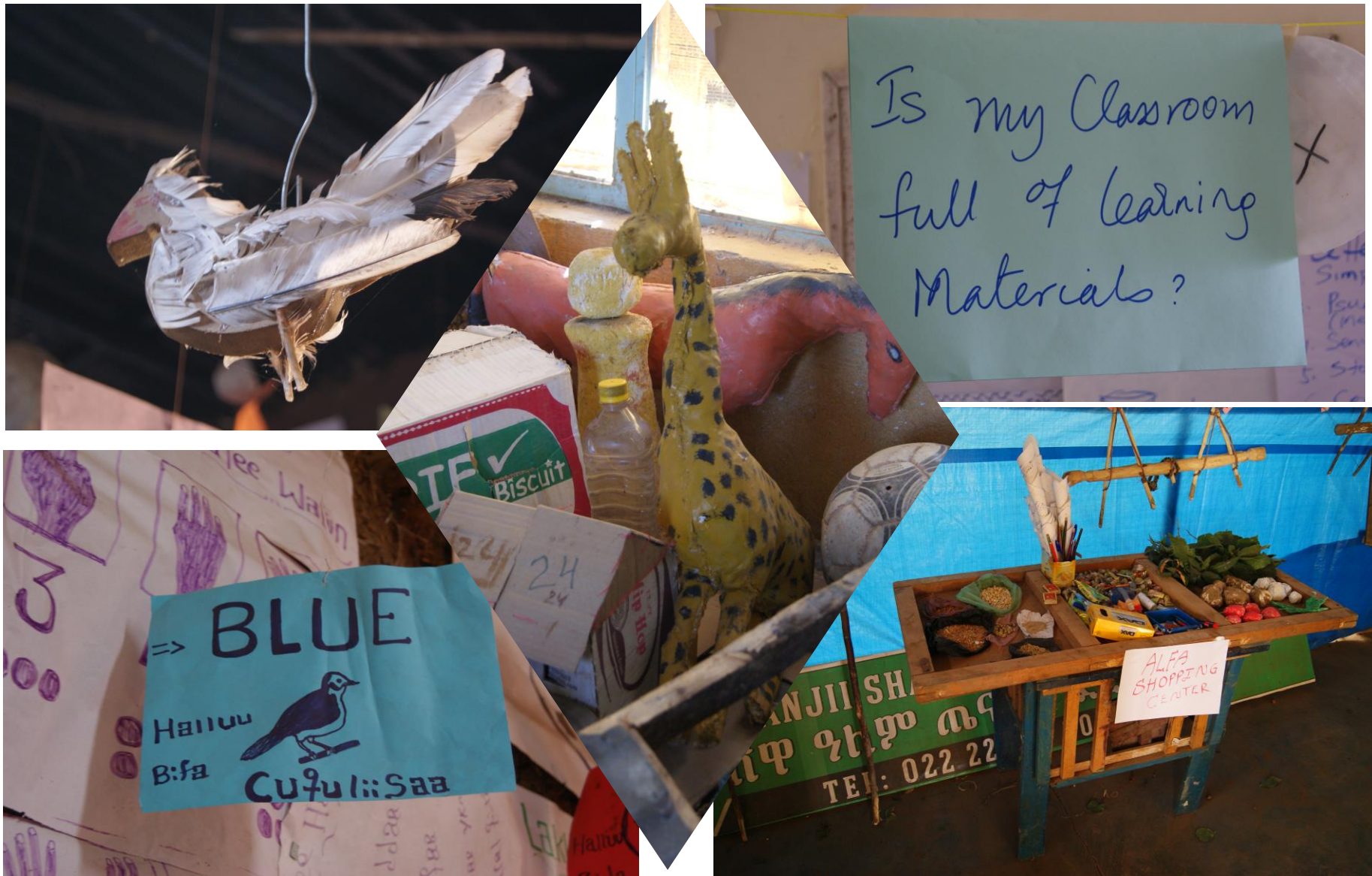
# What is a Speed School Classroom?

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- A vibrant dynamic classroom where students are surrounded by learning materials
- A noisy classroom where students are active and engaged
- A collaborative space where students work in groups
- A classroom where facilitators are also active and empowered to establish a safe, creative classroom







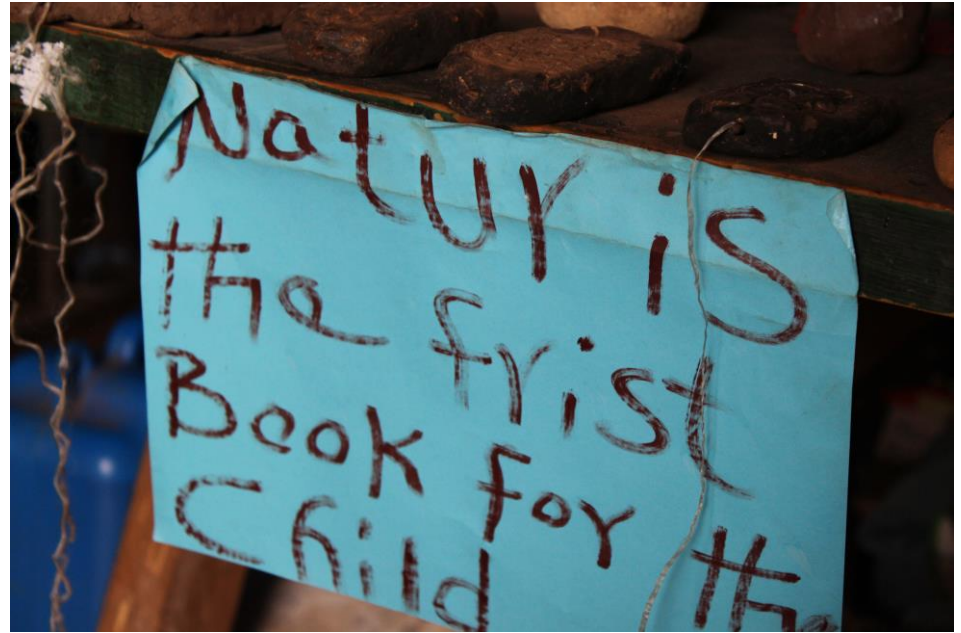
# What is the Pedagogical Model?



# Pedagogy

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- Student-centered, activity-based learning through:
  - Games
  - Music
  - Nature
  - Family interaction
- Independent & group work
- Peer instruction
- Projects and activities
- Low-cost and no-cost materials

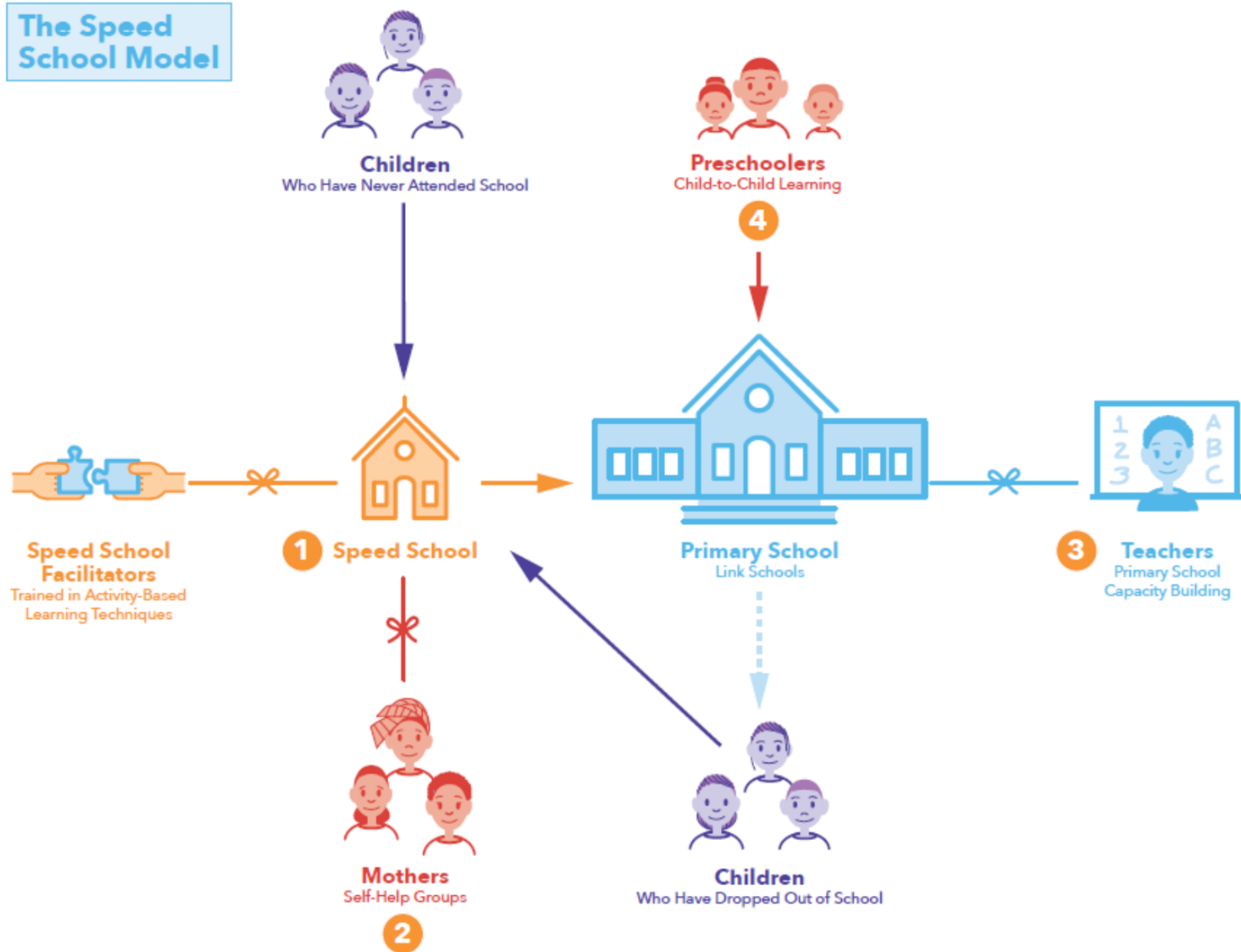




# What are the Complementary Components?



## The Speed School Model



# Moving Towards Sustainability



# Government Engagement

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- Relationship building with all levels of government
- Involvement of Ministry of Education as well as local government structures
- Development and review of curriculum materials
- Most Speed School classes are co-located on government school campuses



# Primary School Capacity Building

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- Geneva Global and IPs identify schools that will enroll Speed School students when they transition to formal school, referred to as “Link schools”
- Provide ongoing support
- Includes training for Link School teachers in student-centered methodology
- 15 guiding conversations where the principal and teachers discuss how to use student-centered methodology in the classroom – these form the basis for professional development trainings
- 3 formal trainings per school year from IPs



# Teacher Training

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- In Uganda, Primary Teacher College (PTC) officials have been training facilitators since 2017
- Working to create formal pathways for facilitators to become trained teachers

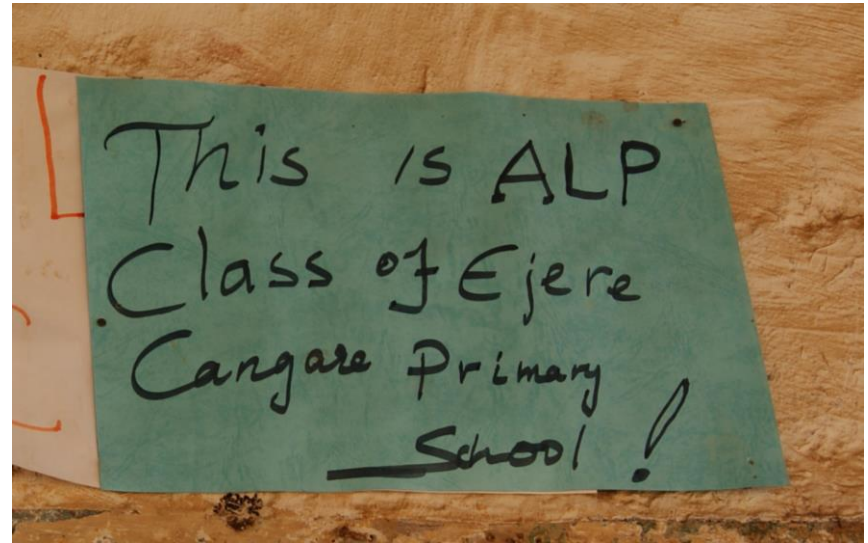




# Government Adoption

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- Geneva Global has a long-term strategic plan for government adoption working over the next five years to gradually transition the program to full government ownership



- In Ethiopia in 2017/18 there were 32 government run Accelerated Learning classes in one region of Ethiopia (Tigray)
- In Ethiopia in 2018/19 there are 110 ALP classes in three regions (Tigray, SNNPR and Oromia)

# Partner Support

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- Engagement in medium and long-term planning
  - Local education offices need to plan for school budgets which are often submitted a year or more in advance
- Provision of training and curricula materials
  - Development of an accelerated education “Toolkit” is ongoing
  - Revision of accelerated curriculum
- Site visits to introduce new officials to the program
- Dissemination of research findings



# What are the Results to Date?



# Evidence Base

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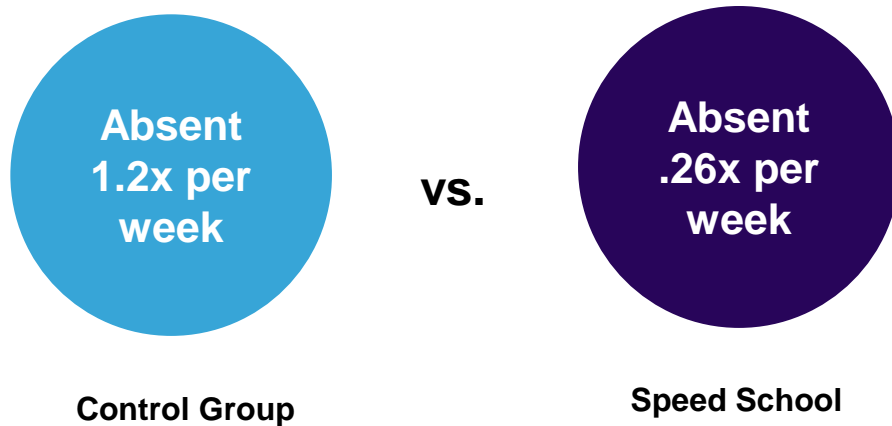
- Six-year longitudinal study complete by University of Sussex
- Tracked students from the first Ethiopia Speed School student cohort in 2011
- Sample of 625 students from 25 Speed School classrooms
- Control group of 1,250 students from government schools



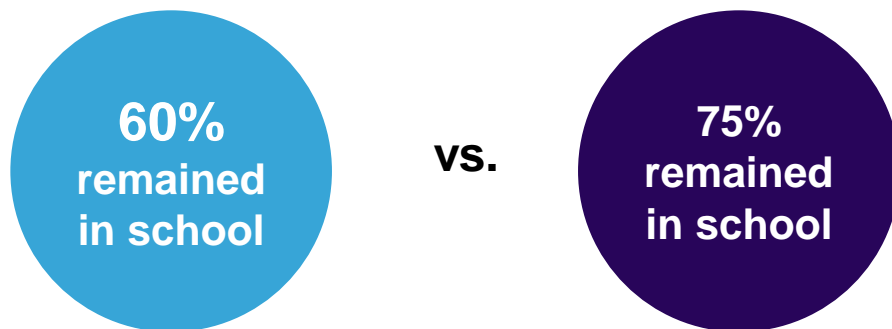
# Research Results

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- Speed School students attended school more regularly:



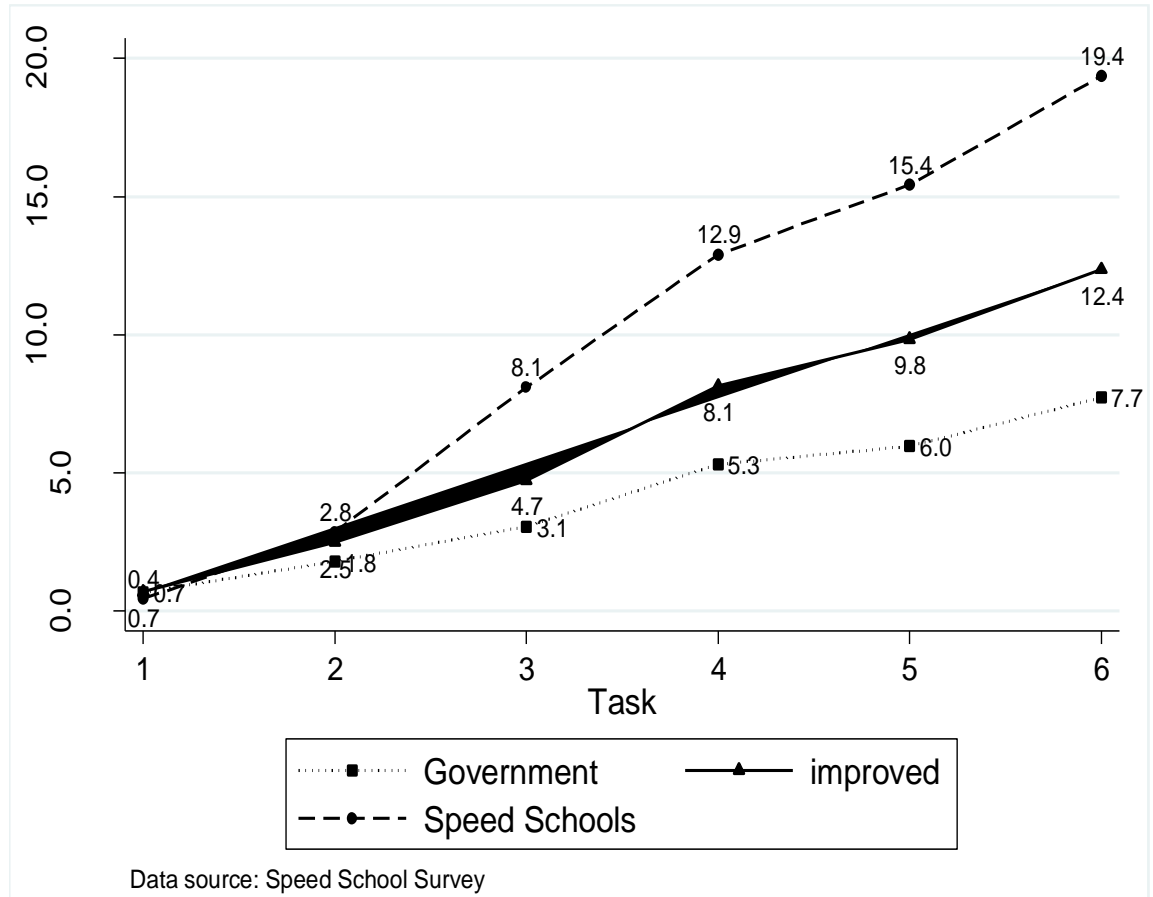
- Speed School students were more likely to stay enrolled:



# Research Results

## *Impact of Speed School after 10 months - Cumulative change in score for literacy test*

- Children enrolled in Speed Schools achieved 19 cumulative points (out of total of 45 points) between the baseline and the endline.
- Children enrolled in Link School achieved 12 cumulative points
- Children enrolled in government schools achieved 7.7 cumulative points between the baseline and the endline surveys.

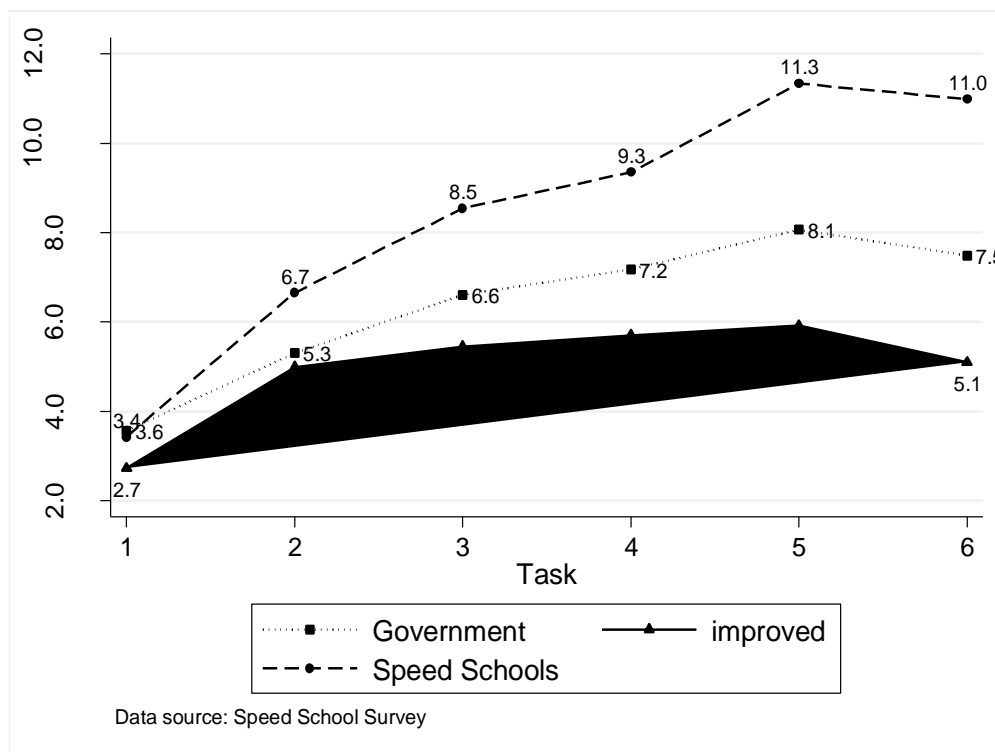




# Research Results

## *Impact of Speed School after 10 months - Cumulative change in score for numeracy test*

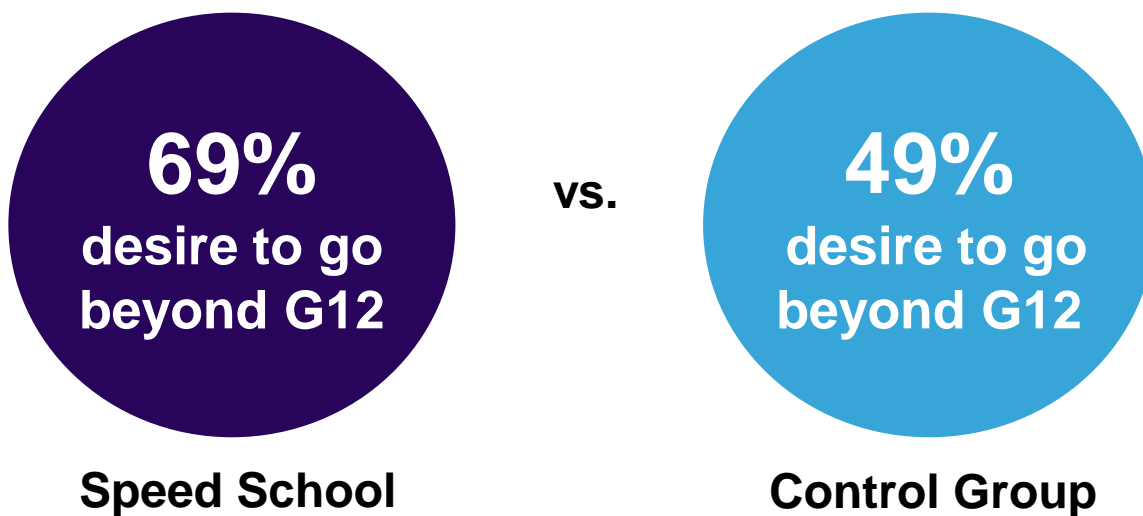
- Results show a cumulative improvement in the numeracy test with the greatest improvement achieved for children in the Speed Schools (11 points), followed by children in government schools (7.5 points) and finally children in improved schools (5.1 points).

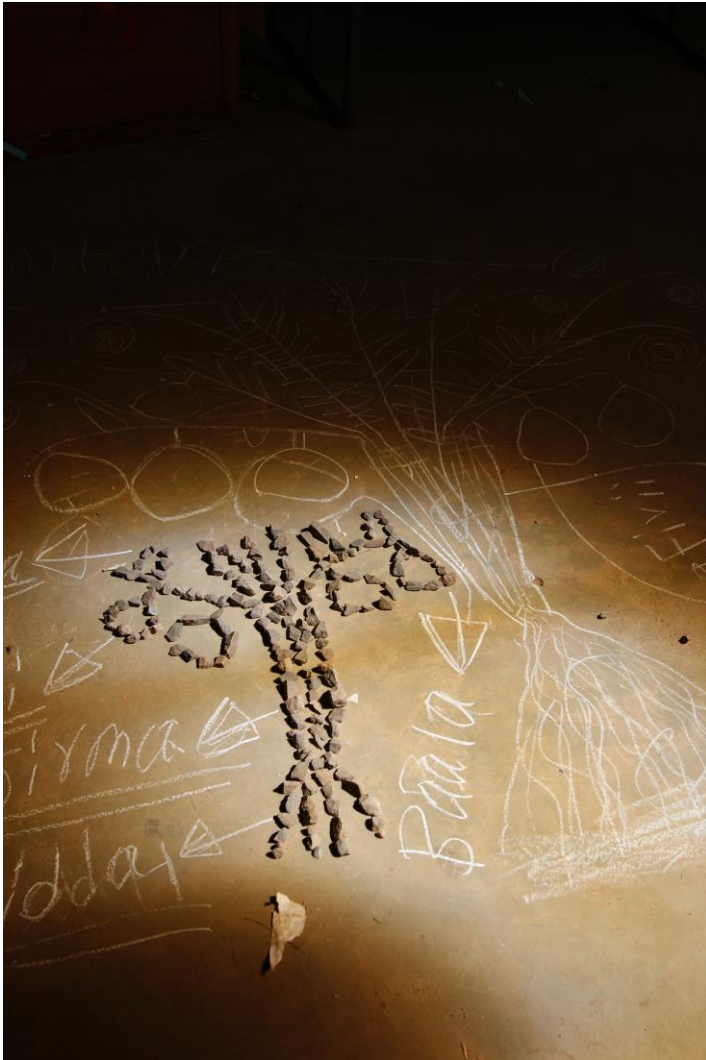


# Research Results

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- Speed School students have higher aspirations to progress beyond primary education





# Thank you

**Jessica Lowden**

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# **PASS+ PROJECT:**

# **AN ANALYSIS THROUGH THE LENS OF THE ACCELERATED EDUCATION 10 PRINCIPLES**

CIES Conference, San Francisco, 16 April 2019  
Romain Cardon, PASS+ Regional Chief of Party  
[Romain.Cardon@plan-international.org](mailto:Romain.Cardon@plan-international.org)



EDUCATE A CHILD

A programme of education above all™



**Strømme  
Foundation**



**PASS+ Primary School Access through Speed Schools**



# PRIMARY SCHOOL ACCESS THROUGH SPEED SCHOOLS (PASS+)

## Objectives and Key Targets

**Ultimate goal:** Increased access for 181,074 girls and boys to gender-responsive and inclusive education in Speed Schools and targeted primary schools in 15 regions of **Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger**

**Life of the project:** July 2016 – Sept. 2020

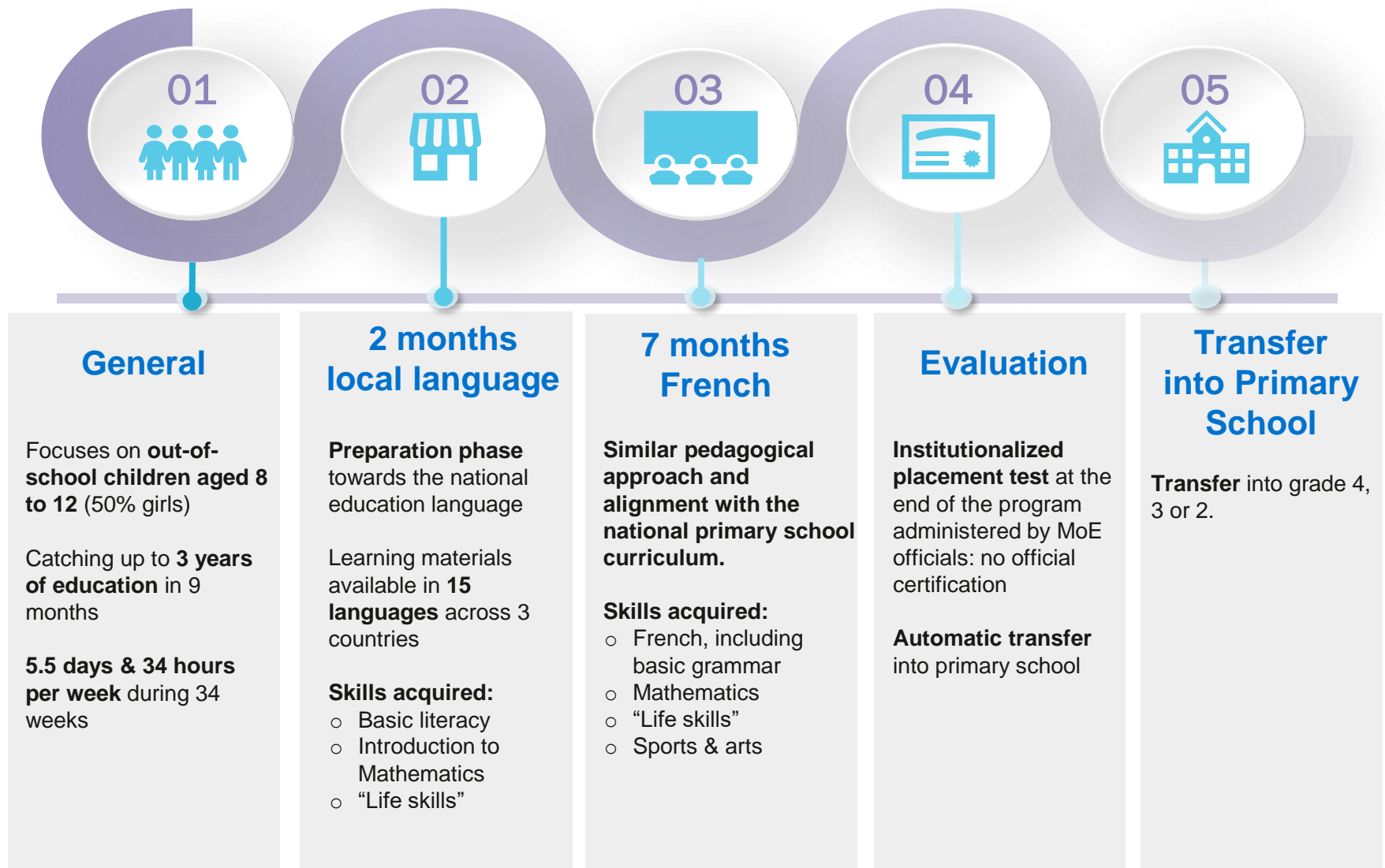
Implemented by **Plan International & Strømme Foundation** with the support of **Educate A Child**, a global program of Education Above All Foundation

**Partners:** 18 local NGOs, communities, government officials & school staff



# ACCELERATED EDUCATION

## The Speed School model





# SCALING UP THE MODEL - A REGIONAL APPROACH

Results to date



3,271

**Number of Speed Schools**



85,582

**Number of enrolled learners in  
Speed Schools (49% girls)**



90%  
83%

**Evaluated  
Transferred to primary school**

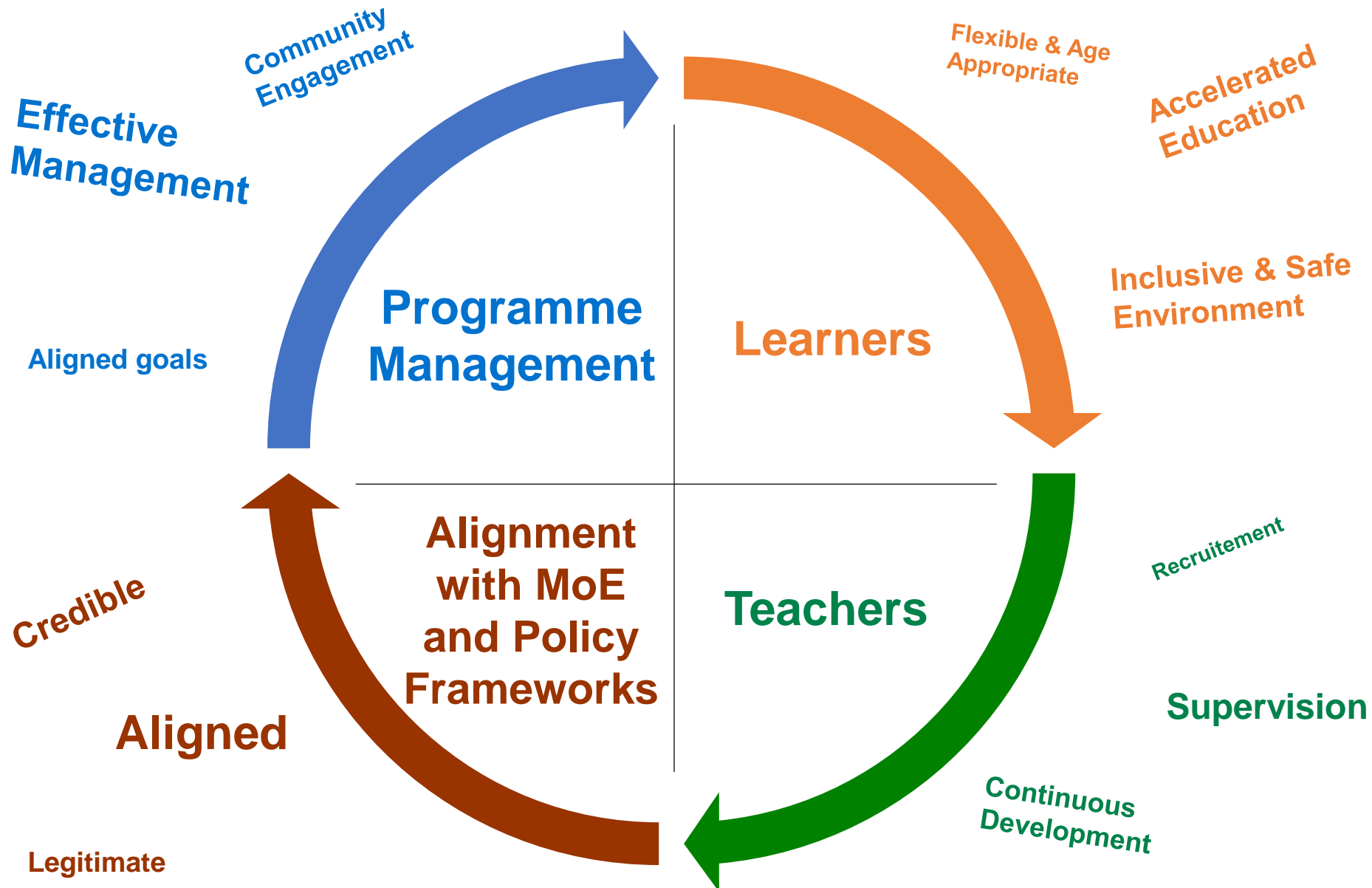


66,611

**OOSC directly enrolled into  
primary school (49% girls)**

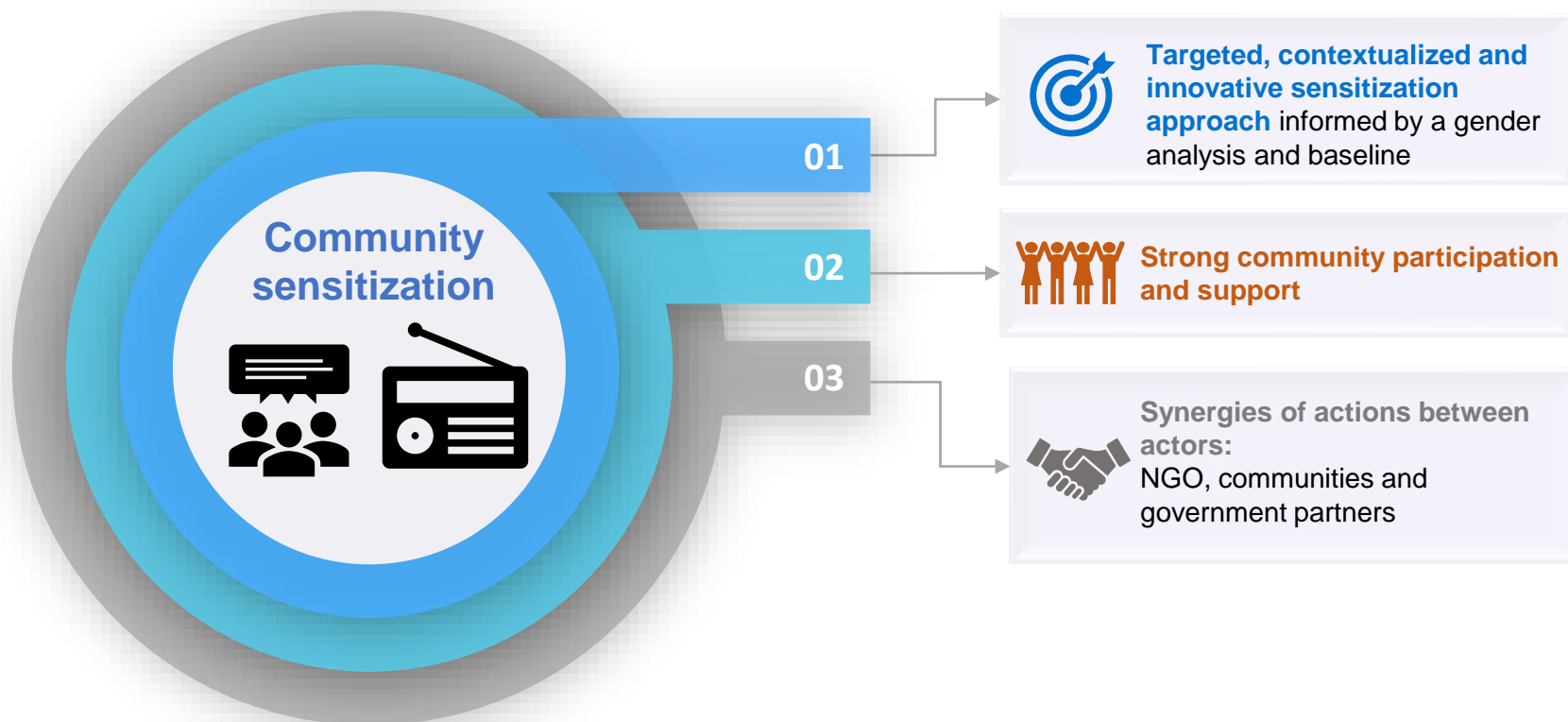
# 4 DOMAINS OF ACCELERATED EDUCATION

Analyzing PASS+ through the lens of the 10 principles



# DOMAIN: PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

## Community engagement



### **Birth certificates are a requirement to access or complete education**

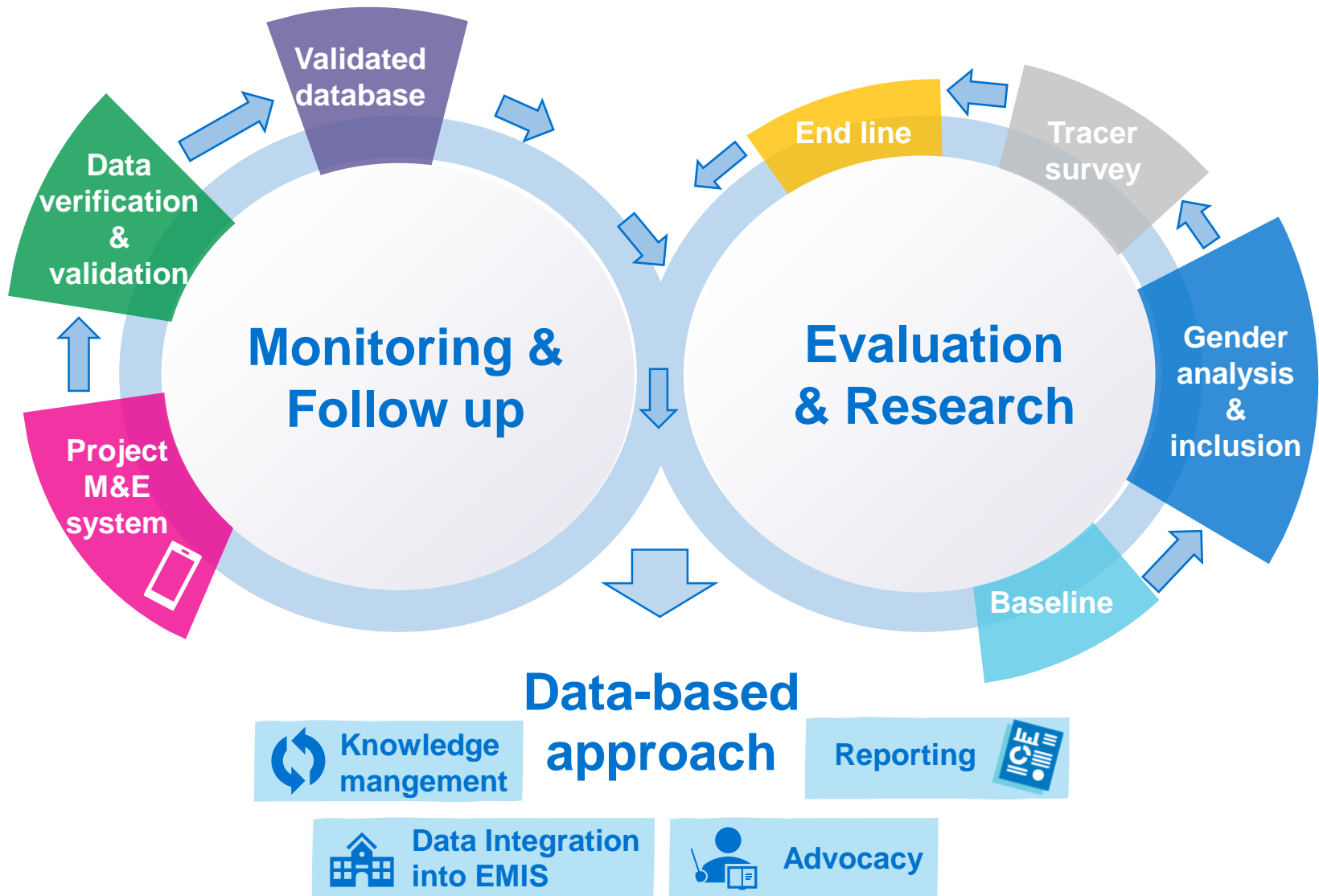
**Solution:** Only 28% of Speed School learners can confirm having a birth certification. PASS+ supports sensitization on formal primary school enrollment requirements and encourages community-led advocacy.

### **OOSC at higher risk of dropping out**

**Solution:** 90% of learners enrolled in Speed Schools pass the final exam thanks to a strong community commitment and support; for example, Speed School Management Committee household visits to follow up on learners absences



# Accelerated Education Centers are Effectively Managed



# Goals, Monitoring & Funding Align

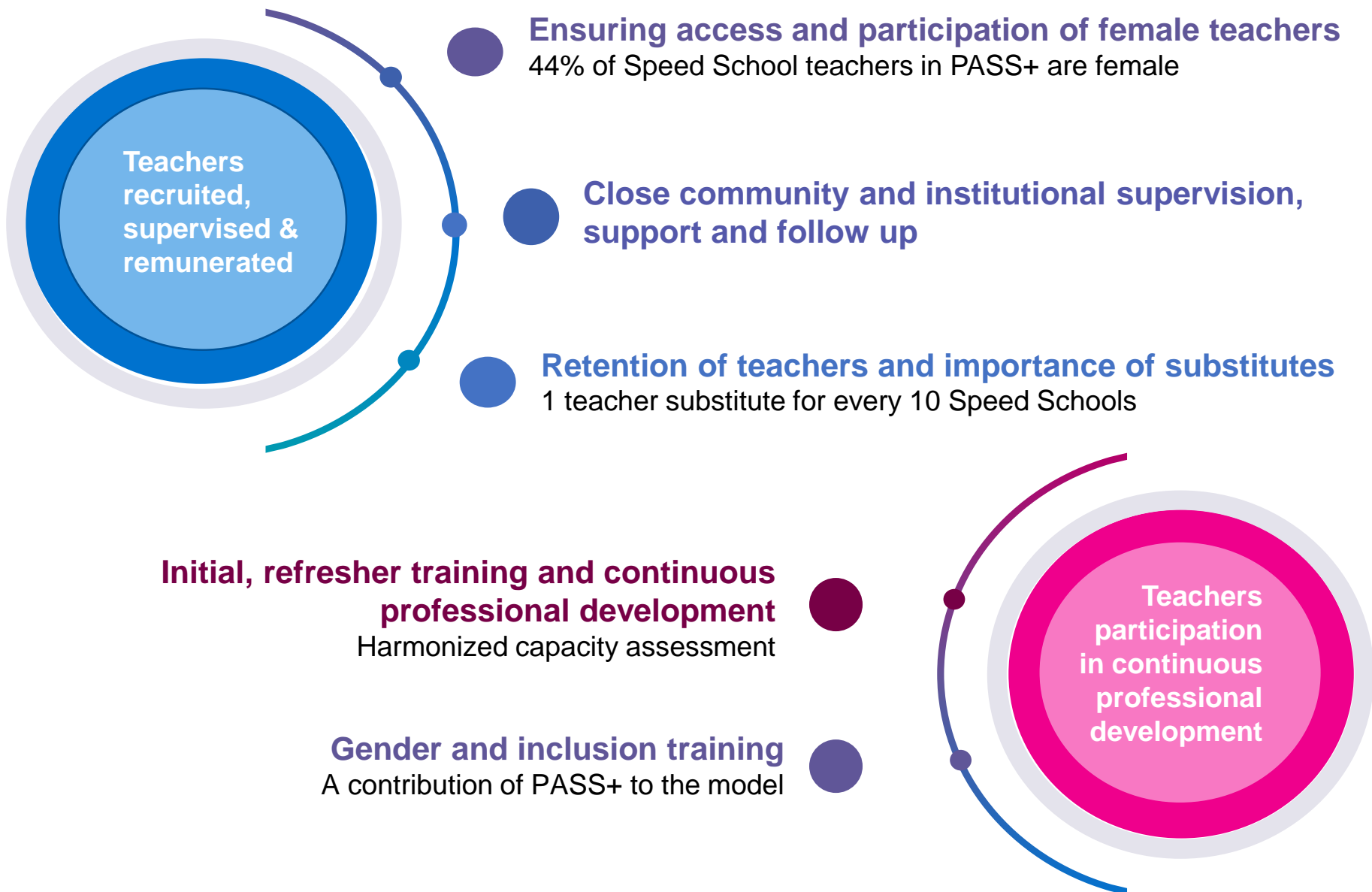


Coordinated  
**partnership** approach



Leveraging and optimizing  
**resources** for education

# DOMAIN: TEACHERS





# DOMAIN: LEARNERS

PASS+ accelerated education program model is **flexible and addresses needs of children** between 8-12 years old, nevertheless, institutional integration reduces the flexibility

PASS+ centers provide an **inclusive, gender sensitive, safe and learning ready environment**: a difficult balance due to the temporary nature of the model

**Institutionalized placement test** at the end of the program, however no official certification

## **Making temporary learning spaces safe, inclusive & gender sensitive**

**Solution:** checklist for site selection; finding local community sanitation solutions; SSMC monitoring of the Speed School environment; advocacy for integration Speed School learners into nearby primary school feeding program

## **A volatile & evolving security context**

**Solution :** Improving conflict sensitivity to guarantee access to and quality education; ensuring protection/do not harm.



# DOMAIN: ALIGNMENT WITH MOE & POLICY FRAMEWORKS

PASS+ and the Speed School approach are **aligned and integrated with the national education system and strategies** of the 3 countries of intervention.

Accelerated education a **legitimate, credible education option**, which enable children to reintegrate at an appropriate level in the formal system through a MoE recognized/accredited assessment system.

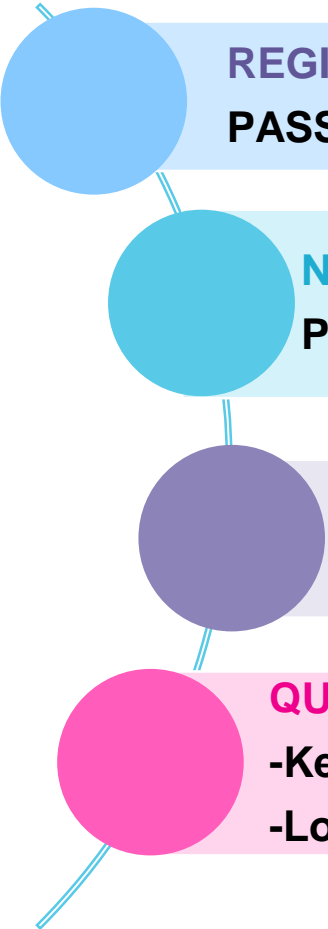
## **Ensuring capacity of absorption of OOSC in primary schools**

**Solutions** – Infrastructure and a supportive environment: Donation of learning equipment; Provision of remedial classes; Leveraging of Government support for more teachers and books.



# A REGIONAL COMMITMENT TO STRENGTHENING OOSC ACCESS TO QUALITY EDUCATION

**PASS+ embraces the aspirations of the 10 principles for fostering quality & sustainability**



**REGIONALLY:** Quality assurance & transfer of competencies to MoE  
PASS+ experience and lessons learned are being shared

**NATIONALLY:** Integration of learners into national education system  
PASS+ advocacy interventions supporting enrolment retention & transfer

**OPPORTUNITIES:** Links with National Action Plans  
Accelerated learning approaches - M&E - Emergencies

**QUALITY & SUSTAINABILITY:** further research and evidence-gathering  
-Keys drivers of success for Speed School learners?  
-Longterm impact of accelerated learning programs in communities?



# Participation in Research: Accelerated Education Programmes and post-primary opportunities in protracted refugee/host community contexts in Uganda

## Overview of session

- 1) AEP in Uganda
- 2) Child Participation in Emergency settings- rational and background
- 3) Tools and methods
- 4) Findings

Jessica Oddy  
[j.odd@savethechildren.org.uk](mailto:j.odd@savethechildren.org.uk)

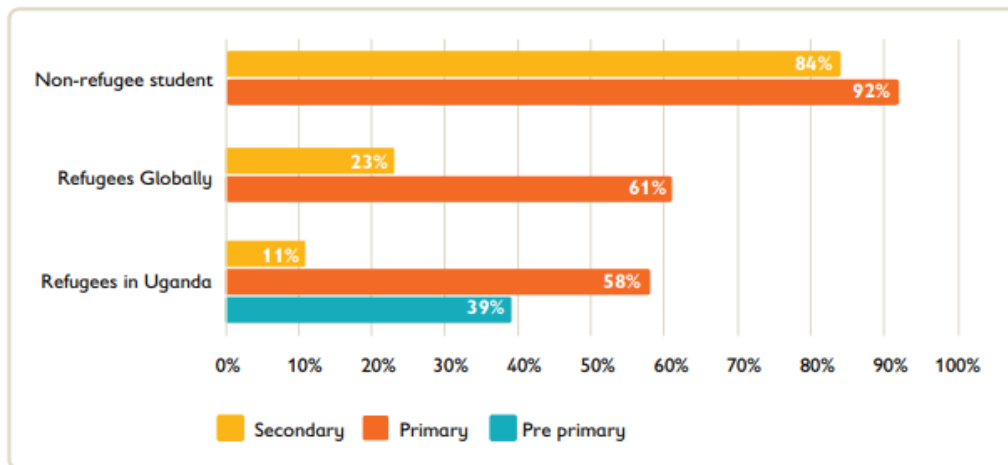


# The importance of AEP in Uganda

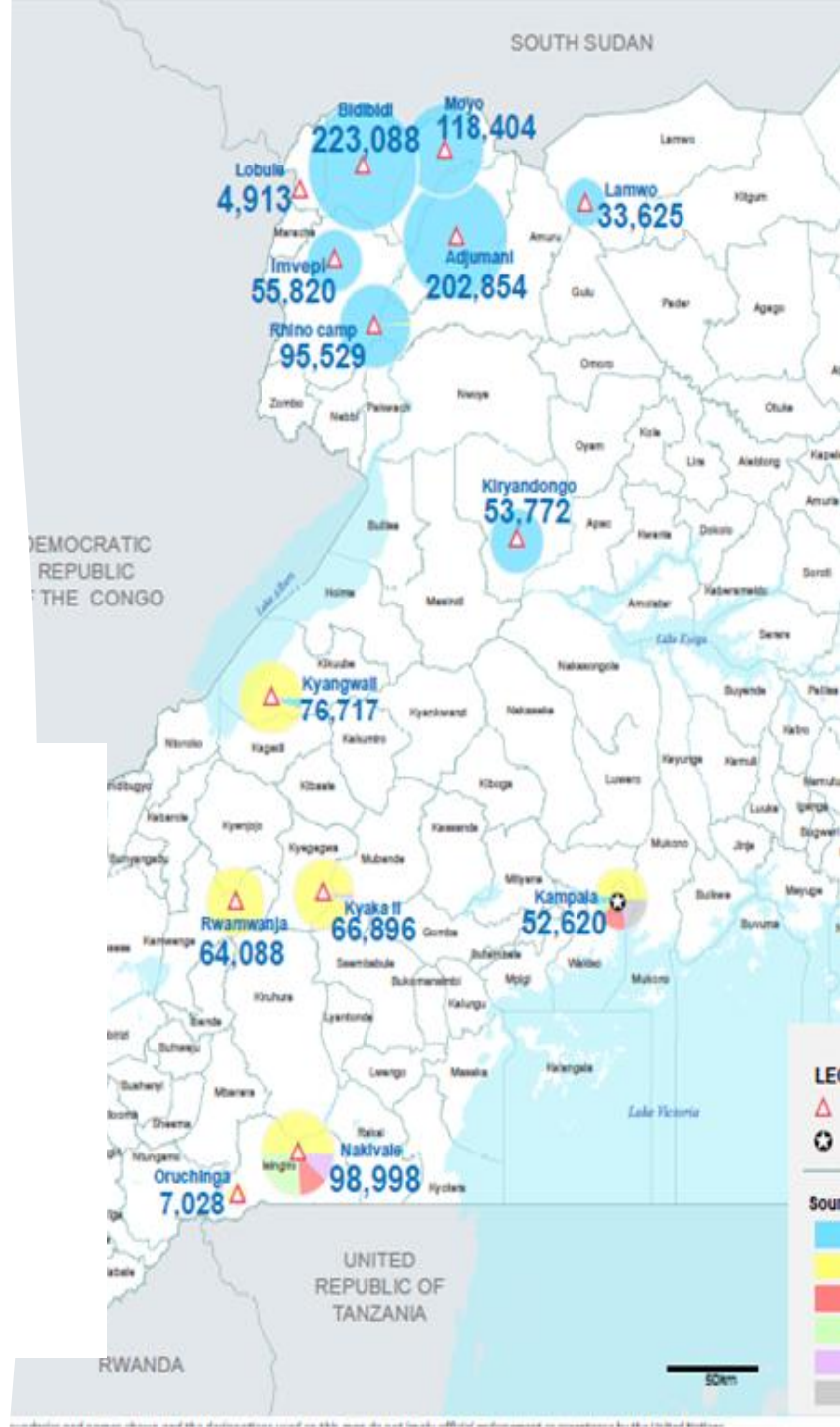
By October 2018, close to 1.1 million refugees were verified as residing in Uganda. A total of 13 countries are represented, with more than 1 million refugees from South Sudan and significant numbers from DRC, Burundi, Rwanda and Somalia. More refugees continue to arrive daily

Importantly, many of the displaced children have already spent prolonged periods outside school.

Refugee Education Access in Uganda vs Globally

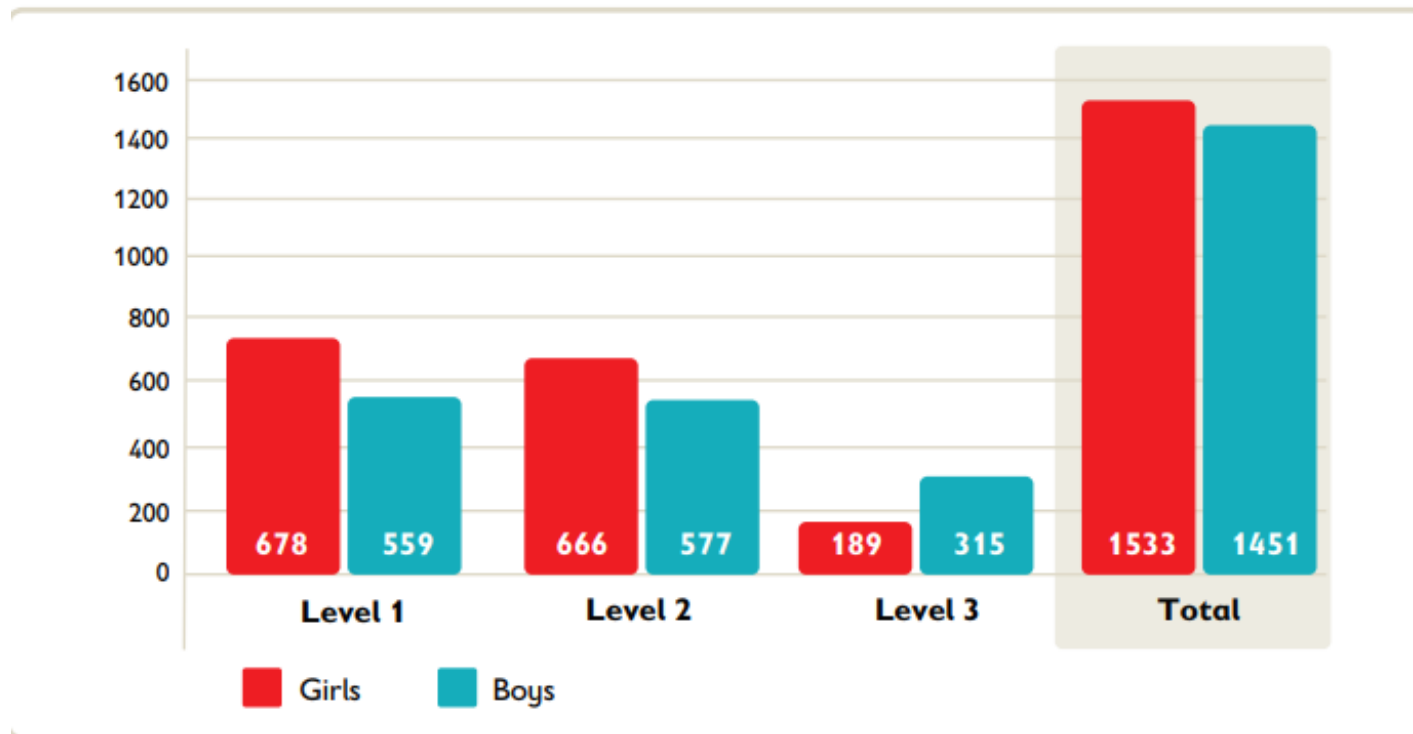


Data sourced from UNHCR (2018) and Uganda Education Response Plan (2018)





## Learners enrolled in Save the Children Accelerated Education programmes



**51%**  
of enrolled  
learners  
are female

**49%**  
of enrolled  
learners  
are male

**41%**  
of learners  
are in  
Level 1

**42%**  
of learners  
are in  
Level 2

**17%**  
of learners  
are in  
Level 3

Of the 504 (17% of total learners) students enrolled in Level 3, female learners make up 37.7%. This is slightly higher than the national average, where national level survival rate to Primary 7 is 32% (32.3% girls and 31.7% boys). However, the table also demonstrates a substantial decrease in the number of girls enrolled at L3 compared to L1 and L2. Whilst this could be attributed to girls having less access to education prior

to displacement, it also correlates with findings shared later in the report which suggests that girls are more likely to drop out than boys, due to a multitude of vulnerabilities.

A total of 118 teachers are employed in the AEP centres, with a teacher-to-student ratio of 1:25. The teaching force is 61% male and 39% female.



The overall objective of the study is to generate understanding of ways to better support refugee children and their host communities in AEP :

- To gain a deeper understanding of children's (aged 10-18 years) experiences and perspectives of accelerated education programmes and post-primary opportunities in protracted refugee/host community contexts.
- To gain a deeper understanding of teachers' experiences and perspectives of accelerated education programmes.
- To gain a deeper understanding of parents' and communities' attitudes towards AEP provision and transition.

Multi-agency AEP response: ECW INCLUDE consortium

Grade	Level
(P1 to P3) Primary Grades one to three	Level 1
(P4 and P5) Primary Grades four to five	Level 2
(P6 and P7) Primary Grades six to seven	Level 3

No study had asked children their thoughts and perspectives of AEP and transition to formal/post-AEP opportunities

# Overview of child participation

## KEY TERMS

**Consultative participation:** adults seek children's views in order to build knowledge and understanding of their lives and experience. It recognises children's beliefs as well as their expertise but is adult-led and managed.

**Collaborative participation:** there is a greater degree of partnership between adults and children, with the opportunity for active engagement at any stage of a decision, initiative, project or service. It can be characterised as adult-initiated, involving partnership with children, and empowering children to influence or challenge both process and outcomes.

**Child-led participation:** children are empowered to initiate activities and advocate for themselves. Its characteristics are that the issues of concern are identified by children themselves, adults serve as facilitators rather than leaders, and children control the process.

**Tokenistic/manipulative participation:** either adults manipulate the process to suit their own agendas (for example, they may coach children to voice what they want or cleverly interpret what children say/do to suit their own interests.); or adults treat children as 'decoration' to make it seem like a process is participatory when it isn't.

## **General comment by the Committee on the Rights of the Child on children's right to be heard (2009)** includes a section on emergencies:

“Children affected by emergencies should be encouraged and enabled to participate in analysing their situation and future prospects. Children's participation helps them to regain control over their lives, contributes to rehabilitation, develops organisational skills and strengthens a sense of identity.”

Children affected by emergencies should be encouraged and enabled to participate in identifying and analysing their situation and prospects. However, we are yet to see a paradigm shift in humanitarian responses that put children at the centre of the humanitarian programmatic cycle (O' Kane, 2013). This matters because children's participation can minimise risks and ethical challenges, strengthen ethical and methodological precision, and recognises children's rights as active agents (Groundwater-Smith, Dockett & Bottrell, 2015). According to Boyden (2018), “very often children understand the problems they face, the dilemmas they are in, the dilemmas their families face, the difficult decisions that must be made, but they also have ideas about solutions.”

## SELECTION OF PARTICIPANTS

A total of 352 children, parents, teachers, District Education Officers and INGO/UN stakeholders participated in participatory workshops, key informant interviews (KII) and focus group discussions (FGD) and/or filled in diaries for this study.

Rwamwanja (4 AEP centres)	Rhino (4 AEP centres)	Adjumani (4 AEP centres)
4 x KII with Headteacher	4 x KII with Headteacher	4 x KII with Headteacher
4 x Teacher FGD	4 x Teacher FGD	4 x Teacher FGD
4 x Parent FGD	4 x Parent FGD	4 x Parent FGD
1 x participatory workshop: Girls aged 10-14	1 x participatory workshop: Girls aged 10-14	1 x participatory workshop: Girls aged 10-14
1 x participatory workshop: Boys aged 10-14	1 x participatory workshop: Boys aged 10-14	1 x participatory workshop: Boys aged 10-14
1 x participatory workshop: Girls aged 15-18	1 x participatory workshop: Girls aged 15-18	1 x participatory workshop: Girls aged 15-18
1 x participatory workshop: Boys aged 15-18	1 x participatory workshop: Boys aged 15-18	1 x participatory workshop: Boys aged 15-18
20 x Teacher diaries (filled in over one month)	20 x Teacher diaries (filled in over one month)	20 x Teacher diaries (filled in over one month)

145 (n=71 male) (n=74 female) children who participated in the study came from Uganda, DRC, South Sudan, Rwanda, Ethiopia and Sudan, with most participants from South Sudan and DRC.

36% of the participants identified as unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASC). This is significantly high compared to the number of UASC in Uganda, however AEP specifically targets the most marginalised students in a settlement area

**Informed  
consent**

**Ice  
breaker**

**Ground  
rules**

**Puppetry  
/Role play  
(10-14)**

**Life Line  
drawings  
(15-18)**

**Helping  
Hands**

**Certificate of  
achievement**





# ENERGIZER and INFORMED CONSENT

## Guidelines for Participatory Action Research with children

### Explain informed consent:

"I am here today as part of a research project about AEP schools in Uganda. I would like to talk to you all about your experience of going to school here. I am going to use what you tell me to learn more about what it is like to go to school in Uganda. My friend—will be helping me by writing notes on what you say.

This is a picture of a flower. Each of the flower petals represents one of us here today. There are three words in the middle of the flower. These represent some important things about our talk today. [Point to each word and ask them what they think it means] (Informed means everyone understands what we're talking about) (Confidential means I'm not going to tell your parents or teachers what you say unless it is something that could put you in danger) (Voluntary means you can leave whenever you like). If you agree to talk to me today, please print your finger and write your name and grade next to your petal. I'll do me first."

Alternatively, seek verbal consent.

2) Remember to start the workshop by setting ground rules

3) Thank the participants for their generosity of time and contributions during the activity, explaining to them how the research will be used in the future.

4) Give the participants a signed Certificate of Participation as our appreciation for taking part in the workshop.

Verbal Consent person 1: ☐

Verbal Consent person 2: ☐

Verbal Consent person 3: ☐

Verbal Consent person 4: ☐

Verbal Consent person 5: ☐

Verbal Consent person 6: ☐

Verbal Consent person 7: ☐

Verbal Consent person 8: ☐

Verbal Consent person 9: ☐

Verbal Consent person 10: ☐

Verbal Consent person 11: ☐

Verbal Consent person 12: ☐

Staff witness informed verbal consent: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



# Life Line

Time required: 1 hour developing the lifelines and 20 minutes for discussing them.

**How does it work?** Divide your group in 2. The lifeline would begin with “birth,” at the top of the page; and end with “18,” at the bottom of the page. The participants draw or write happenings in the life of a girl/boy between those two major events.

Second stage: Focus on the child in school. Ask how their characters compare to the opposite sex. Are their characters likely to finish?.

**Third stage:** Focus on the 18 year old.  
What is the character doing now? Have they completed ALP? Do girls and boys have different barriers that can stop them from transitioning?

**What does it achieve?** Provide a possible look into the future. Although this exercise can be used for many purposes, the one thing it is especially good for is identifying and dealing with gender





# Puppetry

**How could we adapt it?** Some visually impaired children may need to have materials that are of different textures and be encouraged to make puppets by touch or to make a model rather than decorate an envelope.

**What do we need?**

- Envelopes or flip chart
- Coloured pens and crayons
- Scrap materials – textiles, paper, card, plastic
- Glue, tape and scissors (kept with adults)

**What happens if....?** If children find it hard to decorate their puppets, make your own puppet and get the children to ask your puppet



# Footsteps or helping hands

## 30 minutes (End of workshop)

**How does it work?** Children/adolescents are split into pairs and given a large piece of paper and a pen each. They draw around each other's feet so that they have a right and left footprint on each of their pieces of paper. On one footprint, they write what they think children/adolescents can do to address the problems they have raised in their previous activity. On the other footprint, they put what the community and/or SC and partners can do. The footprints are laid out as a journey or pathway along the floor and the Facilitator talks the group through them as steps we can all take to improve AEP for displaced children/adolescents.



**What does it achieve?** The action of getting into pairs and drawing around feet gets people moving about and engaged. Children and adolescents are involved in thinking about solutions as well as about the problems that they face. This is important for their well-being and the mood of the workshop towards the end.

# Capturing data from participatory research

Name of facilitator			
Name of note taker			
Settlement		Nationality	
Date		Number of participants	
Gender of participants		Age range of participants	
# of UASC		Children with disabilities (please specify # and impairment (if known))	
Icebreaker			
Name of Activator one			
What were the main findings from the Activator? (please insert quotes, photos)			
Name of Activator two			
What were the main findings from the Activator? (please insert quotes, photos)			

Children's experiences of AEP	
What transition pathways they would prefer and what their perceptions of viable economic options.	
What do they perceive as barriers to transition?	
Feedback from facilitator on session	

Thank the participants for their generosity of time and contributions during the activity, explaining to them how the research will be used in the future.



# Research tool kit and certificates



The data collection tools drew heavily on UNHCR's Listen and Learn: Participatory Assessment with Children and Adolescents (Skeels, 2017), which promotes consultations with children that “contribute to their feelings of self-worth and control over their own lives, both critical for their psychosocial well-being” (Skeels, 2012).

# Findings

The findings from the children's workshops enabled the SC research team to gain a rich understanding of the everyday lived experiences of children and young people in the settlements and, in part, this can be attributed to the participatory methods that were used.

## Key points

- Stark difference between stakeholders perception of the role of AEP and transition vis-à-vis children and families.
- Girls were identified by all parties as the least likely to complete AEP
- Sexual Reproductive Health Education was requested by learners.
- Post AEP opportunities, including secondary school and accredited vocational pathways must be explored and prioritised.
- A deeper analysis of the lived experiences of children with disabilities is needed.
- Many of the children raised concerns about safety to and from school. Clear need to infuse risk reduction throughout the curriculum.





# Impact evaluation: Speed School program



**Størme  
Foundation**



CIES conference  
San Francisco,  
16 April 2019  
Anne Breivik,  
Education Advisor



**Størme  
Foundation**

## Contents

- The Speed School model
- Structure of impact evaluation
- Overview of results
- Summary and lessons learnt





# The Speed School model





# Structure of impact evaluation

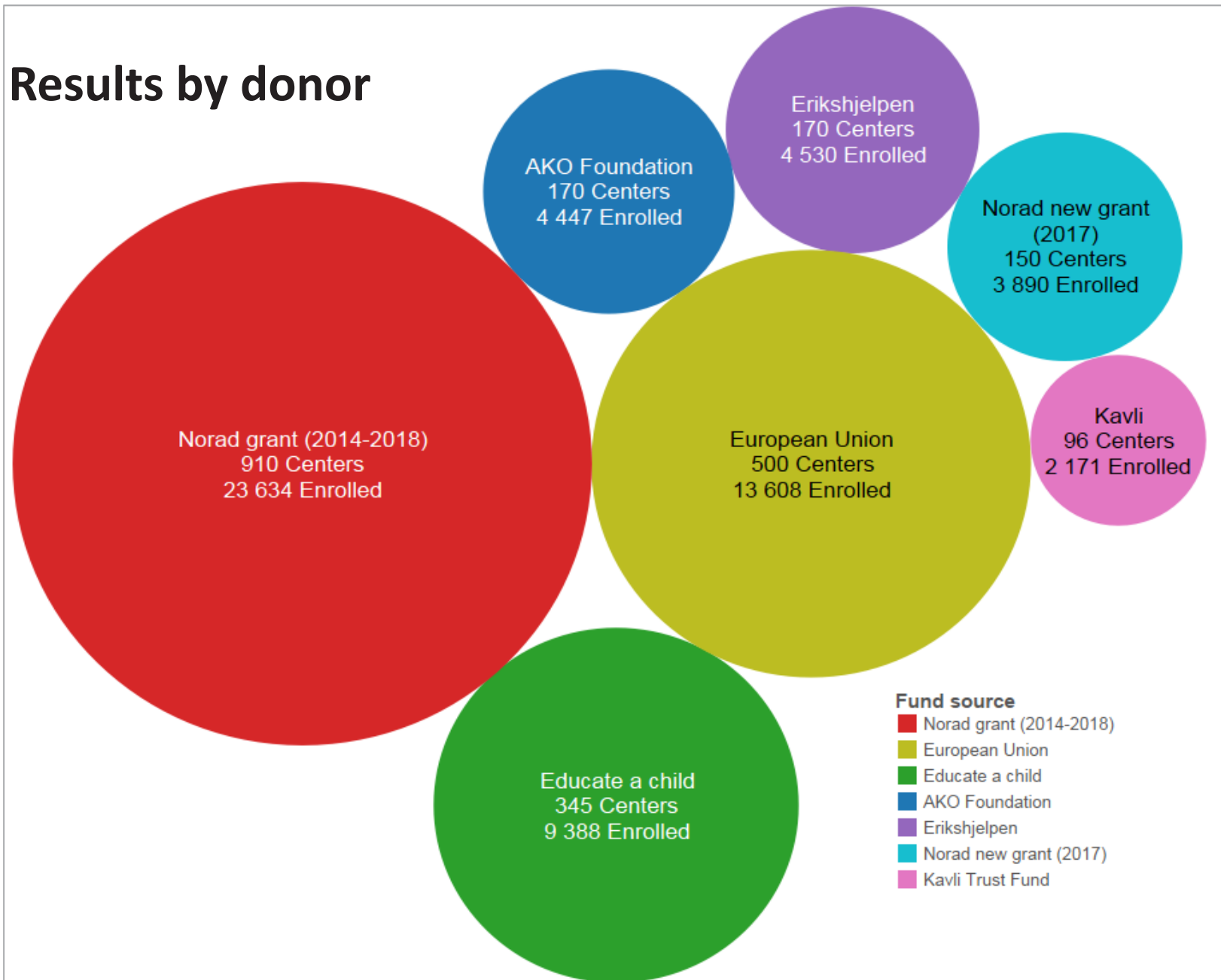


Størme  
Foundation

1. Impact study
2. Tracer study
3. Value for money assessment



## Results by donor



# Access to education for OOSC



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- **2,351** Speed Schools established
- **61,900** out-of-school children enrolled
- **90%** completed the program
- **69%** had never been to school before
- **48%** were girls

**Challenge:** education status of enrolled children

## Long-term impact: learners

- **53 %** of 2014-15 cohort attending formal primary school
- **Half of graduates** are in the expected grade level
- Tracer study: **44%** of 2011-12 cohort in Mali **still in school**



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**Challenge:** weak quality of formal schools



## Long-term impact: communities





## Long-term impact: local education systems



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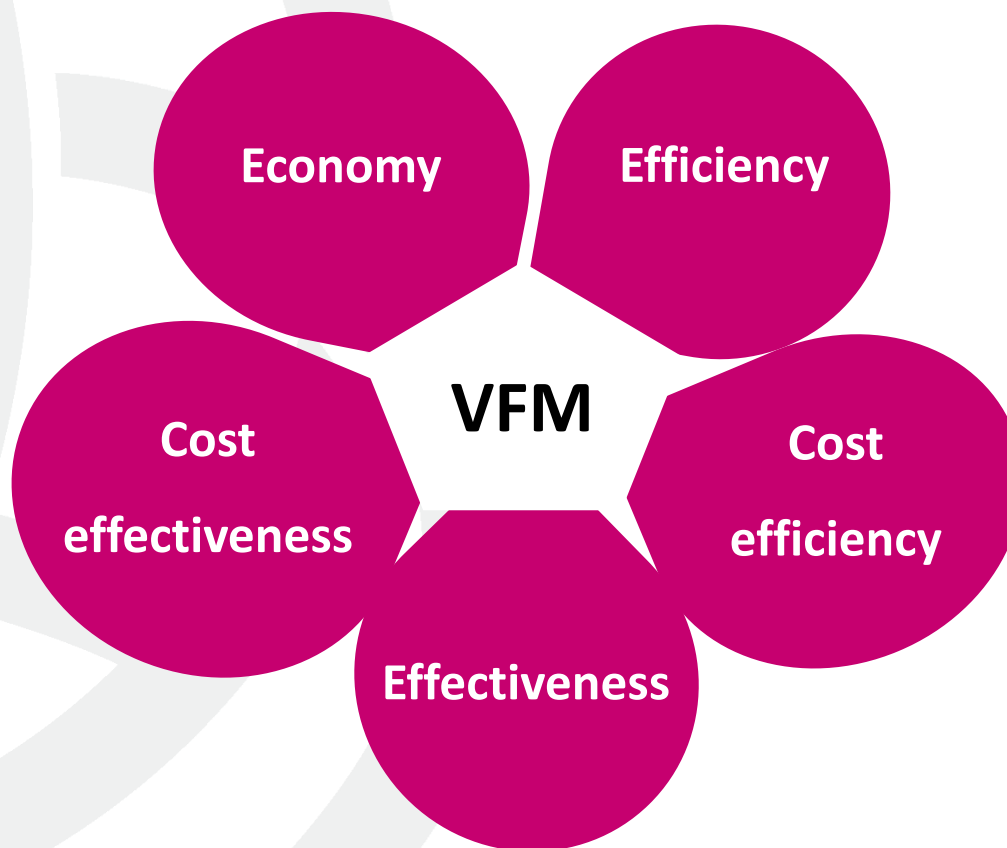
- Use of **local language** seen as highly relevant
- **No evidence of negative impact** on formal school system
- Unintended **positive consequences**



# Value for money framework



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# Value for money assessment



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Cost per Unit	Description
<b>3,431 USD</b>	Establishing and running a Speed School centre
<b>132 USD</b>	Cost per enrolled child
<b>146 USD</b>	Cost per transferred child
<b>0.4 USD</b>	Cost per enrolled child per day

# Summary and lessons learnt



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- **Implementation:** Ensure partners apply program standards
- **Scope:** Stronger focus on transfer to formal school
- **Capacity building:** Strengthen local education structures
- **Create synergies:** Link Speed Schools with women's savings groups
- **Build strategic partnerships:** Both at the local and national level

**Long-term impact** is fragile in a context with weak public education systems and a deteriorating security situation



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## Questions for discussion

1. How do we create lasting attitudinal change at community level?
2. How can we ensure successful transition to and completion of primary education in fragile contexts?
3. How do we best build strategic partnerships to improve the quality of education in the formal system?







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**Merci!**

