



OASIS BOOK PROJECT

THE READING TEACHERS' CONVENTION

FOR ECD TEACHERS IN UGANDA

20

23

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ABOUT THE CONVENTION

On November 25, 2023, the Oasis Book Project held the first Reading Teachers' Convention at the Madrasa ECD Center, Mengo. The theme of the convention was "Streamlining Reading Instruction in the Ugandan Classroom".

In 2019, after a few years of working in schools, we realized that there was a huge gap in reading instruction. Children were leaving primary school without the key reading skills that they should have. For example, according to a 2021 Uwezo Report, the percentage of children aged 8 who were non-readers (unable to read or sound out letters of the alphabet) was 50.7%. While different factors contributed to these numbers, we theorized that the biggest cause is the fact that reading for comprehension is not taught as a subject in Uganda. Similarly, while they play an important role in nurturing skilled readers who love to read, teachers in Uganda are not taught how to teach reading.

For the past 4 years, therefore, we have been facilitating numerous workshops in schools and building the capacity of more than 500 teachers in teaching reading and related skills. Additionally, we provide virtual support to over 200 teachers from around the country.

The Reading Teachers' Convention was organized to provide a platform for the capacity building, support, and collaboration of ECD reading teachers in Uganda.

OUR OBJECTIVES



To equip teachers with relevant knowledge & resources that they can use for effective reading instruction.



To initiate a networking space where reading teachers can share best practices, identify gaps, and benchmark solutions



To introduce affordable, high-quality, and culturally relevant teaching aids for Guided-Reading instruction

ATTENDEE HIGHLIGHTS

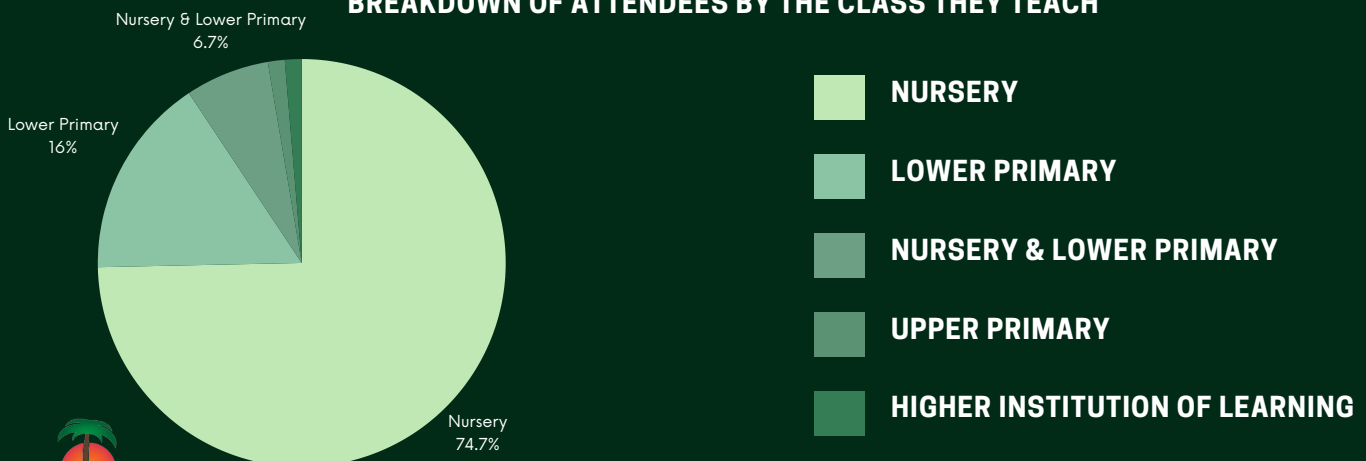


BREAKDOWN OF ATTENDEES BY GENDER

 **83%** FEMALE

 **17%** MALE

BREAKDOWN OF ATTENDEES BY THE CLASS THEY TEACH



HIGHLIGHTS FROM SPEAKERS AND PANELISTS



HIGHLIGHTS FROM SPEAKERS AND PANELISTS



4



5



6

HIGHLIGHTS FROM SPEAKERS

SPEAKERS	HIGHLIGHTS
CAROLINE KAVUMA Coordinator, UNITE KEYNOTE SPEAKER	In her keynote address, Ms. Caroline Kavuma called upon teachers to devote more time to the important skill of reading. Additionally, she emphasized that an outside perspective (from other teachers) is necessary.
CLARE BAKASHABA English Coordinator, Rainbow International School of Uganda (RISU) GUEST SPEAKER	Ms. Clare discussed the importance of reading for pleasure, and how the program at RISU encourages it. Notably, Ms. Clare also encouraged the teachers to involve parents in their children's learning.
OSCAR RANZO Author & Literacy Consultant Oasis Book Project FACILITATOR	Mr. Oscar discussed the Syllabic Method, and how it can help learners decode unfamiliar words. Additionally, he launched the Oasis Guided-Reading Scheme, explaining its scope and sequence. He also detailed its advantages, one of which is that it allows beginners to build vocabulary and fluency as they learn to read.



Let us create synergy! Find someone to come to your school and supervise your teaching methods. It is important to have another perspective.

- Caroline Kavuma, UNITE

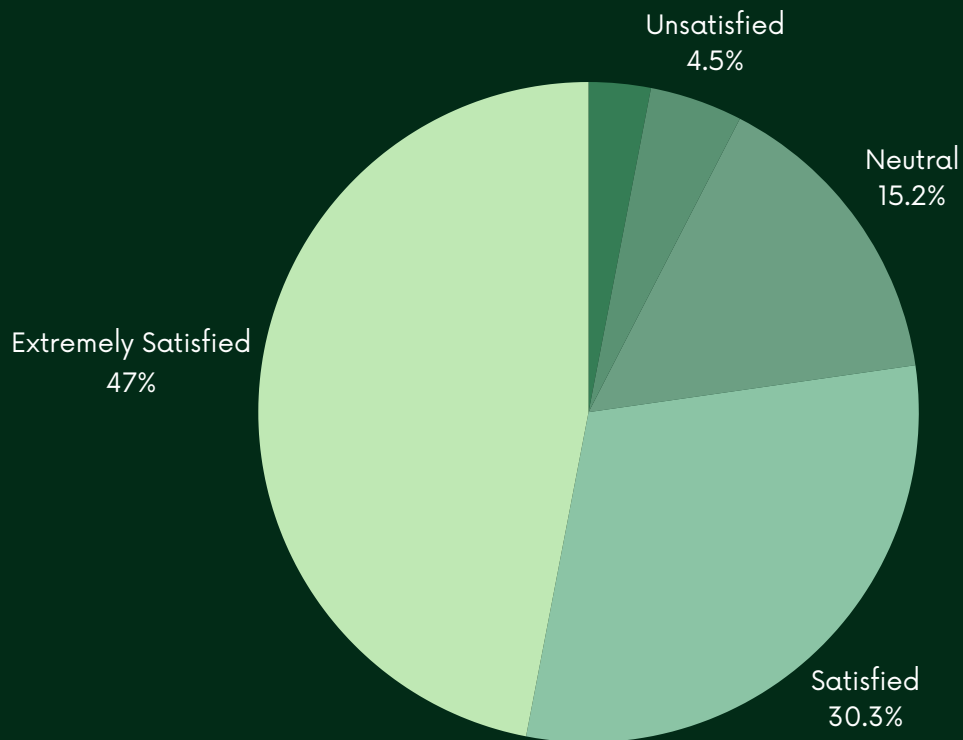


HIGHLIGHTS FROM PANELISTS

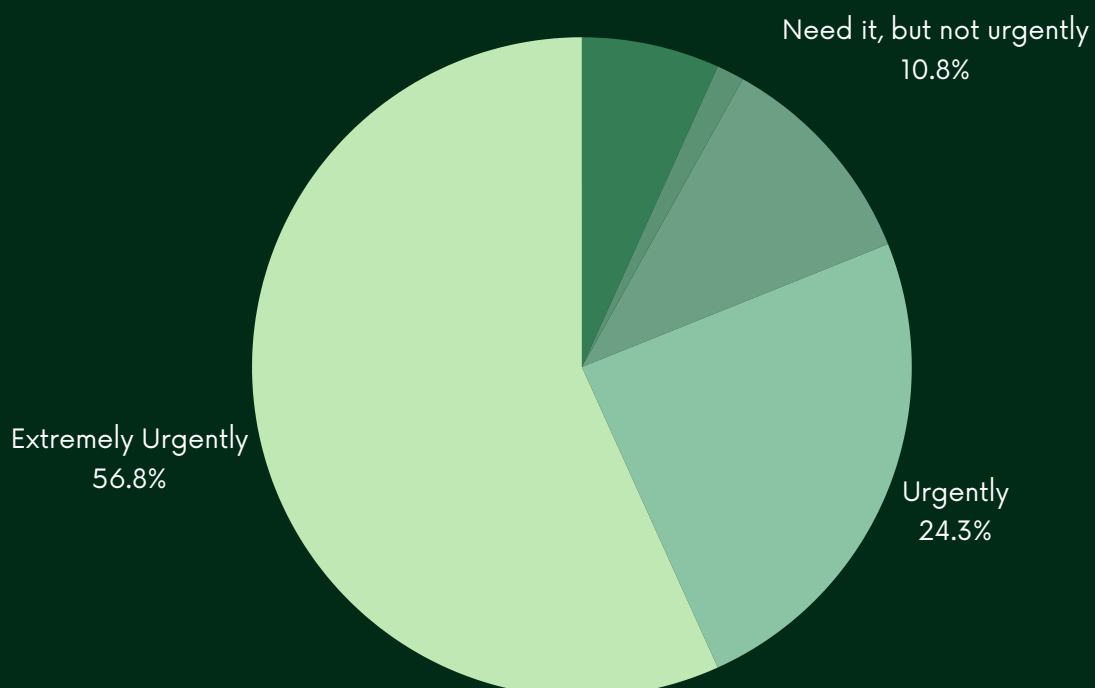
PANELISTS	HIGHLIGHTS
<p>PENINA TWIKIRIZE & SOLOMY KIZITO Landmark Junior School TOPIC: Developing Phonemic Awareness in Beginners MODERATOR: Rashid Magezi</p>	<p>Ms. Penina and Ms. Solomy (Photo 2) discussed the number of sounds they teach, the methods that they use, and much more. They also highlighted the importance of grouping children who are at different levels.</p>
<p>SHAMIM NABISERE & AMINAH NAKISUYI Metro Junior School TOPIC: The Onset and Rime Approach to Building Vocabulary MODERATOR: Hellen Tebugulwa</p>	<p>Ms. Shamim and Ms. Aminah (Photo 4) emphasized the simplicity of the onset and rime method, especially for young children. They also talked about when they introduce it, how it compares to the syllabic approach, and more.</p>
<p>SULAINA NANSERKO & ANNET NYACHWO Hormisdallen School, Gayaza TOPIC: Fostering Fluency among Early Learners MODERATOR: Godfrey Matovu</p>	<p>Ms. Annet (Photo 1) highlighted that fluency and vocabulary are related, and demonstrated the use of the Frayer Chart. Ms. Sulaina (Photo 3) discussed the sentence ladder, and how teacher-child repetition builds fluency.</p>
<p>STELLA OYELLA, EPHRANCE NANKYA, & STELLA THUNGU Ekitangala Primary School TOPIC: Developing Reading Comprehension in Lower Classes MODERATOR: Rashid Magezi</p>	<p>The Ekitangala teachers (Photo 5 & 6) had a practical, interactive session on developing comprehension. They showed us how they use a story web, with the example of <i>Jomo's Homework</i>. They also challenged teachers to spend time on the covers of books during Guided Reading, as this encourages engagement and understanding.</p>

FEEDBACK FROM ATTENDEES

Q: HOW SATISFIED WERE YOU WITH THE CONTENT/SESSIONS?



Q: HOW URGENTLY DO YOU NEED GUIDED-READING SUPPORT FROM OASIS IN YOUR SCHOOL?



NEXT STEPS

The 2023 Reading Teachers' Convention for ECD teachers attracted about 135 teachers, the majority of whom were Nursery teachers.

After the convention, several teachers requested that the Oasis Book Project organize more events like this, with some suggesting that we separate Nursery teachers and Lower Primary teachers in the future. This feedback was well received.

Additionally, we have created a platform (on WhatsApp) to offer continuous support to the teachers who attended the Convention. We aim to build a space that promotes learning and cooperation.

Our vision, as it always has been, is a country where all children grow up to be skilled readers who love to read.

