

Meaningful Community Based Alternatives for Deaf People in sub Saharan Africa



Examples from Deaf Link Uganda's grassroots programmes



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A nation's strength ultimately consist in what it can do on its own and not in what it can borrow from others.

— **Indira Gandhi**

EDUCATION FOR ALL (EFA)

KEY Shortcomings:

- ❑ The East African Community member states will not achieve the UN **Education for All** goal set 15 years ago;
- ❑ According to UNESCO (2015) EFA Global Monitoring Report the whole of Africa has performed dismally in delivering this goal
- ❑ Inadequate investment, poor governance, high poverty levels, infrastructure, insufficiently trained teachers, etc. among reasons for failure;
- ❑ Barriers to education include: children's gender, ethnic and linguistic background, **disability** etc.

Source: UNESCO Report & The East African
May 2-8 and May23-29

Without a stronger education foundation, students will lack the skills and know-how needed to become curious, questioning and informed citizens. **John Mugo** (Director of Data & Voice at Twaweza East Africa)

EDUCATION OF DEAF CHILDREN

CHALLENGES OF DEAF CHILDREN IN SCHOOL

- ❑ Language and Communication barriers
- ❑ Education policies affect deaf children in inclusive settings
 - no provision for qualified teachers of the deaf
 - deaf children begin school without any language
- ❑ Inadequate educational resources & teaching methodology;
- ❑ Very few schools for the deaf, **etc.**



Majority of deaf children in school will not acquire literacy & numeracy skills by the end of primary.

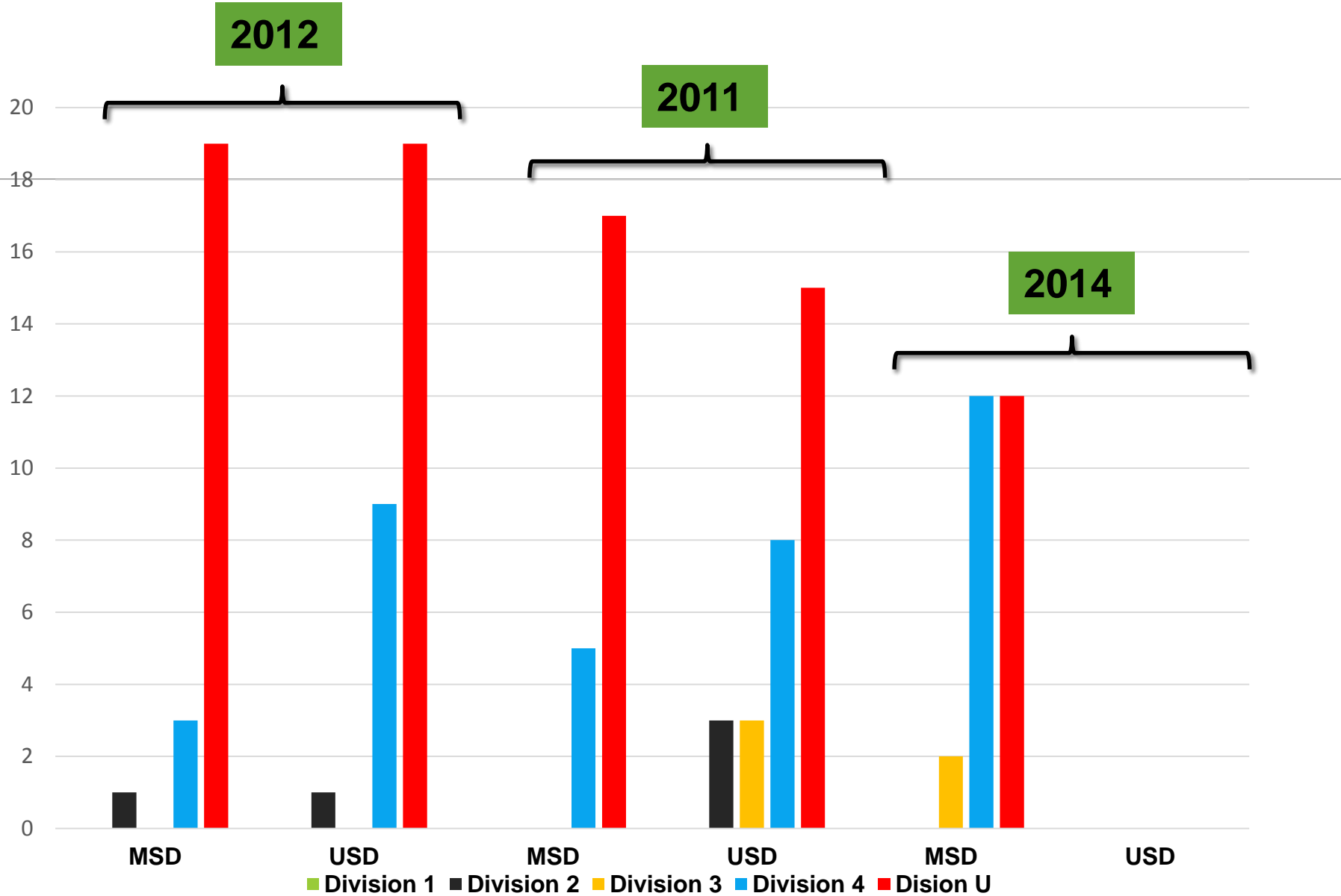
Deaf child in inclusive EFA: without language. **Isolated and excluded.**

The majority of deaf children in sub Saharan Africa have no access to education. Most deaf children in school are subjected to an inferior education.

Education for All (EFA): A school in Orapada



Primary Leaving Examinations (PLE)



2011
51 deaf candidates
32 = **Ungraded**

2012
52 deaf candidates
38 = **Ungraded**

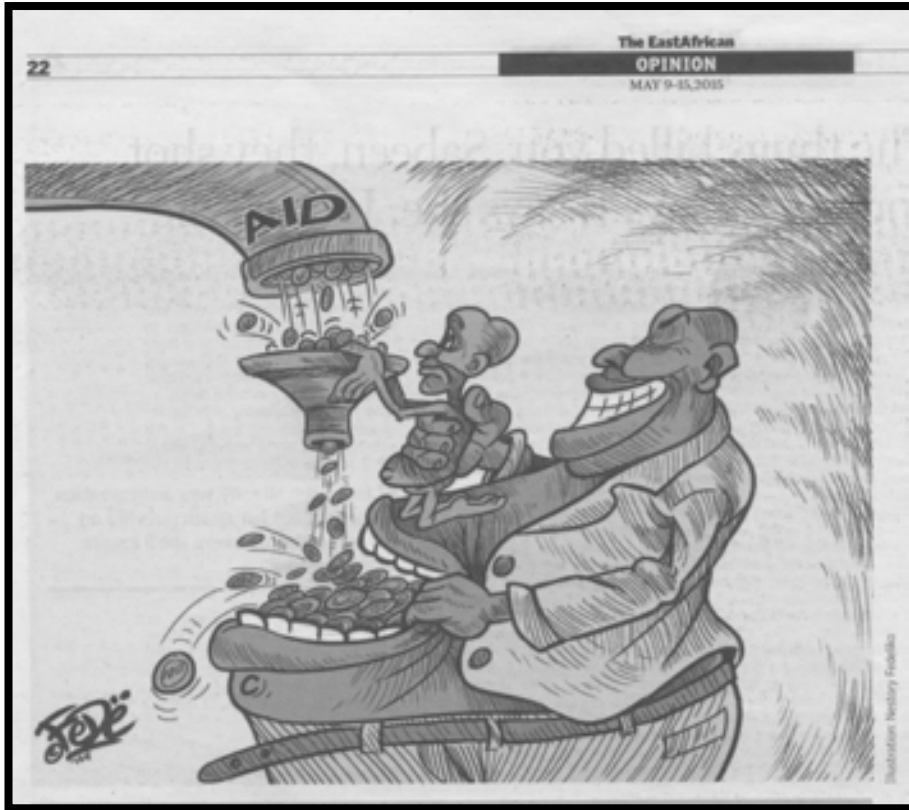
2014 (*only MSD*)
26 deaf candidates
12 = **Ungraded**

Nothing is more important to Africa than Good Governance

- Mo IBRAHIM

*Among the reasons why East African Community states have failed to achieve the UN Education for All (EFA) goal set 15 years ago is **Corruption & high levels of poverty***

GOVERNANCE & POVERTY



Source: The East African May 9–15 2015



DLU Field Visit to family of a deaf child.
DLU-Eastern (rural outreach programme for the deaf)

MEANINGFUL ALTERNATIVES

Skills Training

A

Operated by DLU, the activity is an outreach programme in partnership with Koogere Foundation Uganda & UPPID.



Building partnerships to secure opportunities for future employment.



In 2013 DLU initiated a programme for young deaf women in Western Uganda to equip them with skills in crafts & jewellery making for future employment.



B

Apoolo Na Angor (ANA) a Skills Development Centre in Eastern Uganda enrolls young women into programmes that include: tailoring, hair-dressing, catering, computer literacy, farming and agriculture. The centre has 167 women most of whom never had opportunities for formal education.



The centre has 11 deaf girls enrolled in various course. DLU sponsors 4 of them in this integrated learning environment.

C

Apprenticeship



Silaje at work with deaf trainer & mentor.

Providing work placements for deaf youth in hands-on trades

Kizaama General Metal Works: Katwe



DLU, JLF & Kizaama General Metal Works: A partnership to provide skills in metal works and welding to deaf youths

Innovative Employment Possibilities

FACTS

- ❑ DLU gives small loans to deaf people who own and manage a business to boost their income;
- ❑ In 2014 sixteen deaf people secured loans from DLU;
- ❑ In 2015 DLU introduced a training component to the project that provides training for deaf people in micro-finance;
- ❑ Commonly marginalised in mainstream microfinance institutions, the project is a source of financial empowerment to its beneficiaries;
- ❑ 10 % interest is charged on each loan given out, which is used to cover administrative costs.

Micro-credit Project

Rebecca & Sarah are deaf sisters. On completing their course at Mumias (Kenya), they returned home and set up a knitting business. DLU loans enable them supply sweaters to local schools.

Promoting Deaf Enterprise



Nakato a deaf mother of four owns a business in Kibuli, a Kampala suburb. She works as a shoe vendor. DLU staff visited her to follow up on her enterprise.

Profits made help me pay my children's school fees & support my family.

Livelihoods Project

The project aims to improve deaf people's livelihoods, especially those in rural areas with limited access to life opportunities.

The project is sub-divided into 4 components:

- I. Livelihood Support Initiative (LSI)
- II. Parents Support Groups
- III. Humanitarian Assistance
- IV. Deaf Awareness & Networking

LSI gives donations in-kind to deaf people with an income generating activity



Amue clears land for tomato growing



Akello receives hens for poultry rearing



Akurut receives baking equipment



Amue's tomatoes ready for harvest

DLU Field Work in Rural Areas

Positive Outcomes of Field Visits:

- ❑ **Enable** DLU become informed about real issues affecting deaf people;
- ❑ **Strengthen** our links with local communities and result in greater understanding & awareness about deaf people;
- ❑ **Bring** us close to indigenous populations and help us gain knowledge about communities where deaf people live;
- ❑ **Create** positive relationships with families of the deaf and communities - this has a great impact on changing cultural & social perceptions towards deafness and deaf people.

Community based solutions: Deaf People & Their Communities



DLU Field work: Visit to deaf farmer's rice fields



Questions



Deaf Link Uganda

Website: <https://www.deaflinkuganda.org>



Photos courtesy of Sebatta Julius
DLU Media Manager

Meaningful Alternatives enable us:

- Restore human dignity;
- Work towards a better future where deaf people contribute to development;
- Support the deaf participate as equals in society;
- Reduce negative perception towards deafness

We're capable of working towards realistic changes that transform the lives of deaf people in sub Saharan Africa. Nassozi

THANK YOU!