

## The Challenge

In early June, Elevate conducted a survey of head teachers in rural Mukono District to understand the challenges they were facing as a result of school closures and what role Elevate could play in supporting our partner communities during this unprecedented time. Through this exercise, we identified three takeaways to guide our continued work in Mukono District during the COVID-19 lockdown.

### 1. Rural children are not being reached by national remote learning programs.

Despite the existence of national remote learning policies, children in rural areas are at risk of falling behind in their education while schools are closed to the majority of students and additional systems must be put in place to support them.

### 2. The school shutdown has elevated the risk of learning loss and student dropout.

The primary school completion rate in Uganda during normal times is only 30%. With this additional barrier, it creates an even greater risk that an entire generation of children are going to be left behind.

### 3. Parents need support to keep their children learning while they remain at home.

The MOES acknowledged that the success of at-home schooling would depend on “the support and participation of parents.” However, many parents struggle to support their children because they have to leave the household for work, they do not understand the study materials themselves, or they cannot afford the materials their children are supposed to be using.

## Our Intervention

Elevate designed and implemented an intervention to equip parents with the tools to prevent learning loss and reduce long-term dropout as a result of extended school closures.

In August, our team trained 106 community members at 7 partner schools in Mukono District. At the training, Elevate led guided discussions exploring the value of education and why keeping children learning and engaged with their schoolwork is of utmost importance during school closures.

With these values in mind, we helped parents to generate ideas about activities to keep kids learning during the shutdown. After the training, parents returned to their communities to establish **village education networks** to put these ideas into practice.

## Our Impact

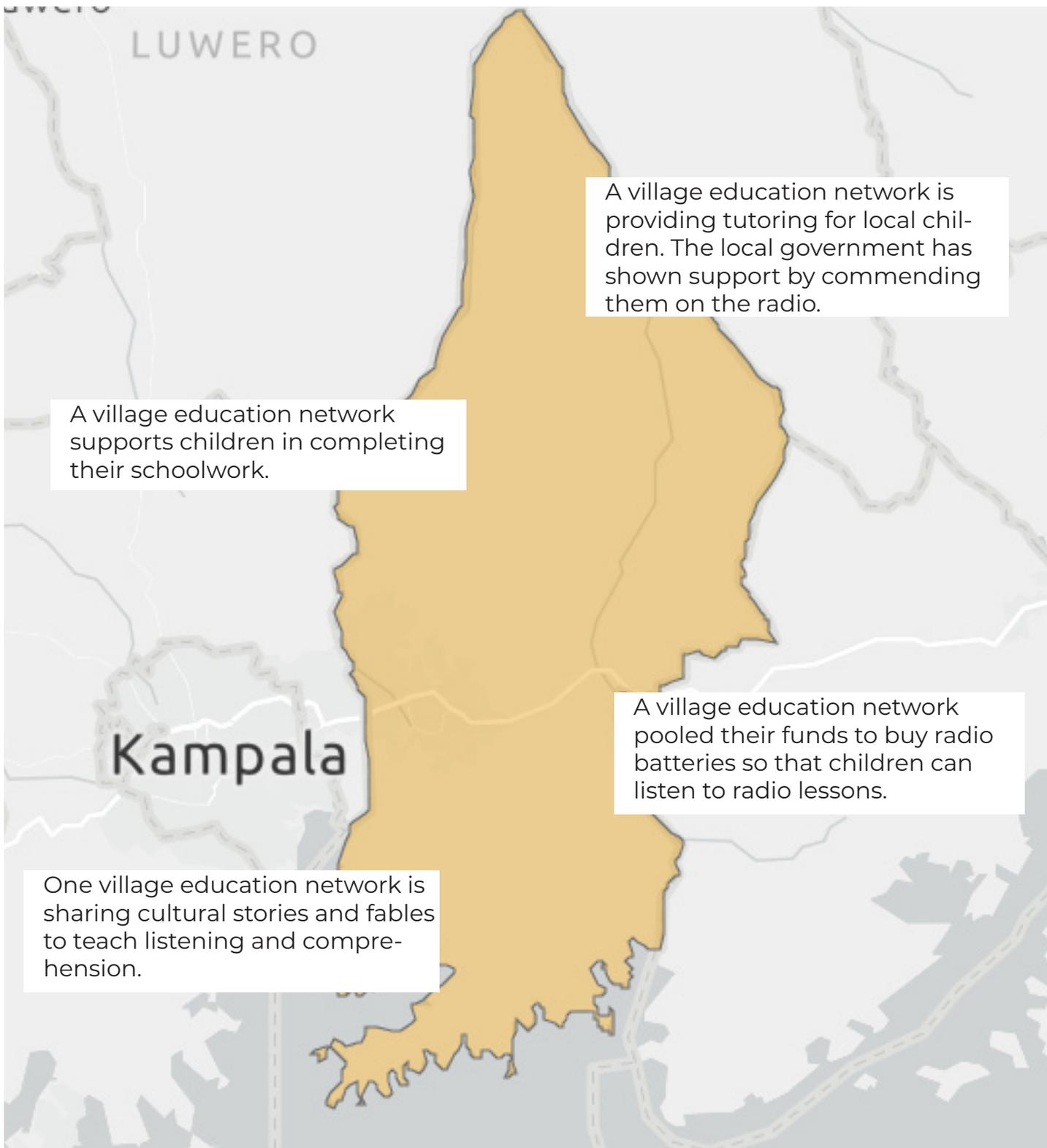
**32 Elevate-trained parents** leading village education networks

**150 community members** participating in village education networks

**380\* children** benefiting from village education networks

*\*Estimate based on the average number of children aged 0-17 per household in Mukono District (UBOS, 2016).*

## Success Stories from Mukono District



### Learn more about the Village TEACH Program



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