# KiuFunza II: Pre-Analysis Plan* 

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## 1 Introduction

This document presents the pre-analysis plan for the KiuFunza II project - a randomized evaluation of the impact of two different teacher incentive programs. Both of the programs are implemented in the same context and with the same budget, which allows us to calculate their relative efficiency. The project is being implemented and overseen by Twaweza - a non-profit initiative in Tanzania - and the evaluation is led by Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA), with the lead researchers being Prof. Isaac Mbiti, Prof. Karthik Muralidharan, and Mauricio Romero. This document is being prepared and registered prior to the analysis of any of the first year's data. The aim of this pre-analysis plan is to discipline the types of heterogeneity that we will analyze and to specify the specific questions in the survey instruments that will be used to define variables of interest. The KiuFunza II project features two treatment arms and a control group and is implemented across a representative sample of 180 schools across 10 districts in Tanzania. The treatment arms are:

1. A "levels" incentive that provides teachers and head teachers with bonus payments conditional on the skills that each student is able to demonstrate in a basic literacy and numeracy tests.
2. A "gains" incentive, that provides teachers and head teachers with bonus payments that are proportional to the relative gains of each student, when compared to other students with similar initial learning levels.

Each of the two treatments was assigned to 60 randomly-selected schools (6 in each of the districts) and an additional 60 schools served as a control group. The appeal of the "levels" design lies in its simplicity. The design is easy to communicate to teachers and easy to implement at a large scale. However its main drawbacks are twofold: giving a non-trivial amount of money to teachers who exert no effort, and the risk of some students not benefiting from (or even being negatively affected by) the program due to threshold effects(Neal \& Schanzenbach, 2010). The

[^0]appeal of the "gains" design lies in its theoretical foundation, which guarantees optimal teacher effort (Barlevy \& Neal, 2012), but its complicated design makes it difficult to communicate and implement at a large scale. The project is strongly influenced by the design and findings of the Andhra Pradesh Randomized Evaluation Studies (see Muralidharan and Sundararaman (2011)), the Kiufunza I project (see Mbiti and Muralidharan (n.d.)), and by the theoretical work of Barlevy and Neal (2012).

The Kiufunza I project compromised on the 'ideal' design of the incentive program and instead chose a design that was more 'implementable' at scale. This 'ideal' design (based on teacherlevel value addition, such as the one outlined in Muralidharan and Sundararaman (2011)) can be challenging to implement at scale in the settings of weak administrative capacity that is typical of developing countries. In particular, maintaining child-level databases of learning to calculate value-added and ensuring the integrity of testing are non-trivial administrative challenges. Thus, the bonuses to teachers were paid on the basis of the number of children who passed an absolute threshold of learning as opposed to on the basis of improvements in learning. The expectation of the project implementing partner (Twaweza) was that the simplicity of such a scheme would make it easy to understand, therefore causing it to be more effective at motivating teachers and head teachers than would a more complex (and thus more difficult to understand) formula. At the same time, such a design has some well known limitations - especially with respect to creating unequal rewards for improving students who are at different points of the achievement distribution and at different distances from the threshold (see Neal and Schanzenbach (2010)). Mbiti and Muralidharan (n.d.) found suggestive evidence of this heterogeneity: students who are well above or well below the passing threshold do not see any improvements in test scores, but students near the passing threshold see an increase in test scores of about 0.2 SD .

In this project we seek to answer what the trade-offs between the 'ideal' and the 'simple' designs are. This is an important question as the evidence on teacher performance pay is mixed, with some studies finding large positive effects (Glewwe, Ilias, \& Kremer, 2010; Lavy, 2002, 2009; Muralidharan \& Sundararaman, 2011, Balch \& Springer, 2015), and others finding little or no effects at all (Goldhaber \& Walch, 2012, Goodman \& Turner, 2013, Springer et al., 2011). However, these studies are not directly comparable as they are performed in different contexts, with different incentive structures, and with different budgets. For example, Muralidharan and Sundararaman (2011) study the performance of a sophisticated design that rewards students for gains over baseline levels of learning in India, while (Goodman \& Turner, 2013) study the performance of a threshold design in New York City. The two intervention arms of the Kiufunza II project implement two different teacher incentive programs in the same context and with the same budget.

The "levels" treatment is implemented as a threshold tournament, paying a bonus directly to teachers for each student who passes grade-specific skills outlined in the national curriculum. The amount paid to teachers per skill is set to ensure that payouts are equal across each grade-subject
combination. Because the amount paid out to teachers for each skill passed is dependent on how many students pass, the exact bonus rate is unknown before the end of the year tests. Payment amounts are calculated this way to ensure budget comparability across the "levels" and "gains" designs, and also in an effort to reward teachers proportionally to how many skills their students learn as well as how hard each skills is to learn.

The "gains" treatment arm rewards teachers for learning gains even when a student cannot meet the "levels" threshold, or is well beyond it. This intervention arm is also implemented as a tournament design, as described by (Barlevy \& Neal, 2012). At the beginning of the school year students are grouped based on their initial levels of learning (based on the test scores from the previous year, and schools' historic test scores for students in grade 1 who have not been previously tested). At the end of the school year students are tested again and ranked within each ability group; teachers are paid proportionally to their students' ranks. This tournament in "gains" recognizes all learning improvements that occur, regardless of a student's initial learning achievements. This will be particularly important for teachers with students who have initial learning levels that are very low and far from the passing threshold in the "levels" design, as well as for students with initial learning levels that are well above the passing threshold.

This document is outlined as follows: Section 2 presents details on the experimental design (interventions, sampling procedures, and data collected). Section 3 presents the hypotheses that will be tested at the end of the first and the second year, while section 4 presents the specific methodologies that will be used to test the hypotheses - including a mapping from survey questions to variable definitions.

## 2 Experimental Design

### 2.1 Sample Selection

The evaluation is being implemented in 180 government primary schools in 10 districts in Tanzania between 2015 and 2016. All interventions were implemented directly by Twaweza and its district partners, with the money given to teachers also coming from Twaweza. Within each intervention arm, information describing the program was distributed to schools and the communities via public meetings in early 2015 and 2016. The district partners then followed up with additional school visits in July and August of each year to re-familiarize teachers with the program, gauge teacher understanding of the bonus payment mechanisms, and answer any remaining questions. All students in Grades 1, 2, and 3 in every school are tested in Kiswahili, English and, Math at the end of the school year (in 2015 and 2016) to determine teacher incentive payments ${ }^{1}$ Tanzanian education

[^1]professionals, following a similar structure to the Uwezo annual learning assessment, developed the subject tests used as the basis for measuring learning levels.

The sample of 180 schools was taken from a previous RCT( (Mbiti \& Muralidharan, n.d.)) for which all students in Grades 1, 2, and 3 had been tested at the end of 2014. This information was used to implement the "gains" treatment. We randomly assigned schools into treatment, but as a requirement from the implementing partner the probability of assignment into different treatments was a function of the previous RCT treatment status. The following table presents the number of schools that had to be randomly allocated to each treatment arm depending on the treatment status of the previous RCT $\left\lfloor^{2}\right.$ The sample was also stratified by an index of the overall school quality. All of our specifications will control for the three levels of stratification: district, treatment in the previous RCT, and overall school quality. We are powered to detect an effect size of about 0.2 SD (with a size $5 \%$ and a power of $90 \%$ ) in each treatment arm, as well as to detect any difference between the treatments larger than this magnitude. Appendix B presents the details of the power calculations used.

Table 1: Treatment allocation

| KiuFunza II |  |  |  |  |  |
| ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
|  |  | Levels | Gains | Control | Total |
| KiuFunza I | C1 | 40 | 20 | 10 | 70 |
|  | C2 | 10 | 30 | 30 | 70 |
|  | C3 | 10 | 10 | 20 | 40 |
|  | Total | 60 | 60 | 60 | 180 |

### 2.2 Intervention

During the first year, a budget of $\$ 150,000$ for teachers' incentives was split between the two treatment arms. Total enrollment in grades 1-3 was 22,296 and 24,928 across "gains" and "levels" schools. The budget was allocated proportionally to the number of students (that is, the budget for "gains" schools was $\$ 70,820$ and the budget for "levels" schools was $\$ 79,180$ ).

### 2.2.1 Levels

The levels treatment pays teachers proportionally to how many skills students in grades 1-3 are able to demonstrate in Mathematics, Swahili and English $3^{3}$ The more skills a student is able to

[^2]demonstrate, the more a teacher earns. The harder a skill is to master for a student, the more the teacher earns for students who master that skill.

Table 2 shows the skills to be tested in each grade-subject combination in the "levels" design. The total amount of money is then split across grades proportionally to the number of students enrolled in each grade, and then divided equally among subjects and skills within each subject. Table 8 in the appendix shows the total amount of money available to teachers for each skill in each subject-grade combination. At the end of the year teachers are paid according to the following formula:

$$
\begin{equation*}
P_{j}^{s}=\frac{X_{s}}{\sum_{i \in T} 1_{T_{i}>b_{s}}} \sum_{k \in J} 1_{T_{k}>b_{s}}, \tag{1}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $P_{j}^{s}$ is the payment of teacher $j$ for skill $s, J$ is the set of students of teacher $j, T_{k}$ is the test score of student $k, b_{s}$ is the passing threshold for skill $s, X_{s}$ is the total amount of money available for skill $s$, and $T$ is the set of all students in schools across Tanzania in the "levels" treatment. Notice that for each skill teachers earn more money as more students in their class score higher than the passing threshold, but the payment is higher if overall across Tanzania fewer students are able to demonstrate learning in that skill. In other words, the reward is higher for teachers if students learn "harder" skills (we let the overall passing rate define the difficulty of each skill).

Table 2: Skills tested in the "levels" design

| Swahili | English | Math |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  | Grade 1 |  |
| Letters | Letters | Count |
| Words | Words | Numbers |
| Sentences | Sentences | Inequalities |
|  |  | Add |
|  | Grade 2 | Subtract |
| Words | Words | Inequalities |
| Sentences | Sentences | Add |
| Paragraph | Paragraph | Subtract |
|  | Grade 3 | Multiply |
|  |  | Add |
|  |  | Subtract |
| Story |  | Cory |
| Comprehension | Comprehension | Multiply |
|  |  | Divide |

Mbiti and Muralidharan (n.d.) study the effect of a teacher incentive program with a threshold design in Tanzania. The payment structure in this design is a single passing threshold for each subject (either a student is able to demonstrate a certain level of proficiency in a subject or not) and the payment for each student that passed the threshold was fixed beforehand. Mbiti and Muralidharan (n.d.) find that students who are well above or well below the passing threshold
do not see any improvements in test scores, but that students near the passing threshold see an increase in test scores of about 0.2 SD . Our design was built upon their findings, hoping that by having payments per skills (i.e., having more thresholds per subject) we would be able to incentivize teachers to improve learning outcomes for students with lower levels of learning. Additionally, by using a tournament design with a piece rate that is higher for skills with lower overall passing rates, we tried to improve the match between teacher effort and payments.

An important feature of the "levels" design (even with multiple thresholds) is that it does not offer rewards for increasing test scores for all students (e.g., for students far above the highest threshold, increases in test scores do not increase teacher payouts), and these rewards are not continous on teacher effort.

### 2.2.2 Gains

The "gains" design loosely compensates teachers in proportion to the ranks of their students within comparison sets. The design is based on the work of Barlevy and Neal (2012), who show that this incentive structure can, under certain conditions, induce teachers to exert socially optimal levels of effort. For each subject-grade combination we created student groups with similar initial learning levels based on test score data from the previous school year We then compensate teachers proportionally to the rank of their student at the end of the school year relative to other students with a similar baseline level of knowledge.

More formally, let $s_{i}^{t-1}$ be the score of student $i$ at the end of the previous school year. We divide students into $k$ groups according to $s_{i}^{t-1}$. We divide the total pot of money allocated to a subject-grade combination $A^{g}$ into $k$ groups, proportional to the number of students in the group. That is, $A_{k}=\frac{A^{g} n_{k}}{N_{g}}$, where $N_{g}$ is the total number of students in grade $g, n_{k}$ is the number of students in group $k$, and $A_{k}$ is the amount of money allocated to group $k$. At the end of the year, we rank students (into 100 ranks) within each group according to their endline test score $s_{i}^{t}$, and within each group we give teachers points proportional to the rank of their students. For a student in the top $1 \%$ of group $k$ a teacher gets 99 points, and for a student in the bottom $1 \%$ he gets no points. Within each group we have that:

$$
A_{k}=\frac{A^{g} n_{k}}{N}=\sum_{i=1}^{100} b(i-1) * \frac{n_{k}}{100}
$$

where $b(i-1)$ is the amount of money paid for each student in rank $i$. Therefore we have that $b=$ $\frac{A^{g}}{N_{g}} \frac{2}{99}$. The total money $A^{g}$ allocated to a subject-grade is proportional to the number of students in each grade and is divided equally among the three subjects. In other words, $A^{g}=\frac{X N_{g}}{3 \sum_{g=1}^{3} N_{g}}$,

[^3]where $X$ is the total amount of money available for the "gains" design. This means that the total amount of money paid per rank is the same across all groups, in all subjects, and in all grades, and is equal to $b=\frac{X}{3 \sum_{g=1}^{3} N_{g}} \frac{2}{99}$. Given the budget $(\$ 70,820)$ and the number of students enrolled $(22,296)$ in "gains" schools, the payment per "rank" is $\$ 0.0178$. In other words, for a student in the top $1 \%$ a teacher receives $\$ 1.77$ and for a student in the top $50 \%$ a teacher receives $\$ 0.89$.

### 2.3 Data and Balance

Data collection is carried out by Economic Development Initiatives (EDI), a well-established, Kagera-based, survey firm. Data will be collected four times, two times during each school year (at the beginning and the end of the year). Detailed information is gathered for each school (e.g., facilities, management practices, and head teacher characteristics) and each teacher (e.g., education, age, experience and, self-reported time use). Additionally, student information (e.g. test scores, age, gender, and perception of school environment) is collected for a randomly selected sample of 40 students per school ( 10 students from Grades $1,2,3$, and 4).

To be clear, there are two sets of tests performed to measure student learning levels. One test, the intervention test, is implemented by Twaweza and given to all students in grades 1,2 , and 3 in every school (including control schools). This test is used to calculate the bonus to be paid to each teacher. The second test, the research test, is implemented by the survey firm and is only taken by 40 randomly selected students from each school. The research test is a low-stakes test. The intervention test is used to calculate the incentive payments, but the impact evaluation is done using the research test.

Table 3 and 4 show the balance between students, school, teachers, and household characteristics in each treatment arm. Columns 1-3 shows the conditional mean of the variable for different treatment arms and column 4 shows the p-value of a test of equality of these means. We show the conditional mean since every analysis we do conditions on the variables on which we stratified during randomization ${ }^{5}$

[^4]Table 3: Balance between treatment arms: student and household characteristics

|  | Control | Gains | Levels | p-value |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Panel A: Student characteristics |  |  |  |  |
| Age | 8.32 | 8.38 | 8.37 | 0.67 |
|  | (0.049) | (0.063) | (0.055) |  |
| Gender | $\begin{gathered} 0.50 \\ (0.013) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.47 \\ (0.012) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.52 \\ (0.012) \end{gathered}$ | $0.047^{* *}$ |
| Attend pre-school | 0.80 | 0.017 | 0.78 | 0.73 |
|  | (0.024) | (0.027) | (0.028) |  |
| Swahili test score | $5.6 \mathrm{e}-10$ | -0.014 | -0.0092 | 0.99 |
|  | (0.064) | (0.074) | (0.075) |  |
| English test score | -2.6e-12 | 0.034 | 0.037 | 0.91 |
|  | (0.069) | (0.057) | (0.077) |  |
| Math test score | $5.1 \mathrm{e}-09$ | -0.023 | -0.013 | 0.97 |
|  | (0.063) | (0.077) | (0.076) |  |
| Other subjects test score | $\begin{gathered} -2.8 \mathrm{e}-09 \\ (0.071) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} -0.067 \\ (0.076) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} -0.038 \\ (0.082) \end{gathered}$ | 0.81 |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Panel B: Household characteristics |  |  |  |  |
| Breadwinner employed | 0.87 | 0.90 | 0.82 | 0.080* |
|  | (0.032) | (0.020) | (0.033) |  |
| Radio | 0.55 | 0.52 | 0.52 | 0.78 |
|  | (0.035) | (0.035) | (0.033) |  |
| TV | 0.14 | 0.12 | 0.14 | 0.86 |
|  | (0.032) | (0.030) | (0.031) |  |
| Bicycle | 0.33 | 0.30 | 0.34 $(0.038)$ | 0.67 |
|  | (0.036) | (0.032) | (0.038) |  |
| Car | $\begin{gathered} 0.037 \\ (0.014) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.027 \\ (0.010) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.017 \\ (0.0072) \end{gathered}$ | 0.39 |
| Motorbike | 0.10 | 0.083 | 0.077 | 0.67 |
|  | (0.021) | (0.017) | (0.016) |  |
| Refrigerator | 0.040 | 0.043 | 0.053 | 0.89 |
|  | (0.018) | (0.017) | (0.021) |  |
| Watch/Clock | 0.17 | 0.14 | 0.16 | 0.75 |
|  | (0.028) | (0.029) | (0.028) |  |
| Mobile Phone | 0.71 | 0.70 | 0.73 | 0.78 |
|  | (0.035) | (0.035) | (0.034) |  |
| Own Land | 0.90 | 0.92 | 0.90 | 0.82 |
|  | (0.030) | (0.025) | (0.020) |  |
| Exp. in child's education | $24927.0$ | $\begin{aligned} & 24324.7 \\ & (2907.1) \end{aligned}$ | $27031.9$ | 0.79 |
| Give to school (kind or cash) | (2450.1) 0.50 | (2907.1) 0.50 | $\begin{gathered} (2991.6) \\ 0.53 \end{gathered}$ | 0.83 |
|  | $(0.045)$ | $(0.040)$ | (0.042) |  |
| Wall made out of mud | 0.58 | 0.54 | 0.56 | 0.81 |
|  | (0.052) | (0.050) | (0.048) |  |
| Floor made out of mud | (0.67 | 0.70 | 0.68 | 0.88 |
|  | $(0.047)$ 0.88 | $(0.039)$ 0.81 | $(0.044)$ 0.80 | 0.11 |
| Roof is durable | (0.025) | (0.029) | (0.033) |  |
| Improved water source | 0.55 | 0.57 | 0.58 | 0.88 |
|  | (0.053) | (0.047) | (0.052) |  |
| Improved toilet | 0.11 | 0.080 | 0.10 | 0.74 |
|  | (0.029) | (0.025) | (0.027) |  |
| Electricity | 0.22 $(0.037)$ | 0.21 $(0.034)$ | 0.19 $(0.033)$ | 0.89 |
|  | (0.037) | (0.034) | (0.033) |  |

Table 4: Balance between treatment arms: school and teacher

|  | Control | Gains | Levels | p-value |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Panel A: School characteristics |  |  |  |  |
| Grd 1 enrollment | $\begin{aligned} & 118.1 \\ & (9.01) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 122.5 \\ & (10.5) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 132.3 \\ & (14.9) \end{aligned}$ | 0.71 |
| Grd 2 enrollment | 107.0 | 117.6 | 129.3 | 0.44 |
| Grd 3 enrollment | (9.05) 91.7 | (12.1) | (15.8) 116.0 | 0.16 |
|  | (6.27) | (9.83) | (11.5) |  |
| Total enrollment | 643.4 | 656.4 | 738.4 | 0.51 |
| Kitchen | $(42.8)$ 0.22 | (56.5) | (71.4) 0.22 | 0.87 |
|  | (0.054) | (0.050) | (0.054) |  |
| Library | 0.22 | 0.18 | 0.23 | 0.79 |
|  | (0.054) | (0.050) | (0.055) |  |
| Playground | $\begin{gathered} 0.80 \\ (0.052) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.83 \\ (0.049) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.92 \\ (0.036) \end{gathered}$ | 0.14 |
| Staff room | 0.97 | 0.88 | 0.87 | 0.059* |
|  | (0.023) | (0.042) | (0.044) |  |
| Outer wall | 0.17 | 0.050 | 0.050 | 0.088* |
| Newspaper | $(0.049)$ 0 | $(0.028)$ 0.017 | $(0.028)$ 0.10 | 0.025** |
|  | (0) | (0.017) | (0.039) |  |
| Urban | 0.15 | 0.13 | 0.17 | 0.88 |
|  | (0.046) | (0.044) | (0.049) |  |
| Classes outside | $0.067$ | $0.13$ |  | 0.34 |
| Electricity | (0.18 | 0.0 | (0.10 | 0.35 |
|  | (0.050) | (0.039) | (0.039) |  |
| Computers | 0.017 | 0.033 | 0.050 | 0.57 |
|  | (0.017) | (0.023) | (0.028) |  |
| Preschool | $\begin{gathered} 0.90 \\ (0.039) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.85 \\ (0.046) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 0.87 \\ (0.044) \end{gathered}$ | 0.69 |
| Breakfast | 0.13 | 0.17 | 0.12 | 0.73 |
|  | (0.044) | (0.049) | (0.042) |  |
| Lunch | (0.15 | $0.15$ | (0.17 | 0.96 |
| Piped Water | (0.046) | (0.046) | $(0.049)$ 0.20 | 0.41 |
|  | (0.058) | (0.049) | (0.052) |  |
| No Water | 0.13 | 0.30 | 0.22 | 0.078* |
|  | (0.044) | (0.060) | (0.054) |  |
| Single shift | ${ }^{0.63}$ | 0.62 | (0.62) | 0.98 |
| Track students | $(0.063)$ 0.083 | $(0.063)$ 0.050 | $(0.063)$ 0.083 | 0.68 |
|  | (0.036) | (0.028) | (0.036) | 0.68 |
| Panel B: Teacher characteristics |  |  |  |  |
| Male | 0.39 | 0.35 | 0.33 | 0.49 |
|  | (0.040) | (0.042) | (0.038) |  |
| Yr born | 1975.4 | 1976.5 | 1975.6 | 0.55 |
|  | (0.75) | ${ }^{(0.72)}$ | (0.70) |  |
| Yr started teaching | 1999.3 $(0.79)$ | $\begin{aligned} & 2000.6 \\ & (0.83) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 1999.7 \\ & (0.73) \end{aligned}$ | 0.54 |
| Yr started teaching at this school | 2007 | 2002.3 | 2007.7 | 0.37 |
|  | (0.49) | (5.41) | (0.46) |  |
| Private school experience | 0.023 | 0.020 | 0.037 | 0.34 |
|  | (0.0072) | (0.0079) | (0.0090) |  |
| Travel time (mins) | $\begin{gathered} 19.1 \\ (2.10) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 22.6 \\ (3.12) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 19.6 \\ & (1.86) \end{aligned}$ | 0.63 |
|  | $(2.10)$ 00.82 | $(3.12)$ 0.83 | $(1.86)$ 0.83 | 0.95 |
| Tertiary education | (0.032) | (0.029) | (0.027) | 0.95 |

### 2.4 A Note on English

Starting in 2015 English was removed from grade's 1 and 2 curriculum, and as a consequence the curriculum for grade 3 changed. Many schools had stopped teaching English in 2015. For 2016 only English teachers in grade 3 participated in our program in 'gains' and 'level' schools. Its unclear therefore how to interpret the results for English in Grade 1 and 2 in 2015, and for Grade 3 in both years.

## 3 Hypotheses

The hypotheses we present mainly test whether our treatment had any impact on learning outcomes, whether there is any heterogeneity created by the incentives structure in each treatment arm, and tries to get at the mechanisms behind the effects, if any. Specifically, our hypotheses are: Main

## Outcomes

1. Impact of incentivizing teachers, using our 'levels' incentive structure, on students' learning outcomes

- $H_{a}\left(H_{0}\right)$ : 'levels' treatment has (no) positive impact on test scores.

2. Impact of incentivizing teachers, using our 'gains' incentive structure, on students' learning outcomes

- $H_{a}\left(H_{0}\right)$ : 'gains' treatment has (no) positive impact on test scores.

3. The relative impact of the 'levels' incentive structure, compared to the 'gains' incentive structure

- $H_{a}\left(H_{0}\right)$ : 'gains' treatment has (no) greater impact on test scores than the 'levels' incentives structure.


## Heterogeneity

4. Impact on learning outcomes by student ability

- $H_{a}\left(H_{0}\right)$ : Treatment - 'gains' and 'levels' - impact on knowledge is different (the same) for all students.


## Channels

5. Impact on teacher's behavior

- $H_{a}\left(H_{0}\right)$ : Treatment - 'gains' and 'levels' - has (no) impact on teacher's behavior (classroom presence, assignments, tutoring, etc.) in focal subjects in focal years.

6. Impact on school expenditure. This analysis will also be performed by grade.

- $H_{a}\left(H_{0}\right)$ : Treatment - 'gains' and 'levels' - has (no) positive impact on text book and teaching input expenditures.

7. Impact on school's schedule

- $H_{a}\left(H_{0}\right)$ : Treatment - 'gains' and 'levels' - has (no) impact on the number of hours taught in different subjects.
- $H_{a}\left(H_{0}\right)$ : Treatment - 'gains' and 'levels' - has (no) impact on teacher assignments across subjects and grades.

The next section presents a detailed methodology of how we plan to test these hypotheses.

## 4 Methodology

In order to test the hypotheses outlined above we perform OLS regressions, clustering standard errors at the school level. We also perform non-parametric analysis using lowess (and bootstrapping to calculate clustered standard errors) in order to assess how treatment effects vary by baseline ability of the students. When appropriate, we control for student, teacher, and schools (baseline) characteristics. Table 5 presents the characteristics we control for and the corresponding question in the survey questionnaires from which they are taken. We do not directly control for all these characteristics. Instead, we create family-wise indices using principal component analysis (PCA) and control for these indices (e.g., school-infrastructure index).

Table 5: Control Variables

|  | Questionnaire |  | Question |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Panel A: Student |  |  |  |
| Age | Student | (R7) | DETAILS Q. 5 |
| Gender | Student |  | DETAILS Q. 6 |
| Student attended pre-school (nursery) before attending elementary school | Student | (R7) | DETAILS Q. 7 |
| Student has seen exercise books with Uwezo tests | Student | (R7) | DETAILS Q. 8 d |
| Student has footwear | Student | (R8) | Observations of Student Q. 1 |
| Student has socks | Student | (R8) | Observations of Student Q. 2 |
| Is the student dirty? | Student | (R8) | Observations of Student Q. 4 |
| Is the student's uniform dirty? | Student |  | Observations of Student Q. 5 |
| Is the student's uniform torn? | Student | (R8) | Observations of Student Q. 6 |
| Does the student have visible ringworm? | Student | (R8) | Observations of Student Q. 7 |
| Baseline kiswahili score | Student | test (R7) | Kiswahili set |
| Baseline english score | Student | test (R7) | English set |
| Baseline math score | Student | test (R7) | Hisabati set |
| Panel B: School |  |  |  |
| School has a kitchen | School | R6) | Facilities Q. 1 |
| School has a library | School |  | Facilities Q. 1 |
| School has a playground | School |  | Facilities Q. 1 |
| School has a staff-room | School |  | Facilities Q. 1 |
| School has piped water School holds classes outside besides physical education | School |  | Facilities Q. 1 |
| Number of toilets/latrines per student | School | R6) | Facilities Q. 1 (R6) / ( R 7$)$ Grade Breakdown Q.1+ Q.2) |
| Number of classroom per student | School | R6) | Facilities Q. 1 (R6) / ( R7) Grade Breakdown Q.1+ Q.2) |
| Number of teachers per student | School |  | TEACHER ROSTER Q.2/(Grade Breakdown Q.1+ Q.2) |
| Volunteer/Student ratio | School |  | VOLUNTEERS Q.1/ (Grade Breakdown Q.1+ Q.2) |
| School is located in an urban area | School |  | B4.Q1 |
| Schools has a public notice board with current expenditures | School | R6) | EXPENSES Q. 9 |
| Size of the school committee Proportion of the members |  | R6) | SCHOOL COMMITTEE Q. 1 |
| Proportion of the members of the school committee that are female | School | R6) | SCHOOL COMMITTEE Q.2/Q. 1 |
| Proportion of the members of the school committee that are teachers Proportion of the members of the school committee that are parents | School |  | SCHOOL COMMITTEE Q.4/Q. 1 |
| Number of times school committee met in previous year | School | R6) | SCHOOL COMMITTEE Q. 15 |
| Managment PCA index | School | R7) | MANAGEMENT Q.1-Q. 12 |
| Head teacher digit span | School |  | DIGIT SPAN Q.1-Q.9 |
| Personality PCA index | School |  | PERSONALITY QUESTIONS Q.1-Q. 17 |
| Gender of the head teacher | Teacher | (R7) | Q. 3 |
| Year in which head teacher was born | Teacher | (R7) | Q4 |
| Year in which head teacher started teaching | Teacher |  | Q6 |
| Year in which head teacher started teaching at that school | Teacher | R7) | Q7 |
| Whether the head teacher has post-secondary education | Teacher | (R7) | Q12 ${ }^{\text {a }}$ ( |
| Salary (of head teacher) | Teacher | (R7) | COMPENSATION Q. 1 |
| Panel C: Average Teacher Characteristics |  |  |  |
| Proportion of teachers that are male | Teacher | (R7) | Q3 |
| Average year in which teachers at the school are born | Teacher | R7) | Q4 |
| Average year in which teachers at the school started teaching ${ }^{\text {Average year in which teachers at the school started teaching at that school }}$ | Teacher Teacher | (R7) | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Q6 } \\ & 07 \end{aligned}$ |
| Average year in which teachers at the school started teaching at that school Average salary | Teacher Teacher | $\begin{aligned} & \text { (R7) } \\ & \text { (R7) } \end{aligned}$ | Q7 ${ }^{\text {COMPENSATION } \mathrm{Q} .1}$ |
| Proportion of teachers with post-secondary school education | Teacher | (R7) | Q12 |
| Panel D: Teacher Characteristics by grade and subject |  |  |  |
| Gender of the teacher ${ }^{\text {Gear in which teacher was born }}$ | Teacher |  | Q3 |
| Year in which teacher started teaching | Teacher | (R7) | Q6 |
| Year in which teacher started teaching at that school | Teacher | (R7) | Q7 |
| Salary | Teacher | (R7) | COMPENSATION Q. 1 |
| Whether the teacher has post-secondary education | Teacher | (R7) | Q12 |
| Whether the teacher is the Head (or deputy head) Teacher | Teacher | (R7) | HEAD TEACHER Q. 7 |

### 4.1 Effect on test scores: H1, H2, and H3

To estimate the effect on test scores (and test hypotheses 1,2 , and 3 ) we estimate the following equation

$$
Z_{i g s d t}=\alpha_{0}+\alpha_{1} G_{s}+\alpha_{2} L_{s}+\gamma_{z} Z_{i s d, t=0}+\gamma_{d}+\gamma_{w}+\gamma_{g}+X_{i} \beta_{1}+X_{s} \beta_{2}+X_{g s} \beta_{4}+\varepsilon_{i g s d t},
$$

where $Z_{i g s d t}$ is the test score of student $i$ in grade $g$ at school $s$ in district $d$ at time $t, G$ is a dummy variable that indicates whether the school was in the 'gains' group, $L$ is an indicator variable of whether the school was in the 'levels' group, $\gamma_{d}$ is a set of district fixed effects, $\gamma_{w}$ is a set of week fixed effect: $6^{6}, \gamma_{g}$ is a set of grade fixed effects, $X_{i}$ is a series of student characteristics (see panel A in table 5), $X_{s}$ is a set of school and average teacher characteristics (see panels B and C in table 5), and $X_{g s}$ is a set of teacher characteristics (for a particular grade/subject, see panel D in table

[^5]5). The coefficients of interest are the $\alpha$ s, which test hypotheses $1-3$ above. We will analyze each subject separately. Specifically, we have:

- H. 1
- $H_{0}$ : 'levels' treatment has no positive impact on test scores (i.e. $\alpha_{2} \leq 0$ )
$-H_{a}$ : 'levels' treatment has a positive impact on test scores (i.e. $\alpha_{2}>0$ )
- H. 2
- $H_{0}$ : 'gains' treatment has no positive impact on test scores (i.e. $\alpha_{1} \leq 0$ )
- $H_{a}$ : 'gains' treatment has a positive impact on test scores (i.e. $\alpha_{1}>0$ )
- H. 3
- $H_{0}$ : 'gains' treatment has no greater impact on test scores than the 'levels' treatment (i.e. $\alpha_{1} \leq \alpha_{2}$ )
- $H_{a}$ : 'gains' treatment has a greater impact on test scores than the 'levels' treatment (i.e. $\left.\alpha_{1}>\alpha_{2}\right)$


### 4.2 Heterogeneity: H4

A key difference between the two designs is the following: Holding other teachers effort constant, the payoff to teacher effort is much more non-linear in the "levels" incentive treatment and will typically be higher for students near the thresholds of passing the test. Note also that returns to improving student learning are not continuous in improvement and rise sharply below a threshold and fall sharply after a threshold.

On the other hand, the payoff to teacher effort is much more continuous in the "gains" incentive treatment in two ways. First, all students matter equally because each student is compared against other students starting at the same point, and teachers are rewarded at the same rate for improvements in the performance of any student. Second, the returns increase continuously in improvements for each student because each percentile improvement in test scores is rewarded with a proportionately larger bonus. This aspect of pay-for-percentile mitigates against the standard concern in tournaments of non-linear payoffs that are highly sensitive to small amounts of noise.

An important implication of this difference is that we do not expect to find heterogeneity in impacts as a function of student's initial rank in the test score distribution in the "gains" treatment. However, in the "levels" treatment, we do expect heterogeneity. Specifically, we will test for this heterogeneity by using the gains in the control group as a benchmark and calculate the marginal return to a teacher of improving the test scores by the average treatment effect that we find (say
0.1 to 0.2 standard deviations) for each student. One testable prediction is that students whose gains provide greater marginal returns to teacher effort will see larger gains ${ }^{7}$

If this prediction holds in the data, it would suggest that the model of education production is one where teacher attention in the classroom is differentially allocated across students based on marginal returns to teacher effort. If we find that the prediction is not supported in the data, that would imply either that teachers did not understand the formula well enough to optimize, or that the model of education production is one where classroom instruction is a public good and not differentiated much by student.

In order to test hypothesis 4 we run a locally weighted regression of the end line test scores on the baseline score of students. Specifically, we estimate the following equation

$$
Z_{i t}=f\left(\alpha_{0}+\alpha_{1} F\left(Z_{i, t=0}\right)+\varepsilon_{i t}\right),
$$

where F is the CDF of the baseline scores of students. Let $f(x ; T)$ denote the estimated relation between baseline score and endline score for treatment T using the command lowess in STATA. The point-wise treatment effect is calculated as $g(x ; T)=f(x ; T)-f(x ;$ Control $)$ and the confidence intervals are estimated using bootstrapping. This enables us to estimate how the treatment effect varies for students with different initial abilities or knowledge. We also do a semi-parametric estimation, in which we regress both baseline and endline scores on student, school, and teacher controls, and then perform the above procedure on the residuals of those regressions. We also perform a semi-parametric test where we split the data by students' baseline test scores and test hypotheses 1-3 in the sub-samples.

Our hypothesis are:

- H.4.A
- $H_{0}$ : The treatment effect is the same for all students, regardless of the expected payoff per unit of effort
- $H_{a}$ : The treatment effect depends on the expected payoff per unit of effort
- H.4.B
- $H_{0}$ : The treatment effect is the same for all students, regardless of the students' initial levels of learning
- $H_{a}$ : The treatment effect depends on students' initial levels of learning
- H.4.C

[^6]- $H_{0}$ : The treatment effect is the same for all students, regardless of the students' endline levels of learning
- $H_{a}$ : The treatment effect depends on students' endline levels of learning


### 4.3 Effect on teachers: H5

To estimate the effect on teacher behavior we estimate the following equation

$$
Y_{g s d}=\alpha_{0}+\alpha_{1} G_{s}+\alpha_{2} L_{s}+\gamma_{d}+X_{i} \beta_{1}+X_{s} \beta_{2}+\varepsilon_{i g s d t}
$$

where $Y_{i g s d}$ is the outcome variable that measures the behavior of teacher $i$ in school $s$ in district $d$, $G$ is a dummy variable that indicates whether the school was in the 'gains' group, $L$ is an indicator variable of whether the school was in the 'levels' group, $\gamma_{d}$ is a set of district fixed effects, $X_{s}$ is a set of school characteristics (see panels B and C in table5) and $X_{i}$ is a set of teacher characteristics (see panel D in table 5). The coefficients of interest are the $\alpha$ s which test hypothesis 5 above. The outcome variables that we will focus on are presented in table 6 with the respective question in the surveys used to measure them. Most of the information used here is not self-reported, but instead reported by students or observed by the survey team. To avoid multiple-inference issues we create family-wise indices using principal component analisys, and only study the components within an index when we find an effect on the index. We create indices for: classroom environment, student reported teacher demeanor, and teacher behavior during class.

Table 6: Teacher outcomes

|  | Questionnaire | Question |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Student missed school | Student | Classroom Environment Q. 5 |
| Singing in class | Student | Classroom Environment Q. 7 |
| Take books home | Student | Classroom Environment Q. 9 |
| Tutoring | Student | Teacher Perceptions Q. 1 |
| Teacher knows student name | Student | Teacher demeanor Q. 1 |
| Teacher leaves classroom | Student | Teacher demeanor Q. 5 |
| Teacher missed school | Student | Teacher demeanor Q. 6 |
| Positive feedback for doing good work | Student | Teacher demeanor Q. 8 |
| Homework on last normal schooling day | Student | Homework Q. 1 |
| How long is the assignment? | Student | Books Q. 4 |
| Assignment graded | Student | Books Q. 5 |
| Unobserved Classroom observation | Observation | Unobserved Classroom Observation Q. 2 |
| Children's work displayed on the walls | Observation | Classroom Environment Q. 9 |
| Other materials on the walls | Observation | Classroom Environment Q. 10 |
| Charts and posters | Observation | Classroom Environment Q. 11 |
| Trash in the classroom | Observation | Classroom Environment Q. 12 |
| Students misbehaving | Observation | Pupil Behavior Q. 1 |
| Teacher using textbook | Observation | Tools used by Teacher Q. 1 |
| Students using textbook | Observation | Tools used by Teacher Q. 2 |
| Blackboard written by teacher | Observation | Tools used by Teacher Q. 3 |
| Blackboard written by children | Observation | Tools used by Teacher Q. 4 |
| Teacher goes to students individually | Observation | Teacher demeanor Q. 1 |
| Teacher call students by name | Observation | Teacher demeanor Q. 6 |
| Teacher smiles and jokes | Observation | Teacher demeanor Q. 8 |
| Teachers uses aggressive language | Observation | Teacher demeanor Q. 9 |
| Teacher uses phone during class | Observation | Teacher demeanor Q. 12 |
| Teacher left classroom during class | Observation | Teacher demeanor Q. 13 |
| Language used during class | Observation | Language Q. 1 |
| Drill/Memorization | Observation | Teacher asking questions Q. 1 |
| Systematic explaining | Observation | Teacher asking questions Q. 3 |
| Demostrate knowledge | Observation | Teacher asking questions Q. 4 |
| Best students seating | Observation | Counting materials Q. 4 |
| Students with textbook | Observation | Counting materials Q. 1 |
| Students with exercise book and pencil | Observation | Counting materials Q. 2 |
| Hours taught | Teacher | DETAILS Q. 1 |
| Number of tests | Teacher | DETAILS Q. 2 |
| Tutoring | Teacher | DETAILS Q. 5 |
| Remedial teaching | Teacher | DETAILS Q. 6 |
| Number of tests | Teacher | DETAILS Q. 5 |
| Number of tests | Teacher | DETAILS Q. 6 |
| Time grading homework | Teacher | Daily activities roster Q. 3 |
| Time grading test | Teacher | Daily activities roster Q. 3 |
| Time extra classes | Teacher | Daily activities roster Q. 3 |
| Time in school | Teacher | 3.5 Time Use Q.1-Q. 2 |

Specifically, we have:

- H. 5
- $H_{0}$ : Treatment has no impact on teacher behavior (i.e., $\alpha_{i}=0, i=1$ for 'gains' treatment and $i=2$ for 'levels' treatment)
- $H_{a}$ : Treatment has an impact on teacher behavior (i.e., $\alpha_{i} \neq 0, i=1$ for 'gains' treatment and $i=2$ for 'levels' treatment)


### 4.4 Effect on school: H6 and H7

To estimate the effect on school behavior we estimate the following equation

$$
Y_{s d t}=\alpha_{0}+\alpha_{1} G_{s}+\alpha_{2} L_{s}+\gamma_{d}+X_{s} \beta_{1}+\varepsilon_{s d t}
$$

where $Y_{s d t}$ is the outcome variable that measures the behavior of school $s$ in district $d$ at time $t, G$ is a dummy variable that indicates whether the school was in the 'gains' group, $L$ is an indicator variable of whether the school was in the 'levels' group, $\gamma_{d}$ is a set of district fixed effects, $X_{s}$ are a set of school characteristics (see panels in table C and D5. The coefficients of interest are the $\alpha$ s which test hypotheses 6 and 7 above. The outcome variables that we will focus on are presented in table 7, along with the respective question in the surveys used to measure them.

Table 7: School outcomes

|  | Questionnaire | Question |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Administrative expenses per student | School | School Expenses Q.1 |
| Student expenses per student | School Expenses Q.1 |  |
| Teaching aid expenses per student | School | School Expenses Q.1 |
| Teacher expenses per student | School | School Expenses Q.1 |
| Construction expenses per student | School | School Expenses Q.1 |
| Textbook expenditure per student | School | TEXTBOOK AND PRACTICE EXAMS Q.1 |
| Textbook expenditure per student per grade | School | TEXTBOOK AND PRACTICE EXAMS Q.1 |
| Enrollment per grade | School | (Y2 Baseline) 4.1 GRADES Q.1 \& 6.3 ENROLLMENT |
| Time spend per subject per week | School | TIME SPENT ON SUBJECTS Q.1-Q.10 |

Specifically, we have:

- H.6.a
$-H_{0}$ : Treatment has no impact on text book and teaching input expenditure (i.e., $\alpha_{i}=0$, $i=1$ for 'gains' treatment and $i=2$ for 'levels' treatment)
- $H_{a}$ : Treatment has no impact on text book and teaching input expenditure (i.e., $\alpha_{i} \neq 0$, $i=1$ for 'gains' treatment and $i=2$ for 'levels' treatment)
- H. 7
- $H_{0}$ : Treatment does not increase the amount of hours taught in incentivized subjects or the resources invested in incentived grades (i.e., $\alpha_{i}=0, i=1$ for 'gains' treatment and $i=2$ for 'levels' treatment)
- $H_{a}$ : Treatment increases the amount of hours taught in incentivized subjects and/or the resources invested in incentived grades (i.e., $\alpha_{i} \neq 0, i=1$ for 'gains' treatment and $i=2$ for 'levels' treatment)


### 4.5 Other tests

### 4.5.1 Survey test vs intervention test

As mentioned before there are two sets of tests performed to measure student learning levels. Twaweza tests all students in grades 1, 2 and 3 in "levels" and "gains" schools to calculate the teacher payments. However, it also tests all Grades 1, 2, and 3 students in control schools. Additionally, EDI tests 40 students in all schools (10 each in grades 1, 2, 3, and 4) which allows us to compare treatment effects for all treatments compared to control schools, in a low stakes exam. Although the main analysis will be done using the EDI test, we test whether the treatment effects are different for the Twaweza test than for the EDI test. This will allow us to infer whether there is any cramming before the Twaweza exam and whether there is any teaching to the test (the EDI test has a wider range of questions).

### 4.5.2 Effect on non-incentivized subjects and grades scores

To estimate any spillover effect on non-incentivized grades (if resources at the school level are shifted by the treatment) we estimate the following equation

$$
Y_{g s d t}=\alpha_{0}+\alpha_{1} G_{s}+\alpha_{2} L_{s}+\gamma_{z} Y_{g s d, t-1}+\gamma_{d}+X_{s} \beta_{1}+\varepsilon_{i g s d t}
$$

where $Y_{i g s d t}$ is a measure of learning for grade $g$ at school $s$ in district $d$ at time $t, G$ is a dummy variable that indicates whether the school was in the 'gains' group, $L$ is an indicator variable of whether the school was in the 'levels' group, $\gamma_{d}$ is a set of district fixed effects, $X_{s}$ is a set of school characteristics (see panels B and C in table5. The coefficients of interest are the $\alpha$. For $Y_{\text {igsdt }}$ we use the average score and the pass rate in the national Grade 4 and 7 examinations, the score of the students tested in Grade 4, and the score for science in Grades 1-3. Specifically, we have:

- $\quad-H_{0}$ : Treatment has no impact on test scores (i.e., $\alpha_{i}=0, i=1$ for 'gains' treatment and $i=2$ for 'levels' treatment)
- $H_{a}$ : Treatment has an impact on test scores (i.e., $\alpha_{i} \neq 0, i=1$ for 'gains' treatment and $i=2$ for 'levels' treatment)


### 4.5.3 Heterogeneous treatment effects by variance within a classroom

To estimate heterogeneous treatment effects by within classroom variance we perform the following regression

$$
Z_{i g s d t}=\alpha_{0}+\alpha_{1} G_{s}+\alpha_{2} L_{s}+\lambda_{0} C_{i}+\lambda_{1} G_{s} \times V_{g s}+\lambda_{2} L_{s} \times V_{g s}+\gamma_{d}+\gamma_{w}+\gamma_{g}+X_{s} \beta_{1}+X_{h} \beta_{2}+\varepsilon_{i g s d t}
$$

where $Z_{i g s d t}$ is the test score of student $i$ in grade $g$ at school $s$ in district $d$ at time $t, G$ is a dummy variable that indicates whether the school was in the 'gains' group, $L$ is an indicator variable of whether the school was in the 'levels' group, $\gamma_{d}$ is a set of district fixed effects, $\gamma_{w}$ is a set of week fixed effects, $\gamma_{g}$ is a set of grade fixed effects, and $X_{s}$ is a set of school and teacher characteristics (see panels B and C in table 5 Finally $V_{g s}$ is a variable that measures the variance of students ability within classroom (e.g., variance or interquantile range). The coefficients of interest are the $\lambda \mathrm{s}$, which test if there are any heterogeneous treatment effects by student characteristics. The idea is that it might be easier for teachers to improve outcomes in classrooms with low variance since students have similar initial learning levels or ability, and therefore teaching to the "median student" benefits more students.

### 4.5.4 Heterogeneous treatment effects by student characteristics

To estimate heterogeneous treatment effects by student characteristics we perform the following regression
$Z_{i g s d t}=\alpha_{0}+\alpha_{1} G_{s}+\alpha_{2} L_{s}+\lambda_{0} C_{i}+\lambda_{1} G_{s} \times C_{i}+\lambda_{2} L_{s} \times C_{i}+\gamma_{d}+\gamma_{w}+\gamma_{g}+X_{s} \beta_{1}+X_{h} \beta_{2}+\varepsilon_{i g s d t}$,
where $Z_{i g s d t}$ is the test score of student $i$ in grade $g$ at school $s$ in district $d$ at time $t, G$ is a dummy variable that indicates whether the school was in the 'gains' group, $L$ is an indicator variable of whether the school was in the 'levels' group, $\gamma_{d}$ is a set of district fixed effects, $\gamma_{w}$ is a set of week fixed effects, $\gamma_{g}$ is a set of grade fixed effects, and $X_{s}$ is a set of school and teacher characteristics (see panels B and C in table 5. Finally $C_{i}$ is a student characteristic (grade, gender, age, proxys for socio-economics status, as in panel A of table 5). The coefficients of interest are the $\lambda \mathrm{s}$, which test if there are any heterogeneous treatment effects by student characteristics.

### 4.5.5 Heterogeneous treatment effect by school characteristics

To estimate heterogeneous treatment effect by school characteristics we perform the following regression
$Z_{i g s d t}=\alpha_{0}+\alpha_{1} G_{s}+\alpha_{2} L_{s}+\lambda_{0} C_{s}+\lambda_{1} G_{s} \times C_{i}+\lambda_{2} L_{s} \times C_{i}+\gamma_{d}+\gamma_{w}+\gamma_{g}+X_{i} \beta_{1}+X_{p} \beta_{2}+X_{h} \beta_{3}+\varepsilon_{i g s d t}$,
where $Z_{i g s d t}$ is the test score of student $i$ in grade $g$ at school $s$ in district $d$ at time $t, G$ is a dummy variable that indicates whether the school was in the 'gains' group, $L$ is an indicator variable of whether the school was in the 'levels' group, $\gamma_{d}$ is a set of district fixed effects, $\gamma_{w}$ is a set of week fixed effects, $\gamma_{g}$ is a set of grade fixed effects, $X_{i}$ is a set of student characteristics (see panel A in table 5), and $X_{p}$ is a set of teacher characteristics (see panels B and C in table 5). Finally $C_{s}$ is a school characteristic: An index between 0 and 6 of school facilities; whether the school has
piped water; whether the school has a single shift; the size of the school committee; the number of times the school committee met in 2014; the proportion of females, teachers and parents in the school committee; and whether the school keeps records of its expenses (and their quality) and publishes their expenditures on public noticeboards. We will also look for heterogeneity by head teacher characteristics (age, previous experience and education). See panel C in table 5. The coefficients of interest are the $\lambda \mathrm{s}$, which test if there are any heterogeneous treatment effects by school characteristics. Additionally, we will use the first component from a principal component analysis (PCA), using all the characteristics mentioned above, as a proxy for school quality. This index will explain variation across schools and allow for the use of a single index of school quality that is determined by the data itself, taking into account that several of the variables we used to measure school quality are correlated; however, the interpretation of this index and the associated coefficients is not as straightforward.

### 4.5.6 Heterogeneous treatment effects by teacher characteristics

To estimate heterogeneous treatment effects by teacher characteristics we perform the following regression
$Z_{i g s d t}=\alpha_{0}+\alpha_{1} G_{s}+\alpha_{2} L_{s}+\lambda_{0} C_{s}+\lambda_{1} G_{s} \times C_{i}+\lambda_{2} L_{s} \times C_{i}+\gamma_{d}+\gamma_{w}+\gamma_{g}+X_{i} \beta_{1}+X_{p} \beta_{2}+X_{h} \beta_{3}+\varepsilon_{i g s d t}$,
where $Z_{i g s d t}$ is the test score of student $i$ in grade $g$ at school $s$ in district $d$ at time $t, G$ is a dummy variable that indicates whether the school was in the 'gains' group, $L$ is an indicator variable of whether the school was in the 'levels' group, $\gamma_{d}$ is a set of district fixed effects, $\gamma_{w}$ is a set of week fixed effects, $\gamma_{g}$ is a set of grade fixed effects, $X_{i}$ is a set of student characteristics (see panel A in table 5), and $X_{s}$ is a set of school characteristics (see panels B and C in table 5). Finally $C_{p}$ is an average of teacher characteristics per school: proportion of male teachers, average year of birth, average year started teaching, average year started teaching at this school, proportion with experience in private schools, average time at school and average salary. See panel C in table 5 Aditionally, we will test heterogeneity by the amount of time teachers dedicate to each subject. $8^{8}$ The coefficients of interest are the $\lambda \mathrm{s}$, which test if there are any heterogeneous treatment effects by teacher characteristics. As with school characteristics, we will use the first component from a principal component analysis (PCA), using all the characteristics mentioned above, as a proxy for teacher quality.

[^7]
### 4.5.7 Teacher Learning

Something we would like to explore is "teacher learning". By this, we refer to the possibility that after the first year of the program teachers may learn something about their students' learning abilities as well as their own teaching techniques. First, we would like to explore how internal ranking in schools compares to overall student ability distribution, and to see whether teachers with students that are "worst than they think" (for example, the highest rank student is below the average) perform in the second year compared to the first year, as well as those with students that are "better than they think". Additionally, we would like to see how teacher's performance in the first year correlates to performance in the second year, when there is variation in the quality of the students they get, to see if teachers that perform above their expected value added in the first year, also perform better in the second year.

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## A Extra tables

Table 8: Total amount of money available to teachers for each skill in each subject-grade combination

|  | Money Paid |
| :---: | :---: |
| Grade 1 |  |
| Swahili |  |
| Letters | \$ 3,118 |
| Words | \$ 3,118 |
| Sentences | \$ 3,118 |
| English |  |
| Letters | \$ 3,118 |
| Words | \$ 3,118 |
| Sentences | \$ 3,118 |
| Math |  |
| Count | \$ 1,871 |
| Numbers | \$ 1,871 |
| Inequalities | \$ 1,871 |
| Add | \$ 1,871 |
| Subtract | \$ 1,870 |
| Grade 2 |  |
| Swahili |  |
| Words | \$ 2,955 |
| Sentences | \$ 2,955 |
| Paragraph | \$ 2,955 |
| English |  |
| Words | \$ 2,955 |
| Sentences | \$ 2,955 |
| Paragraph | \$ 2,955 |
| Math |  |
| Inequalities | \$ 2,216 |
| Add | \$ 2,216 |
| Subtract | \$ 2,216 |
| Multiply | \$ 2,216 |
| Grade 3 |  |
| Swahili |  |
| Paragraph | \$ 2,725 |
| Story | \$ 2,726 |
| Comprehension | \$ 2,725 |
| English |  |
| Paragraph | \$ 2,725 |
| Story | \$ 2,725 |
| Comprehension | \$ 2,725 |
| Math |  |
| Add | \$ 2,044 |
| Subtract | \$ 2,044 |
| Multiply | \$ 2,044 |
| Divide 2 | \$ 2,044 |

## B Power calculations that take into account the previous RCT treatment status

If we think that the first two years and the second two years have no "interaction" effects, then we calculate that the treatment for each group would be

Table 9: Treatment effects

| KiuFunza II |  |  |  |  |  |
| ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | :---: |
|  | Levels |  |  |  |  |
| KiuFunza I | C1 | $\alpha_{0}+\alpha_{1}+\alpha_{3}$ | $\alpha_{0}+\alpha_{3}+\alpha_{2}$ | $\alpha_{0}+\alpha_{3}$ |  |
|  | C2 | $\alpha_{0}+\alpha_{1}+\alpha_{4}$ | $\alpha_{0}+\alpha_{4}+\alpha_{2}$ | $\alpha_{0}+\alpha_{4}$ |  |
|  | C3 | $\alpha_{0}+\alpha_{1}$ | $\alpha_{0}+\alpha_{2}$ | $\alpha_{0}$ |  |

where

$$
Y_{i}=\alpha_{0}+\alpha_{1} T_{\text {Levels }, i}^{2}+\alpha_{2} T_{\text {Gains }, i}^{2}+\alpha_{3} T_{C 1, i}^{1}+\alpha_{4} T_{C 2, i}^{1}+\varepsilon_{i, g}
$$

In matrix notation we would have

$$
Y_{i}=X \beta+\varepsilon_{i}
$$

where

$$
\begin{gathered}
X=\left(\begin{array}{ccccc}
1 & T_{C O D, 1}^{2} & T_{G a i n s, 1}^{2} & T_{C 1,1}^{1} & T_{C 2, i}^{1} \\
\vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\
1 & T_{C O D, n}^{2} & T_{\text {Gains,n}}^{2} & T_{C 1, n}^{1} & T_{C 2, n}^{1}
\end{array}\right) \\
\quad \beta=\left(\begin{array}{c}
\alpha_{0} \\
\alpha_{1} \\
\alpha_{2} \\
\alpha_{3} \\
\alpha_{4}
\end{array}\right)
\end{gathered}
$$

And therefore the variance-covariance matrix of $\beta$ would be

$$
V(\hat{\beta})=\left(X^{\prime} \Omega^{-1} X\right)^{-1}
$$

where $\Omega=\operatorname{Diag}\left(\Omega_{g}\right)$ and

$$
\Omega_{g}=\left(\begin{array}{cccc}
\sigma_{\alpha}^{2}+\sigma_{\varepsilon}^{2} & \sigma_{\alpha}^{2} & \cdots & \sigma_{\alpha}^{2} \\
\sigma_{\alpha}^{2} & \sigma_{\alpha}^{2}+\sigma_{\varepsilon}^{2} & \cdots & \sigma_{\alpha}^{2} \\
\vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\
\sigma_{\alpha}^{2} & \cdots & \sigma_{\alpha}^{2} & \sigma_{\alpha}^{2}+\sigma_{\varepsilon}^{2}
\end{array}\right)
$$

$$
\begin{aligned}
V(\hat{\beta}) & =\left(X^{\prime}\left(I_{g} \otimes \Omega_{g}\right)^{-1} X\right)^{-1} \\
& =\left(\left(X_{1}^{\prime}, X_{2}^{\prime}, \ldots, X_{J}^{\prime}\right)\left(\begin{array}{cccc}
\Omega_{g}^{-1} & 0 & \ldots & 0 \\
0 & \Omega_{g}^{-1} & \ldots & 0 \\
\vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\
0 & 0 & \ldots & \Omega_{g}^{-1}
\end{array}\right)\left(\begin{array}{c}
X_{1} \\
X_{2} \\
\vdots \\
X_{J}
\end{array}\right)\right)^{-1} \\
& =\left(\sum_{j=1}^{J} X_{j}^{\prime} \Omega_{g}^{-1} X_{j}\right)^{-1}
\end{aligned}
$$

Now it is important to note that there are 9 types of schools (the subindex used to indicate each type is shown below). Let $A^{k}=X_{j}^{k^{\prime}} \Omega_{g}^{-1} X_{j}^{k}$ for schools of type $k$.

Table 10: Add caption

|  | KiuFunza II |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: |
|  |  | COD | Gains | Control |
| KiuFunza I | C1 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
|  | C2 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|  | C3 | 7 | 8 | 9 |

Then we have that:

$$
\begin{aligned}
& A^{1}=X_{j}^{1^{\prime}} \Omega_{g}^{-1} X_{j}^{1}=\left(\begin{array}{ccccc}
n_{g} \Sigma & n_{g} \Sigma & 0 & n_{g} \Sigma & 0 \\
n_{q} \Sigma & n_{q} \Sigma & 0 & n_{q} \Sigma & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
n_{q} \Sigma & n_{q} \Sigma & 0 & n_{q} \Sigma & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0
\end{array}\right) \\
& A^{2}=X_{j}^{2^{\prime}} \Omega_{g}^{-1} X_{j}^{2}=\left(\begin{array}{cccccc}
n_{q} \Sigma & 0 & n_{q} \Sigma & n_{q} \Sigma & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
n_{g} \Sigma & 0 & n_{g} \Sigma & n_{g} \Sigma & 0 \\
n_{q} \Sigma & 0 & n_{q} \Sigma & n_{q} \Sigma & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0
\end{array}\right) \\
& A^{3}=X_{j}^{3^{\prime}} \Omega_{g}^{-1} X_{j}^{3}=\left(\begin{array}{ccccc}
n_{q} \Sigma & 0 & 0 & n_{q} \Sigma & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
n_{q} \Sigma & 0 & 0 & n_{q} \Sigma & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0
\end{array}\right) \\
& A^{4}=X_{j}^{4^{\prime}} \Omega_{g}^{-1} X_{j}^{4}=\left(\begin{array}{ccccc}
n_{g} \Sigma & n_{g} \Sigma & 0 & 0 & n_{g} \Sigma \\
n_{q} \Sigma & n_{q} \Sigma & 0 & 0 & n_{q} \Sigma \\
0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
n_{g} \Sigma & n_{g} \Sigma & 0 & 0 & n_{g} \Sigma
\end{array}\right) \\
& A^{5}=X_{j}^{5^{\prime}} \Omega_{g}^{-1} X_{j}^{5}=\left(\begin{array}{ccccc}
n_{q} \Sigma & 0 & n_{q} \Sigma & 0 & n_{q} \Sigma \\
0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
n_{q} \Sigma & 0 & n_{q} \Sigma & 0 & n_{q} \Sigma \\
0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
n_{g} \Sigma & 0 & n_{g} \Sigma & 0 & n_{g} \Sigma
\end{array}\right)
\end{aligned}
$$

$$
\begin{aligned}
& A^{6}=X_{j}^{6^{\prime}} \Omega_{g}^{-1} X_{j}^{6}=\left(\begin{array}{ccccc}
n_{g} \Sigma & 0 & 0 & 0 & n_{q} \Sigma \\
0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
n_{g} \Sigma & 0 & 0 & 0 & n_{g} \Sigma
\end{array}\right) \\
& A^{7}=X_{j}^{7^{\prime}} \Omega_{g}^{-1} X_{j}^{7}=\left(\begin{array}{ccccc}
n_{g} \Sigma & n_{g} \Sigma & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
n_{g} \Sigma & n_{g} \Sigma & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0
\end{array}\right) \\
& A^{8}=X_{j}^{8^{\prime}} \Omega_{g}^{-1} X_{j}^{8}=\left(\begin{array}{ccccc}
n_{q} \Sigma & 0 & n_{q} \Sigma & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
n_{q} \Sigma & 0 & n_{q} \Sigma & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0
\end{array}\right) \\
& A^{9}=X_{j}^{9^{\prime}} \Omega_{g}^{-1} X_{j}^{9}=\left(\begin{array}{ccccc}
n_{q} \Sigma & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0
\end{array}\right)
\end{aligned}
$$

where $\Sigma$ is the sum of any given row of the inverse of $\Omega_{g}$ and $n_{g}$ is the number of students per school we test. Therefore we have:

$$
\begin{aligned}
V(\hat{\beta}) & =\left(\begin{array}{c}
\sum_{j=1}^{J} X_{j}^{\prime} \Omega_{g}^{-1} X_{j}
\end{array}\right)^{-1} \\
& =\left(\begin{array}{cccccc}
J n_{g} \Sigma & 60 n_{g} \Sigma & 60 n_{g} \Sigma & 70 n_{g} \Sigma & 70 n_{g} \Sigma \\
60 n_{g} \Sigma & 60 n_{g} \Sigma & 0 & 40 n_{g} \Sigma & 10 n_{g} \Sigma \Sigma \\
60 n_{g} \Sigma & 0 & 60 n_{g} \Sigma & 20 n_{g} \Sigma & 30 n_{g} \Sigma \\
70 n_{g} \Sigma & 40 n_{g} \Sigma & 20 n_{g} \Sigma & 70 n_{g} \Sigma & 0 \\
70 & 10 n_{g} \Sigma & 30 n_{g} \Sigma & 0 & 70 n_{g} \Sigma
\end{array}\right) \\
& =\frac{1}{10 n_{g} \Sigma}\left(\begin{array}{ccccc}
18 & 6 & 6 & 7 & 7 \\
6 & 6 & 0 & 4 & 1 \\
6 & 0 & 6 & 2 & 3 \\
7 & 4 & 2 & 7 & 0 \\
7 & 1 & 3 & 0 & 7
\end{array}\right) \\
& =\frac{1}{18840 n_{g} \Sigma}\left(\begin{array}{cccccc}
604 & -280 & -252 & -372 & -456 \\
-280 & 763 & 357 & -258 & 18 \\
-252 & 357 & 651 & -138 & -78 \\
-372 & -258 & -138 & 828 & 468 \\
-456 & 18 & -78 & 468 & 756
\end{array}\right)
\end{aligned}
$$

It is easy to show that

$$
\begin{align*}
\Omega_{g}^{-1} & =\left(\begin{array}{cccc}
\sigma_{\alpha}^{2}+\sigma_{\varepsilon}^{2} & \sigma_{\alpha}^{2} & \cdots & \sigma_{\alpha}^{2} \\
\sigma_{\alpha}^{2} & \sigma_{\alpha}^{2}+\sigma_{\varepsilon}^{2} & \cdots & \sigma_{\alpha}^{2} \\
\vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\
\sigma_{\alpha}^{2} & \cdots & \sigma_{\alpha}^{2} & \sigma_{\alpha}^{2}+\sigma_{\varepsilon}^{2}
\end{array}\right)^{-1}  \tag{2}\\
& =\left(\sigma_{\varepsilon}^{2}\left(I_{n_{g}}-\frac{J_{n_{g}}}{n_{g}}\right)+\left(n_{g} \sigma_{\alpha}^{2}+\sigma_{\varepsilon}^{2}\right) \frac{J_{n_{g}}}{n_{g}}\right)^{-1} \tag{3}
\end{align*}
$$

where $I_{n_{g}}$ is the identity matrix of size $n_{g}$ and $J_{n_{g}}$ is an $n_{g} \times n_{g}$ matrix with the unit in all its entries. Therefore we have:

$$
\begin{equation*}
\Omega_{g}^{-1}=\sigma_{\varepsilon}^{-2}\left(I_{n_{g}}-\frac{J_{n_{g}}}{n_{g}}\right)+\frac{1}{n_{g} \sigma_{\alpha}^{2}+\sigma_{\varepsilon}^{2}} \frac{J_{n_{g}}}{n_{g}} \tag{5}
\end{equation*}
$$

and therefore

$$
\begin{equation*}
\Sigma=\frac{1}{n_{g} \sigma_{\alpha}^{2}+\sigma_{\varepsilon}^{2}} \tag{7}
\end{equation*}
$$

Thus,

$$
V(\hat{\beta})=\frac{n_{g} \sigma_{\alpha}^{2}+\sigma_{\varepsilon}^{2}}{18840 n_{g}}\left(\begin{array}{ccccc}
604 & -280 & -252 & -372 & -456 \\
-280 & 763 & 357 & -258 & 18 \\
-252 & 357 & 651 & -138 & -78 \\
-372 & -258 & -138 & 828 & 468 \\
-456 & 18 & -78 & 468 & 756
\end{array}\right)
$$

Now without controls, we have that $\sigma_{\varepsilon}^{2}=1$ and an ICC of $\rho=\frac{\sigma_{\alpha}^{2}}{\sigma_{\alpha}^{2}+\sigma_{\varepsilon}^{2}}=0.3$. In that case we have:

Table 11: Power Calculations

| Size | Power | MDE Levels | MDE Gains | MD Difference |
| ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| 0.05 | 0.8 | 0.34 | 0.31 | 0.33 |
| 0.1 | 0.8 | 0.43 | 0.40 | 0.42 |
| 0.05 | 0.9 | 0.40 | 0.37 | 0.38 |
| 0.1 | 0.9 | 0.49 | 0.46 | 0.47 |

However, we have control variables that explain about $30 \%$ of the variation in test scores and reduce the ICC. That is, $\sigma_{\varepsilon}^{2}=0.7$ and the ICC is $\rho=\frac{\sigma_{\alpha}^{2}}{\sigma_{\alpha}^{2}+\sigma_{\varepsilon}^{2}}=0.1$. Therefore we have:

Table 12: Power Calculations

| Size | Power | MDE COD | MDE Gains | MD Difference |
| ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| 0.05 | 0.8 | 0.16 | 0.15 | 0.15 |
| 0.1 | 0.8 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.19 |
| 0.05 | 0.9 | 0.19 | 0.17 | 0.18 |
| 0.1 | 0.9 | 0.23 | 0.21 | 0.22 |


[^0]:    *Prepared by Erin Litzow, Jessica Mahoney, Isaac Mbiti, Karthik Muralidharan, and Mauricio Romero

[^1]:    ${ }^{1}$ From 2015 to 2016 English was removed from grade's 1 and 2 curriculum, and as a consequence the curriculum for grade 3 was dramatically changed. We still test students in English.

[^2]:    ${ }^{2}$ The previous RCT had two treatment arms and a control group. One treatment arm had a simplified "levels" incentive structure, and the other had the sample incentive structure plus capitation grants given to schools. The implementing partner wanted to asses the long term impact of a "levels" design, and therefore asked that $4 / 7$ schools in this treatment arm, remained as "level" schools and that $2 / 4$ control schools remained as controls. In Table 1 C1 is the "levels" treatment arm, C2 is the "levels" + capitation grant treatment arm, and C3 is the control group.
    ${ }^{3}$ From 2015 to 2016 English was removed from grade's 1 and 2 curriculum, and as a consequence the curriculum for grade 3 was dramatically changed. The incentive for English was removed in 2016 for grade 1/2. As of 2015 several schools had stopped teaching English in Grades 1 and 2.

[^3]:    ${ }^{4}$ As noted previously, grade 1 students were grouped according to historic test scores at the school level. Students without test scores in any other grade were grouped together in a "unknown" ability group.

[^4]:    ${ }^{5}$ Randomization was stratified by district, previous treatment arm, and "quality strata". The quality strata variable for schools was created using principal component analysis on students' test scores. Schools were categorized into one of two strata depending on whether they were above or below the median for the first principal component. This was done to ensure balance in test scores at baseline.

[^5]:    ${ }^{6}$ The time difference between the EDI and the Twaweza varies across schools, but the timing is balanced across treatment arms. The week fixed effects should increase the precision of our estimates.

[^6]:    ${ }^{7}$ Note that the ability groups in the 'gains' are not perfect, and there is some left-over heterogeneity within group, which could lead teachers to focus on some students (e.g., the best ones within each group). We will search for this type of behavior the data.

[^7]:    ${ }^{8}$ The idea behind heterogeneity by teacher's schedule is to test any changes in effort across subjects. For example, take two teachers - one teachers English and Swahili and the other Math and Swahili. Since we believe English is more difficult then we may expect to see the teacher who has English invest more in Swahili than the teacher who has Math and Swahili (i.e., they internalize the effort costs and adjust accordingly).

