

COMMON
APPROACHES



NUMERACY BOOST

ALL CHILDREN LEARN TO READ, WRITE AND USE NUMBERS

We believe that all children have the right to learn from a quality basic education.

Maths is an integral component of foundational learning and research has shown that children have a greater chance of success in school and later life if they develop foundational numeracy skills.

We use Numeracy Boost to support students, teachers, parents and communities to **develop the math skills of children in the early primary grades, both inside and outside of the classroom.**

INTERACTIVE LEARNING

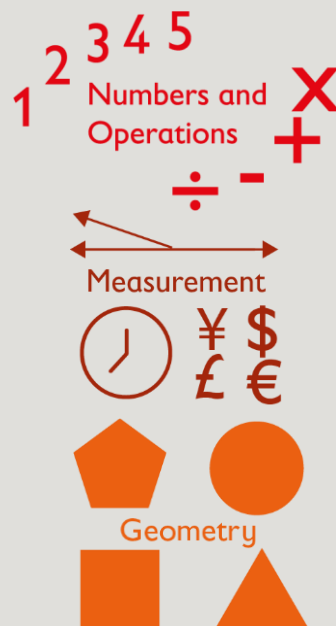
Numeracy Boost is designed to steer teachers away from 'traditional' (or theoretical) teaching methods that rely on memorisation, repetition and student workbooks. Instead, the approach emphasises learning through interactive activities and games that offer children the opportunity to explain and explore their reasoning.

While Numeracy Boost is designed to map onto the local curriculum, it does this by empowering teachers with the skills, knowledge and resources to think differently and flexibly about math concepts.

The approach also works outside the classroom through family and community engagement; Math clubs for children, math at home sessions for families and caregivers and math festivals for the entire community show that math is a part of our everyday lives, has utility and purpose and can be done by all.

Over half of the worlds
school-aged children
are not learning basic
numeracy skills

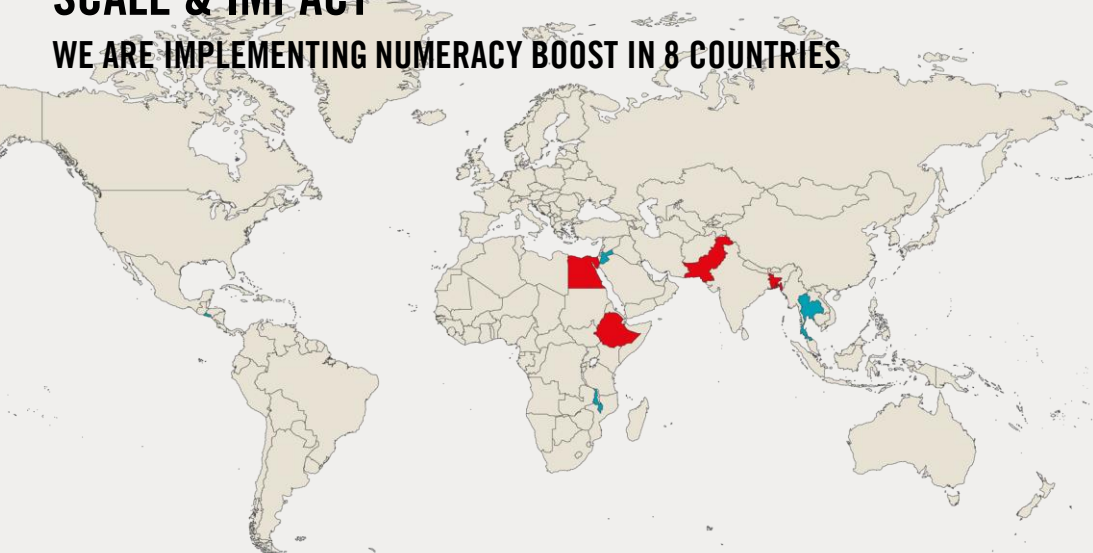
Numeracy Boost focuses on three core domains of mathematics: numbers and operations, geometry, and measurement.



- **Numbers and operations** involves understanding how to represent numbers and being able to compute operations accurately.
- **Geometry** includes the identification of shapes, their properties, understanding space and the relations of points, lines and angles.
- **Measurement** describes the ability to describe and compare measurable attributes including length, weight, time and money.

SCALE & IMPACT

WE ARE IMPLEMENTING NUMERACY BOOST IN 8 COUNTRIES



- Countries with full implementation
- Countries with partial implementation

Numeracy Boost was first piloted in Malawi and Bangladesh in 2012. Since then, it has been implemented in full by country offices in Pakistan, Ethiopia and Egypt. Offices in Jordan, Thailand and El Salvador, meanwhile, have adopted modified versions of the programme to better fit the specific needs of the local education systems.

CORE COMPONENTS

Numeracy Boost has three core components:

Student assessment

The assessment component of Numeracy Boost gauges children's knowledge and skills in each of the three core domains through various sub-tests. The assessment also includes a Home Numeracy Background section, which asks about the student's use of and exposure to math outside of school. Assessment data is also shared with local and national government to help inform advocacy and policy change.

Teacher training:

The Numeracy Boost teacher training component includes five, full-day sessions that are conducted on a monthly basis and align with the three core domains of mathematics. In these sessions, teachers work together in groups to plan lessons, reflect on their practice as teachers and share experiences. By doing so, teachers learn strategies to help their students and show how math is a useful component of everyday life.

Community action:

Community action sessions, such as Math Clubs, Math at Home and Math Festivals, provide opportunities for children and their parents to practise math skills in fun and useful ways, strengthening the link between what is taught in the classroom and what is happening at home. Furthermore, the opportunity to refine math skills in a relaxed atmosphere is helpful for children to develop the confidence that facilitates their success at school.

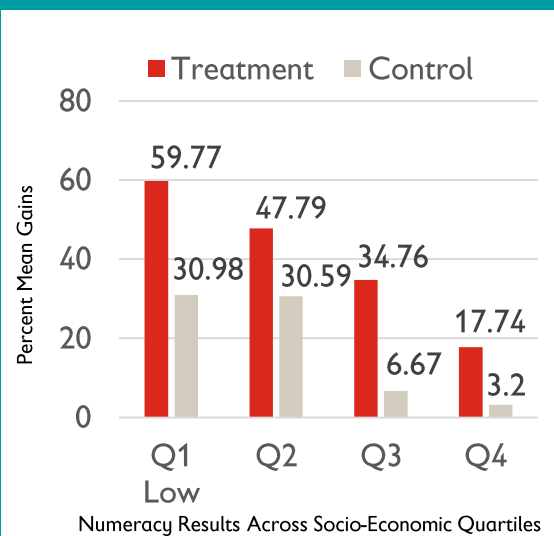
ADVOCATING FOR CHANGE

We want governments prioritise numeracy as an essential skill; to explore alternative ways of teaching numeracy and to make teacher training for early grade numeracy more practical and relevant for students.

FOCUS ON THE MOST DEPRIVED

Numeracy Boost has been proven to increase equity of learning and help create a level playing field for children from lower socio-economic backgrounds and with limited opportunities to practise numeracy skills outside of the house.

in Punjab province, Pakistan, a study showed that students participating in a Numeracy Boost intervention had stronger gains overall on the numeracy assessment as compared to control school students. However, Numeracy Boost students from the lowest socio-economic quartile had the highest gains of the intervention group.



TAKING NUMERACY BOOST TO SCALE

In October 2014, Save the Children piloted Numeracy Boost in the West Showa zone of Ethiopia. First and second grade students in 30 schools were assessed: 20 that received the Numeracy Boost intervention and 10 comparison schools.

Students in the programme showed significantly greater endline gains than their peers in comparison schools in 14 of the 17 math sub-tests. Furthermore, the program was able to reduce the equity gaps among students, reducing the number of skills in which girls lagged behind boys from 11 to 3.

The country office has since continued follow-up teacher trainings, strengthened math camps, and expanded access to supporting materials. They are now in the process of expanding Numeracy Boost to all 191 primary schools in the area.

NUMERACY BOOST IN EMERGENCIES

Although Numeracy Boost does not have explicit guidance for humanitarian contexts, the toolkits, guidance and materials can be used in any setting. Elements of Numeracy Boost have been used in emergency settings in Thailand and Jordan. In Thailand, we work through partners to support refugee education in camps along the border with Myanmar and in Jordan we operate child friendly clubs for Jordanian and Syrian children. In both cases, results have been positive.

KEY CONTACTS

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LEARN MORE ABOUT NUMERACY BOOST

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