

## OVERVIEW

During Term 1 of 2022, all Grade 7 students were surveyed by the School Support Officer at their schools regarding their family background, living conditions, and future educational plans. This survey is specifically conducted with Grade 7 students in order to better understand what factors may contribute to or diminish school success for students in their final year of primary school and determine if there are school-wide or individual needs which could be met by Impact Network in order to improve the transition of Impact Network graduates to secondary school programs.

## ABOUT THE SURVEY

A main component of the Grade 7 survey is a series of 15 questions designed to understand the daily life and general vulnerability of Grade 7 students. These questions include information regarding orphan status, illness or disability, student perceptions of family disposition towards school, engagement in child labor and a series of questions about basic health and wellbeing such as access to water, housing, medical care, and food. A higher vulnerability score indicates a higher level of vulnerability, whereas a lower vulnerability score indicates a lower level of vulnerability.

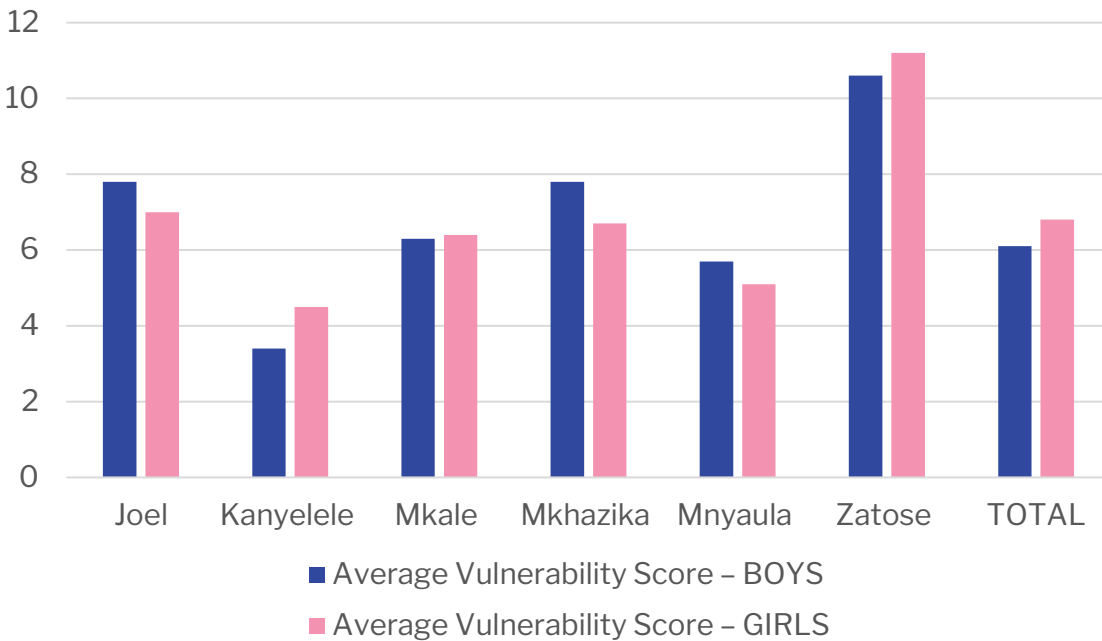
## WHAT WE LEARNED

### Vulnerability Scores

The data are summarized in Figure 1 below. The average student vulnerability score at Kaneyele Community School is the lowest (4.1), where at the score for Zatose Community School is the highest (11.1), indicated that Grade 7 students at Zatose are generally more vulnerable than their peers from Kanyebele.

A comparison of vulnerability scores between boys and girls shows a small overall increase of 0.7 points in vulnerability for girls as compared to boys. It is also important to note that while a majority of schools showed higher vulnerability for girls as compared to boys, this is not true at Mnyaula and Mkhazika, where boys vulnerability scores were higher than those for girls.

**Figure 1: Average Vulnerability Score by School and Gender**



Relatively few students were double orphaned – most schools had zero seventh graders where both parents had passed away, while Mkhazika did have 6% in this category. Overall around 13% of students were single orphans, ranging from 5% at Joel to 27% at Zatose. A full picture of vulnerabilities according to each survey item is available in Table 1.

### **Repeating Grade 7**

Ten percent of our current Grade 7 cohort are repeating Grade 7 in 2022. Most of these students are repeating due to low performance in Grade 7 during the previous year, particularly on the national exam. Two students have returned to Grade 7 because their families could not afford to send them to secondary school this year, but they wanted to continue learning.

**Table 1: Vulnerability Survey Summary by School and Question**

	Joel	Kanyecelele	Mkale	Mkhazika	Mnyaula	Zatose	TOTAL	Survey Answer Options & Scale			
Parents as Caregivers	0.05	0.3	0.11	0.47	0.12	0.45	0.22	0 = Both Parents	1 = Single Orphan	3 = Double Orphan	
Primary Caregivers/ Students Stays With	1.35	0.22	0.44	2.29	0.97	0.18	0.86	0 = Parents	1 = Aunt / Uncle / Sibling	2 = Grandparent	3 = Young Sibling (<18 yrs)
Family Attitude-Towards School	0	0	0.06	0	0.12	0.27	0.07	0 = High Support	1 = Med Support	2 = Low Support	
Family provides uniform, shoes, bag, books	0.66	0.14	0.64	0.38	0.37	1.09	0.51	0 = 4 things	1 = 2 -3 things	2 = 0 - 1 things	
Student Illness or Disability	0.11	0.16	0	0.12	0.24	0.09	0.13	0 = No	2 = Yes		
Parent Illness or Disability	0.38	0.43	0.11	0.12	0.47	0.82	0.41	0 = No	2 = Yes		
Meals per Day	0.32	0.11	0.56	0.12	0.15	0.82	0.31	0 = 3+	1 = 2 per day	2 = 1 or less	
Water Source	0	0	0.11	0	0	0.23	0.04	0 = Borehole	1 = Well	2 = Stream	
Distance to Water	1.32	0.35	0.89	0.06	0.44	1.45	0.76	0 = <5 min	1 = 5-15 min	2 = >15 min	
Home - Roof	0	0.03	0	0.06	0.03	0.23	0.05	0 = Metal	1 = Grass		
Home - Walls	1	1.03	1	1.06	1	1.18	1.04	0 = Block	1 = Brick	2 = Mud	
Home Power Source	0.81	0.32	0.28	0.65	0.29	1.5	0.61	0 = Solar	1 = Batteries	2 = Candles	3 = None
Work / Income Responsibility	0.16	0.68	0.44	0.76	0.41	0.95	0.53	0 = None	1=Sometimes	2= Regularly	
Access to Medical care	0	0.05	0.06	0.06	0.03	0.36	0.08	0 = @Clinic	1 = @Home	2= None	
Access to Clothes + Soap	1.05	0.24	1.61	0.88	0.79	1.45	0.92	0 = Always	1 = Usually	2 = Rarely	

## Post-Primary School Plans

Ninety-eight percent of Grade 7 students reported a desire to attend secondary school after successfully completing primary school. While most students reported a desire to continue with education, two students indicated plans to begin work and one indicated plans to be married after finishing primary school. While it is possible students may feel pressured to answer positively to continuing school to the School Support Officer, data from 2021's graduating class of Grade 7 students indicated that eighty percent of students enrolled in Grade 8 in Term 1 of 2022. This signals that our Grade 7 students have a high continuance rate in secondary school.

All Grade 7 students were asked about the preferred type of secondary school they would attend if cost was not a limiting factor. Twenty-three percent of students reported that they prefer to attend a secondary school near their home, and seventy-seven percent indicated they would prefer to go to a higher quality day or boarding school even if it meant being farther from home.

## WHAT IS NEXT

There were specific elements of the vulnerability scores around water source and distance that require follow-up and perhaps collaboration with the community – in particular, Zatose and Mkale were both highly ranked on vulnerability around water. Additionally, the child protection team will cross-reference these results with the active and closed child protection cases logged to further understand vulnerable students. The team will also discuss whether there should be special consideration or support for students who are repeating Grade 7 in 2022.

Additionally, the team will consider potential survey improvements, including:

- More nuanced discussion around the motivation question. Last year, we got a wider variety of answers to the motivation question, while this year nearly all the answers were the same (3 = highly motivated). Is this group of Grade 7 students much more motivated than last year's group or do we need to add more clarity to the question to get clearer answers from SSOs?
- Examination of a few questions and ratings in more detail, specifically around primary caregivers / who the student stays with and the wording of the answer choices for the first parents and caregivers question.
- Expansion of answer choices about the type of secondary school students want to attend – day, boarding, nearby, etc.

We look forward to further improving our Grade 7 students as they transition to secondary school.