



Teaching at the Right Level (TaRL) in Crisis: Learning from Somalia & Somaliland



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Objective: Showcase how the *Teaching at the Right Level (TaRL)* approach can be adapted for use in highly fragile, displacement-affected contexts to produce meaningful learning gains for out-of-school and crisis-affected children

Evidence from 18,000+ learners across formal schools and displacement settings

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Education Context: Somalia/SL



Decades of conflict, climate shocks, and displacement have left regional education systems with profound structural deficits and acute learning gaps.

1.8M+

Out-of-school primary children

1.72 Yrs

Average lifetime schooling

40%+

Grade 3 letter/number illiteracy

<8.3%

Public budget for education

The learning challenge: Many children progress through grades without mastering foundational literacy and numeracy.



Approach



Pilot / Delivery Model	Learners Reached	Literacy Outcomes	Numeracy Outcomes
Model A: Formal Primary Somaliland (65 Public Schools · 126 hrs)	5,400+ Grade 3 Learners	33.3% → 92.0% +58.7%	6.5% → 92.8% +86.3%
Model B: IDP Emergency Catch-Up Somalia (99 ABE Camps · 90 hrs)	12,703 IDP Learners	7.3% → 61.5% +54.2%	1.03% → 51.0% +50.0%

Key Finding: Comparable Outcomes for Girls and Boys

When access and level-tailored instruction are guaranteed, girls and boys achieved comparable learning gains across the TaRL interventions.



Findings and Implications



Longer Dosage & Continuous Coaching

The stronger gains in the 126-hour model point to the value of sustained exposure. Continuous in-classroom DEO coaching was critical to teacher fidelity.



Move Upstream (Grades 1 & 2)

Prevent cumulative learning deficits before they compound. Equip early-grade teachers with ASER diagnostic toolkits and micro-grouping strategies (e.g., EAGLE initiative).



Systemic Integration

Integrate TaRL into regular timetables, teacher support and national education systems—moving foundational learning from stand-alone projects towards sustained system delivery.



Contact information



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Slide Deck Supporting Document

