

## THE CHALLENGE

**758 MILLION**  
PEOPLE IN THE WORLD ARE  
ILLITERATE

**2/3**  
ARE WOMEN AND GIRLS

**250 MILLION**  
CHILDREN AREN'T  
LEARNING IN PRIMARY  
SCHOOL



## OUR RESULTS



**11.6M CHILDREN**  
**BENEFITTED**  
from Room to Read's  
programs since 2000.



**8M BOOKS**  
**CHECKED OUT**  
by children on average each  
year from our 19,800 school  
libraries.



**MORE THAN**  
**20.6M CHILDREN'S**  
**BOOKS DISTRIBUTED**  
including more than 1,300  
original Room to Read titles,  
donated English- and local-  
language books.



**MORE THAN**  
**10,000 TEACHERS**  
**TRAINED**  
on average each year in  
literacy and reading best  
practices.



**MORE THAN**  
**47,000 GIRLS**  
**SUPPORTED**  
by Room to Read's Girls'  
Education Program and  
95% of girls who remained  
in our program advanced to  
the next grade.

**Room to Read believes that World Change Starts with Educated Children.® We envision a world in which all children can pursue a quality education that enables them to reach their full potential and contribute to their community and the world.**

Room to Read seeks to transform the lives of millions of children in low-income countries by focusing on literacy and gender equality in education. Working in collaboration with local communities, partner organizations and governments, we develop literacy skills and a habit of reading among primary school children, and support girls to complete secondary school with the relevant life skills to succeed in school and beyond.

## OUR PROGRAMS

**Our Literacy Program** enables primary school children to become independent readers.

Room to Read focuses its efforts on developing reading skills and the habit of reading in primary school aged children because literacy is the foundation for all future learning. We do this primarily by establishing libraries, increasing access to age-appropriate and culturally relevant reading materials (including publishing our own original children's books), and improving the child friendliness of the school environment. We have recently increased our support for reading instruction including creating materials and providing training for teachers.

**Our Girls' Education Program** supports girls to complete secondary school with the skills necessary to negotiate key life decisions.

Room to Read focuses on girls transitioning to or in secondary school because that is where the biggest—and most permanent—gaps in gender equality in education take place. We do this primarily through supporting girls to attend school, providing female mentoring and creating more girl-friendly school environments. We have recently added more emphasis on teaching life skills to girls so they will finish school and maximize their opportunities.

## RECOGNITION

### FISCAL EXCELLENCE

Room to Read has achieved 11 4-star ratings from Charity Navigator since 2007, indicating that Room to Read outperforms most other charities in America.

### LEADER IN LITERACY

Won 2014 Library of Congress Literacy Award's David Rubenstein Prize for our outstanding commitment to literacy, and the UNESCO 2011 Confucius Prize for Literacy recognizing excellence and inspiration in the literacy field.

### SOCIAL INNOVATOR

Chosen as Twitter's first Corporate Social Innovation partner and won the Skoll Foundation's Award for Social Entrepreneurship ten times.

### HIGH-IMPACT GIVING

Recognized in Barron's magazine *25 Best Givers* list, 2009, 2010; The *Global Journal's Top 100 NGOs in the World*, 2012, 2013; and *Great Nonprofits Top Rated* list, 2013, 2014.

## WHAT DIFFERENTIATES US?



**Room to Read targets two critical milestones during a child's school years that can dramatically impact a child's life and their future generations.**

We concentrate on literacy learning during 1st and 2nd grades because we know that once a child reaches 3rd grade without basic literacy skills, it is extremely difficult

for the child to catch up. To us this means a child develops both the skills and the habit of reading which we believe together contribute to lifelong learning. We also concentrate efforts during a girl's transition into secondary school in 6th and 7th grades when she has a high risk of dropping out of school because we know that wages for girls increase by 15–25% for each additional year a girl remains in secondary school.

**We use data to evolve and improve our programs each year.** Room to Read is committed to measuring our results and reporting these results to our stakeholders as we consider transparency central to our success. This includes developing rigorous methods for determining results through regular data collection against key indicators at more than 3,500 sites annually.

**We create long-term systemic change.** We hire locally and work closely with our government partners to scale our programs and ultimately impact and benefit more children.

## PRESS

Room to Read has received significant global media coverage, including:

- ABC • BBC • BuzzFeed • CBS • CNN •
- Financial Times • The New York Times •
- Newsweek • Radio National • Vogue •
- The Wall Street Journal

## PARTNERS

Room to Read receives support from leading global companies and foundations, including:

- Artha Capital • Atlassian • Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation • Burger King McLamore Foundation • Centre for Micro Finance • Citi • Credit Suisse • Echidna Giving • Goldman Sachs • Happy Hearts Fund • Ikea Foundation • IMC • Tatcha • U.S. Department of Agriculture & Catholic Relief Services

## OUR REACH

Room to Read has benefited 11.6 million children around the world.



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