THE CHALLENGE

750 MILLION
PEOPLE IN THE WORLD ARE ILLITERATE

2/3
ARE WOMEN AND GIRLS

262 MILLION
CHILDREN AREN’T LEARNING IN PRIMARY SCHOOL

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 prepares them to be fulfilled and make positive change — in their families, communities and the world.

Room to Read is transforming the lives of millions of children in low-income communities by developing their literacy skills and habit of reading, and by supporting girls to build skills to succeed in secondary school and negotiate key life decisions. Because our programs can be replicated, localized and sustained by governments, we are able to create change at a systems level.

OUR PROGRAMS

Our Literacy Program creates independent readers and lifelong learners.

Our Literacy Program trains and coaches teachers, creates quality books and curricular materials, and establishes libraries filled with diverse children’s books in local languages that can be enjoyed at school or home. We partner with local communities, governments and the publishing industry to test and implement innovative models that help children succeed in school and develop a love of reading.

Our Girls’ Education Program ensures that girls build the skills to succeed in school and make key life decisions.

We prepare girls to make positive change by providing life skills curriculum, opportunities for mentorship and peer support, and family and community engagement. Our program goes further by supporting young people of all genders to build knowledge and skills with which they can create a gender-equal world. We help governments deliver similar programs through their own education systems.

OUR RESULTS

23.8M+ CHILDREN BENEFITED
by Room to Read’s work since 2000.

32M+ CHILDREN’S BOOKS DISTRIBUTED
including more than 1,800 titles published by Room to Read, and donated English- and local-language books.

2.8M+ GIRLS SUPPORTED
by Room to Read’s Girls’ Education Program. Our participants have a 97% advancement rate.

11,400+ GRADUATES
from Room to Read’s Girls’ Education Program, with 81% going on to tertiary education or employment.
WHAT DIFFERENTIATES US

We combine the science of learning to read with the magic of loving to read.

We sustain students’ reading skills development by providing child-friendly libraries and quality children’s books. We are developing a generation of independent readers and learners who are breaking the cycle of illiteracy within their own families.

Through our Girls’ Education Program, we equip girls with the tools to self-advocate and chart a path that they choose for themselves. We involve diverse stakeholders to support the creation of a gender-equal world.

By investing in research, monitoring and evaluation, we improve learning outcomes for direct beneficiaries and generate evidence on what works to share with governments, investors and the broader development community.

We design, implement and institutionalize effective and efficient models for achieving quality learning outcomes related to literacy and gender equality. We operate at the nexus of long-term school-level implementation and positive, trusted relationships with government. This experience positions us as a thought leader in literacy and gender equality, capable of galvanizing support and action of government partners for system-level change.

We work across the private and public sectors around the world to build a network of influencers, literacy and gender-equality advocates, investors, staff and volunteers. This network of individuals and organizations is committed to our mission and to expanding our impact. They are our greatest asset.

OUR REACH

Room to Read has benefited more than 23.8 million children in 20 countries around the world.