Room to Read believes that World Change Starts with Educated Children.® We envision a world where every child can reach his or her full potential thanks to education and be an active participant in society.

Room to Read transforms the lives of millions of children in low-income communities by focusing on literacy and gender equality in education. We work in collaboration with local communities, partner organizations and governments to develop literacy skills and a habit of reading among primary school children and ensure girls can complete secondary school with the skills necessary to negotiate key life decisions.

Our RESULTS

16.8M CHILDREN BENEFITED from Room to Read’s work since 2000.

MORE THAN 26M CHILDREN’S BOOKS DISTRIBUTED including more than 1,750 titles published by Room to Read, and donated English- and local-language books.

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

MORE THAN 95,000 GIRLS SUPPORTED by Room to Read’s Girls’ Education Program. Our participants have a 95% advancement rate.

MORE THAN 6,200 GRADUATES from Room to Read’s Girls’ Education Program, with 70% going on to tertiary education or employment.

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

OUR PROGRAMS

Our Literacy Program is designed to help every child become an independent reader.

We transform primary schools into child-friendly learning environments that enable children to become lifelong, independent readers. Our program ensures schools have libraries filled with books in the children’s local languages, as well as teachers and librarians who are trained on how to engage a classroom of eager, young learners. We build strong relationships with families, communities and governments to ensure local buy-in for the transformation of learning environments and their long-term success.

Our Girls’ Education Program ensures that girls complete secondary school and have the skills to negotiate key life decisions.

We offer girls life skills training, mentoring and need-based material support while also increasing advocacy for girls’ education among their parents, school staff and communities. We take a long-term, holistic approach by going beyond academics to build the skills that girls need to make informed life decisions. Essential to our program are our social mobilizers, local women who are hired as mentors and work to ensure that girls stay in school, participate in life skills activities and navigate the challenges of adolescence with the ability to make their own life choices.
WHAT DIFFERENTIATES US?

We design, implement and institutionalize effective and efficient models for achieving quality learning outcomes related to literacy and gender equality. We do so in a manner that governments and other NGOs can adopt, integrate and scale-up “best-in-class” approaches within education systems in the interest of underserved communities around the world.

We combine the science of learning to read with the magic of loving to read, developing a generation of independent readers who are breaking the cycle of illiteracy within their own families through our Literacy Program.

Through our Girls’ Education Program, we give girls the tools to self-advocate and find power in their voices to chart a path that they choose for themselves, rather than the one forced upon them.

Room to Read’s innovative model focuses on deep, systemic transformation within schools during the two most critical time periods in a child’s schooling: early primary school for literacy acquisition and secondary school for girls’ education.