



# Room to Read Fact Sheet

## THE CHALLENGE

**773 million**

adults still lack basic reading and writing skills

**129 million**

girls are out of school

**58 million**

children of primary school age remain out of school



## OUR RESULTS

**32M children benefited**

since 2000.

**34M books distributed**

across 21 countries, including more than 4,800 original and adapted children's titles published by Room to Read.

**3.2M+ girls supported**

through our Girls' Education Program, which has a 95% advancement rate.

**13,000+ graduates**

from our Girls' Education Program, with more than 70% going on to tertiary education or employment in 2020.

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 historically low-income communities by developing their literacy skills and habit of reading, and by supporting girls in building the skills they need to succeed in secondary school and negotiate key life decisions. Because our programs can be replicated, localized and sustained by local governments, we are able to create change at a systems level.

**OUR LITERACY PROGRAM** transforms primary schools to enable children to become 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** helps 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 supports 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.

## INVEST WITH CONFIDENCE

### Fiscal Excellence

Received Charity Navigator's highest four-star rating for sound fiscal management 15 times since 2005.

### Leader in Literacy

Received the 2014 U.S. Library of Congress Literacy Award, the 2011 UNESCO Confucius Prize for Literacy and recognized as a 2014 World's Children's Prize Honorary Laureate.

Received the 2020 David M. Rubenstein Special Response Award of the Library of Congress Literacy Awards Program for responsiveness and outstanding work in addressing challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Social Innovator

Chosen as Twitter's first Corporate Social Innovation partner and three-time winner of the Skoll Foundation's Award for Social Entrepreneurship.

### High-Impact Giving

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

## PRESS

Room to Read has received significant global media coverage including:

ABC • BBC • Bloomberg • CBS • CNBC • CNN  
Financial Times • Forbes • Glamour  
The Guardian • Ms. Magazine • NPR  
The New York Times • Newsweek • People  
The Today Show • UN Chronicle • Vogue  
The Wall Street Journal • USA Today • Wired

## PARTNERS

Room to Read receives support from leading global organizations including:

Ananta Foundation • The Atlassian Foundation  
Bajaj Auto • Bank of America — BA Continuum  
India • The Bertin Family Foundation • BNP  
Paribas • Cartier Philanthropy • CitiFX  
Credit Suisse • Dubai Cares • Echidna Giving  
Goldman Sachs Gives • Google.org • IKEA  
Foundation • IMC • Tatcha • Townsend Press  
UNICEF • USAID • World Food Programme

## OUR DIFFERENCE



**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 to build a global 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 reach. They are our greatest asset.

## OUR REACH

Room to Read has benefited more than 32 million children in more than 49,000 partner communities around the world.



**Have questions?**  
Contact us online at  
[info@roomtoread.org](mailto:info@roomtoread.org)

**Room to Read Global Offices:**  
Dhaka • Delhi • Ho Chi Minh City • Hong Kong • Kathmandu  
London • Mumbai • Nairobi • New York City • Pretoria • San  
Francisco • Singapore • Sydney • Tokyo • Washington, DC • Zurich