With more than 1.5 billion children and youth out of school due to COVID-19, representing 87% of all students around the world, the need for education has never been more urgent. In all 16 countries where Room to Read operates our programs, there have been national or localized school closures. According to the most recent data published by UNESCO, 165 countries have closed primary and secondary schools nationwide.

Education is a fundamental human right and during this time of crisis, we must protect our students’ right to learn. Only through education can people build the skills and resources they need to best respond to crises like the one our global community is currently facing. Parbati, one of our Girls’ Education Program participants in Nepal, communicated this sentiment best when she said, “Education is the only thing that cannot be taken away. It is the key to fulfilling my dreams.” Room to Read’s programs, contextualized for the current situation, are needed now more than ever and we are committed to ensuring that this crisis does not result in a generation of children who are left behind.

When any disaster strikes, children in low-income communities are particularly vulnerable and often excluded from recovery and relief efforts. Many also predict that women and girls will be especially adversely affected by this pandemic, as childcare and healthcare responsibilities fall disproportionately to them. Also, when family budgets tighten, girls are often pulled out of school.

We are not giving up on our students and are working towards our mission with even more enthusiasm. We understand that there will be both immediate and long-term negative impacts as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Room to Read is working tirelessly with governments and other partners to understand the greatest needs and develop a strategic response to this crisis. Our organizational expertise will be invaluable as the situation continues to evolve.

Your generous donations help us to directly serve millions of children with crucial educational resources. **Please join us in supporting children around the world during this time of upheaval by making an unrestricted investment.**
FUNDING OUR GREATEST NEEDS

In times of unparalleled global crisis, we are trying to adapt quickly to ensure that children do not lose precious time in their educational journey. Giving unrestricted funds allows Room to Read the maximum flexibility to work swiftly to develop program adaptations that will be immediately impactful.

In the past, these funds have been used to replace books and program materials lost to natural disasters, like floods in Cambodia and earthquakes in Nepal, and invested in work around delays and travel barriers, such as those caused by political unrest in Bangladesh. Without this additional support, communities in these countries could not have replaced much needed educational resources or built and repaired libraries and classrooms, halting their children’s important educational progress.

Unrestricted funds also give us the ability to ensure we can still cover the costs of essential operations, that may not be immediately apparent but that become even more crucial during emergencies, including:

- Supporting our technological infrastructure that allows us to work remotely and continue to support our programs across the globe.
- Ensuring our financial integrity and transparency by continuing to deliver financial audits in times of office closures.
- Providing human resources support to our global teams.

Unrestricted funds make it possible for great organizations to weather crises without losing momentum. Your support would allow Room to Read to focus on delivering maximum impact with the greatest efficiencies. Investing in Room to Read through an unrestricted gift reflects maximum trust in the organization’s ability to make effective and impactful decisions.

Have questions?
Contact us online at info@roomtoread.org

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