



When Education Endures, Resilience Rises

Supporting Education During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Donate Now to our Education Resilience Fund to Support Children through the Education Crisis

A devastating surge in COVID-19 cases has placed so many things beyond our control in many parts of the world. **Education doesn't need to be one of them.**

In fact, learning has become a vital source of comfort, stability and hope for parents and their children as a catastrophic wave of COVID-19 spreads across India and South Asia. When schools initially shut down last year, Room to Read ensured that **education endured**, proving that our reach could expand, even as children's educational options contracted. *We benefited a record 4.9 million children – a 94% increase in the number of young people reached in a single year, thanks to the support of our dedicated global community.*

We built programs that can make a difference right now. As the pandemic worsens in some parts of the world, the knowledge and insights we gained last year are proving incredibly valuable as we continue to provide the lifeline of remote learning. Our 600+ staff on the ground in India, for example, are supporting young people and their families as they cope with COVID-19 cases and the loss of loved ones. Across all the countries we work in, our community mentors are conducting extensive outreach to adolescent girls to help them use their life skills to navigate mounting challenges. Qualities like communication, perseverance and resilience, which we foster through our life skills education, play a pivotal role in providing girls and their families with much-needed equilibrium and stability during this turbulent period.

Resources such as our at-home literacy kit, parent handbook, read-aloud videos, radio and TV programming and interactive voice response storytelling are helping children to continue learning at home; Room to Read children's books also foster social-emotional learning, enabling young people to develop knowledge and skills that help them navigate through uncertainty and loss.



We have the tools and the expertise to support children through this incredibly challenging time, but **we need your support to reach the children who are suffering the most.** That is why we established our **Education Resilience Fund**, to ensure we have the resources we need to continue this critical work. [Please consider investing in the fund](#) to help us meet our greatest needs and support the children who are relying on education to help them get through this challenging time. Your gift will be used where and when it is needed most, to ensure learning continues for children around the globe.

Please visit roomtoread.org to help us build resilience for children in the most vulnerable communities.



What's at Stake for Children

We know what's at stake if we do not act. Without your support for our critical education programs, children face a range of short- and long-term consequences. **Even temporary disruptions in a child's schooling can have a dire impact.** In the short term, this can mean succumbing to child labor to help support household expenses; facing pressures to drop out permanently and marry early; and even an [increased risk of experiencing domestic violence and neglect](#). One of the most startling [reports](#) on the impact of the pandemic on children estimates "over the next decade, up to 10 million more girls will be at risk of becoming child brides." All children are at risk of not

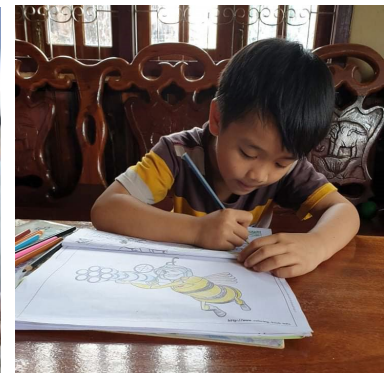
catching up or dropping out entirely, especially those [463 million](#) – or 31 percent – of students worldwide who have not been reached by remote learning programs.

As learning losses continue to grow, the World Bank estimates that an additional 72 million primary school children will experience learning poverty — meaning that they will be unable to read and understand a simple text by age 10. **This is incredibly challenging to recover from as literacy is the foundation of all future learning. These children will be more likely to drop out of school permanently and have lower earning potential than their peers, ultimately leading to increased poverty rates.** [One simulation projects](#) that children experiencing disruptions to their education could stand to lose \$10 trillion in earnings over the course of their lifetime.

The pandemic has exacerbated existing inequalities and the long road to recovery from this education crisis will see the learning gap widen even more if we do not intervene. In the first nine months of the pandemic alone, children in the poorest countries experienced learning losses equivalent to [nearly four months of schooling](#), compared to only six weeks in high-income countries. The learning losses incurred during this pandemic will not be easily recovered, and it will be even more challenging for students in the communities Room to Read serves than for their peers in middle- and high-income communities. Without interventions like ours, children face an uphill battle to return to and stay in school, avoid early marriage and child labor, and achieve better outcomes for themselves, their families and their communities.

How You Can Help

Last year, we asked our community to join us in ensuring that education would endure and endure it did for an **unprecedented 4.9 million children**. Now we ask you to recommit with us as we use our innovative education "muscles" developed in 2020 to make an even heavier lift and support children and families as they manage through loss on a massive scale. Together, we will push forward on our mission to help children learn, grow and connect because when education endures, resilience rises.



Please visit roomtoread.org to help us build resilience for children in the most vulnerable communities.