



# Room to Read Fact Sheet

**Room to Read believes that World Change Starts with Educated Children.® We envision a world where all children have room to read, learn and grow and can use their skills to accelerate positive change.**

Through education, Room to Read is transforming the lives of millions of children to create a world free from illiteracy and gender inequality. We support children in communities experiencing deep educational, gender and economic inequities. As the future of the world's children stands at a tipping point, Room to Read has prepared a way forward to make sure education endures, even in the face of overwhelming crisis and injustice.

## THE CHALLENGE

- 250 million children are not in school.
- 2/3 of adults who cannot read are women.
- 7 in 10 10-year-olds in low- and middle-income countries cannot read and understand a simple text.



### 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 support girls as they develop their power as positive change agents by providing critical knowledge, life skills classes, mentorship, 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.



## OUR RESULTS

**39M+**

children across 23  
countries benefited  
since 2000.

**39.4M**

books distributed, including  
more than 4,400 original  
and adapted children's titles  
published by Room to Read in  
52 local languages.

**277,000**

teachers and librarians trained  
in 2022, more than any previous  
year to date.

**3.4M**

girls supported through  
our Girls' Education  
Program, which has a 97%  
advancement rate.

World Change Starts  
with Educated Children.®  
[www.roomtoread.org](http://www.roomtoread.org)



## OUR REACH

Room to Read has benefited more than 39 million children and has worked in 23 countries around the world to help young learners unlock their full potential through education.

## OUR DIFFERENCE

**Holistic approach to education** — Our Literacy Program combines the science of learning to read with the magic of loving to read to help children become independent readers and lifelong learners. Our Girls' Education Program focuses not only on academics, but also on family and community engagement and the development of life skills girls need for success in school and beyond.

**Proven effectiveness** — Children in Room to Read's Literacy Program read two to three times faster and with greater comprehension than children in comparison schools. A survey of Girls' Education Program alumnae found that 83 percent were employed or in tertiary education five years after graduation.

**Local leadership and implementation** — Eighty-seven percent of our staff are employed in our program countries. We hire local leaders and educators to operate our programs in the communities where we work, supporting students and partner schools directly through hands-on coaching and mentoring and locally contextualized instruction and learning materials.

**Accelerating momentum** — By 2024, Room to Read will have benefited the same number of children in four years as we did during our first 20 because of our ability to scale.

**System-level reform** — We seek to facilitate system reform in each country we work in, partnering with governments, NGOs, public school systems and publishing partners for change at scale. Room to Read is often the only NGO invited by governments to join advisory committees to inform nationwide curriculum development, gender-aware approaches and programs, and school library standards.

## INVEST WITH CONFIDENCE

### Fiscal Excellence

For every US \$1 donated to Room to Read, 86 cents goes to our programs. We've earned Charity Navigator's highest four-star rating 16 times, an achievement that less than 1 percent of charities can claim.

### Educational Leadership

- UNESCO Prize for Girls' and Women's Education
- UNESCO Confucius Prize for Literacy
- HundrED Global Collection recipient — ranked #1 for impact and scalability out of more than 3,400 education-focused organizations
- World's Children's Prize Honorary Laureate
- U.S. Library of Congress Literacy Awards, Rubenstein Prize and Special Response Award for outstanding work addressing pandemic-related challenges

## PRESS

**Room to Read has received significant global media coverage including:** ABC • Al Jazeera • BBC • Bloomberg • CBS • CNBC • CNN • Financial Times • Forbes • Glamour • The Guardian • NPR • The New York Times • New Statesman • People • South China Morning Post • The Sydney Morning Herald • The Times of India • Today • UN Chronicle • Vogue • The Wall Street Journal • Wired

### Questions?

Contact us at [info@roomtoread.org](mailto:info@roomtoread.org)

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