



# Room to Read Quick Fact Sheet

## The Challenge

### 774 MILLION PEOPLE

in the world are illiterate about 16% of the world's adults. Of the illiterate, 2/3 are women and 250 million are children.

### 61 MILLION PRIMARY SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN

are out of school. The majority live in Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.

### 5.4 MILLION TEACHERS

are needed to achieve universal primary education by 2015, more than 1/3 of them in sub-Saharan Africa.

### 97 COUNTRIES

have not achieved gender parity at the secondary school level.

## Our Results

### NEARLY 9 MILLION CHILDREN

have been provided better access to education through Room to Read since 2000.

### OVER 1,600 SCHOOLS & 16,000 LIBRARIES

have been established by Room to Read.

### 1,000 CHILDREN'S BOOKS IN 27 LOCAL LANGUAGES

have been published, representing more than 8.6 million books.

### MORE THAN 13 MILLION CHILDREN'S BOOKS

have been distributed, including original Room to Read titles, donated English- and local-language books.

### MORE THAN 25,000 GIRLS

have been supported by Room to Read's Girls' Education program.

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 enables them to reach their full potential and contribute to their community and the world.

Room to Read seeks to transform the lives of millions of children in Africa and Asia by focusing on literacy and gender equality in education. Working in collaboration with local communities, partner organizations and governments, we develop literacy skills and a habit of reading among primary school children, and support girls to complete secondary school with the relevant life skills to succeed in school and beyond.



## Our Programs

### Our Literacy program enables primary school children to become independent readers.

Room to Read focuses its efforts on developing reading skills and the habit of reading in primary school-aged children because literacy is the foundation for all future learning. We do this by establishing school libraries, publishing original children's books in local languages, constructing child-friendly classrooms and supporting educators with training and resources to teach reading, writing and active listening more effectively.

### Our Girls' Education program supports girls to complete secondary school with the skills necessary to negotiate key life decisions.

Room to Read focuses on girls transitioning to secondary school because that is where the biggest—and most permanent—gaps in gender equality in education take place. We do this by creating more girl-friendly school environments, financially supporting girls to attend and remain in school through graduation, and providing female mentorship and life skills training to assist girls in making informed life decisions.

For more information, email Room to Read at [australia@roomtoread.org](mailto:australia@roomtoread.org) or visit us at [roomtoread.org/australia](http://roomtoread.org/australia). Follow us on Twitter ([twitter.com/RoomtoRead\\_Oz](https://twitter.com/RoomtoRead_Oz)) or on Facebook ([facebook.com/roomtoreadaustralia](https://facebook.com/roomtoreadaustralia)).

## Recognition

### HIGH-IMPACT GIVING

Recognized in *Barron's* magazine "25 Best Givers" list (2009, 2010), and *The Global Journal's* "Top 100 NGOs in the World" (2012, 2013), and *Great Nonprofits'* "Top Rated" list (2013).

### FISCAL EXCELLENCE

Awarded Charity Navigator's highest 4-star rating for sound fiscal management for eight years in a row—a recognition that only 1 percent of their rated charities can claim.

### UNESCO RECOGNITION

Won the UNESCO 2011 Confucius Prize for Literacy recognizing excellence and inspiration in the literacy field.

### SOCIAL INNOVATOR

Chosen as Twitter's first Corporate Social Innovation partner and won the Skoll Foundation's Award for Social Entrepreneurship 3 times.



## Our Model

**Invest locally.** We hire and empower local teams to run our in-country operations, and we partner with local communities and challenge them to co-invest in each project. This ensures their active participation and sense of ownership.

**Build community capacity.** We ensure we are always contributing to growing the capacity of the local community. For example, in our book publishing program, we hold workshops with local authors and illustrators to empower a growing pool of local talent.

**Improve program quality.** We continuously track our programs through ongoing research, monitoring and evaluation. For example, during the first three years after a library is established, site visits

are conducted every three months to assess progress; offer needed training; and provide additional books and educational materials.

**Manage efficiently and effectively.** We ensure maximum investment in our programs. For every \$1 Room to Read receives, 84 cents goes directly to programs. We also maintain a diversified donor base with 51 percent of our funding coming from outside North America.

**Create a global movement.** We have over 50 chapters in 16 countries and over 11,000 volunteers that network, plan events, and raise awareness for Room to Read. Our chapters collectively raise approximately 30 percent of our annual operating budget.

## Press

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.



THE HUFFINGTON POST

The New York Times



Newsweek

## Top Global Corporate Funders



Bloomberg CATERPILLAR®



## Our Reach

Room to Read currently operates in 10 countries throughout Asia and Africa.

