

Literacy

Improving learning outcomes in the early grades

Over the past 5 years, FHI 360 has implemented literacy programs in over **10** countries, including Ghana, Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Malawi, Rwanda, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Kosovo, South Sudan and Peru.

FHI 360's programs incorporate the 6 T's and the 5 Components of literacy instruction into teacher training, teacher support mechanisms and reading materials.

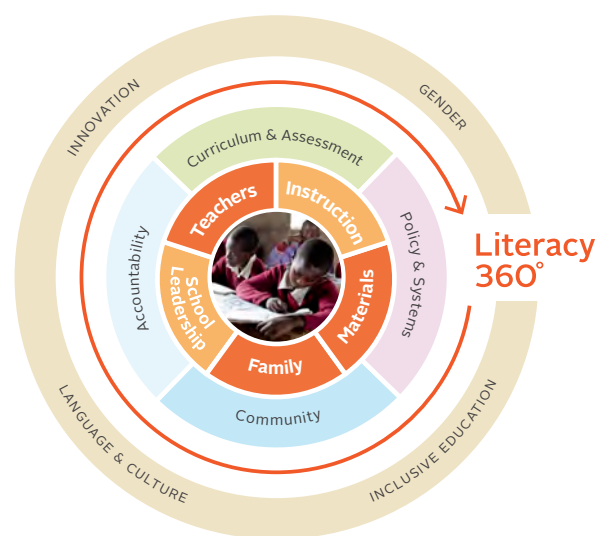
6 T's 5 Components

Text	Phonemic awareness
Teaching	Phonics
Tongue	Vocabulary
Test	Fluency
Time	Comprehension
Talk	



The early years of primary school are critical for learning development. In our literacy work, we seek to maximize learning outcomes in the early grades through evidence-based instruction, materials and assessment. Our programs are built around the “6 T's” and “5 Components” of reading instruction. These elements are delivered through explicit and systematic instruction and supported by relevant materials, meaningful student practice, school leadership and continuous assessment.

FHI 360 recognizes that factors reaching beyond the school—including family, communities, gender norms, policy and curricula—also shape literacy outcomes. Our understanding of the complex factors that affect literacy is depicted in the Literacy 360 graphic. Across our literacy work, we strive to account for these factors, understanding that they significantly impact learning outcomes and sustainability.



FAST FACTS

- In 2016 alone, FHI 360's literacy programs worked in **12** different languages, which included developing decodable texts, leveled texts, read aloud books, teacher guides and pupil workbooks.
- FHI 360 provides extensive coaching and training. We trained **38,000** teachers in 2016.

About FHI 360: FHI 360 is a nonprofit human development organization dedicated to improving lives in lasting ways by advancing integrated, locally driven solutions. Our staff includes experts in health, education, nutrition, environment, economic development, civil society, gender, youth, research, technology, communication and social marketing—creating a unique mix of capabilities to address today's interrelated development challenges. FHI 360 serves more than 70 countries and all U.S. states and territories.

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GLOBAL EXPERIENCE

MOTHER TONGUE READING:

To help children in Grades 1-4 in the **DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO** learn to read in a familiar language, FHI 360 is developing teaching and learning materials in three local languages—Lingala, Ciluba, and Swahili—in addition to French. We are also developing Accelerated Learning Program (ALP) materials in these same languages. These materials support the USAID/DFID *Accelerating Equitable Access to School, Reading, Student Retention, and Accountability (ACCELERE!)* project. Across formal and non-formal contexts, ACCELERE! is working with more than 2,000 teachers, 700 schools and centers and over 150,000 students.

COACHING:

Through the USAID-funded **GHANA Partnership for Education: Learning** project, FHI 360 is working with 100 of Ghana's 214 districts to improve early grade reading instruction in 11 Ghanaian languages. In order to prepare education officials in all of these districts, Learning is developing an e-course to train education officials and literacy district specialists in the principles of reading instruction and teacher support. After completing the e-course and complementary in-service reading training, these officials will support head teachers and school curriculum leads to provide coaching to teachers and conduct school-based in-service meetings to help teachers learn to implement the new materials. Learning is working with more than 22,000 teachers from over 6,700 schools to improve reading outcomes for over 1.1 million students.

EARLY GRADE MATH:

In the fragile area of northern **NIGERIA**, FHI 360 is using a literacy approach to teach numeracy to 50,000 students across 199 schools. With the help of local writers and math experts, the DfID/UNICEF *Reading and Numeracy Activity (RANA)* has created over 50 read aloud stories with math themes. Each story is accompanied by vocabulary words, comprehension questions and corresponding math activities. These activities provide practical reinforcement of the themes introduced in the story and are directly aligned with the Nigerian math curriculum.

ICT FOR EDUCATION:

In **RWANDA**, FHI 360 is using ICTs to promote peer learning and resource sharing among mentors, teachers, students and communities. In its initial phase, the USAID-funded *Mentorship Community of Practice (MCOP)* project provided English and pedagogical support to teachers through a school-based mentoring (SMB) initiative that used an online portal, social media and a mobile channel to help 1,000 mentors in primary and basic education schools support one another. Following strong results in its initial phase, MCOP was extended to work with 75 teachers identified through the SBM initiative and to focus on early grade reading. Known as the *Teacher Community of Practice (TCOP)*, the new initiative's accomplishments include launching an online Community of Practice, bolstering the e-library with additional literacy resources and launching an online accredited course, *Foundations of Early Grade Reading*.

For more information, please contact globallearning@fhi360.org.