

Literacy

Improving learning outcomes in the early grades



Over the past 5 years, FHI 360 has implemented literacy programs in over **12 countries** including Ghana, Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Madagascar, Haiti, 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 Ts” 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 2017 alone, FHI 360 literacy programs have:

- ◆ Provided more than **48,500 teachers** with training and coaching support.
- ◆ Reached approximately **1.4 million students** with quality literacy instruction in formal and non-formal classroom settings.
- ◆ Worked in **19 different languages**, developing decodable texts, leveled texts, read-aloud books, teacher guides, pupil workbooks, and digital content.

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:

In the **DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO**, FHI 360 is developing teaching and learning materials in three local languages—Lingala, Ciluba, and Swahili—in addition to French for formal primary schools, and non-formal Accelerated Learning Programs, reaching more than 17,00 teachers and 730,000 students. In 2017, the USAID *Partnership for Education: Learning in GHANA* developed a comprehensive, year-long literacy program in each of 11 national languages of Ghana. The project used an innovative method of language integration and technology to aid in quality control while over 100 individuals (local and international educators, linguists, and literacy experts) developed teacher guides featuring two 30 minute lessons each day, pupil textbooks, pupil take home books, and supplementary learning materials.

COACHING:

In the DFID/UNICEF-funded *Reading and Numeracy Activity (RANA)* in **NIGERIA**, FHI 360 trained 60 coaches to monitor lesson fidelity and student engagement, and provide pedagogical support to early grade teachers in 200 schools. Coaches use a tablet-based tool to collect data, generate an instant report including instructional tips and discussion prompts, and to report up-to-date information to project staff. In **RWANDA**, the USAID-funded *Mentorship Community of Practice (MCOP)* project uses an online platform to support 1,000 school-based mentors through an online community of practice to exchange ideas, seek support, and access resources via online forums and "meet the expert" sessions. Through the USAID *Partnership for Education: Learning in GHANA*, FHI 360 provides an ecosystem of professional development support for teachers, including district officials trained as expert resources in literacy, school-based pedagogical coaches, and structured guides for school-level teacher peer-to-peer learning.

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-funded *Reading and Numeracy Activity (RANA)* created over 50 read-aloud stories with math themes. Each story is accompanied by vocabulary words, comprehension questions, and math activities that reinforce the themes introduced in the story and directly align with the Nigerian math curriculum. This approach led to a 21 percent gain in solving word problems, an 18 percent gain in missing number identification, and almost a 9 percent increase in listening comprehension scores.

ICT FOR EDUCATION:

FHI 360 has developed e-courses to build skills and promote peer learning among teachers and coaches, reaching more than 1,500 participants to date. In **GHANA**, the USAID *Partnership for Education: Learning* partnered with teacher training colleges and Ministry representatives to create and deliver interactive tablet-based online courses to build participants' skills in literacy development, instruction, assessment, and instructional leadership. In **RWANDA** in 2017, the USAID-funded *Mentorship Community of Practice (MCOP)* project worked with the Rwanda Education Board (REB) and the University of Rwanda College of Education (URCE) to launch an accredited e-course in early grade reading in Kinyarwanda. One hundred and forty-eight of 150 lower primary teachers successfully completed the course, which REB and URCE adopted as a key part of the national teacher professional development program.

For more information, please contact globallearning@fhi360.org