

ALL CHILDREN READING:

A GRAND CHALLENGE FOR DEVELOPMENT



A Global Competition for Innovative Solutions to Advance Reading and Literacy

Reading is the single most critical skill in early education. It is the foundation for all future learning. People who read enjoy better health, make more money, create safer and more stable democracies, and serve their communities more effectively. Reading enables life: A child born to a mother who can read is 50 percent more likely to survive past the age of five.

Yet today, one in four adults around the world cannot read.

Learning to read at an early age is crucial. Analytical, problem-solving, and critical-thinking skills develop in primary school. If all students in low-income countries left primary school with basic reading skills, 171 million people could be lifted out of poverty—the equivalent of a 12% drop in world poverty. In many developing nations, unacceptable numbers of children remain functionally illiterate after several years of formal education. Unless primary schools can build reading skills, increased enrollment will have little impact.

USAID, in collaboration with World Vision, is searching for new, effective innovations that change the game, and substantially improve reading and literacy in primary grades. To this effect, we are launching **All Children Reading: A Grand Challenge for Development** on November 18, 2011, in Washington, D.C.

The first major component of **All Children Reading: A Grand Challenge for Development** is the *All Children Reading Fund*. Through this fund, we are inviting businesses, social enterprises, entrepreneurs, non-profits, academic institutions, and other organizations from around the world to submit innovative ideas, practices, products, or programs for improving student reading in primary grades. Winning submissions will be granted resources from the combined funds of USAID and World Vision. Submissions will be evaluated by their ability to offer scalable, cost-effective innovations to improve student reading by:

- Improving the design, production, distribution and use of high-quality, appropriate teaching and learning materials; and/or
- Improving the quality and increasing the accessibility of education data and information to support decision-making, incentives, transparency, and accountability.

The second major component under All Children Reading: A Grand Challenge for Development, running concurrent with the *All Children Reading Fund*, is the *Mobiles for Reading and mEducation Alliance* initiatives. The *mEducation Alliance* is a coordinating body of organizations who are interested and working on Mobile devices for education in developing countries. A new catalytic initiative, **The Mobiles for Reading Working Group** will bring together individuals and organizations specifically interested in the use of mobile technology to promote progress in early grade reading. We expect these will promote face-to-face and virtual information exchange among interested stakeholders and support research and evaluation.

Without literacy, the development of our global economy will stagnate and children will miss opportunities they deserve. We cannot afford to wait, and we need your help. One of the fundamental precepts of **All Children Reading: A Grand Challenge for Development** is that only through concerted action by many people, businesses and organizations will we solve these problems. Please visit www.allchildrenreading.net to find out more about the **All Children Reading Grand Challenge for Development** and how you can support literacy.