



USAID/Zambia EDUCATION

USAID LET'S READ

The USAID Let's Read Project works with the Zambia Ministry of General Education (MOGE) to improve reading outcomes for approximately 1.4 million children in pre-primary (kindergarten) through Grade 3 in public and community schools. The ultimate goal of the project is to ensure that students read with comprehension and fluency in one of Zambia's seven official local languages of instruction. USAID Let's Read is implemented in over half of all public primary and community schools in Zambia.

- **Life of Project:** January 2019 – January 2024
- **Geographic Focus:** Eastern, Muchinga, North-Western, Southern, and Western Provinces
- **Implementing Partners:** Education Development Center (Prime) and VVOB, Kentalis International and Resonance (Sub-contractors)
- **Chief of Party:** Denise Reeves-Clarke
- **Total USAID Funding:** \$49 million
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Learning to read in the early grades is the foundation for learning in all subjects. The MOGE recognizes that improving the overall quality of primary education requires improving basic reading skills in early grades. Over the past decade, reading assessments for early grades consistently show that over 70 percent of children are unable to read or write at the end of their second year of learning (2014 Early Grade Reading Assessment).

In 2014, the MOGE rolled out the Primary Literacy Curriculum, which recognizes that the most effective way to teach reading in the early grades is through evidence-based instruction through phonics, in a language that children speak and understand. The curriculum aims to improve learner performance by helping children build early literacy skills so that they are able to read fluently and with comprehension.

Key Activities of USAID Let's Read:

- Develop and implement a reading intervention package, including: teaching and learning materials; teacher training; and improved coaching, supervision, and support;
- Assess pupil learning (nine times per year) based on the primary literacy curriculum;
- Track school and learner performance through a Performance Tracking System; and,
- Engage the community and private sector to support reading interventions.

Expected Results

The USAID Let's Read Program will support improved reading proficiency for 1.4 million Zambian Grade 2 students across over 4,500 schools. It works with teachers, administrators, and schools to develop materials, training opportunities, and long-term support programs for teachers to strengthen early-grade reading outcomes.