Learning to read fluently in primary school is a critical foundational skill and one of the greatest predictors of academic success for a young student. Tusome (“Let’s Read” in Kiswahili) is a flagship partnership between USAID and the Government of Kenya’s Ministry of Education (MOE). Tusome is implemented through the MOE in 24,452 primary schools including over 1,500 low-cost private primary schools across Kenya. The Tusome technical approach employs research-driven learning materials, proven teaching methodologies, and an innovative tablet-based feedback and monitoring system to improve the literacy outcomes of 7.8 million pupils by 2021.

OUR WORK
Tusome supports literacy development throughout Kenya and fosters a reading culture among early-grade pupils, including children with visual and hearing impairments. Tusome has trained every public-school teacher in grades 1-3 and provided textbooks to every student.

Tusome trains teachers, administrators, instructional coaches, and Curriculum Support Officers based on practical classroom-based experiences. The trainings develop teachers’ pedagogical skills in critical areas of reading instruction; empower head teachers (principals) to provide instructional leadership...
for their schools; and enable education officials to upload real-time learner performance data to a cloud-based network that fosters greater accountability throughout the education system.

**ACHIEVEMENTS**

Since 2014, Tusome has:
- Provided reading instruction to 7.8 million students, achieving grade 2 English reading gains from baseline to end line equivalent to one additional year of schooling.
- Provided more than 26 million new English and Kiswahili textbooks and supplementary reading materials to all pupils in grades 1-3, ensuring a 1:1 pupil-to-textbook ratio.
- Adapted and distributed specialized teaching and learning materials for visually impaired and hearing-impaired pupils.
- Trained over 77,000 lower primary school teachers in 24,452 schools with state-of-the-art interventions that define how Kenyan children learn to read.
- Empowered over 1,200 Curriculum Support Officers in all 47 counties with innovative teaching methodologies to provide instructional support and coaching to teachers.
- Empowered 23 local youth groups to support reading practice among children in their communities and promote a culture of reading.
- Leveraged partnerships with the private sector to provide additional supplementary reading materials.
- Advanced sustainability by strengthening the Ministry of Education’s capacity to improve student learning outcomes nationwide.

**BUDGET:** $81 million  
**DURATION:** 2014-2021

**ACTIVITY LOCATIONS**  
All public primary schools nationwide plus 1,500 low-cost private schools in Kenya

**IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS**  
RTI International

**KEY PARTNERS**  
Kenya Institute for Curriculum Development  
Kenya Institute of Special Education  
Kenya National Examinations Council  
Ministry of Education  
Teachers Service Commission

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