



Reading for Success: National Program for Reading

Quick Facts

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Partnering with the Government of Morocco, the project is developing a national literacy program to improve Arabic literacy skills in grades 1 to 4.

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The project will support more than 8,500 schools in four regions of the country. It aims to reach all 12 regions in five years.

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In close partnership with the government, the project aims to establish a reading-supportive policy and programmatic framework.

Morocco has made great improvements in advancing quality education. But the country continues to face education barriers.

Early grade teachers lack the specialized training to teach reading as well as the appropriate materials and techniques. Outside of school, students have few opportunities to build their reading skills. Evidence shows the problem starts in the early primary grades. On the 2011 Progress in International Literacy Study, Moroccan grade 4 students scored the lowest among 45 participating countries.

To address these literacy challenges, the five-year Reading for Success – National Program for Reading is supporting the Government of Morocco to develop a national literacy program to improve Arabic literacy skills in grades 1 through 4.

Funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development, the Reading for Success – National Program for Reading advances the development of quality Arabic language reading materials.

Creative implements the Reading for Success – National Program for Reading in partnership with organizations recognized for their expertise in early grade reading, measurement and assessment and digital delivery of education. These partners include the University of Oregon, Management Systems International, Al-Akhawayn University, blueTree Group and Overseas Strategic Consulting.

The Reading for Success – National Program for Reading aims to improve classroom instruction; expand remedial and extracurricular reading opportunities at school, at home and in the community; and enhance national learning and assessment systems for reading and writing.

A sustainable early grade literacy approach

The project seeks to strengthen early grade literacy by addressing some of the biggest challenges facing Moroccan schools, students and teachers.

For example, poor reading skills often contribute to high repetition and dropout rates in primary school and undermine the academic performance of students who remain in school. Most children enter primary school unfamiliar with Modern Standard Arabic, the language of instruction.

Few early grade teachers are trained to teach reading, and they lack appropriate materials and techniques. Unfortunately, not all parents are involved in reading support, and few out-of-school opportunities exist for students to practice and enjoy reading.

Starting with focused support of more than 8,500 schools in the regions of Fez-Meknes, Rabat-Kenitra, Souss-Massa and Oriental, the program aims to equip the Moroccan government with the expertise and tools to replicate, scale up and sustain early grade literacy in all 12 regions across the country.

Partnering with the Ministry of National Education, Professional Training, Higher Education and Scientific Research, Creative will help to establish a reading-supportive policy and programmatic framework, which is backed by an informed analysis of reading assessments and evidence-based best practices supported by years of on-the-ground collaboration.

A legacy of effective partnership

The Reading for Success – National Program for Reading builds on previous successful partnerships between Creative and the Moroccan government that delivered quality education and addressed a wide range of educational barriers. These programs have refined reading instruction, bolstered teacher professional development and strengthened institutions.



23

percent of Moroccan youth ages 15 to 24 are illiterate.



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