What we do & why it works

In partnership with USAID, WGEP’s Our Sisters Read program (OSR) supported early grade literacy in the Fatick region of Senegal. Through funding from a private foundation, WGEP is currently implementing OSR in Tharaka Kenya. OSR creates strong readers while fostering a culture of literacy and lifelong learning in rural primary school students, focusing particularly on girls.

**Our Focus**

- **OSR improves foundational reading skills** using a holistic approach that combines training, technology, creative incentives and community awareness.
- **OSR encourages and motivates students to read** through innovative activities and incentives, access to resources including libraries and technology.
- **OSR builds supportive families and communities** who recognize the importance of reading and technological literacy for human development.

**Our Partners**

- WGEP works in partnership with dynamic local community organizations in Senegal and Kenya.
- Local partners guarantee that programs are community-led and focused. Together we formulate a partner-driven, contextualized, and comprehensive approach taking into account local conditions to ensure that students reach their full potential.
- WGEP collaborates with local Ministries of Education and Health, NGOs, and schools.

**Our Activities**

- Create ICT centers with lending libraries and computers for students as well as the community to use.
- Create mobile libraries that bring books, solar lanterns and tablets to remote villages.
- Develop fun and engaging reading activities adaptable by grade level.
- Develop teacher training program and teacher guides.
- Provide after-school reading skills tutoring.
- Offer adult literacy classes for parents.
- Convene community meetings to foster grassroots support for literacy.

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**Our Sisters Read**

There are **774 million illiterate people in the world—two-thirds of them are female**

**Literacy is the foundation for all learning. There is a clear and direct link between increased education—including literacy—and declining levels of poverty. (UNESCO)**
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Our Sisters Read, by the numbers

- 10,000 students have access to lending libraries and computer labs
- 10,000 books, 40 computers, 50 tablets, 4,000 solar lanterns in use
- 10,000 elementary students in 52 schools participated in WGEP-developed reading activities
- >350 teachers trained in reading program activities
- 680 students received after-school tutoring in reading skills
- >1,500 individuals in 35 villages attended adult literacy classes
- 10,000 people in 46 villages participated in community support meetings

Senegal

Impact

10,000 students now have access to books and lending library where no such resources previously existed

39% increase in students who read more than 30 minutes per day

40% increase in EGRA-based test scores for OSR students in Senegal

10,000 students

Bridges the Gap Between Home and School

Families encourage and support their children reading