

## 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)

### What we do & why it works

In partnership with USAID, WGEF's Our Sisters Read program (OSR) supported early grade literacy in the Fatick region of Senegal. Through funding from a private foundation, WGEF 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

WGEF 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.*

WGEF 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

# Our Sisters Read, by the numbers

## Senegal

- 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 WGEF-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

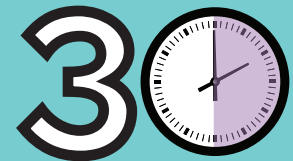
## Impact

40%  
increase

in EGRA-based  
test scores for  
OSR students  
in Senegal

39%

increase in  
students who  
read more than



minutes  
per day

10,000 students

now have access to books and lending library  
where no such resources previously existed



Bridges the Gap Between  
Home and School  
Families encourage and support  
their children reading

