



# Invest in Africa

Support Room to Read's innovative educational initiatives in South Africa, Tanzania and Zambia



Sub-Saharan Africa's illiterate population is growing at a staggering rate of

**1 million**  
adults every five years.

Help us change this trend.

## Where we Work



Room to Read has been working hard to bring innovative education programs to the African continent since 2006. As of this year, we work in three countries: South Africa, Zambia and Tanzania. We are empowering local communities in each country to generate fresh ideas in education that give children the opportunity to realize their full potential.

**We invite you to help us continue our groundbreaking educational programs in Africa by investing in our work.**

## Why invest in Africa?

Room to Read believes that World Change Starts with Educated Children.® There is a proven connection between education and development, and while investment in education may take several years to bring measurable returns, the impact is extremely powerful, yielding striking improvements in health, income, gender equality and poverty reduction. Despite the universal recognition of the importance of education, however, worldwide there are more than 61 million children who do not attend primary school and more than 73 million children who do not attend secondary school. Africa carries a disproportionate share of this population, resulting in a critical need for quality educational opportunities.

Sub-Saharan Africa, in particular, is home to 43 percent of the world's out-of-school children. These numbers are compounded by low levels of learning achievement for the children who do attend school, wide gender disparities, and poor-quality educational resources and learning environments. Africa's population, nearly half of which is under the age of 15, is also projected to double with the next three decades, further intensifying the need for educational support.

This is a crucial time to invest in Africa's education systems as a number of African economies, including Tanzania and Zambia, are all growing at rapid

## Our Results in Africa through 2011

Libraries established	607
Book titles published	32
Publication languages	Afrikaans, IsiNdebele, IsiXhosa, Sepedi, SeSotho, Setswana, Siswati, TshiVenda, Xitsonga
Classrooms supported in reading and writing instruction	168
Girls' Education participants	657

and sustained rates. Africa is now home to seven of the world's 10 fastest growing economies, which translates into numerous potential new consumers and investment opportunities. According to a recent World Bank report, "Africa could be on the brink of an economic takeoff, much like China was 30 years ago, and India 20 years ago."

**African countries will be unable to maintain this level of growth and reach their true potential, however, without a significant investment in education.**

Education is a prerequisite for tackling poverty and promoting short and long-term economic growth. When individuals have the chance to learn basic literacy and numeracy skills, economies grow faster and poverty rates decline. When people go to school, their incomes increase and they are better able to support their families. If current trends continue, though, there will still be 23 million children out of school by 2015 and economic gains could be rolled back. Education is critical, because in our world, knowledge is power, and education empowers. Education has intrinsic value—extending far beyond the economic—to empower people to determine their own destinies, making it central to advancing human development.

### Our programs in Africa

Room to Read operates five programs in Africa focused on the promotion of literacy (School Libraries, Book Publishing, School Construction, Reading & Writing Instruction) and gender equality in education (Girls' Education). We implement our programs in partnership with the government, teachers and communities in order to ensure local buy-in and the long-term sustainability of our projects.

Our programs focus on two main outcomes:

- **Literacy:** Our literacy programs enable primary school children to become independent readers. We focus on developing reading skills and the habit of reading in primary



school-aged children because literacy is the foundation for all future learning. We do this by establishing multilingual libraries, increasing access to age-appropriate and culturally relevant reading materials—including publishing our own original local language children's books—and making the school environment more child-friendly. We have increased our support for reading and writing instruction through the launch of a new program designed to help improve literacy skills in primary school students.

- **Gender Equality in Education:** Our Girls' Education program supports girls to complete secondary school with the skills necessary to negotiate key life decisions. Our program concentrates on girls in or transitioning to secondary school because that is where the biggest and most permanent gender inequalities in education take place. We help girls succeed by providing need-based material and academic support, connecting girls with female mentors, and creating more girl-friendly school environments. We also focus on teaching core life skills to help girls successfully complete secondary school and maximize their opportunities in life.

### What you can do

We invite you to support our innovative literacy and gender equality work in Africa by making an unrestricted gift to Room to Read today. Included below are our 2012 country budgets for our programs in Africa. On average, it costs US\$30 to provide one child with access to one of our libraries in Africa, including three years of library support.

**A donation starting at \$10,000 would ensure that at least 300 African children could take advantage of a suite of high-quality educational resources, forever changing their future.**

Together, we can improve the lives of children across Africa by providing them with the educational foundation they need to become lifelong learners and realize their full potential.

### 2012 Room to Read Africa Country Budgets (US Dollars)

COUNTRY	PROGRAM					TOTAL BUDGET BY COUNTRY
	School Libraries	Book Publishing	School Construction	Reading & Writing Instruction	Girls' Education	
Tanzania	\$ 420,060	\$ 170,968	\$ 1,070,941	\$ --	\$ 270,053	\$ 1,932,022
South Africa	2,011,095	199,272	--	838,455	--	3,048,822
Zambia	1,786,602	159,727	487,900	835,710	538,720	3,808,659
<b>TOTAL AFRICA BUDGET</b>	<b>\$ 4,217,757</b>	<b>\$ 529,967</b>	<b>\$ 1,558,841</b>	<b>\$ 1,674,165</b>	<b>\$ 808,773</b>	<b>\$ 8,789,503</b>



Give with confidence. Room to Read has received six consecutive Charity Navigator four star ratings for best charities. We take pride in our transparency and accountability.

Have questions?  
Contact us online at  
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