



**Right now, approximately 129 million girls around the world are not in school.**

When you educate a girl, everything changes. Help Room to Read make change possible by benefiting **more girls than ever before** this year with our Girls' Education Program.

## Girls' Education: Flourishing Despite Obstacles

Our girls' education and gender equality work is centered around keeping girls successfully engaged in school and helping them develop the life skills they need to gain agency over their own lives. We know that with a quality education and mentorship, girls can grow into fulfilled women, reaching heights they never thought possible. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted schooling and significantly jeopardized girls' opportunities and futures.

Adolescent girls are particularly vulnerable to the influences of the COVID-19 pandemic, as domestic responsibilities and financial hardships affect women disproportionately. There is a heightened risk of girls dropping out of school. Girls in precarious financial situations can fall victim to child marriage, sex trafficking or other means of exploitation. As families navigate unprecedented levels of stress, the risk of intrafamily conflict and gender-based violence also increases, negatively affecting girls' self-confidence, well-being and ability to negotiate key life decisions.

Room to Read has found new approaches to delivering our Girls' Education Program interventions. We have adjusted our model to reach girls with remote mentoring and deliver life skills lessons through radio, worksheets and videos. We have also increased our monitoring of girls most at risk of dropping out and provided tailored guidance to parents. These new ways of working have allowed us to reach more girls than ever before in ways that meet their immediate needs. As schools reopen, we are continuing to use all available pathways, including traditional skill-building and mentoring sessions, as well as multimedia tools, to support girls and help them choose their futures.

## OUR RESULTS

More than **3 million girls have benefited** from our Girls' Education Program since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2020, **95% of girls who remained in our program advanced to the next grade.**

More than **13,000 program participants have graduated** from secondary school since 2000.

More than **73% of 2020 program graduates enrolled in further education or found work** within the first year after graduation.

## Our Approach

Our Girls' Education Program is designed to improve learning and life outcomes, allowing girls to graduate secondary school with the ability to think critically, rely on themselves to meet day-to-day challenges and be primary decision-makers. Our program includes the following core components, which are provided based on local conditions, individual need and grade level:

### 1 Life Skills Education

Life skills are competencies — such as empathy, critical thinking and self-efficacy — that girls need to make informed decisions. When girls learn these skills and how to apply them in their daily lives, they are better equipped to handle challenges, from gender bias to finding time to study. Our program creates opportunities to learn and practice life skills through classes, workshops and extracurricular activities. In 2020, we began disseminating life skills curriculum via television and radio, and we will continue to expand our capabilities in remote learning methods in the years to come.

### 2 Mentorship

Essential to our program are our social mobilizers, local women who are hired as mentors and work with girls and their families to ensure that girls stay in school, participate in life skills activities and navigate the challenges of adolescence with the ability to make their own life choices. Since 2020, our social mobilizers have implemented remote one-on-one mentoring, and delivered group mentoring via direct messaging platforms.

### 3 Material Support

For some families, the cost of a school uniform or safe transportation is prohibitive to sending their daughters to school. We provide need-based material support for school costs such as tuition fees, uniforms and exam preparation services so parents don't have to make the choice between putting food on the table and investing in education. Since the onset of the pandemic, we have also provided a range of physical materials, including worksheets and notebooks, that support girls' at-home learning during school closures.



## 4 Family, School and Community Engagement

Through our work with families, schools and communities, we create environments that support girls' success in school and beyond. To engage these stakeholders, we hold community meetings where parents and caretakers can discuss challenges in their communities and the importance of sending all of their children to school, not just the boys. We also engage program alumnae, as they are valuable role models for younger girls, and contribute to the program as mentors and guest speakers.



### Strong Government Partnerships

In addition to our core program work, our teams collaborate with government officials at the local, regional and national levels to promote girl-friendly learning environments. Our government partnerships ensure that our program is complementary to national efforts, sustainable and nationally scalable.

## INVEST WITH CONFIDENCE

### Fiscal Excellence

Received Charity Navigator's highest four-star rating for sound fiscal management 15 times since 2005.

### Leader in Literacy

Received the 2014 U.S. Library of Congress Literacy Award, the 2011 UNESCO Confucius Prize for Literacy and recognized as a 2014 World's Children's Prize Honorary Laureate.

Received the 2020 David M. Rubenstein Special Response Award of the Library of Congress Literacy Awards Program for responsiveness and outstanding work in addressing challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Social Innovator

Chosen as Twitter's first Corporate Social Innovation partner and three-time winner of the Skoll Foundation's Award for Social Entrepreneurship.

Have questions?  
Contact us online at  
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