Message from the READ Trust Fund Program Managers

Dear Colleagues,

We hope you have had a great start to 2018. We are almost at the mid-way point for the READ 2 Trust Fund program, and work at the country and global levels has been progressing very well. All of the eight READ 2 Trust Fund country teams have submitted their progress reports, and in this newsletter we highlight the teams' completed activities as well as plans for the next three months.

Also in this newsletter, we share the interesting knowledge development and dissemination activities of the READ 2 Trust Fund team. During the first quarter of 2018, the READ 2 Trust Fund team had an opportunity to attend the Innovations in Testing Conference in San Antonio, Texas and the Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness (SREE) Conference in Washington, DC where we learned about the latest developments in assessment from leading researchers, psychometricians, and practitioners. We also made a presentation at SXSW EDU, a premier conference in the United States on innovation in education, where we shared information on the activities and impacts of the READ Trust Fund program over the last ten years. Our presentation was very well received, and we look forward to continuing the conversations about potential collaboration with colleagues we met at this and the other conferences.

Looking ahead, our colleagues on the READ 2 Trust Fund India team have been diligently planning the South Asia Regional Conference on Using Large Scale Assessments to Improve Teaching and Learning that will be held in New Delhi on April 25-27, 2018. They have kindly opened the workshop to one person (either from the World Bank or from the country delegation) from each of the other READ 2 Trust Fund countries outside of the South Asia region. Although travel and accommodations for this conference would need to be paid by each country team, we hope that some of you will be able to attend this very interesting learning event.

We hope that you will find this newsletter interesting and informative, and as always, we welcome your feedback, inputs, and suggestions.

Warm regards,

Julia Liberman and Victoria Levin
READ 2 Trust Fund Program Managers

"Better assessment for better learning"

Improving Armenia's Unified Entrance Exam with Computer-Based Testing

The Unified Entrance Examination (UEE) plays a vital role in Armenia's education system. This year alone, over 4,300 high school students will take the high-stakes exam, which decides whether they graduate from secondary school, and which higher-education institution they are admitted to. Currently, a READ Trust Fund grant is supporting the design and piloting of computer-based testing in mathematics, a core UEE subject … read more

READ Trust Fund Spotlight

READ 2 Trust Fund Country Updates
All of the eight READ 2 Trust Fund grant recipient countries continue implementing their project activities. The countries share their most recent activities and achievements, as well as plans for the next three months ... read more

Innovations in Assessment and Learning: Insights from Recent Conferences
To keep up with the latest cutting-edge research and innovative solutions that can inform dialogue and decisions aimed at improving student learning, the READ Trust Fund team recently participated in three noteworthy learning events ... read more

READ RAS Spotlight

READ 2 RAS Program Update
The READ 2 RAS Program continues supporting Russia in building the capacity of its experts in measuring and improving the quality of education. The EAOKO Journal, one of the supported initiatives, serves as a platform for the dissemination of studies on educational quality by researchers from different countries ... read more

Blogs
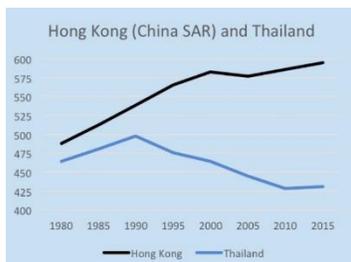
New, Most Comprehensive Global Dataset on Education Quality
By Harry Patrinos
The world is facing a learning crisis, and policymakers and practitioners need more and better information to sufficiently address the challenges ahead ... [read more](#)
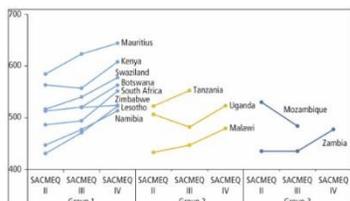
Fac**ing Forward: Schooling for Learning in Africa**
By Elizabeth Ninan Dulvy
There is a growing body of new evidence from countries across Africa that points to lessons that can be learned about what has worked to improve learning ... [read more](#)

A Global Framework to Measure Digital Literacy
By Manos Antoninis and Silvia Montoya
UNESCO Institute for Statistics, Hong Kong University's Centre for Information Technology in Education, and the GAML task force are working together to develop the Digital Literacy Global Framework ... [read more](#)

Inequality of Knowledge Acquisition and Learning Assessments: Insights from the Data
By Luis Crouch
Key stakeholders in the international education community are re-focusing on learning and the equality (or inequality) of its distribution ... [read more](#)

Can We Assess if School and Classroom Practices Align with National Educational Goals?
By Kate Anderson, Helyn Kim, and Seamus Hegarty
Young people need a broad set of competences to thrive in adult life. However, many schools continue to prioritize a narrow set of learning outcomes ... read more

Drivers of Student Performance: Asia Insights
By Li-Kai Chen, Emma Dorn, Marc Krawitz, Cheryl SH Lim, and Mona Mourshed
An analysis of OECD PISA results from Asia highlights four findings on mindsets, teaching styles, technology, and early childhood education ... read more

**Read more** Education for Global Development Blogs **here**.

General News Roundup and Resources

The Promise of Performance Assessments: Innovations in High School Learning and Higher Education Admissions
The report describes performance assessments and their value for guiding and evaluating high school students' learning, as well as informing colleges and universities about what students know and can do ... read more
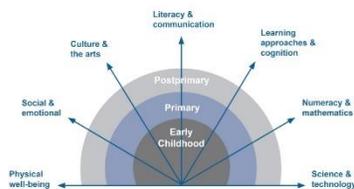
Learning Champions: How 15 Countries, Cities, and Provinces Came Together to Rethink Learning Assessment
The report highlights the process undertaken by a group of 15 "Learning Champions"—countries, provinces, and cities—that came together to experiment with the LMTF 1.0 recommendations and to develop strategies for improving their education systems ... read more

FIGURE 2. Data and evidence: From generation to use and impact
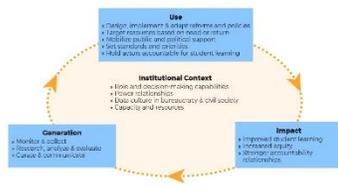
Toward Data-Driven Education Systems: Insights into Using Information to Measure Results and Manage Change

The report aims to help the global education community take stock of what information decision-makers use to measure results and manage change in education systems ... read more

New Vision for Education: Unlocking the Potential of Technology

The report analyzes the research literature covering nearly 100 countries and defines the 16 most critical "21st-century skills" ... read more