

## Message from the READ Trust Fund Program Manager

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the latest issue of the READ 2 Trust Fund newsletter! In this edition, we invite you to take a closer look at some of the exciting work on examinations and classroom assessment that is being carried out by our READ colleagues in Vietnam. You will also find an update on key activities and achievements across all eight READ countries since June. Of particular note, all eight grant-recipient countries took part in individualized [SABER-Student Assessment](#) benchmarking exercises over the summer and subsequently used this information to identify baseline indicators for tracking the progress of their grant activities. The benchmarking process was highly consultative and involved coordination with national governments and other key development partners. Another article in this issue shares important highlights from the recent [EAOKO/CICED Conference](#) in Saint Petersburg, Russia.

I would also like to update you on some READ 2 management changes that have taken place over the summer. Luis Benveniste, who, until recently, was Practice Manager for the World Bank's Global Engagement and Knowledge (GEAK) unit, which manages the READ 2 Trust Fund program, has since taken on a new position as Director of the Bank's Education Global Practice. In his place, we welcome Omar Arias as the new GEAK Practice Manager. We look forward to benefitting from both Luis and Omar's leadership and guidance on the READ 2 program in the coming year. Additionally, Marguerite Clarke has stepped down from her role as READ 2 Trust Fund Program Manager due to her recent move to the South Asia region. Marguerite has been instrumental in shaping both the READ 1 and READ 2 Trust Fund programs, leading the country- and global-level work programs, and ensuring that the fund's impact reaches beneficiaries all over the world. Although Marguerite's day-to-day participation in the READ 2 Trust Fund program will be greatly missed, we hope to continue to draw on her expertise and advice in other ways as we move forward.

As always, we welcome your feedback and suggestions. This READ 2 Trust Fund newsletter will be made available in English and in Russian on the [READ 2 Trust Fund website](#), where you can also revisit previous editions of the newsletter.

Warm regards,

Julia Liberman  
READ 2 Trust Fund Program Manager

*"Better assessment for better learning"*

## Feature Story



### Improving Assessment of Student Achievements in Vietnam

This past summer, 860,000 students in Vietnam took the high-school leaving exam. Passing the exam certifies young people as having completed secondary education and paves their way for further education at the university level. However, more than 200,000 other students missed the opportunity to take this important exam because they did not have a chance to transition from lower to upper secondary school three years earlier... [read more](#)

## READ Trust Fund Spotlight



### READ 2 Trust Fund Country Updates

All of the eight READ 2 Trust Fund grant recipient countries have taken part in the [SABER-Student Assessment](#) benchmarking exercise. Country teams are also on track in implementing their grant-supported activities ... [read more](#)



## Assessment of Education Quality: Sharing International Experiences in Russia

Members of the READ 2 Trust Fund program had the opportunity to attend the "[Monitoring, Ratings, and Rankings as Education Quality Management Tools](#)" conference that was organized with the support of the READ 2 RAS program and held in Saint Petersburg, Russia ... [read more](#)

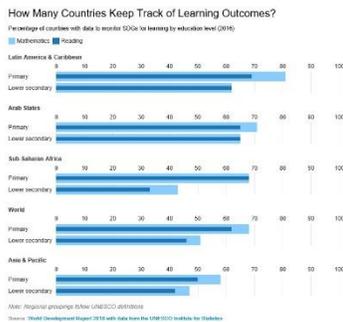
## READ RAS Spotlight



### READ 2 RAS Program Update

The "[Monitoring, Ratings, and Rankings as Education Quality Management Tools](#)" conference brought together over 250 participants from ten countries to Saint Petersburg, Russia. During the conference a side meeting of the READ 2 RAS Expert Council provided guidance to the READ 2 RAS program ... [read more](#)

## Blogs



### A Crisis in Learning: 9 Charts from the 2018 World Development Report

*By Tariq Khokhar*

There's a crisis in learning. The quality and quantity of education varies widely within and across countries. Hundreds of millions of children are growing up without even the most basic life skills and around the world ...

[read more](#)



### Three Critical Ingredients for Successful Education Reform

*By Jaime Saavedra*

Over the past decades, education investments in the developing world have led to unprecedented enrollment rates. Yet, even with these historic investments, children sit in classrooms every day without learning. More than a schooling crisis, we face a learning crisis ... [read more](#)



## Join Now! Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about Student Assessments

By Marguerite Clarke

Assessments make a lot of people nervous, and I'm not just talking about the students who have to take them. As a psychometrician and World Bank staffer, I've worked on assessment projects in more than 30 countries ... [read more](#)

Read more Education for Global Development Blogs [here](#).

## General News Roundup and Resources



### Learning to Realize Education's Promise

The World Development Report (WDR 2018) "[LEARNING to Realize Education's Promise](#)" was released this week. The World Bank's annual flagship publication is devoted entirely to education this year. One of the main recommendations of the report for improving learning is making assessment of learning a key priority ... [read more](#)



### Student Assessment for Policymakers and Practitioners

We invite you to take [a course on Student Assessment for Policymakers and Practitioners](#) in the World Bank's Open Learning Campus. This self-paced course, which is accessible to anyone anywhere in the world, represents the culmination of many months of curating a vast amount of information and resources on student assessment into a user-friendly instructional package. The result is a practical, step-by-step introduction to student assessment for policymakers and practitioners ... [read more](#)

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