



Two years ago,
Gift was unable to read,
write, or even speak.

**International
Education**

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The school director describes Gift's transformation as a miracle.



Gift* is a little girl in Kenya who has overcome daunting challenges in her young life. As an infant, she suffered from respiratory problems and developed tonsillitis. After her tonsils were removed incorrectly, Gift stopped speaking and communicated with gestures. Labeled as mentally challenged, she attended special needs classes. Her teachers described her as aggressive and unable to learn.

Not willing to give up, Gift's mother found Tusome, which means "Let's read" in Kiswahili. This U.S. Agency for International Development-funded early grade learning program is implemented by RTI International and is currently working in over 23,000 primary schools across Kenya. Among other things, Tusome supports Kenya's Ministry of Education in delivering teacher training and instructional support. Gift was placed in a participating first-grade class and her life changed. Gift's teacher, Ms. Valma, credits Tusome training with helping her to reach her students.

** Gift is a nickname used to maintain the child's privacy.*

"I constantly praised her and minimized the things she did not do correctly."

—Ms. Valma, Gift's Teacher





Gift distributes and collects the reading books in class, making her feel like a valued part of her community.



Gift has made astounding progress since joining Ms. Valma's class. She now speaks, reads aloud using her finger to track words, and writes on the board when called upon to participate. Gift's newfound ability to read and write has also dramatically altered her behavior. She has high self-esteem, is a cooperative member of her class, and she loves to play with other children.

A quality education—particularly the ability to read—transforms children's lives. Together with our funders and partners, RTI works in low- and middle-income countries around the world to improve education. Using evidence-based approaches at every level—from classrooms to national ministries— we work to strengthen education policy, management, and practice to achieve measurable improvement in education quality and, ultimately, learning outcomes.

Girls in Indonesia enjoying grade-appropriate reading books.



Education focus areas



Teaching and Learning

We provide technical expertise in designing and implementing curricular approaches and materials, promoting teacher behavior and system change through training, coaching, and the use of classroom-based assessment.



Early Childhood Education

We provide expertise in the learning aspects of early childhood development, to help children build a solid foundation for educational success. Investing in early childhood education maximizes opportunities for children to achieve their developmental potential, which has far-reaching implications for future generations.



Monitoring, Evaluation, and Research

We collaborate with governments and donors to generate and interpret data that inform the design and implementation of education programs. We develop effective methods for assessment, monitoring and evaluation; collect actionable, high-quality data; measure education program impact; and help link the results to improvements in program implementation.



Technology for Education and Training

We leverage the accessibility of digital technologies and harness their unique characteristics to improve basic education delivery and enhance traditional assessment training approaches and learning.



Policy, Systems, and Governance

We help address the challenges governments face in implementing national strategies for improving education with our expertise in education data management systems, finance, accountability, decentralization, budgeting, planning, and management.

A student in Jordan shows off his new school readiness activity book.

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