



ALL PHOTOS: US AID MOROCCO

ALL CHILDREN READING:

A GRAND CHALLENGE FOR DEVELOPMENT

SIGN ON FOR LITERACY GLOBAL PRIZE COMPETITION

PRIZE COMPETITION COMING SOON

The Sign On For Literacy global prize competition seeks to source technology-based innovations to increase sign language and literacy outcomes for children who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind¹ in low resource settings. Innovations should provide greater access to local sign languages, early grade reading materials, and/or reading instruction by engaging families, schools, and communities. The competition is led by All Children Reading: A Grand Challenge for Development in

collaboration with the World Federation of the Deaf and the Nyle DiMarco Foundation.

ACR GCD IS COMMITTED TO ENSURING CHILDREN WHO ARE DEAF HAVE GREATER ACCESS TO EARLY SIGN LANGUAGE AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO OBTAIN THE FOUNDATIONAL LANGUAGE SKILLS NECESSARY TO SUPPORT LITERACY ACQUISITION.

Join us in this quest for ground-breaking solutions.
Learn more at www.allchildrenreading.org



THE CHALLENGE

Worldwide, an estimated 360 million individuals live with hearing loss.² Of these, 70 million individuals are deaf.³ Shockingly, **80% of the Deaf Community are not provided with access to education.** Even when educational opportunities are present, only 1-2% receive education in sign language⁴— leaving the majority without access to whole language, the foundation of literacy, and preventing them from reaching their full potential.

For the estimated 32 million children who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind,⁵ **positive educational outcomes depend as much on family and community as the education system.** However, most children who are Deaf are born to hearing parents,⁶ most of whom are not exposed to or are misinformed about local sign languages. As a result, the majority of children who are Deaf are not able to access language easily and readily in their homes and communities during the critical language acquisition period. This dramatically increases their likelihood of facing a lifetime of psycho-social challenges, limited schooling and employment potential, and stunted language abilities—including reading.⁷



PHOTO: USAID MOROCCO

- 1 Henceforth referred to as Deaf
- 2 <http://www.who.int/pbd/deafness/news/Millionslivewithhearingloss.pdf>
- 3 <https://wfdeaf.org/human-rights/>
- 4 Ibid.
- 5 <http://www.who.int/pbd/deafness/news/Millionslivewithhearingloss.pdf>
- 6 Vaccari, C. & Marschark, M. (1997). Communication between parents and deaf children: Implications for social-emotional development. *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*, 38(7), 793-801.
- 7 Allen, T. E., Letteri, A., Choi, S. H., & Dang, D. (2014). Early visual language exposure and emergent literacy in preschool deaf children: Findings from a national longitudinal study. *American Annals of the Deaf*, 159(4), 346-358.

ABOUT ALL CHILDREN READING

All Children Reading: A Grand Challenge for Development (ACR GCD)—a partnership of USAID, World Vision and the Australian Government—is an ongoing series of competitions that leverages science and technology to source, test, and disseminate scalable solutions to improve literacy outcomes of early grade learners in developing countries.

ACR GCD is soliciting creative, cost-effective innovations from the global science, technology, education, and broader development communities to improve reading for children in early grades.

Literacy leads to improved health, better education, greater employment opportunities, and more stable governments. Unfortunately, nearly 250 million children around the world are still unable to read or write. ACR GCD seeks to improve children's reading in the early grades so they can succeed in school and have more opportunities as adults.

A key component of the Grand Challenges for Development model is that only through concerted action can find solutions to the largest, solvable problems that are holding back progress for individuals and communities in developing countries.