



## What is the expected outcome of the READ Trust Fund?

It is expected that the main outcome of the READ Trust Fund will be increased institutional capacity at the country level to develop, carry out, and use data from student assessments. Armed with information on how well their students are performing, teachers, policy makers, and international donors alike will be better able to determine where to focus their energy and resources for the greatest improvement in learning outcomes.



## Which countries participate in the READ Trust Fund program?

READ Trust Fund-supported programs are underway in eight countries—Angola, Armenia, Ethiopia, the Kyrgyz Republic, Mozambique, Tajikistan, Vietnam, and Zambia. In each country, World Bank teams work closely with government counterparts to thoroughly review the existing assessment system, decide on activities to address any gaps, and implement and evaluate the effectiveness of those activities. Some countries such as Ethiopia and Zambia have opted to address gaps in multiple areas, while others have chosen to concentrate their initial efforts on a specific issue, such as developing a national large-scale assessment program in Angola or establishing a new testing center charged with overseeing the unified university entrance examination in Tajikistan.

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### FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please visit the READ Trust Fund website at [www.worldbank.org/readtf](http://www.worldbank.org/readtf) or email us at [readtf@worldbank.org](mailto:readtf@worldbank.org).

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# READ TRUST FUND



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## What is the READ Trust Fund?

Established in October 2008, the Russia Education Aid for Development (READ) Trust Fund is a collaboration of the Government of the Russian Federation and the World Bank that focuses on improving education quality in low-income countries. The READ Trust Fund amounts to US \$32 million to be executed over a six-year period, 2008 to 2014.

## Why focus on student assessment to improve education quality?

The World Bank's Education Sector Strategy 2020 highlights the importance of "Learning for All." The proven economic gains and poverty reduction tied to education only happen when children actually learn. Simply attending school is not enough. All actors in an education system need to know whether or not learning is taking place so that they can use this information to improve education quality.

Given the critical importance of measuring learning, the main purpose of the READ Trust Fund is to help low-income countries improve their student learning outcomes through the design, implementation, and use of robust systems for student assessment. The READ Trust Fund supports analytical work and technical assistance to help countries

- A. establish systems or institutions, or strengthen existing ones, that formulate learning goals and carry out assessments of student learning;
- B. improve existing or develop new instruments to measure student learning outcomes; and
- C. strengthen existing or develop new mechanisms (policies) to use learning outcomes data to improve teaching and learning.

## How is the READ Trust Fund organized?

The READ Trust Fund provides support at both the global and country levels. **At the global level**, the focus is on generating and sharing knowledge and good practices in the form of instruments, tools, analytical reports, and case studies. **At the country level**, World Bank teams and country stakeholders work together to develop and implement a set of READ Trust Fund-supported activities that address gaps in the country's current learning assessment system. For both the global- and country-level work, an international group of assessment experts provides advice and support for product development, program design, and program implementation.

## Roles and Responsibilities of Key Actors Working With the READ Trust Fund

READ Council (Russia, World Bank)	READ Trust Fund Management Team (World Bank)	READ Trust Fund Global Team (World Bank)	READ Trust Fund Country Task Teams (World Bank)	READ Trust Fund Technical Group (International Assessment Experts)
Guidance on overall strategic direction, priorities, and rules of engagement for the READ Trust Fund, and monitoring of program performance	Program management and administration, i.e., strategic planning, allocation of funds, program coordination, quality assurance, and monitoring	Development of the conceptual framework for work on assessment systems and learning standards, benchmarking tools, and other global knowledge products	Focal point for READ Trust Fund assistance at country level, working closely with country governments and other stakeholders to design and implement READ Trust Fund-supported activities	Support for development of global knowledge products, program quality assurance, and direct technical assistance at the country level
<b>READ Trust Fund Supported Country Education Officials</b>				