

Email Update #2 (September 2013)

Dear Friends of READ,

Thank you very much for your positive feedback on our [inaugural email update of May 2013](#).

I am delighted to present you with the following new update from the READ team. As you know, all of our work is focused on helping countries to create better assessment systems that support better student learning outcomes.

In this email, you will learn about:

- The many exciting and innovative assessment activities that have been taking place in the eight countries receiving targeted support under the [READ Trust Fund](#) program, as described in our [latest Annual Report](#);
- Two [new case studies](#) in our Working Paper series - one chronicling the development of the assessment system in Russia, and the other taking a look at how assessment information is disseminated and used in that country;
- New translations of three existing case studies in our Working Paper series;
- READ on the road and in the news! Links to our [blog post on PISA for Development](#), [READ in the June 2013 G8 accountability report](#), a [media interview on student assessment](#) policies in Chile and lessons for other countries, and our participation in the [2013 AEAA Annual Conference](#) in Tanzania.

We hope that you enjoy learning from these materials. To keep on reading and learning, please visit us at our [website](#) where you will find many more resources as well as information on upcoming events.

If you have feedback, questions, updates on READ activities, or would like hard copies of publications, please feel free to contact us at readtf@worldbank.org. We look forward to hearing from you.

Warm regards,

Marguerite Clarke
Program Manager
Russia Education Aid for Development (READ) Trust Fund
World Bank

"Better assessment for better learning"

If you would rather not receive these occasional email updates, please send an email to readtf@worldbank.org with the header "UNSUB READ UPDATE". If you would like to be added to the list, please send an email to the same address with the header "SUB READ UPDATE."

NEWS IN BRIEF FROM READ COUNTRIES



For this update on READ country activities, we decided to share with you our [latest READ Annual Report](#), which provides an overview of the many exciting learning assessment and capacity building activities taking place in the eight countries (Angola, Armenia, Ethiopia, Kyrgyz Republic, Mozambique, Tajikistan, Vietnam, Zambia) receiving targeted support under the [READ Trust Fund](#) program.

GLOBAL KNOWLEDGE

New in the READ Working Paper Series

In English



[Developing the Enabling Context for Student Assessment in Russia](#)

Authors: Viktor Bolotov, Galina Kovaleva, Marina Pinskaya, and Igor Valdman

Ever wondered how one of the largest countries in the world – the Russian Federation – introduced the important reforms needed to strengthen its student assessment system? What were the challenges and achievements? This new case study answers these and other questions.



[Disseminating and Using Student Assessment Information in Russia](#)

Author: Yulia Tyumeneva

Carrying out an assessment exercise is the easy part. The real challenge comes in effectively disseminating and using the results. This case study examines how the Russian Federation disseminates and uses information from its student assessment system.

More papers, including case studies on Chile, Queensland (Australia), Brazil, New Zealand, and Uganda can be found on the [READ Trust Fund website](#).

In Russian



[Developing the Enabling context for School-based Assessment in Queensland,](#)

[Australia](#)

Author: Reg Allen

The State of Queensland in Australia offers a unique example of how an assessment program can embody the principles of assessment of, as, and for learning. Read this case study and decide for yourself whether Queensland offers a good model for other education systems.

English version is also [available](#).



[Developing the Enabling Context for Student Assessment in Brazil.](#)

Author: Maria Helena Guimaraes de Castro

What is so interesting about the Brazilian experience in developing and managing student assessment activities? READ countries, like Angola and Mozambique, are learning from Brazil's experience via study visits and training programs. Read this case study to learn more about Brazil's reforms.

English version is also [available](#).



[Developing the Enabling Context for Student Assessment in Uganda.](#)

Authors: Anil Kanjee, Sylvia Acana

Ever wondered which countries in Africa have been successful in creating stronger assessment systems? Check out Uganda's story in this case study.

English version is also [available](#).

READ ON THE ROAD AND IN THE NEWS!

- Check out the blog, [Three Wishes for PISA for Development](#), by Marguerite Clarke, READ Trust Fund Program Manager, where she shares her thoughts on the OECD's new initiative to make PISA more relevant and useful for developing economies.
- The READ Trust Fund program was featured in the June 2013 G8 publication, [Lough Erne Accountability Report](#) (see page 76).
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- Read the interview with Maria Jose Ramirez, READ Trust Fund Education Specialist, where she talks about [assessment policies in Chile and lessons for other countries](#) (*interview is in Russian; Google Translate can help you with the [English version](#)*)

- The READ Trust Fund’s Global Team and four country delegations (Angola, Ethiopia, Mozambique, and Zambia) participated in the 31st Annual Conference of the [Association for Educational Assessment in Africa](#) (August 12-16, 2013) in Arusha, Tanzania. The conference theme was [Enhancing Assessment Practices for Quality Education](#). The READ Global Team and country delegations gave a panel session on “Improving education quality through stronger student assessment systems” where they presented the work on student assessment systems that they have been carrying out under the World Bank’s [SABER–Student Assessment initiative](#), with the support of the READ Trust Fund.