Read Right Now! helps countries deliver effective literacy instruction on a large scale. EDC’s adaptable, research-based literacy program is rich in content and instructional guidance, simple for teachers to use, and designed to work in resource-lean environments.

Transforming how literacy is taught

“Mmmm-aaaa-ssss-aaaa,” says the girl, looking up at her teacher for approval.

“That’s correct. Maasa is your name,” says the teacher. “Now, how many sounds did you hear in your name?” Maasa puts three fingers in the air, pauses, then adds a fourth. “Yes!” encourages the teacher. “There are four separate sounds.”

Until recently, it was unlikely that a Malian first grader like Maasa would have received such explicit instruction. With help from a program implemented by Education Development Center, Inc. (EDC), Malian teachers have transformed the way they teach reading.

New standards and training help teachers use evidence-based techniques for literacy instruction. The program employs carefully sequenced reading materials; ideas for classroom-generated reading materials; a structured, evidence-based plan for teaching reading; and a daily Interactive Radio Instruction program to support and guide teachers as they try out new teaching practices.

When parents recognize the changes taking place in their schools, they also see that lives—both their own and their children’s—are changing for the better. “It hasn’t just helped the kids; it hasn’t just helped the parents—it has helped us all,” says Kono Tanapa, a father in Sangala village. “We’ve seen the results. Our kids are reading and writing.”
Research-Based, Customizable

Research has demonstrated that effective reading programs weave together four key elements of an effective reading program: explicit instruction of component skills, oral language development, authentic reading, and authentic writing.

Read Right Now! provides a framework, adaptable to a country’s specific needs, that empowers teachers to deliver the four elements, with an emphasis on those elements most needed for improvement, as evidenced by a country diagnosis.

“We’ve seen the results.”

Read Right Now! grew out of more than 12 years of experience creating literacy programs in resource-lean environments around the world and is based on decades of work supporting improved literacy instruction in the United States.

In the Philippines, grade 3 students supported by EDC’s program scored 120% higher in reading comprehension on the Early Grade Reading Assessment than did their non-participant peers.

In Madagascar, 96% of teachers were observed using evidence-based, student-centered instructional strategies after one year of program support, compared with 56% at the start of the program.

EDC helped these governments establish national standards, grade-specific benchmarks, and teacher effectiveness measures for reading and writing.

In Ghana, parents who reported reading to their children increased from 42% to 70% over the course of the program.