

Zambia



Background

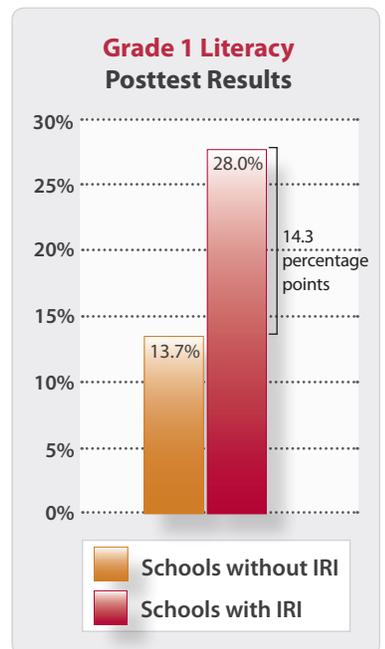
As Zambia's out-of-school orphan population soared to 800,000 in 2000, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) supported the creation of the *Taonga Market* Interactive Radio Instruction (IRI) program to help the Zambian Ministry of Education provide those orphans and other vulnerable children with a quality education using IRI. The project began by establishing 20 radio learning centers that later grew to 1,000 centers staffed by community volunteers to provide education to out-of-school children and to offer psychosocial support for orphans and vulnerable children (OVCs) and their caregivers.

Taonga Market's success with out-of-school children led the Ministry to adopt the program in government schools as well. The program also works to increase the capacity of communities and local NGOs to support education and retain volunteer teachers and to sensitize communities on issues of HIV/AIDS, orphans and vulnerable children.

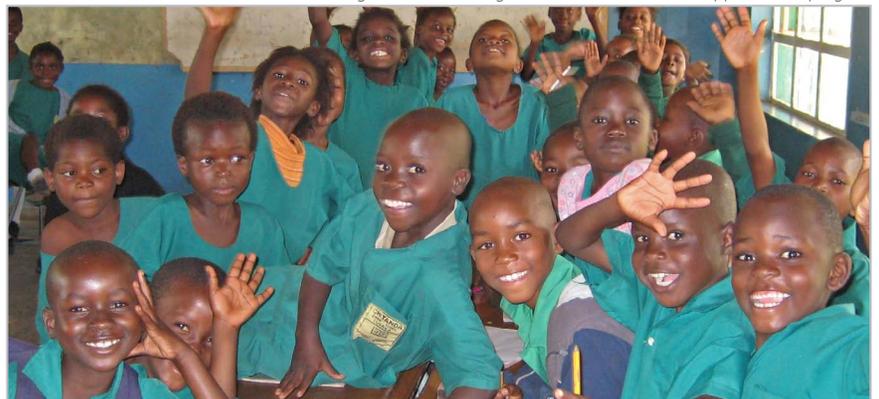
Impact

Reaching over **700,000** children affected by AIDS every day for about 18 cents per student per year.*

- Interactive Radio Instruction (IRI) programs reached over 300,000 children in nearly 2,000 community schools and over 400,000 children in nearly 3,000 government schools.
- 35% of learners reached were single or double orphans.
- First graders in schools using IRI scored 14.3 percentage points higher in literacy than those in schools not using IRI (see figure).
- Over 62,000 Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) were reached and 10,000 caregivers trained by the OVC psychosocial support radio program.



*Cost estimates refer to recurring cost to Zambian government for continued support to the program.





QUESTT's success with out-of-school children led the Ministry to adopt the program in government schools.

My Story: Luwita

In Zambia, many students, especially girls, drop out of school due to difficult family situations. Luwita Kulusu was one of them.

At 18 years old, Luwita got pregnant and had to leave the community school in her village that used the QUESTT Interactive Radio Instruction broadcasts titled *Taonga Market*. Less than a year later, she returned to continue her schooling, thanks to the flexibility of the IRI center. "I thank *Taonga* for bringing the radio lessons because I would not be learning; the teacher would not have managed to teach the whole school alone in the absence of the radio."

Luwita now says that she knows that education will change her way of life. She dreams of one day becoming a teacher to bring education to other children in her community. Despite difficult odds, IRI has allowed Luwita to pursue her dreams once again.



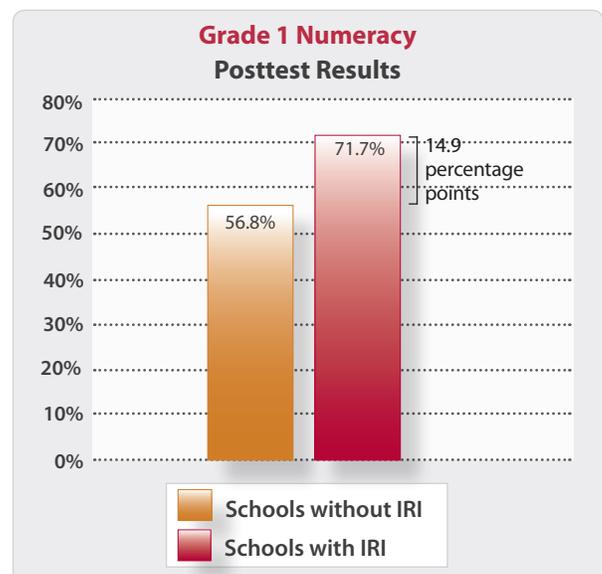
Education Development Center, Inc.
1025 Thomas Jefferson St NW Suite 700 West
Washington, DC 20007, USA

Boston • New York • Washington, DC

E-mail: IDDinfo@edc.org | Web: idd.edc.org and edc.org
Phone: 202.572.3700

Impact

- First graders in IRI schools scored **14.9 percentage points higher** in numeracy than those in schools not using IRI (see figure).
- Fourth grade students in schools using IRI **consistently scored higher** on tests in math, english, social studies and science compared to fourth graders in non-IRI control schools.
- **422** community school teachers have completed USAID-supported distance education programs to become qualified teachers.
- **152** communities built classrooms with grant money from USAID programming.



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

