



World Change Starts
with Educated Children.™

For more information
or to make a contribution,
please contact:
**Room to Read
International
Headquarters**

The Presidio, P.O. Box 29127
San Francisco, CA 94129
United States

+1.415.561.3331

www.roomtoread.org



Cambodia

Primary completion rate 81%
% of literacy (ages 15–24) 80%

India

Primary completion rate 81%
% of literacy (ages 15–24) 64%

Lao PDR

Primary completion rate 74%
% of literacy (ages 15–24) 78%

Nepal

Primary completion rate 78%
% of literacy (ages 15–24) 70%

Sri Lanka

Primary completion rate 94%
% of literacy (ages 15–24) 97%

Vietnam

Primary completion rate 95%
% of literacy (ages 15–24) 94%

Source
World Bank Group (2003)
UN Statistics Division (2004)

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Tax deductible
contribution
needed to
establish a library:
US \$2,000



Reading Rooms

(Establishing Libraries in Cambodia, India, Laos, Nepal, Sri Lanka & Vietnam)

Room to Read's Library Program

The first step toward the lifelong gift of education is a child with a book. However, in many developing countries most communities lack the resources to establish a library. In some cases, not a single book is available to children to encourage independent learning, not to mention the opportunity to develop a lifelong passion for reading. Our Reading Room program is designed to address this issue directly. We have already established over 2,000 libraries, and our goal is to establish thousands more. We fill each of these libraries with as many as 500 local language and English books encompassing a wide variety based on student age level.

Opportunity: How to make a difference

By partnering with Room to Read, your contribution translates directly into the necessary components of a local library and provides support for its first three years. This includes: donation and transportation of bi-lingual books suitable for children ages three to sixteen, assistance with the creation of a child-friendly learning environment, posters and educational games, teacher training, ongoing donations in subsequent years and monitoring. It is amazing to see the smile of a child who has access to a new colorful book for the first time. Your generosity will provide thousands of children with knowledge, inspiration, and the compelling opportunity to learn.

Results: What will be the impact of my contribution?

Over the years, your contribution will continue to affect the lives of generations of children. You can expect the following:

Selection Partnering directly with the local community is central to our philosophy. Communities are selected on the basis of need, dependability and the availability of staff and space for the library.

Book Screening & Publishing All books are screened for age and cultural appropriateness. Room to Read also self-publishes many new children's books in the local language to create more relevant and culturally sensitive material.

Multi-lingual Libraries Two types of books will be provided on your behalf. Local language books are generally purchased in-country or locally sourced and published by Room to Read. English books are donated by publishers.

Monitoring & Evaluation We continue to work with libraries even after they are established to ensure that they are being well used. Ongoing support is a powerful incentive for the libraries to perform well.

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Laos

Population 6 million
% of Pop. (Rural) 80%
Per Capita GNI US \$310

Nepal

Population 25 million
% of Pop. (Rural) 89%
Per Capita GNI US \$240

Sri Lanka

Population 19 million
% of Pop. (Rural) 77%
Per Capita GNI US \$840

Vietnam

Population 81 million
% of Pop. (Rural) 75%
Per Capita GNI US \$480

Source

The World Bank Group (2003)
UN Population & Statistics Divisions (2002)

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Tax deductible
contribution
needed to build
a School:
US \$11,000–\$36,000



School Room

(Building Schools in Laos, Nepal, Sri Lanka & Vietnam)

Room to Read School Construction Program

Schools can be sparse in rural areas of these developing countries. It's not uncommon for children to walk several hours just to go to school or for 75–100 children to be crammed into a small classroom. Furthermore, the schools that do exist are often ramshackle collections of crumbling bricks, old wood and dirt floors. With over 50% of Vietnam's large population of 81 million under the age of 20, the country has a large need for more schools. With more than 42% of the population living below the poverty level, Nepal is one of the ten poorest countries in the world and can't meet the demand for more schools. Room to Read understands that a child's education begins with an adequate learning environment. One of our primary charters is to improve this environment by aiding with the construction of new schools and the repair and expansion of old ones.

Opportunity: A quest for education for all children.

By partnering with Room to Read, you can help provide a school in a local community, thereby allowing children to have the opportunity to study in a productive environment. Room to Read's schools are built in communities that desperately lack adequate educational infrastructure. The average size of our schools are 3–5 classrooms, providing a new or improved learning environment for an average of 40 students per classroom. It takes approximately 6–12 months for a new school to be built. Room to Read builds preschools and primary and secondary schools, depending on the communities' needs.

Results: What can I expect?

For students and teachers, a new school can vastly improve the quality of learning. Your contribution will affect the lives of children for generations to come and have a lasting impact on a community's educational infrastructure. You can expect the following:

Selection Community commitment is central to our philosophy. Communities are selected on the basis of specific criteria including need, dependability, and their willingness to partner with us through our Challenge Grant.

Dedication A commemorative plaque will be permanently installed in appreciation for your generosity. You select the wording on this plaque and can even dedicate it to a loved one. You are also invited to attend the opening ceremony for the new school, which promises to be the experience of a lifetime.

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Cambodia

Population 13 million
**# of Personal Computers
per 1000 people** 2.3
Per Capita GNI \$300

India

Population 1.1 billion
**# of Personal Computers
per 1000 people** 7.2
Per Capita GNI \$540

Nepal

Population 25 million
**# of Personal Computers
per 1000 people** 3.7
Per Capita GNI \$240

Vietnam

Population 81 million
**# of Personal Computers
per 1000 people** 9.8
Per Capita GNI \$480

Source
The World Bank Group (2003)
UN Statistics Division (2002)

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Tax deductible
contribution
needed to establish
a Computer Lab:
US \$16,000



Computer Room (Establishing Computer Labs in Cambodia, India, Nepal & Vietnam)

Room to Read Computer Labs

Nowhere is the “digital divide” more visible than in developing countries. In the case of Cambodia, India, Nepal and Vietnam, less than 10 computers are available for every 1,000 members of the population. Opportunity is inherent in technology, and Room to Read works with local schools and partner Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to make access a reality. Computer labs can have a life-changing impact on students. Our computer labs provide “life skills” pre-vocational training in Information Technology for disadvantaged, at-risk youth populations. The computer use helps reduce attrition rates by providing an incentive to students. Thus, the labs not only have an immediate impact of providing exposure to the outside world, they also provide for long-term growth and access to high-paying jobs for our students.

Opportunity: The impact of technology is staggering.

Working hand-in-hand with local schools and NGOs, Room to Read establishes full-service computer labs. In addition to installation, Room to Read provides the necessary teacher training for curriculum development, upkeep and growth. Students rotate throughout the computer lab as technology quickly begins to complement standard class time. Partnering with Room to Read to bring technology to students’ hands brings direct results. Your contribution equals equipment, technology and training. As for the impact on students and teachers, a monetary amount cannot explain the value of technology. In many cases, a familiarity with technology and computing opens new doors for entire communities.

Results: What can I expect?

For students, teachers and administrators, the computer lab is treated with respect. Your contribution will affect the lives of children everyday. You can expect the following:

Selection Community commitment is central to our philosophy. In addition to demonstrating need and dependability, schools are required to complete “Challenge Grants” to provide infrastructure, Internet access where feasible and on-going maintenance.

Technology Each computer lab is equipped with 10 to 20 student computers, 1 teacher computer with a CD Burner, and a laser printer. Each computer is uploaded with Microsoft Office software. The installation is completed with the final addition of voltage stabilizers and cable networking. Teacher training is provided to ensure the teachers are equipped with the necessary skills to adequately transfer knowledge to their students.

Dedication A commemorative plaque will be permanently installed in appreciation of your generosity. You may select the wording on this plaque and can even dedicate it to a loved one.

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Cambodia
Primary completion
rate, girls 61%
% of literacy (ages 15–25),
female 76%

India
Primary completion
rate, girls 80%
% of literacy (ages 15–25),
female 54%

Nepal
Primary completion
rate, girls 74%
% of literacy (ages 15–25),
female 60%

Sri Lanka
Primary completion
rate, girls 94%
% of literacy (ages 15–25),
female 96%

Vietnam
Primary completion
rate, girls 99%
% of literacy (ages 15–25),
female 94%

Source
UN Statistics Division (2004)

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Tax deductible
contribution
needed to fund
a scholarship:
US \$250/year for
10 years or a **US \$2500**
up-front payment



Room to Grow: Girls' Scholarships (Funding Long-term Scholarships for Girls in Cambodia, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka & Vietnam)

Girls' Scholarship Program

The goal of Room to Read's Girls' Scholarship Program, known as "Room to Grow", is to provide opportunities for girls in less-developed countries to attend school, thus allowing them to gain the lifelong gift of education and to take control of their lives. We fund scholarships for students starting in primary school, based on our belief that the best way to help improve the world is by starting education at a young age. To each girl, we make a commitment through the completion of secondary school (a period averaging ten years). This acts as a strong incentive to achieve and to stay in school, and also provides security and support to girls who often grow up in a very uncertain environment.

Opportunity: A quest for education for all children

Education within many developing countries is not free. Families are often charged school fees to pay for the operation of schools and teachers' salaries. Many families cannot afford these school fees, or they are unable to forego the income of a working child. Due to economics and cultural bias, young girls are often left behind when it comes to educational opportunities. If families are able to send only one child to school, the eldest son is usually chosen.

However, the benefits of educating girls are numerous and include:

- Improvement of family health and nutrition and decrease in infant mortality
- Increased likelihood of educating the next generation
- Decreased population growth in resource-scarce countries, since educated women tend to have fewer children
- Increased wages of girls for every year they remain in school

Results: What can I expect?

By providing scholarships to young girls, one can have an immediate and direct impact on their lives. An education will allow them to take control of their future and empower them to make choices about a career. The key ingredient to an improved status for women in these societies is a solid education starting at an early age. Furthermore, by educating a girl, one educates her future family and thus generations to come. Educating girls yields a higher rate of return than any other investment available in the developing world.

Monitoring & Evaluation We check on the attendance and performance of our scholarship girls through regular visits and correspondence with headmasters and teachers. Our scholars get extra tutoring, as needed, to ensure their success in school, and we have female social workers on the Room to Read staff to oversee this program.

Connection In order to allow our supporters to learn more about our girls on scholarship, we publish an annual Girls' Scholarship Yearbook. This collection includes photos, stories about some of the recipients and general information on program results in order to help you understand how education is changing the girls' lives.

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Cambodia

Population 13 million
% of Pop. (Rural) 84%
Per Capita GNI US \$300

Vietnam

Population 81 million
% of Pop. (Rural) 75%
Per Capita GNI US \$480

Source
The World Bank Group (2003)
UN Population & Statistics Divisions (2002)

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Tax deductible
contribution
needed to establish
a Language Lab:
US \$14,000



Language Room (Establishing Language Labs in Cambodia & Vietnam)

Room to Read Language Labs

In Cambodia and Vietnam, a background in foreign languages is a key to opportunity. The English language in particular opens doors ranging from world trade and foreign investment to tourism, technology, medicine and environmental protection. In many cases, mastery of English can be a ticket out of poverty for under-privileged children, providing a strong edge in today's competitive marketplace. Although the Governments in these countries strongly encourage students to learn foreign languages while in school, the quality of instruction varies dramatically throughout the country. In poor, rural areas, few teachers have ever interacted with native speakers and many lack the simple resources to teach. Even the best effort to teach and communicate can be unsuccessful.

Opportunity: Empower teachers to teach and students to learn.

In Cambodia and Vietnam, Room to Read works directly with schools and partner non-governmental community centers to meet their demand of placing top priority on foreign language instruction. We do this by establishing language labs where students and teachers can access audio and video lessons. The labs are used as a supplement to regular language classes, with students rotating through the lab once or twice a week. With your contribution, Room to Read will establish a full-service language lab that benefits hundreds of children each year. Your support will translate directly into equipment and technology, empowering students to make language central to their education.

Results: What will be the impact of my contribution?

From the moment it is established, the language lab becomes a central fixture in each school or community center. Because the need for language instruction is a constant, your contribution will affect the lives of generations of children. You can expect the following:

Selection Community commitment is central to our philosophy. Communities are selected on the basis of specific criteria including need and dependability.

Technology Each language lab is equipped with 40 interactive lab modules (headsets, microphones, etc.). A main control unit houses the power supply unit, cabling, television and a computer.

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Cambodia

% of pupils finishing
5th grade 81%

% of literacy (ages 15–24) 80%

Ethiopia

% of pupils finishing
5th grade NA

% of literacy (ages 15–24) 41%

India

% of pupils finishing
5th grade 81%

% of literacy (ages 15–24) 64%

Lao PDR

% of pupils finishing
5th grade 74%

% of literacy (ages 15–24) 78%

Nepal

% of pupils finishing
5th grade 78%

% of literacy (ages 15–24) 70%

Sri Lanka

% of pupils finishing
5th grade NA

% of literacy (ages 15–24) 97%

Vietnam

% of pupils finishing
5th grade 95%

% of literacy (ages 15–24) 94%

Source
World Bank Group (2003)
UN Statistics Division (2004)

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Contribution
needed to create a
new Local Language
Publishing title:
US \$10,000



Local Language Publishing Project

(Providing new opportunities for early literacy in Cambodia, Ethiopia, India, Laos, Nepal, Sri Lanka & Vietnam)

Over the past few years, Room to Read has established over 2,000 bi-lingual libraries in developing countries by working with local villages, educators and local Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). One serious challenge, however, is the lack of affordable local language children's books. Parents are too poor to afford reading material for their children, so a local children's book publishing industry is nearly non-existent. To maintain our commitment to the lifelong gift of education for all children, the time has come for more exciting and relevant children's literature in the local languages. We are very pleased to introduce Room to Read's Local Language Publishing Project—a pivotal step to improve our libraries in developing countries and the lives of countless children. We are actively working to significantly increase the quantity and diversity of children's books currently published in Khmer, Amharic, Hindi, Lao, Nepali, Sinhalese, Tamil, and Vietnamese, by publishing more than 700,000 new, colorful books.

Opportunity: Make local publishing a reality.

Investing in Room to Read will directly support local publishing in Asia and Africa. We will print over 70 titles in the coming year and invite you to invest in this endeavor. We will source new content written by local people in the local language, with some of the books being published as bi-lingual English children's books as well. For each title, we plan to print in the range of 5,000–10,000 books and contribute them to our network of schools and libraries. This will result in strengthening the local children's book industry. Picture the smile on a child's face when she gets to read an exciting, colorful new storybook in her own language—now multiply that one smile by thousands and you can begin to imagine the impact your contribution will have.

Results: What will be the Impact on publishing?

Your contribution will translate directly to the writing, development, and printing of local language books for the children in Cambodia, Ethiopia, India, Laos, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam. The process involves the following results:

Writing & Development Working with teachers, authors, illustrators and local publishing houses to source and develop new stories for the children's market.

Printing For each title, we will complete a print run of approximately 5,000–10,000 books. In appreciation of your support, your name (or a loved one's) will appear on the inside cover of each book as a dedication.

Distribution Titles will be donated directly to our network of schools and libraries as well as sold to our partner NGOs in order to increase the sustainability of the program.

Replication Room to Read will continue to expand the number and variety of titles we publish each year and will replicate the model in other countries where we operate. Thus, your investment can have a widespread impact on children's book publishing in developing countries for years to come.

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