



Second grade students in Isiolo County participating in a Kiswahili reading lesson. The Tusome Program aims to improve the reading skills of 6.7 million pupils by 2020. Photo: USAID

## KENYA

### TUSOME EARLY GRADE READING

Learning to read fluently in primary school is a critical foundational skill and one of the greatest predictors of academic success for a young student. Tusome (“Let’s Read” in Kiswahili) is a flagship partnership between USAID and the Government of Kenya’s Ministry of Education (MOE). Tusome is implemented through the MOE in all public primary schools and 1,500 Alternative Provision of Basic Education and Training (APBET) institutions (low-cost private schools) across Kenya. The Tusome technical approach employs research-driven learning materials, proven teaching methodologies, and a cutting-edge tablet-based feedback and monitoring system to improve the literacy outcomes of 6.7 million pupils by 2020.

## OUR WORK

Tusome supports literacy development throughout Kenya and fosters a reading culture among early-grade pupils, including children with visual and hearing impairments. Tusome has trained every public school teacher in grades 1-3 and provided textbooks to every student.

Tusome trains teachers, administrators, instructional coaches, and curriculum support officers based on practical classroom-based experiences. The trainings develop teachers' pedagogical skills in critical areas of reading instruction; empower head teachers (principals) to provide instructional leadership for their schools; and enable education officials to upload real-time learner performance data to a cloud-based network that fosters greater accountability throughout the education system.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

Since 2014, Tusome has:

- Provided more than 26 million new English and Kiswahili textbooks and supplementary reading materials to all pupils in grades 1-3, ensuring a 1:1 pupil-to-textbook ratio.
- Trained every lower primary school teacher in 24,239 schools with state-of-the-art interventions that define how Kenyan children learn to read.
- Empowered over 1,200 Curriculum Support Officers in all 47 counties with innovative teaching methodologies to provide instructional support to teachers.
- Developed and distributed specialized teaching and learning materials for visual and hearing-impaired pupils.
- Empowered 23 local youth groups to provide tutoring to improve the reading skills of children in their communities and promote a culture of reading.
- Leveraged public and private-sector partners to develop local reading programs.
- Advanced Kenya's journey to self-reliance by strengthening the Ministry of Education's capacity to improve student learning outcomes nationwide.

**BUDGET:** \$81 million

**DURATION:** 2014-2020

### ACTIVITY LOCATIONS

All public primary schools nationwide plus 1,500 low-cost private schools in Kenya

### IMPLEMENTING PARTNER

RTI International

### KEY PARTNERS

- Kenya Institute for Curriculum Development
- Kenya Institute of Special Education
- Kenya National Examinations Council
- Ministry of Education
- Teachers Service Commission

### USAID CONTACT

Ms. Lilian Gangla  
Basic Education Team Leader  
+254-20-363-2000  
[lgangla@usaid.gov](mailto:lgangla@usaid.gov)

### PARTNER CONTACTS

Musa Wambua  
Tusome National Coordinator  
Ministry of Education  
+254-20-331-8581  
[maigaek@gmail.com](mailto:maigaek@gmail.com)

Salome Ong'ele, Chief of Party  
RTI International  
+254-20-374-9921  
[songele@tusome.rti.org](mailto:songele@tusome.rti.org)

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Email: [usaidkea@usaid.gov](mailto:usaidkea@usaid.gov)  
Website: [www.usaid.gov/kenya](http://www.usaid.gov/kenya)  
Facebook: USAIDKenya  
Twitter: @USAIDKenya