



All Children Reading: A Grand Challenge for Development

Quarterly Report: Round 2 Fund Management

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Executive Summary

The fourth quarter of FY15 focused primarily on making key announcements for three prize challenges: *Technology to Support Basic Education in Crisis and Conflict Settings* Winners, *Tracking and Tracing Books* Finalists and the *Enabling Writers* Grand Prize to SIL International. In addition, grantees began conducting Early Grade Reading Assessment (EGRA) adaptation and assessor training workshops followed by baseline data collection, bringing together ACR GCD partners, School-to-School International (STS) and the Round 2 grantees. Notably, our listserv has more than doubled in size from just over 1,000 when we began Round 2 to over 2,500 and our Twitter following is now over 1,000. This speaks to the tremendous leadership role Michelle Oetman has headed for the ACR GCD Partners.

Activity Progress Update:

As Fund Manager, World Vision (WV) is responsible for the coordination, support, and management of Round 2 funding in the focus areas of: mother tongue instruction and reading materials, family and community engagement and children with disabilities. Please find below a progress update for each project activity.

OBJECTIVE 1 - COORDINATION OF ACR GCD ROUND TWO FUND MANAGEMENT: SECOND ROUND OF THE ACR GCD GRANTS AND PRIZES ARE CARRIED OUT AND MANAGED EFFECTIVELY

In consultation with the ACR GCD Partners, WV is expected to carry out the following activities as Fund Manager, based on decisions by the ACR Steering Committee (ACR SC) and as feasible within final funding constraints:

Activity 1.1 Prize Implementation and Hosting: *Technology to Support Basic Education in Crisis and Conflict Settings*, *Tracking and Tracing Books* and *Enabling Writers* winners were announced. In addition, ACR GCD organized a crowdsourcing event on International Literacy day (Sept 8) on *Digital Literacy to Strengthen Community Literacy Efforts*.

Prize #1: Enabling Writers – *Enabling Writers* was launched on February 27, 2014. WV has coordinated prize management including prize design, platform management, marketing, field testing, and now coordinating activities around the roll-out of *Bloom*, the winning software developed by SIL International. This quarter focused on the announcement of SIL International as the grand prize winner, enhancements to the software and a partner stakeholder meeting to discuss the roll-out strategy (August 31, 2015). A stakeholder training session on the *Bloom* software is scheduled for November 18, 2015 and plans for in-country Writer’s Workshops to train users and trainers on the software are underway.

Prize #2: Global Reading Materials Repository – Post ideation meeting, USAID has led the continued research process on the operational and financial modelling of a repository.

Prize #3: Big Ideas@Berkeley/Mobiles for Reading (2014-15) – The competition resulted in three prizes and one honorable mention. One winner included Monash University in Australia. Summaries of their innovations can be found [here](#).

Prize #4: Tracking and Tracing Books – *Tracking and Tracing Books* finalists Community Systems Foundation (CSF) and John Snow, Inc. (JSI), were announced on July 23, 2015. Both groups provided in-person presentations on their proposed concepts and submitted a product development plan, field testing plan and timeline during this quarter.

Prize #5: Digital Literacy to Strengthen Community Literacy Efforts – With engagement from Intel, ACR GCD hosted an International Literacy Day event to crowdsource ideas on how youth might be engaged to utilize their digital literacy skills to support community literacy efforts. It is ACR GCD's intention to develop a prize or toolkit that will accompany the Intel® Learn Program curriculum.

Prize #6: Technology to Support Basic Education in Crisis and Conflict Setting – ACR GCD launched this ideation challenge on January 29, 2015 in collaboration with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad). The review process resulted in four winners and four honorable mentions, publically announced August 6, 2015. All four winners submitted pilot project proposals for funding. These proposals are under review and will be awarded prior to the end of calendar year 2015.

Prize #7: Big Ideas/Mobiles for Reading (2015-16) – Building off of last year's competition, ACR GCD decided to continue this partnership for another year. The second Mobiles for Reading prize launched on September 8, 2015. Several changes were made to attract more problem solvers including hosting two webinars via Google Hangout, the first on September 29, 2015. The second is on October 14. The webinars included a focus on gaming and disability to stimulate thinking on these topics and included innovation demonstrations by Round 2 grantees, IDRT and Agora Center.

Prize #8: Children with Disabilities – After the ideation meeting in June 2015, Deborah Backus attended the UNICEF Assistive Products for Children with Disabilities Forum in Copenhagen, Denmark to deepen ACR GCD's knowledge of actors and innovators in the assistive technology industry. In addition, Nesta began conducting research and stakeholder interviews to inform the Disability Prize scoping report and prize design recommendations. The scoping report will be delivered next quarter.

Prize #9: EVOKE – Arizona State University and the World Bank established a high-level work plan for an in-person meeting in October 2015 to build on the literacy story developed by the team (ACR, science-fiction writer and graphic artist) in October 2014. A process to solicit external feedback on the design was also developed for the mEducation Alliance Symposium to occur in October 2015. Follow-up discussions are scheduled for late November 2015.

Prize #10: EduApp4Syria – ACR GCD joined the Norwegian government and other partners (Orange, INEE, and the Norwegian University of Science and Technology) in leading an innovation competition to develop a smartphone application that can help Syrian refugee children learn to read and improve their psychosocial wellbeing. The prize purse is \$1.8m for one to three promising products and was announced on September 25, 2015. Two dialogue conferences—in Washington, DC and Oslo, Norway—will take place next quarter.

Activity 1.2 Grant Competition: In February 2015, ACR GCD confirmed 14 grantees as winners of its Round 2 Grant Competition. Two awards, Creative Associates and IDRT, experienced delays in signing. However, a grant was formally awarded to Creative Associates in August 2015. The Institute for Disabilities Research and Training (IDRT) continued negotiations with the USAID Mission in Morocco throughout this quarter and signed their cooperative agreement in October 2015. With all grant agreements signed, WV's engagement with the grantees will shift from start-up and onboarding to technical support and capacity development.

Activity 1.3 Management of innovation and scale-up funding windows: With the additional co-funding of Round 2 grant finalists by USAID missions, WV drafted a revised budget and submitted it for review on June 11, 2015; it was approved on September 30, 2015. Grantee agreement modifications will be issued to each Round 2 grantees based on their program implementation timelines.

Activity 1.4 Technical support and capacity development: Significant technical and capacity building support was provided to grantees this quarter. Two grantee newsletters were distributed to provide grant management and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) updates. Grantees were supported through the Grantee Checklist review process to ensure that projects demonstrate strong research designs, M&E plans are in place, and fidelity of implementation is sound. Final submission and approval of the checklist is required two weeks prior to grantees conducting baseline assessments. Three field visits were conducted by ACR this quarter. In August, Deborah Backus and STS conducted a field visit to Tbilisi, Georgia to provide capacity building support to Studio ADC as they did not attend the start-up workshop and were falling behind in start-up activities. Shelly Malecki also conducted a field visit to Creative Associate International's (CAI) project in Zambia to represent ACR at their kick-off meeting and the impact evaluation with NORC as well as meet with the local Agora Center program manager. ACR partner representative from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Mark Sayers, conducted a field visit to observe the STS-facilitated EGRA adaptation, enumerator training and baseline data collection activities with Resources for Blind (RBI) in the Philippines. With each visit, the ACR representative engaged the local ACR partners to promote ACR and identify points of collaboration and engagement with the local grantee.

Activity 1.5 Learning Agenda/ Activity 1.6 Monitoring and Evaluation:

Significant time and effort was spent on M&E this quarter. STS provided strong technical support to grantees to complete their Grantee Checklists, prepare for EGRA adaptation and start-up activities. STS conducted three field visits to support EGRA adaptation, assessor training and baseline validation for Catholic Relief Services (CRS) in Lesotho, Little Thinking Minds (LTM) in Jordan, and RBI in the Philippines. During field visits, M&E plans, fidelity of implementation and budgets were reviewed in greater detail and revisions were made to ensure strong designs. Field visits to India, Mali, Cambodia and Zambia are scheduled for next quarter.

In addition, ACR GCD partnered with International Development Research Center (IDRC) and Fit-Ed on their [call for proposals](#) for research on Digital Learning for Development in Asia. Four priority research themes have been identified: MOOCs or massive open online courses; Intelligent Tutoring Systems; Digital Game-Based Learning; and Learning Analytics. Research to be supported by this call must examine how these digital learning innovations may be used to

improve educational equity, quality, and efficiency, and address issues of sustainability and scalability. The deadline for submission is October 20, 2015.

Activity 1.7 Communications:

WV coordinates bi-weekly teleconferences with the communication colleagues at USAID E3, DAI, Melwood Global and the Global Development Lab regarding events and communication activities.

In addition, the following communication activities were completed this quarter:

Marketing collateral

- Track & Trace 1-pager for MoEs (English/French)
- Round 2 Grantee videos edited (with thanks to our USAID partner), subtitled, and posted to the ACR website

Prize Announcements

- Enabling Writers - winner announcement – Aug 4
- Technology to Support Education in Crisis & Conflict Settings - winner/honorable mention announcements – Aug 6
- Tracking & Tracing Books - announcement of two organizations moving to Phase II of competition– July 23

Media Placements

- **ChicagoInno**, August 17, 2015 - Outernet Will Deploy Its Satellite Data Solution to Conflict Zones in Ukraine
- **Muse**, September 2015: Tech in Translation: Helping Deaf Children to Learn
- **Business Fights Poverty blog**, September 15, 2015 - Going Back to School: How All Children Reading is Helping to Bring Education to Children in Crisis and Conflict Zones

ACR Blogs

- SIL International wins ‘Enabling Writers’ prize for software solution to children’s book shortage

Social Media

Established in February 2014, the @ReadingGCD twitter handle has attracted 1,078 followers. We appreciate the creation of original social media content and retweeting conducted by our partners.

WV Internal Promotion

- ACR Round 2 grantees added to World Vision International Impact Map (online)

Activity 1.8 Events:

All Children Reading hosted and attended the following events to showcase our progress to date and engage with potential solvers and partners.

International Literacy Day: Sept 8, 2015

An ideation meeting was held for the Digital Literacy to Support Community Literacy Efforts prize. For those unable to attend, an online discussion forum on this topic was also launched on the ACR website. The Big Ideas Mobiles for Reading 2015/2016 prize was also launched.

Global Grand Challenges Summit: Sept 15-16, 2015 (China)

Submitted slides on USAID-selected ACR grantees for GCD presentation by USAID.

George W Bush Presidential Center's Global Women's Network Summit: Sept 21-22 (Dallas, Texas)

Open Learning Exchange Ghana Executive Director, Kofi Essien, was a participant on "The Power of Public Private Partnerships: Collaborating to Improve the Lives of Women and Girls" panel at the George W. Bush Presidential Center's Global Women's Network Summit. He was joined by Cheryl Jereczek, Vice President of Philanthropy for World Vision US, to share about the work of ACR GCD.

Innovator Marketplace at USAID's *Partnering to End Extreme Poverty* event: Sept 27, 2015 (New York)

Round 2 innovator Benetech was featured at USAID's Innovation Marketplace on September 27, in New York as a side-event to the UN General Assembly.

Activity 1.9 Publications:

ACR GCD continues distribution of a monthly eNewsletter. Since the launch of Round 2 in February 2014, our listserv has grown from 1,040 to 2,566.

Activity 1.10 Website Management:

The following updates were made to the website this quarter:

- Innovator Profiles added for Technology to Support Education in Crisis and Conflict Settings & Tracking & Tracing Books prize winners
- Round 2 Grantee videos posted to their profile pages
- Prize amounts on prize winner landing page & each profile
- Blogs:
 - SIL International wins 'Enabling Writers' prize for software solution to children's book shortage
- Digital Literacy discussion forum
- Partner (logos) page featuring our prize/grant partners
- Map of ACR projects
- Resources page

Activity 1.11 Catalyzing Global Action in support of solving the ACR GCD problem: ACR GCD Partners agreed to establish an Advisory Board to support strategic planning and partnership of ACR GCD. Draft documentation including articulation of objectives, proposed members and other key support materials were created and reviewed. ACR GCD partner's senior leadership endorsement and final products will be finalized in Q1 FY16.

OBJECTIVE 2 - ACR GCD PARTNER ENGAGEMENT: ACR FOUNDING PARTNERS ARE FULLY INFORMED, CONTRIBUTING TO, AND PARTICIPATING IN DECISIONS AND VARIOUS ACTIVITIES OF ROUND 2.

WV continues to appreciate the support offered by USAID, World Vision Australia, the Australian Government and contractors DAI and InnoCentive. The collaboration, contributions and participation provided by colleagues at the Global Development Lab is also appreciated.

Activity 2.1 ACR Founding Partners coordination and consultations meetings

Partner meetings are coordinated monthly by WV, with participation from USAID, the Australian Government and WVAus. WV also coordinates bi-weekly teleconferences with the communication colleagues at USAID E3, DAI, Melwood Global and the Global Development Lab regarding events and communication activities.

Activity 2.2 Facilitate decision-making throughout award process

All ACR GCD Partners were involved in key decision-making during Q4 FY15. This included final identification of finalists for *Tracking and Tracing Books*, *Technology to Support Education in Crisis and Conflict Settings* and *Enabling Writers* prize competitions and reviewing designs related to Big Ideas/Mobiles for Reading and the Disability Prize.

Activity 2.3 WV will request and coordinate efforts to be conducted by the Founding Partners in support of Round 2.

As mentioned above, WV is most appreciative of the support provided by the Partners, notably support in the grant competition, proposal review, prize design, event planning and communications.

Activity 2.4 Coordinate with USAID to support and integrate activities with USAID's other contractual mechanisms.

As the Fund Manager for Round 2 and as a Cornerstone Partner, WV has strategically engaged with the Global Development Lab. WV works with USAID contractor, University Research Co. (URC) on the Global Reading Materials Repository and roll-out of prizes, and NORC, regarding the impact evaluation of the *Makhalidwe Athu* SMS-based local language story distribution project implemented by Round 2 grantee, CAI, in Zambia.

WV convenes bi-weekly communications conference calls with members of the USAID E3, Lab and DAI media and communications teams to discuss communicating Round 2 core activities and areas of collaboration with other E3 and Lab activities.

ACR GCD has promoted USAID events, CoP initiatives, and reports via social media and eNewsletters.

OBJECTIVE 3 - PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT: INCREASE PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT IN ACR GCD THROUGH FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL CONTRIBUTIONS IN ORDER TO FOSTER INVESTMENT IN THE SCALING OF INNOVATIONS.

Increasing private sector engagement in international development is an explicit goal of USAID, the Australian Government and WV. The ACR GCD Partners prioritize a strategic focus on private partnerships as part of the Round 2 expansion. Therefore, Partners are encouraged to attract private sector investment, foundations, and/or new partners that will further enhance innovations and allow them to be taken to scale.

Activity 3.1: Conduct outreach to private partners.

Discussions continued around prize designs with previously identified partners: Intel, UNICEF, DAISY Consortium, GAATES, Orange, Norad, Giffoni, and ASU/World Bank.

Activity 3.2: Increase private sector contributions.

None applicable in Q3.

Activity 3.3: Link grantees with promising innovations to potential donors/stakeholders for scale up.

ACR GCD facilitated connections with potential donors/stakeholders for two grantees this quarter: Open Learning Exchange Ghana at the George W Bush Presidential Center's Global Women's Network Summit: Sept 21-22 (Dallas, Texas) and Benetech at the Innovator Marketplace at USAID's *Partnering to End Extreme Poverty* event during the UN General Assembly. More detail about these events can be found under Activity 1.8

Personnel

None applicable in Q3.

Budget:

An SF 425 accompanies this report.

Next Quarter Plans:

Please find below highlights of key activities that will occur in Q1 2016:

- Support Enabling Writers winning software, *Bloom*, stakeholder software training on November 18 and two in-country Writer's Workshops (Ethiopia and another country TBD).
- Children with Disabilities Prize scoping report to be delivered by Nesta followed by ACR partner review and determination of next steps.
- Establish Children with Disabilities prize steering committee and confirm partnerships.
- Fixed Obligation Grants to be awarded to winners of Technology to Support Basic Education in Crisis and Conflict Settings.
- Big Ideas pre-proposal reviews.
- Demonstration of Tracking and Tracing Books prototypes, Scoping Trip to a potential field-testing country, preparation for field testing.

- Further the digital literacy framework, post crowdsourcing event.
- Two EduApp4Syria dialogue conferences to take place in Oslo, Norway and Washington, D.C. during the mEducation Alliance Symposium.
- Provide technical support in grantee EGRA adaptation workshops, assessor trainings and baseline activities in India, Mali, Zambia and Cambodia.
- Confirm IDRT grant agreement and establish engagement between STS, IDRT and USAID Morocco.
- Send Advisory Board invitations and determine first meeting date.
- Generate grantee award modifications regarding length of program implementation and additional funds for EGRA activities as needed.
- Present and lead workshops at mEducation Alliance Symposium and USAID Global Education Summit
- Further enhancements to ACR website

Conclusion

Q4 reflected a significant amount of activities that further strengthened the depth of ACR GCD's work and raised its profile. This included the announcement of winners of three prizes, the launch of two new prizes, extensive work with grantees in project start-up and the EGRA adaptation process, field visits, numerous external events, and the communication activities to promote and support these activities.