



ALL CHILDREN READING:
A GRAND CHALLENGE FOR DEVELOPMENT

ANNUAL REPORT FY2015

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Submitted by
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CHILDREN
READING:
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All Children Reading is an ongoing series of competitions that leverages science and technology to create and apply scalable solutions to improve literacy skills of early grade learners in developing countries.

Executive Summary

Since the launch of Round 2 in February 2014, All Children Reading: A Grand Challenge for Development (ACR GCD) has demonstrated tremendous advancement of its work and profile. Evidence of significant achievements under each of the four unifying pillars of this challenge—Grant competition, Prize competitions, Research and Partnership—is well documented in FY15.

The grant competition attracted the innovative submissions of 213 applicants, resulting in 14 awardees (operational in 9 countries) who represented our three focus areas and our commitment to local organizations. Preliminary results of these innovation projects will be available in FY16.

ACR GCD surpassed its target of launching five prize competitions over the three-year period of Round 2 by launching and supporting 10 prize competitions within the last 12 months. The competitions have ranged from product development to ideation challenges and have attracted a new, diverse set of problem solvers (competitions were viewed online by potential problem solvers from more than 100 countries) as well as globally raised the profile of addressing early grade literacy. In addition, prize competitions provided a unique opportunity to attract new partners, particularly as competition sponsors.

As articulated within the grant competition, research on its innovation projects is paramount to ACR GCD. Therefore, it has invested nearly 30 percent of its grant funding to support strong research designs on its 14 grantee projects in addition to complementary funding from USAID to support one impact evaluation. This support by School-to-School International (STS) includes baseline and end line assessment development and data analysis, fidelity of implementation review, ongoing monitoring and evaluation technical support, and project evaluation. In addition, ACR GCD broadened its research pillar by partnering with International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and Fit-Ed on their [call for proposals](#) for research on digital learning innovation in Asia.

Partnerships and collaboration remain vital to addressing the goals of ACR GCD. ACR GCD attracted new partners to further activities, notably through prize competitions, including the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad), Orange, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), The World Bank and Arizona State University's, ACR GCD also facilitated technical, communication and financial connections and networks for its funded grantee and prize innovators. Evidence of ACR GCD's growing network of partners is also represented by increased invitations to strategic events and growing media placement.

Profiling of ACR GCD through its communication channels represents the most remarkable difference between Round 1 and Round 2. ACR GCD now hosts a dynamic website, distributes regular newsletters, and has an active social media presence. It has hosted several signature events, in Washington, D.C. and Melbourne, Australia, in addition to seizing numerous opportunities to highlight its work domestically and internationally as a presenter and/or exhibitor at relevant events. ACR GCD listserv now surpasses 2,500 and it has 1,000+ twitter followers.

In FY16, ACR GCD anticipates several key activities under each of its pillars. The grant projects results will become available and dissemination approaches developed to foster learning

from these results. ACR GCD anticipates launching at least two prize competitions—Children with Disability and EVOKE—building off preliminary work done this past year. These activities will be complemented by furthering the research agenda on ICT4 literacy and developing published documentation on the EGRA adaptation process for children who are blind/low vision and deaf/hard of hearing. Finally, ACR GCD will establish an advisory board to guide its strategic direction and broaden its partnership opportunities. All of these activities will be supported by our strong and expanding communication foundation that has crafted the ACR GCD brand.

Activity Progress Update:

As Fund Manager, WV is responsible for appropriate 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

During FY15, ACR GCD pursued, implemented and supported 10 prize competitions which demonstrated a strong engagement with new partners, notably, Norad, Orange, the Intel® Learn Program, Arizona State University and The World Bank. This section provides an overview of all prize competitions.

Prize #1: Enabling Writers – Since Enabling Writers was launched on February 27, 2014, WV has coordinated the management of the prize, subsequent field testing (e.g. prize design, platform management and marketing, field testing, etc.), and is now coordinating activities around the roll-out of *Bloom*, the winning software developed by SIL International. On October 1, 2014,



ACR GCD received nine submissions from seven countries. Usability and technical evaluations were conducted, finalists identified, and semi-finalists were formally announced on February 6, 2015 at the ACR GCD Round 2 “Innovators Showcase” hosted at the Ronald Reagan Building. Field testing occurred between April and June 2015 within four countries: Jordan, Ethiopia, Bangladesh and Cambodia. The results identified SIL’s *Bloom* software as the grand finalists which was publically announced on August 4, 2015. Enhancements to the software and a partner stakeholder meeting to discuss the roll-out strategy occurred on August 31, 2015. A stakeholder training session on *Bloom* software is scheduled for November 18, 2015 and plans for an in-country Writer’s Workshops to train users and trainers on the software are underway.

Prize #2: Global Reading Materials Repository Ideation Meeting Report – Following the release of the report, management of this prize was handed over to USAID for further

development. USAID released a Terms of Reference seeking further research on the operational and financial modeling of a repository which was awarded to Natoma Group in 2015.

Prize #3: Big Ideas@Berkeley/Mobiles for Reading (2014-15) – The competition resulted in three prizes and one honorable mention. One winner was from Monash University in Australia, one of two new Australian universities invited to competition as a result of the Australian partners within ACR GCD. Summaries of their innovations can be found [here](#).

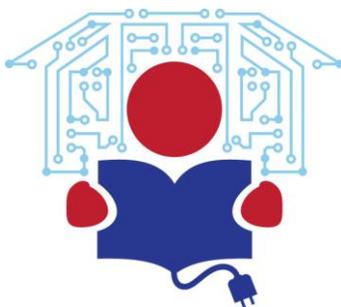
Prize #4: Tracking and Tracing Books – After several consultative webinars with USAID Missions in October/November 2014, the Tracking and Tracing Books prize competition was formally announced by Anthony Bloome and Rebecca Leege at the opening of a plenary address by Tom Cheng on January 23, 2015 at the Collaborate conference. The prize was formally launched on January 26, 2015. At the conference, ACR GCD hosted a workshop attracting attendees from Deloitte Consulting, PricewaterhouseCoopers, United States Postal Service and social media companies. The workshop was complemented by a booth during the innovation exhibition. Two Q & A webinars were held on March 2 and 5. The Tracking and Tracing Books prize competition resulted in 58 eligible submissions for review. A multi-tiered review process with supply chain management experts resulted in two finalists, Community Systems Foundation and John Snow International, announced on July 27, 2015.

Prize #5: Digital Literacy to Strengthen Community Literacy Efforts – With engagement from the Intel® Learn Program, ACR GCD hosted an International Literacy Day [event](#) on September 8, 2015 to crowdsource ideas on how youth might be engaged to utilize their digital literacy skills to support community literacy efforts at the Lab@OPM. 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 UNHCR and Norad. The



challenge posited that crisis and conflict situations can severely disrupt basic education services for children. Such disruptions can have long-term negative consequences on students’ educational attainment and cognitive, academic, and socio-economic development. Thus, the ideation challenge sought to incentivize innovative ideas for technological solutions that can provide education during and following a health crisis, natural disaster, and/or in conflict zones. The challenge attracted excellent coverage with 127 submissions and 10,319 unique views from 100 countries.

The review process resulted in four winners and four honorable mentions which were publicly announced on August 6, 2015.

Prize #7: EVOKE – ACR GCD represented the global challenge of literacy in an EVOKE Narrative Hackathon at Arizona State University on October 22-24, 2014. The event brought together science fiction authors, graphic artists and technical experts to draft an initial storyline, corresponding graphics, learning objectives and activities for six global challenges. Due to competing priorities, the continuation of this prize was put on hold until the first quarter of 2016. Please find below three videos which articulate the details of “EVOKE” and the Literacy Global Challenge.

- [What is Evoke?](#) – a video describing EVOKE objectives and how the hackathon contributed to the creative process of using stories to inspire youth.
- [Hackathon Collaboration process](#) – how the writers, artists and development experts collaborate to create compelling messages to inspire and teach youth.
- [Literacy Global Grand Challenge](#) – the video describes the engagement of one of the six groups which is focused on Literacy.

Prize #8: EduApp4Syria – ACR GCD joined the Norwegian Government, 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 in FY16 Q1.

Prize #9: Big Ideas/Mobiles for Reading (2015-16) – Building off of last year’s competition, ACR GCD continued 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 Google Hangouts (September 29 and October 14, 2015) to learn more about the competition. 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 #10: Children with Disabilities – Background research and a prize ideation meeting kicked off this prize design process. On June 29, 2015, UNICEF, Disability Fund, USAID, Google, Daisy Consortium, and ACR GCD Partner representatives participated in an ideation meeting held at WV’s Washington, DC office. After the ideation meeting, ACR GCD attended UNICEF’s 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 prize scoping report and prize design recommendations. The scoping report will be delivered next quarter.

Activity 1.2 Grant Competition

From an initial 213 applications, 56 applicants were asked to submit Full Applications and ACR GCD partners deliberated in November 2014 to determine the finalists. In addition, USAID conducted extensive outreach to USAID Missions which resulted in five missions co-funding Round 2 finalists. On February 6, 2015, ACR GCD announced 14 grantees as winners of its



Round 2 Grant Competition at its “Innovators Showcase” event, which attracted more than 200 attendees. More information about the event can be found under the communication section.

WV also organized a grantee Start-Up Workshop for February 2-6, 2015 to provide onboarding to the grantees on key topics such as grant management, financial reporting, acceleration, and monitoring and evaluation, as well as to provide an opportunity for networking and knowledge sharing. All grantees, with the exception of IDRT funded by USAID Morocco, were operational by September 30, 2015.

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 submitted a revised budget for review on June 11, 2015 and received approval 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 during the start-up workshop as noted under Activity 1.2. Such services included individual monitoring and evaluation sessions, acceleration support, media and pitch training, promo video shoots for their innovation, and technical expertise offered by MIT, The World Bank, and others. Monthly grantee newsletters were distributed to provide grant management and monitoring and evaluation updates and guidance. A webinar providing an introduction to EGRA was conducted twice on June 28 to reach grantees across all time zones. A Grantee Checklist review process was also launched to provide technical guidance on grantee’s M&E plans and prepare for the baseline assessment. Additionally, WV conducted research on the Institutional Review Board (IRB) requirements and requested grantees to identify local IRB’s that could review their assessment tools.

Three field visits were conducted by ACR GCD. In August, Deborah Backus and STS conducted a field visit to Tbilisi, Georgia to provide capacity building support to Studio ADC as they were unable to 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 GCD 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 GCD partners to promote ACR GCD and identify points of collaboration and engagement with the local grantee

Activity 1.5 Learning Agenda/Activity/1.6 Monitoring and Evaluation

Following the request and review of the Technical Assistance and Evaluation Services to Round 2 grantees, a contract was awarded to STS in Q1 FY15. In addition, on December 16, 2015 an M&E meeting was held with NORC, USAID, WV, IREX and STS to outline roles and responsibilities to ensure grantee M&E support including an impact evaluation.

STS and NORC both reviewed and provided initial analysis on all 14 grantees. STS focused on the general analysis as outline in their scope of work and NORC focused on the project's design to incorporate an impact evaluation. This analysis laid the foundation for individual meetings between these groups and the grantees during the start-up workshop. As a result of these meeting, STS developed a deeper framework of analysis and began conducting one-on-one grant consultations to further enhance the projects theory of change and causal tree analysis. In turn, NORC's review led to identifying Creative Associate International's (CAI) project in Zambia as the most viable candidate for an impact evaluation. During this quarter, CAI responded to multiple inquiries from ACR GCD and USAID to further prepare for a potential impact evaluation.

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 Resources for the Blind, Inc. (RBI) in the Philippines. These adaptation workshops also included the first known adaptation to braille. More information about this process will be provided in FY16. 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 Q1 of FY16.

In addition, ACR GCD partnered with International Development Research Centre (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

Demonstration of the depth of ACR GCD's communication platforms are represented below. This includes social media where twitter followers has surpassed 1,000 and listserv growth has doubled from just over 1,000 to 2,566. In addition, with the support of Melwood Global, ACR GCD has begun to see an uptake in media placements.

World Vision appreciates the Global Development Lab, USAID, WV and DFAT for their efforts to cross-promote ACR GCD events and competitions via social media, event invitations, and eNewsletters.

Marketing collateral

- **Innovators Advancing Child Literacy Brochure**, featuring the projects of our Round 2 grantees, was created for the Innovators Showcase.
- **Round 2 Grantee videos** edited (with thanks to our USAID partner), subtitled, and posted to the each grantee's profile on the ACR website.
- **Banners** were created for our Round 1 grantees for the Innovators Showcase as well as the Round 1 and 2 grantees attending our Showcase in Australia. The grantees were able to keep the banners for future marketing purposes.
- **Track & Trace 1-pager** for MoEs (English/French)



Press Releases

- **Jan 29, 2015: All Children Reading: A Grand Challenge for Development competition seeks innovations to reach students in conflict and crisis zones**
- **Feb 6, 2015: All Children Reading: A Grand Challenge for Development Announces Winners of Literacy Innovations Competition**

Media Placement Achieved

- Jan 25: *Fosterly blog*/Tony Bloome – Getting Books Into the Hands of Learners: The Tracking and Tracing Books Global Prize
- Jan 29: *INEE blog*/Tony Bloome – Ideation Challenge for Technology-Enabled Education in Crises and Conflict
- Feb 4: *Botswana OnlineNews* – Mobile Stories put Local-Language Reading in the hands of Zambian School Children
- Feb 4: *Ivory Coast Times* – Mobile Stories put Local-Language Reading in the hands of Zambian School Children
- Feb 11: *Education Week* – International Development Groups Recognize Tech-Based Literacy Efforts
- Mar 2: *India West* – USAID Grant Helps Create Marathi Books for Blind Kids
- Mar 2: *DevEx* – 5 Apps to Improve Literacy
- Mar 18: *World Bank blog*/Mike Trucano – Prizes, literacy and innovations in education
- Mar 23: *StarAfrica* – All Children Reading: A Grand Challenge for Development Grants & Prize Announcements
- Jun 4: Four students carry 'Big Idea' to Haiti – The College of William & Mary
- Aug 17: *ChicagoInno* - Outernet Will Deploy Its Satellite Data Solution to Conflict Zones in Ukraine
- Sept 15: *Muse* – Tech in Translation: Helping Deaf Children to Learn

- Sept 15: *Business Fights Poverty* blog – 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
- Blum Center: “A Contest to Catalyze Literacy Via Mobiles Worldwide”

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. We have also been proactively working to increase WVUS’s retweeting of relevant ACR tweets.



Activity 1.8 Events

All Children Reading hosted and attended multiple events to illicit and interface with potential solvers and partners.

Innovator Spotlight Webinar - October 7

Round 1 grantee Sesame Workshop India shared about their Learn to Read, Read to Learn content, learning cycle and the use of digital media to enhance a child’s learning experience and World Education discussed implementing an integrated early grade reading pilot project in Cambodia – from developing benchmarks for the national reading textbooks to using those benchmarks to provide targeted reading interventions for struggling students, including the development of a Khmer language mLearning application that corresponds with the benchmarks.

mEducation Alliance Symposium - Oct 20-22

ACR announced the Orange Hackathon prize, had a booth in the Exhibit Hall displaying Round 1 innovations and announcing open competitions, hosted the Mobiles for Reading working group, and gave a presentation.

Arizona State University/World Bank’s EVOKE Narrative Hack-a-thon – October 23-24

ACR staff members participated in a three-day narrative hack-a-thon at the Center for Science and the Imagination at Arizona State University. More details are provided in Activity 1.1.



TechCon - Nov 8-10

ACR attended USAID’s Higher Education Solutions Network (HESN) TechCon 2014, an annual convening that brings together staff, students, entrepreneurs, and development professionals to work towards more effective development solutions. The weekend featured a variety of workshops, panels, DevTalks, and sessions focused on creative approaches to solution ideation, testing, and scaling for international development. ACR GCD gave a DevTalk about our Round 1 innovations and current prize competitions. We also met with our Big Ideas@Berkeley partners.

International Day of Persons with Disabilities – December 3, 2014

ACR hosted a webinar highlighting our Round 1 innovators working with children with disabilities. Save the Children shared the challenges and successes of targeting a reading program to children with learning disabilities in Sri Lanka. Perkins International spoke of their innovation which has directly impacted the lives of children who are blind/low vision through four key areas: training of teachers in three schools practicing inclusive education for the blind and those with low vision, family and community engagement, and distribution of assistive devices and repair of Perkins Braille.

Collaborate Innovators Conference: Jan 23, 2015 (Washington DC)

ACR hosted a roundtable at this event focused on the Tracking and Tracing Books prize, as well as a booth in the Government Showcase. Additionally, our sponsorship enabled us to post a blog on their website to reach their Collaborate network.

ACR Innovators Showcase: February 6, 2015 (Washington DC)



ACR hosted an Innovators Showcase at the Ronald Regan Building to introduce the 14 winners of our Round 2 grant competition. More than 200 people attended.

Innovator Spotlight webinar-International Mother Language Day: February 19, 2015

This bi-monthly webinar focused on the mother tongue work of Round 1 grantees, Whiz Kids Workshop and Friends of Matenwa.

UNESCO Mobile Learning Week: February 23-27, 2015 (Paris)

ACR hosted a “Findings of international technology-for-education landscape review, and moving the field forward for collecting evidence of ‘what works’” workshop and had a booth in the exhibit hall to promote our conflict and crises and Tracking and Tracing Books prize.



Comparative & International Education Society (CIES) Conference: March 8-13, 2015 (Washington DC)

ACR had a booth in the exhibit hall and promoted our current prize competitions. ACR representatives also spoke at the following presentations:

- Developing an Evidence Basis for Technology-Supported Education
- Track and Trace: Improving supply chain management for reading materials
- Think local. Act global: Challenges and successes in taking local language materials global
- Cultivating Education Innovation

Digital Literacy for Child Literacy Summit & Showcase: April 27-28, 2015 (Melbourne, Australia)



WV Australia and DFAT hosted a two-day event including a showcase of innovations from ACR GCD grantees from Asia, plenaries, panels and TED-style presentations around innovation in development and the use of technology to improve children's literacy. Workshops were also held by international experts exploring issues pertinent to development innovators, including innovation acceleration, deepening the evidence base for technology and materials creation.

World Vision International Education & Life Skills Asia Learning Event: May 25-28, 2015 (Bangkok, Thailand)

An ACR GCD representative from WV Australia presented at this event to increase awareness of ACR competitions and innovations within WV national offices in Asia.

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)

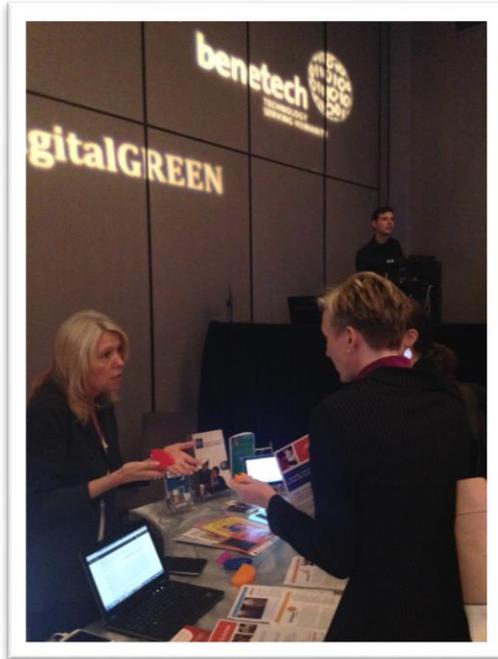
Submitted slides on USAID-selected ACR grantees for GCD presentation by USAID.



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.

Future exhibits

The Department of State requested innovation samples (via the Global Development Lab) for an exhibit in the yet-to-open Diplomacy Center. ACR submitted project samples from Round 1 grantees, Friends of Matenwa, Sesame Workshop India Trust and Worldreader. We are awaiting their final selection for the exhibit.

Activity 1.9 Publications:

eNewsletter: 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

Website enhancements made include:

- Webinar archives
- Round 2 Innovator profiles
- Regular updates to the homepage slideshow
- Innovator Profiles for the Enabling Writers, Big Ideas@Berkeley Mobiles for Reading, Technology to Support Education in Crisis and Conflict Settings, and Tracking & Tracing Books prize competition winners/finalists
- Grant & Prize page – new page includes prize purse, partner(s), and status of prize, dates of Round 2, and definition of prizes.
- ACR in the news – links to where ACR has appeared in the media
- Newsletter – now includes link to our newsletter archives
- About Us – Partner, Round 1 & 2 and Grand Challenges info
- ACR GCD video added to homepage slideshow.
- Round 2 Grantee videos posted to their profile pages
- Blogs section
- 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

The significant number of events, media and outreach for prizes during this past year, as detailed above, demonstrate concerted effort to attract global attention to ACR GCD. This will now be complemented by the establishment of an Advisory Board to support the strategic planning and partnerships of ACR GCD. Draft documentation—including articulation of Advisory Board objectives, proposed members and other key support materials—has been created.

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, Melwood Global and InnoCentive. We also appreciate the collaboration, contributions and participation provided by colleagues at the Global Development Lab.

In conjunction, 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.

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 a bi-weekly teleconference with communication colleagues at USAID, DAI, Melwood Global and the Lab regarding events and communication activities. In addition, the ACR GCD Partners met in person on April 29, 2015 in Melbourne, Australia. The meeting resulted in consensus on strategic, programmatic and financial plans for the coming 6 to 12 months. This meeting also identified the need to create an Advisory Board that would support strategic thinking for the remaining years of Round 2.

Activity 2.2 Facilitate decision-making throughout award process

All ACR GCD Partners were involved in key decision-making points which includes final identification of grant competition finalists, prize launches, events and communication materials.

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

WV has strategically engaged with the Global Development Lab as the Fund Manager for Round 2 and as a Cornerstone Partner. WV worked with USAID contractor, NORC, in support of an impact evaluation of Creative Associates. Additionally, WV worked with URC, under their contract with USAID, to prepare for the roll-out of several prizes.

WV convenes bi-weekly communications conference calls with members of the USAID E3, the Lab, Melwood Global and DAI media and communications teams to discuss communications and events related to 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, our website 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

World Vision continues to cultivate new partners. Outreach to private partners included Google, DAISY Consortium, Orange, Norad, Arizona State University, The World Bank, UNICEF, UNHCR, and IDRC, most notably around prize competition sponsorship. The Global Development Lab has encouraged ACR GCD to not only deepen current partnerships, but also to increase the evidence base of its work.

Activity 3.2: Increase private sector contributions

As noted above, ACR GCD has attracted a variety of new partners which has led to leveraging technical and outreach support through in-kind contributions. In addition, ACR GCD has leveraged a financial match in proposed programming with IDRC. Of note, while not categorized as private sector, ACR GCD nearly doubled its grant funding portfolio by securing the participation of local USAID Missions in Round 2.

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

ACR GCD continues to provide notification of new funding opportunities, media support, and other capacity building services that we believe will lead to further scaling of initiatives. In Round 2, with projects just in start-up phase, we have not yet at the stage of scale up. We anticipate more opportunities to witness innovators further their innovations in the coming year.

Personnel

With the significant increase in the number of Round 2 grantees and prize competitions, WV began the recruitment process for a full-time program management officer in 2015. Deborah Backus officially joined the team in May 2015. In addition, WV continued to utilize John Comings to provide technical literacy expertise and Sonny Lacey for IT and user-interface expertise in prize designs.

Conclusion

As evidenced by the broad reach of All Children Reading activities noted in this report, ACR GCD is firmly established as a platform to attract technology-based innovative ideas to improve early grade literacy, to deepen the evidence base of the use of technology to increase reading outcomes, and to attract new solvers and partners to the global challenge of literacy. It has also established its brand as a reputable participant and contributor in the literacy and technology space.

Our solver network continues to grow on a monthly basis as we are seen as not only offering opportunities for sourcing new ideas or products, but also as an avenue to test and offer these ideas as a resource to the industry, as well as serving as a connector for others developing or wishing to collaborate or scale solutions in this sector.

We recognize that the use of the prize model to this extent is unique to All Children Reading within the grand challenge model and are eager to assess the success this mechanism can offer to development and to gather lessons learned in prize design and implementation.

We are also excited to see the breakthrough innovations emerging from our competitions as well as through our grant activities, especially EGRA adaption for children with disabilities.

Our non-traditional partnership is strong and remains committed to pursuing distinctive ideas, opportunities and results. We are appreciative of each partner's contributory efforts to advance the goals of All Children Reading through promotion of activities through their unique networks and channels; linking ACR to other relevant players; and efforts to leverage the project's influence by connecting in-country project staff with local Missions/National Office/Post staff.

We look forward to the feedback and guidance we're seeking from our Advisory Board, to be established next FY, as we continue to strategically position All Children Reading for the future.