



*Reading is a critical foundational skill that paves the way for future success for Kenyan students, such as these class 2 learners.
Photo: USAID*

KENYA

OUR SISTERS READ

Reading is foundational for future success in life. Our Sisters Read is promoting a culture of reading and strengthening early grade reading outcomes in Tharaka Nithi County, where literacy levels and educational outcomes lag national averages. In addition to facilitating access to books and technology in areas where no libraries or digital resources exist, Our Sisters Read engages educators, youth, parents/caregivers, and community leaders in providing engaging and digitally supported reading opportunities to early grade learners and struggling readers in Tharaka Nithi county.

OUR WORK

Our Sisters Read aims to have reading programs at participating schools, targeted support for struggling readers, digitally supported learning opportunities, adult literacy classes for parents and caregivers, and expanded access to books and technology through a fixed library and computer center and 60 school-based libraries in rural areas. These interventions are designed to improve early grade reading outcomes in Tharaka Nithi through sustained interest, motivation, and support for early grade reading and digital literacy. Grade 3 learners in Tharaka Nithi schools will be the primary focus of these interventions. Our Sisters Read is supported by USAID's local works program to advance locally led development through a partnership with the Tharaka Women's Welfare Programme. The aim is to strengthen and sustain a culture of reading in Tharaka Nithi County.

Our Sisters Read follows a social behavior change approach that engages and empowers teachers, parents, and community leaders to support literacy as a critical foundation for education and gender equality.

Our Sisters Read is also getting support from USAID's American Schools and Hospitals Abroad initiative, which is going towards the construction of a library and ICT center in Tharaka Nithi. The library will serve the communities and serve as an educational and learning center in an area where no facilities and few resources of this kind exist.

OBJECTIVES

Encourage and motivate students to read. Our Sisters Read engages early grade learners in a variety of reading activities, while providing targeted support for struggling readers and increasing access to digital learning resources.

Build a community of teachers, parents, and leaders to support reading. Our Sisters Read engages parents, educators, youth, local government officials, and village and religious leaders to support and sustain improved early grade reading outcomes in Tharaka Nithi county.

Create access to well-resourced libraries to support learning. Our Sisters Read provides reading materials, builds staff capacity, and increases community engagement with a fixed library and computer center as well as remote libraries for 60 schools across Tharaka North sub-county.

BUDGET: USD \$2 million

DURATION: 2022 - 2027

ACTIVITY LOCATIONS

Tharaka Nithi County

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

Women's Global Education Project (WGEP)

KEY PARTNERS

Tharaka Women's Welfare Programme

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