

## Message from the READ Trust Fund Program Managers

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the June 2017 edition of the READ 2 Trust Fund Newsletter! Since last time, all [eight READ 2 Trust Fund grant-recipient countries](#) have received their initial round of funding and started implementing their planned activities. In each newsletter, we will highlight the work taking place in one of these countries. In this edition, we invite you to learn more about READ 2 Trust Fund-supported activities in the Kyrgyz Republic. We also share some exciting news on our recently-launched course on Student Assessment for Policymakers and Practitioners and offer an update on tools we are developing to help countries review and strengthen their assessment systems.

In April, we had a chance to catch up with a team from the Russian Ministry of Finance during their trip to Washington, DC for the World Bank Group and IMF Spring Meetings. We discussed the work to be carried out in all eight READ 2 Trust Fund grant-supported countries and how best to share the results from these innovative activities with others. In May, we welcomed a team from [the Center for International Cooperation in Education Development \(CICED\)](#) for a training session on the World Bank's approach to development aid. Below, you can find out more about CICED and the types of resources and support it offers to countries for improving their capacity in educational evaluation and assessment.

Read on to learn more about these and other exciting initiatives being supported under the READ 2 program! As always, we welcome your feedback and suggestions.

Warm regards,

Marguerite Clarke and Julia Liberman  
READ 2 Trust Fund Program Managers

*"Better assessment for better learning"*

## Feature Story



### **SAILing in the Kyrgyz Republic**

Dingyong Hou, Senior Education Specialist and World Bank Task Team Leader for the Strengthening Student Assessment for Improved Learning (SAIL) project in the Kyrgyz Republic, and Gulmira Sultanova, Operations Officer in the Bishkek office reflect on the country's progress under READ 1 and its ambitious plans for READ 2 ... [read more](#)

## READ Trust Fund Spotlight



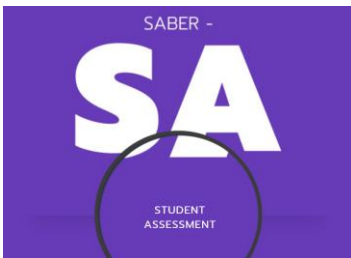
### READ 2 Trust Fund Country Updates

Starting with this edition of the READ 2 Trust Fund newsletter, we will be sharing status updates from countries receiving a READ 2 Trust Fund grant ... [read more](#)



### Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about Assessment, but Were Afraid to Ask

This month, we launched a [new course](#) in the World Bank's Open Learning Campus on the topic of Student Assessment for Policymakers and Practitioners ... [read more](#)



### SABER-Student Assessment: New "Lite" Tools for Country Teams

The READ 2 Trust Fund team is finalizing a new "lite" version of their [SABER – Student Assessment](#) data collection and evaluation tools to help countries further develop their assessment systems ... [read more](#)

## READ RAS Spotlight



### READ 2 RAS Program Update

The READ 2 RAS program was launched in November 2016 to support Russia in developing the capacity of local experts and researchers in the field of education. The program has made progress in a number of important areas ... [read more](#)

## Blogs



### **Join Now! Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about Student Assessments**

*By Marguerite Clarke*

Assessments make a lot of people nervous, and I'm not just talking about the students who have to take them. As a psychometrician and World Bank staffer, I've worked on assessment projects in more than 30 countries ... [read more](#)



### **Why We Should Invest in Getting More Kids to Read -- and How to Do It**

*By Harry Patrinos, Jimmy Graham, Sean Kelly*

It is estimated that more than 250 million school children throughout the world cannot read. This is unfortunate because literacy has enormous benefits ... [read more](#)



### **A Mixed Report: How Europe and Central Asian Countries Performed in PISA**

*By Cristian Aedo and Katia Herrera Sosa*

While more and more ECA countries are participating in the PISA test, "education poverty" in these countries has declined only slightly since 2000 ... [read more](#)

Read more **Education for Global Development Blogs** [here](#).

## General News Roundup and Resources



### CICED and the World Bank

Artem Stepanenko, Director of [the Center for International Cooperation in Education Development](#) updates the READ community on the resources and support that CICED offers to countries interested in building their capacity in educational assessment and management ... [read more](#)



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