

# Nepal

READ 2  
Trust Fund Grant  
2017–2019

## CONTEXT

In the 1950s, Nepal's literacy rate was two percent and only one out of every thousand children attended school. Since then, the education system in Nepal has successfully concentrated on increasing access to primary schools to 65 percent of children and on developing the foundations of secondary and tertiary education. Literacy rate has increased to over forty percent of the population. As the need to further enhance the education system grows, the Government of Nepal (GoN) is committed to introducing education reforms to ensure equity and quality. As such, in 2010, under the School Sector Reform Program (SRRP, 2009-2016), the government established the Education Review Office (ERO) within the Ministry of Education (MOE) with the aim of conducting assessments of student achievement and providing systemic policy feedback for improving the quality of the school sector, as well as for reforming the public examination system.

## FOCUS AREAS OF READ TRUST FUND GRANT SUPPORT

Enhancing stakeholder capacity to use assessment data

Reforming the high-stakes examination program

## AS A RESULT OF THE READ TRUST FUND, NEPAL IS:

### Strengthening its national large-scale assessment system by improving the technical quality of the assessment instruments and ensuring appropriate uses of the assessment data

Nepal has been steadily improving National Assessment of Student Achievement (NASA) activities in the country by making them more technically rigorous. For example, training has been provided to Education Review Office (ERO) staff on standardizing and analyzing the NASA data (particularly for grades 8 and 10 in Math, Nepali, English and Science) to increase validity and reliability of the results.

As a result of the training, NASA is now standardized and criterion-referenced. Targeted support has also been provided to the Ministry of Education (MOE) and ERO in interpreting and disseminating NASA results nationally and locally.

Likewise, guidance has been provided to the MOE and ERO on effective approaches to using the findings of NASA to inform teaching and subsequently improve learning in the classroom.

By building the quality of national large-scale assessments and ensuring their appropriate uses, the READ 2 Trust Fund grant is supporting Nepal in collecting relevant, valid and reliable data on what its students know and can do in order to inform policies and practices for improved student learning.

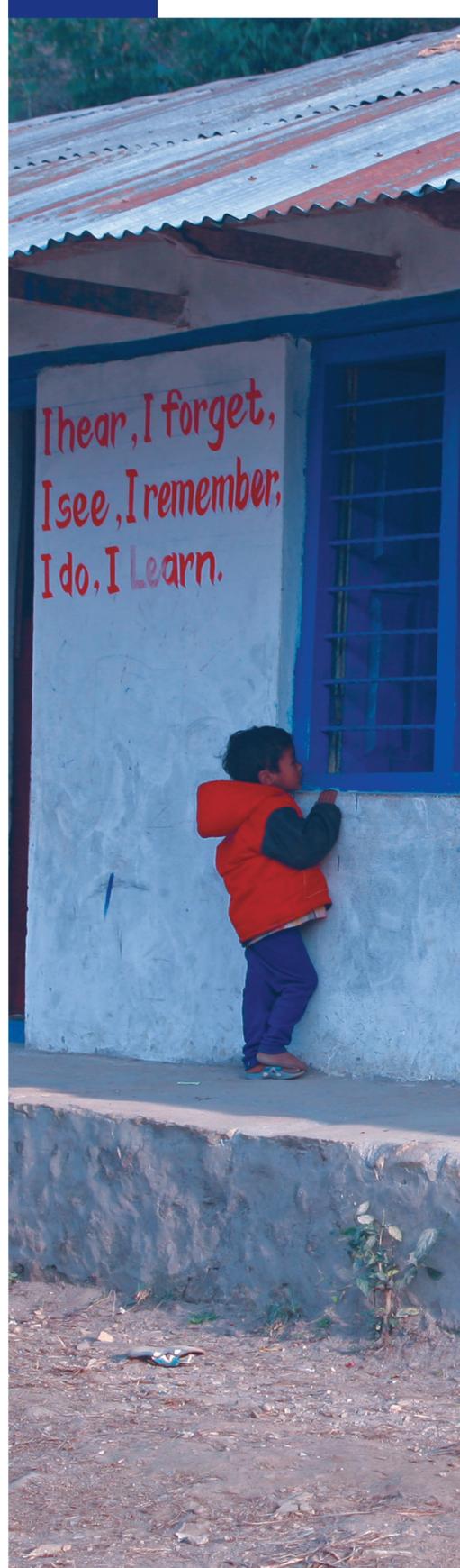
### Improving the public examination system, leading to students having a fair chance to be considered for admission to post-secondary education institutions

Public examination reform in the country was supported by introducing a single subject certification/letter-grading system in the grade 10 and grade 12 examinations, and by establishing a National Examination Board (NEB) to oversee the standardization of these public examinations for quality assurance.

Key MOE and NEB staff, as well as assessment practitioners, have benefitted from technical assistance and training on key areas of examinations, including on best practices in standardization. Numerous technical training sessions were conducted to improve the grade 10 Secondary Education Examination (SEE) in Math, Science, and English, including a rigorous 5-day item writing training that was for 65 subject experts and NEB staff.

Additionally, SEE item writing and specification grid elaboration workshops for central-level item writers were organized, with the participation of 36 subject experts (12 each from English, Math and Science) from schools and academic circles, as well as 11 experts from NEB and the Office of the Controller of Exams (OCE).

By supporting examination reform, the READ 2 Trust Fund grant is helping the Government of Nepal to facilitate fair and equitable access of Nepalese students to tertiary education.



I hear, I forget,  
I see, I remember,  
I do, I learn.