Anatomy of a Read Liberia Coach

Coaching roles are now undertaken by:
• Principals and vice principals of instruction trained by Read Liberia.
• District Education Officers trained by Read Liberia to support, supervise, and monitor principals and vice principals of instruction in their roles as coaches.

11. CAPACITY BUILDING

Coaches are trained in:
• Liberian curriculum.
• Structure and use of teacher guides.
• Early grade reading methodology.
• Universal Design for Learning principles.

1. CONTENT KNOWLEDGE

Coaches confirm that:
• Schools are open.
• Teachers and students are in school.
• Principals are at their posts.

2. MONITORING

Coaches ensure that:
• Books reach all schools.
• Students have their books in class.

3. BOOK DISTRIBUTION

Coaches facilitate teacher trainings by:
• Helping develop training materials.
• Training teachers, principals, and other staff.
• Leading cluster-based trainings.

6. TRAINING

Coaches evaluate performance using:
• Teacher assessment rubrics.
• Student oral reading fluency tests.
• Student reading spot checks.

4. ASSESSMENT

Coaches adapted to the COVID-19 pandemic by:
• Providing phone-based support to teachers.
• Promoting Teach By Radio programs to parents.
• Innovating to reach teachers with no cell phone coverage.

9. FLEXIBILITY IN EMERGENCIES

Coaches coordinate collaborative meetings with school administrators, principals, teachers, and Education Officers to build support for and sustain quality classroom instruction.

10. COLLABORATION

Coaches provide intensive condensed support to schools that are difficult to reach because of infrastructure (e.g., lack of roads, impassible rivers, extreme distances).

7. REMOTE SUPPORT

Coaches support community engagement by:
• Contributing to parent–teacher association meetings.
• Educating parents on the importance of reading.
• Informing parents on issues of low attendance.
USAID/Read Liberia Activity is a five-year (September 2017–September 2022) program that aims at improving early grade reading skills for Liberian students in 640 public schools in grades 1 and 2. Read Liberia also pilot tested a program to develop emergent literacy skills for Liberian students in 60 public kindergarten schools. The Activity is implemented in six targeted counties—Lofa, Bong, Grand Bassa, Nimba, Margibi, and Montserrado. Read Liberia is funded by USAID and implemented by RTI International with subcontractors Another Option, Brattle Publishing Group, and Diversified Educators Empowerment Program (DEEP) through direct partnership with the Liberian Ministry of Education.

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