

# Public libraries are centers for the development of literate modern citizens

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# Early Grade Reading Assessment (EGRA)

- On the oral reading fluency subtask, 42% of assessed students reached the grade level benchmark of 40 correct words per minute, but only 37% of student met the reading comprehension benchmark of 80%.
- This gap between reading fluency and comprehension may be caused by a heavier emphasis on children becoming fast readers than comprehending what they read.
- According to the EGRA, about 30% of surveyed schools never hold extracurricular literacy activities with parents.
- About 16% of students interviewed reported that they never read with someone at home.



# Public libraries status in Kyrgyz Republic

- According to the Law on Librarianship: *“Every citizen, regardless of gender, age, nationality, education, social status, political beliefs, and attitude to religion, has the right to library services in the territory of the Kyrgyz Republic”*.
- There are currently 1,064 libraries in the Kyrgyz Republic and 35 of them are children’s libraries.
- The mission of children’s public libraries is to grow and maintain young children’s interest in reading and their education.
- Libraries can enhance activities with parents and local communities, but often struggle to serve as a community hub.

# Strengthening capacity of public libraries

- › Provided books to 100 libraries- 80,000 books in Kyrgyz and Russian, over 173 different titles;
- › Built the capacity of 100 librarians through targeted training;
- › Created guidelines for librarians in community engagement strategies;
- › Currently working with the Ministry of Culture to help craft “model library” guidelines.





# Extracurricular activities to improve reading skills

- Summer camps
- Reading clubs
- Visiting vulnerable families
- Awareness raising campaigns



# Joint reading to strengthen the parent-child bond



- “My first-grade son’s learning achievements improved thanks to regularly reading aloud at home and discussing the main story characters. Summer camps equipped us with reading strategies we can use to read our children” (Rada Ibraimova – parent of a first-grade student from the Jalal-Abad region).
- “Summer camp taught adults to be more tolerant since our children interacted with children from socially vulnerable families, orphans, and single-parent families” (Makebaeva Meerim- parent of a third-grade student from the Chui region).



# Implementation challenges

- Professional level competency public librarians
- Technology and infrastructure
- Community and parental involvement





# Next steps



- Methodological support to created model libraries.
- Approved Regulation on model libraries.
- Extra curricular activities.
- Strengthening partnership with government and local authorities.
- Collaboration with schools for joint activities on enhancing children's reading skills.
- Presentation of EGRA results in August-September 2024.



# *Thank you!*

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