

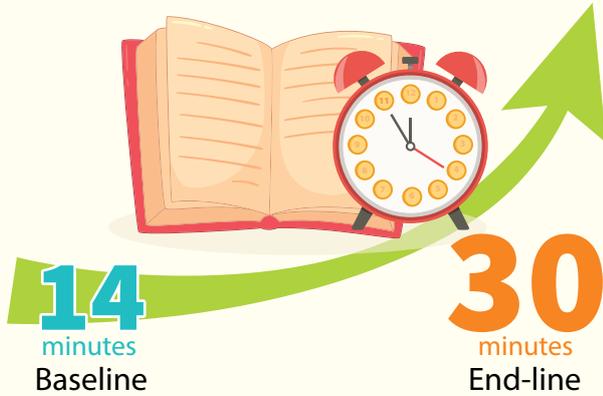
The Beyond Access Bangladesh program has proven:



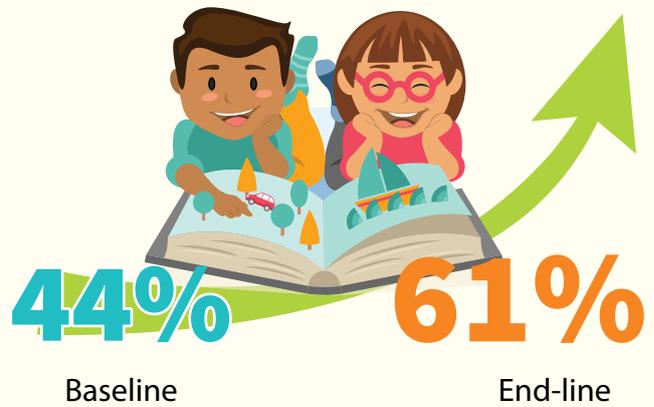
Community libraries improve reading practice and performance

Over a 1 ½ year period, children who visited their community library:

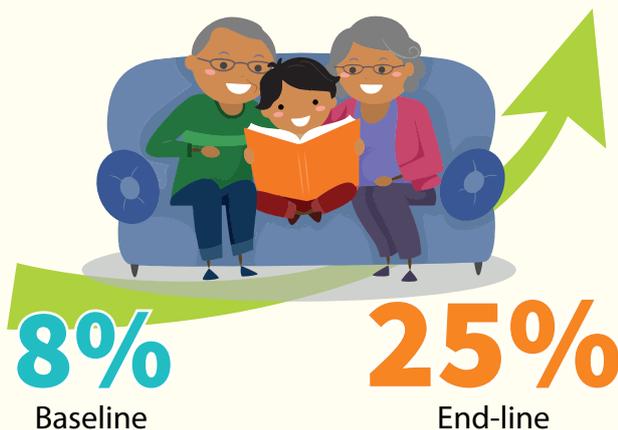
increased time spent reading per day



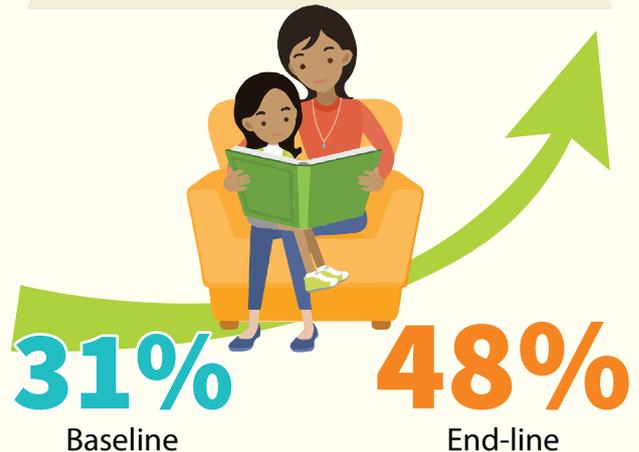
reported regularly reading for pleasure



live in a household with storybooks



have parents who read to them out loud





About Beyond Access



Beyond Access is an initiative implemented globally by IREX to help leverage the power of libraries to meet community needs. Beginning in 2015 in Bangladesh, Beyond Access is a partnership between IREX and Save the Children's READ program and a coalition of other stakeholders including the Department of Public Libraries (Ministry of Cultural Affairs). The project expands reading opportunities outside the classroom for children by incorporating technology, librarian training, and parental engagement.



What Beyond Access Does in Bangladesh



While Bangladesh has many community libraries, they have traditionally been underused in support of children's reading. Beyond Access helps community librarians modernize their libraries into vibrant, child-friendly spaces, providing reading corners, child-appropriate books, tablets loaded with learning games, and other educational materials, such as puzzles, drawing kits, and word games. Librarians also engage members of the community, including parents and teachers, to foster a culture of reading for children that extends beyond classroom instruction.



Activities at Beyond Access libraries



Playing with Puzzles



Group Activities



Drawing



Learning and playing with tablets



Storytime



Investigating the results of vibrant community libraries

IREX and Save the Children commissioned Innovision to conduct a study to assess the extent to which Beyond Access Bangladesh improved reading practice and performance for children. The study explored increased exposure to text, reading opportunities outside the classroom, and improved reading performance for Grade 2 and 3 students. The study also examined the extent to which parents and teachers are engaged in supporting children's reading. IREX and Save the Children conducted a baseline study in December 2015 and an external endline evaluation in June 2017 and involved a sample size of 194 children.

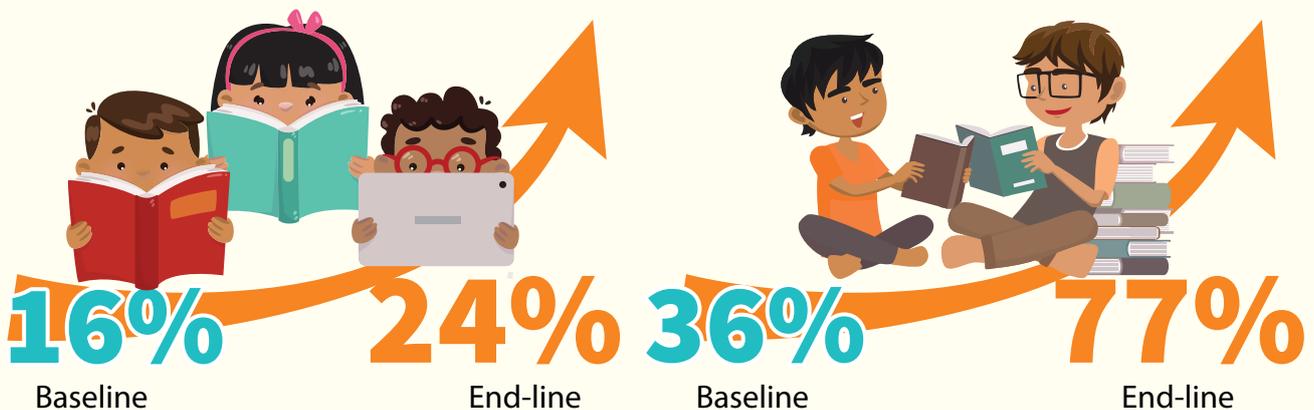


More Key Findings



Everyday Library Visitors

Reading with Friends





Early Grade Reading Assessment (EGRA)



The endline evaluation included the administration of EGRA tools to compare reading performance on the part of children that participated in Beyond Access activities versus children that have not participated in the project. Below are select findings from this component of the evaluation.



EGRA - Demographic Analysis of Respondents



Total Sample
236



Grades of Respondents



41% Grade 2
41% Grade 3

Age Group of Respondents (%)

14.4% - 7 years old
31.8% - 8 years old
33.5% - 9 years old



17.4% - 10 years old
1.7% - 11 years old
1.3% - 12 years old

Library Usage



52% Library Users
48% Non Users



EGRA results



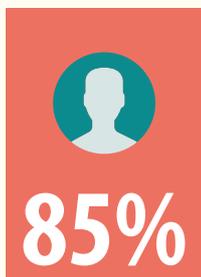
Number of letters correctly pronounced (out of 50)

Number of words read aloud correctly from most frequently used words (out of 20)

Grade 2



Beyond Access-Supported Library User

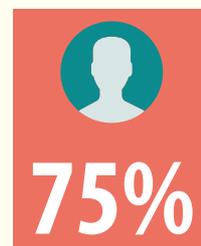


Non User

Grade 2



Beyond Access-Supported Library User



Non User

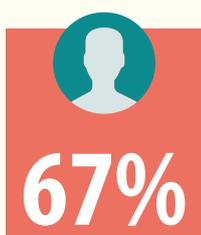
Reading comprehension: Total correct comprehension answers (out of 10) (only readers)

Reading fluency: Number of words correctly read per minute (only readers)

Grade 2



Beyond Access-Supported Library User



Non User

Grade 3



Beyond Access-Supported Library User



Non User