RWANDA Reads Celebrates International Literacy Day

Background and Rationale:
Reading is the cornerstone of academic success and, "finding ways to engage pupils in reading may be one of the most effective ways to leverage social change." If children leave school with a strong foundation of literacy skills they will be ready for a lifetime of reading and learning that will furnish the knowledge and inspiration they need to further improve their economic competitiveness, health, civic engagement, and quality of life.

In an effort to develop and foster such a culture of reading among children and adults throughout Rwanda, the Ministry of Education (MINEDUC) through the Rwanda Education Board (REB) and in cooperation with the development partners (DPs) launched the Rwanda Reads Initiative in July 2012.

Since its inception, Rwanda Reads has inspired many initiatives to encourage and support a culture of reading throughout Rwanda: (1) Authors/publishers have been encouraged to write more and better, (2) REB provides all primary schools with an approved list of supplementary and instructional reading materials that schools use to order books, (3) Members of the publishing industry (publisher, illustrators, and writers) have been trained on how to develop books for young readers, (4) Workshops such as those by Save the Children have been held to encourage teachers to become authors, (5) ‘Reading Day’ campaigns have been organized, (6) Community libraries have been established, and (7) The L3 initiative along with a host of other organizations has been working closely with REB to improve the quality of reading and materials in Primary Schools.

This year, Rwanda Reads is planning to join the world in celebrating International Literacy Day (ILD), which falls on September 8th annually, and in many countries it is celebrated throughout the week. On September 10, 2014 more actors in the area of literacy will be brought together in a Rwanda Reads Assembly, to share their work, network, and collaboratively plan in support of improved literacy in Rwanda.

Objectives:

1) Celebrating International Literacy Day and raising people’s awareness of the power of literacy,
2) Stocktaking of reading initiatives and recent achievements in literacy and mapping ways forward for the improvement of literacy among all Rwandans,
3) Presenting and exploring new opportunities that will make Rwanda Reads a strong platform for information sharing, networking, and promotion of activities and initiatives with the common goal of improving opportunities for reading throughout the country.
Important dates:

- **September 8th 2014**: The World celebrates International Literacy Day. This day marks the kick off for the national literacy week for Rwanda. It is expected that a high official from the government will address the whole population via radio and/or TV.

- **September 10th 2014**: Rwanda Reads Assembly (by invitation only) will meet from 8 to 10:30 am to bring together key stakeholders for the following activities:
  - presentation of Rwanda Reads as a platform and networking opportunity,
  - introduction to the webpage and how it can support literacy initiatives – building demand, advertising, educating, connecting, and the like,
  - presentations on literacy initiatives by various organizations large and small,
  - opportunity for small group discussions centering on issues of interest to participants such as literacy related to early childhood, special needs students, adult literacy, English language, publishing

After the Rwanda Reads Assembly the event will be opened to the invited public (including other partners, teachers, parents, local government, media, etc). Activities within the 10:30 – 13:00 open-to-public forum time frame include the following:

- speeches by the Minister of Education and other dignitaries,
- opportunity to walk around and view/interact with display tables and organization representatives to learn more about literacy initiatives throughout Rwanda,
- opportunity to learn about the webpage,
- opportunity to express interest in being a member of the Rwanda Reads General Assembly
- testimonials

N.B: A detailed agenda is attached

Dignitaries on September 10:

- Guest of Honor to be suggested by REB
- High Officials from MINEDUC
- High Officials from other relevant Ministries
- High Officials from REB
- High Officials from Development Partners (USAID, DFID, UNICEF)
Participants at the morning session: About 162 participants
- Members of the steering committee of RR
- Officials from the MINEDUC, REB
- RENCP members active in the field of reading
- Invited institutions of higher learning
- Invited publishers, booksellers, libraries
- District education officers

When the event is open to the public:
- Head teachers, teachers, tutors, ...
- Primary and secondary schools students
- Media

N.B: List of Invitees is attached

Venue: Umubano Hotel

Funding:
- USAID will cover the venue/hospitality costs and banners,
- UNICEF has agreed to fund transport (and accommodation as necessary) for the following participants (TTC, DEOs, Selected Primary and Secondary schools). REB will submit a formal letter to UNICEF requesting these funds, and will manage the refund process.

Annexes:
1) Event program’s agenda
2) List of invitees
3) Draft budget
4) Draft letters of invitation
5) List of tasks and timeline
STAND UP FOR LITERACY!

Rwanda Reads General Assembly
Umubano Hotel – September 10, 2014

7:30   Registration + Morning coffee/tea
8:30   Introductory notes by the Master of Ceremony
8:40   Welcome notes by the Rwanda Education Board (DDG CPMD)
8:50   Rwanda Reads platform: structure, membership, logo, webpage (USAID)
9:10   Q&A
9:20   Presentation 1: Literacy, Language, and Learning - EDC/L3 (USAID) with Q&A
9:35   Presentation 2: Early Literacy Promotion in Rwanda (Save the Children) with Q&A
9:50   Networking tables/Coffee is served
10:30  Presentation 3: Role of the community libraries (Rwanda Library Services)
10:40  Welcome notes to the Guest of Honor and other dignitaries (REB DG)
10:55  Testimony: Adult literacy (ADRA) –
11:00  Announcing Andika Rwanda winners and Distribution of awards by the Minister
11:10  Panel Discussion with 3 Andika Rwanda participants and Story sharing
11:35  Remarks from the Guest of Honor
11:50  Visit display tables, Refreshments, Photos + Media Interviews
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
PO BOX 622 KIGALI

Hon. Minister
Ministry of Local Government
KIGALI

Hon. Minister,

Re: Public Announcement Messages about Literacy at Umuganda

I am writing to request that the attached literacy messages are communicated to the Rwandan population during UMUGANDA on 30th August 2014.

Honorable Minister, the world will celebrate International Literacy Day on 8th September 2014. The Ministry of Education in collaboration with Development Partners in Education plan to extend the celebration throughout the week by encouraging events and activities that promote literacy, in order to raise the public awareness on the powers of literacy.

The national theme for this year is “Stand up for literacy”. Please receive attached a list of relevant messages to be communicated at Umuganda throughout the country.

Thank you for all you have already done to develop a culture of reading in Rwanda.

Yours sincerely,

Sharon HABA
Permanent Secretary

C.C.:
- Right Honorable Prime Minister
- Minister of Education
- Minister of State in charge of Primary and Secondary Education
- Minister of State in charge of TVET
- Director General/REB
UBUTUMWA BUGENEWE ABATURAGE MU MUGANDA WA KANAMA 2014

Itariki: 30/08/2014

Icyo ubutumwa bugamije: Kumenyesha Abanyarwanda ibijanye n’ Icyumweru cyahariwe gusoma no kubashishikariza kwitabira ibikorwa bigamije kwimakaza umuco wo gusoma.

Intangiriro: Isi yose yizihiza umunsi wahariwe gusoma buri wa 8 Nzeri wa buri mwaka. Bitewe n’ uruhare kumenyagusoma bifite mw’ iteramberery’ Abanyagihugu, Minisiteri y’ Uburezi n’abafatanya bikorwa bayo babinyujije muri gahunda yayo yitwa “Rwanda Reads” (Soma Rwanda) biyemje gushyiraho icyumweru cyahariwe kwimakaza umuco wo gusoma ku va ku wa 8 Nzeri kugeza ku wa 12 Nzeri 2014. Ni byiza rero ko Abanyarwanda bingeri zitandukanye, ari abazi gusoma n’abatabizi, abari mu mashuri cyangwa abayarangije, bamenyeshwa iby’ iki cyumweru kandi bagashishikarizwa kwitabira ibikorwa bitandukanye biteganijwe.

Ibikubiye muri ubu butumwa:

- Kumenya gusomani inkungi ikomeye iganisha ku iterambere rirambye ry’ umuntu kugiticye n’ igihugu muri rusange.
- Kumenya gusoma no kwandika ni bumwe mu burenzibwerw’ ibanze bwa Muntu.
- Insanganyamatsiko ijiyanye n’ umunsi mpuzamahanga wo gusoma uyumwaka nkuko yagenywe na UNESCO ni” Literacy for Sustainability” cya “ Gusoma inkiring y’ iterambere rirambye”.
- Insanganyamatsiko ijiyanye n’ icyumweru cyahariwe gusoma mu Rwanda ni “Stand up for literacy”. “Duharanire kumenya gusoma”.

A) Abayobozi ku nzego z’ ibanze barasabwa:
- Kuberaabandirugorirwiza, babasomera mu ruhame,
- Gusobanurira abo bayobora ibyiza byo kugiragusoma umuco no kubakangurira kugana ibigo byigisha abakuze gusoma
- Kubashishikariza kugana amasomero no kubashakira ibyo basoma
- Gushishikariza amashuri n’ amasomero gutegura ibiganiro biganisha kumuco wo gusoma
- Kugena nibura iminota 15 buri umuntu aho ari agasoma igitabo, ikinyamukuru, ari uburyo bwo kwifatanya n’ abandi banyarwanda mu gikorwa cyo kwimakaza umuco wogusoma (Drop Everything and Read)

B) Abayobozi b’ amashuri bo barasabwa:
- Kugena nibura iminota 15 buri muni abanyeshuri, abarimu n’ abayobozi babo bakorebashaboma
- Gushishikariza abanyeshuri gusoma no kubatiza ibitabo basomera mu rugo.
- Gusomera abanyeshuri udukuru dushimishije
- Gutegura amarushanwa yo gusoma
- Guhanga udushya tugamije kwimakaza umuco wo gusoma muri ikicyumweru n’ ibihebizaza
C) Ababyeyi barasabwa:
- Gufata umwanya bagasomera abana babo,
- Guha umwanya abana babo ngo babasomera bakabatega amatwi bakanaba baza utubazo kubyo basomye.
- Gusura amasomero abari hafi
- Kugurira abana babo ibitabo byo gusoma
Dear .................................................................

Re: Rwanda Reads Assembly

I am writing to invite you to the Rwanda Reads Assembly to be held on 10\textsuperscript{th} September 2014 at Umubano Hotel from 8.30am to noon. A detailed agenda is attached.

As you know the world celebrates International Literacy Day on 8\textsuperscript{th} September 2014. Rwanda plans to extend the celebration throughout the week by encouraging events and activities that promote literacy. On the morning of 10\textsuperscript{th} September 2014, Rwanda Reads will hold an assembly to share literacy initiatives, and to present Rwanda Reads as a strong platform for networking and promoting a culture of reading throughout Rwanda.

Participants will learn about literacy promotion in Rwanda through an interactive networking session and a display of the activities and products of various organizations working to advance the objectives of Rwanda Reads.

Please confirm your participation to Rudasingwa Emile (USAID) by email at erudasingwa@usaid.gov or by telephone 0788301754.

Thank you for all you have already done to develop a culture of reading in Rwanda, and for joining us at the Rwanda Reads assembly.

Yours sincerely,

Sharon HABA
Permanent Secretary
C.C:  
- Minister of Education
- Minister of State in charge of Primary and Secondary Education
- Minister of State in charge of TVET
- Director General/REB