

REIMAGINING DATA-DRIVEN FOUNDATIONAL LEARNING IMPROVEMENTS: USAID/ZAMBIA LET'S READ

Strengthening linkages among student learning data, materials, and coaching to improve teaching and learning



Education Development Center (EDC) leads USAID Let's Read efforts to improve reading outcomes for 1.4 million pre-primary through Grade 3 learners in Zambian public and community schools. USAID support to the Ministry of General Education (MoGE) in the past decade has provided a strong foundation for quality improvements, including the development of the Primary Literacy Program. The Government of Zambia's significant investments in education, including the School Programme of In-Service Training for the Term (SPRINT) and accompanying policies for a Standardized Literacy Assessment (SLA) system, provide the backbone for the **enhanced Performance Tracking System (e-PTS)**.

What is e-PTS?

The e-PTS is a digital dashboard that hosts standardized literacy assessment, coaching, and school profile data for 5,000 public and community schools in five USAID partner provinces: Eastern, Muchinga, Northwestern, Southern and Western. To ensure consistency, accuracy, and reliability of data, Let's Read worked with the MoGE to develop curriculum-aligned assessments and administration guidance, including updated item banks for nine Grade 1-3 assessments. The assessments are administered by teachers; data is entered on printed score sheets and uploaded via interactive tablet-based applications that support analysis and use of the data for instructional improvement. The dashboard also includes coaching data from classroom observation and peer-to-peer coaching sessions, aligned with the MoGE's SPRINT.

How is e-PTS Used?

The dashboard is easily accessed at usaidezambia-letsread-project.edc.org. Results are fed into a tablet-based application that helps target instruction by steering teachers to suitable instructional strategies and related teaching and learning materials. Aggregate results are viewable by province, district, zone, and school. Quarterly provincial and district data review meetings analyze e-PTS data and use results to plan for school coaching and monitoring visits. To sustain and scale the e-PTS, USAID Let's Read is working with MoGE to enable multimodal dashboard applications and strengthen ministry capacity to manage and monitor the process for continued improvement of early grade learning outcomes.

e-PTS Results

- ✓ 85% of schools regularly reporting PTS data
- ✓ 4,500 tablets distributed
- ✓ SLAs in all seven languages
- ✓ 20,000 School Management Team members and 18,000 teachers trained in data management and use