

Language policy, planning and practice in Early Grade Reading Programs

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SUSAN BRUCKNER

Education Development Center (EDC)

Susan Bruckner is a senior international Technical Advisor at Education Development Center (EDC) with extensive experience in basic education, program management, design, and implementation. With 24 years as an elementary and middle school teacher before joining the international arena, Bruckner brings a foundation rooted in hands-on, practical experience as an educator, teacher trainer/mentor, and curriculum developer to her current work.

Prior to joining EDC, Bruckner served as an education development officer with USAID assigned to Indonesia, Pakistan, and Rwanda, respectively, managing basic education, higher education and workforce development projects, as well as collaborating with ministries of education, other funders, non-governmental organizations, private sector partners, and local communities to design and implement high quality, sustainable programming and inform policy.

Bringing her vast experience to her current role as a project director and senior technical advisor to programs in Asia, Africa and Central America, Bruckner provides support to early grade reading and math, community engagement, and social and behavior change communications activities.

DINA OCAMPO

Philippines Department of Education (formerly)

Dr. Dina Ocampo is a leading voice in language and reading education in the Philippines. As the Undersecretary for Curriculum and Instruction of the Department of Education (DepEd) from 2013 to 2017, she was instrumental in the effective implementation of the country's K-12 curriculum reform effort, including the national policy shift in 2012 towards promoting mother-tongue based multilingual education in the Kindergarten to Grade Three (K-3) key stage of the basic education system. Her knowledge and experience in how the Philippines' ambitious language and literacy reform effort was implemented in a complex, multilingual environment--and across thousands of public and private elementary schools across the country—is invaluable to the Global Reading Network, where she now serves as a Steering Committee member. Dr. Ocampo earned her Ph.D. in Psychology from the University of Surrey in the United Kingdom, where her research focused on the effects of bilingualism in early literacy development. She completed her Master's in Education (Reading Education) and her Bachelor in Elementary Education (Special Education) from the University of the Philippines-Diliman, where she currently serves as professor in the College of Education.

WENDI RALAINGITA

RTI International

Dr. Wendi Ralaingita is a Senior Research Education Analyst with RTI International, specializing in curriculum and instruction. She has over 25 years of experience in teaching, training, and teacher education, primarily in the areas of reading/writing and mathematics in both monolingual and multi-lingual settings, as well as English as a second language. Dr. Ralaingita is currently the Senior Reading Advisor for the USAID-funded Early Grade Reading Program (EGRP), which provides technical assistance to the Nepal Ministry of Education's National Early Grade Reading Program. She previously acted as Reading and Curriculum Advisor for an early grade reading program (READ TA) in Ethiopia. She has provided technical support to early grade reading and mathematics programs and research in Mali, DR Congo, Namibia, Rwanda, Kenya, Malawi, and the United States.

JHUM RAI

Nepal Language Commission

Jhum Rai began his career as a secondary teacher and has since worked in all levels of the education system in Nepal. He has worked in teacher training as well as school supervision, and has substantial experience in planning and implementation at both district and central levels. As the National Early Grade Reading Program began rolling out, Jhum Rai played a key role, first as the MoE's NEGRP Coordinator, and then as Program Liaison Manager on the RTI/EGRP team. Currently, Jhum Rai is an Undersecretary on Nepal's Language Commission, where he is overseeing multiple language and language-in-education studies and contributing to language policy and planning.