Use of *Bloom* to support Early Grade Reading in Afghanistan

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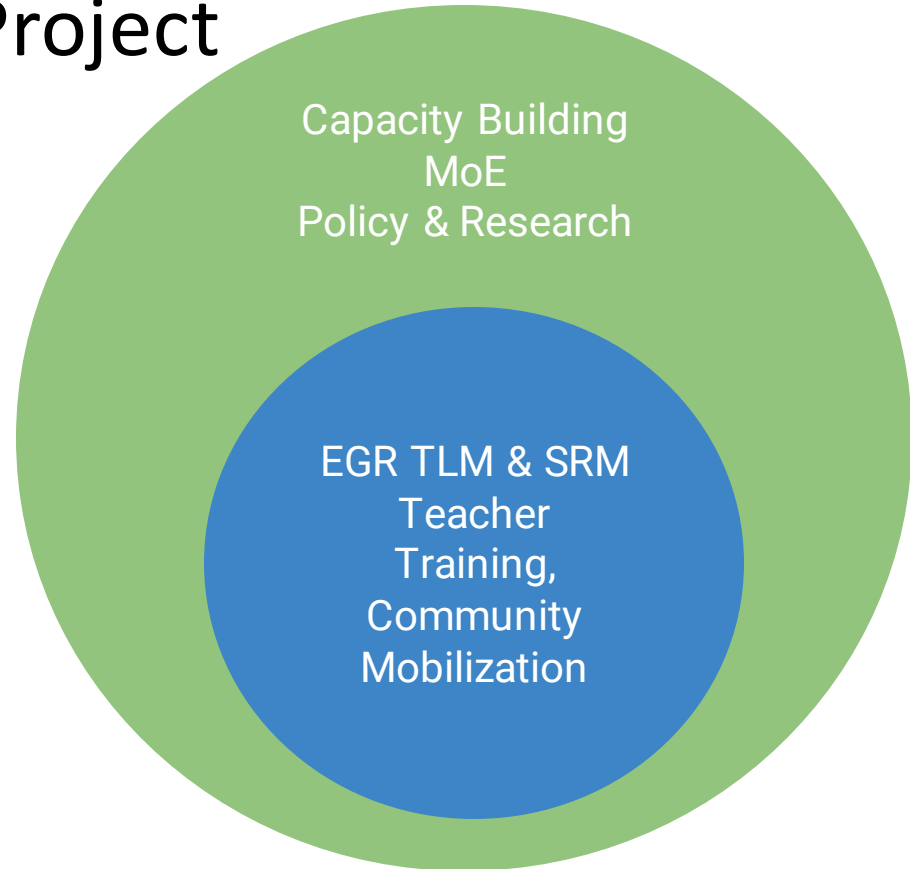
Introduction to Afghan Children Read

Introduction to ACR Project

Afghan Children Read is a five-year early grade reading reform initiative. funded by USAID and implemented by Creative Associates International, Inc. It started in 2016 and will end in 2021.

Capacity Building
MoE
Policy & Research

EGR TLM & SRM
Teacher
Training,
Community
Mobilization

EGR Model

Seven major components of the EGR model

We used *Bloom* to develop EGR supplementary materials.
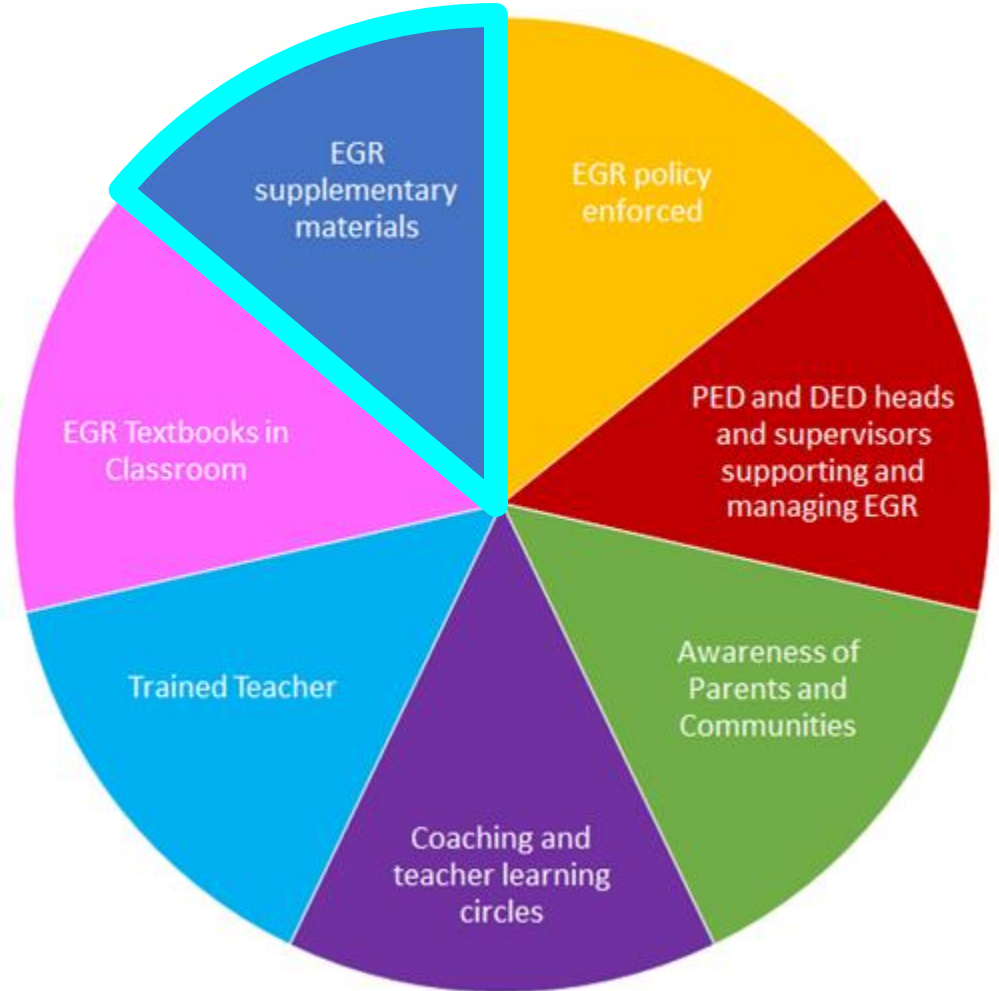
How ACR used Bloom to support EGR

ACR used Bloom to:

1. **Develop** <u>284</u> decodable and leveled readers aligned with the national EGR Curriculum.

2. **Create an "EGR Toolkit" of EGR teaching aids.** The toolkit includes helps for teachers to create their own teaching aids from locally-available resources.

3. **Develop specific COVID-19 supplementary reading books**

Making *Bloom* accessible for Afghanistan

Translation and Templates

Making Bloom accessible: Translations

National Languages of Afghanistan: Dari and Pashto.

Interface of Bloom, help files, instructional videos, and user manuals

User interface

Subtitles for 31 instructional videos

Making Bloom useful: Templates

ACR developed special templates for the MoE.

- **Decodable & leveled text tools** to match the National Reading Level Criteria

- **Custom layouts and logos**

- **the *bismallah,* the Afghan flag, and national anthem**

Training people to use Bloom

Face to Face through Reading Labs

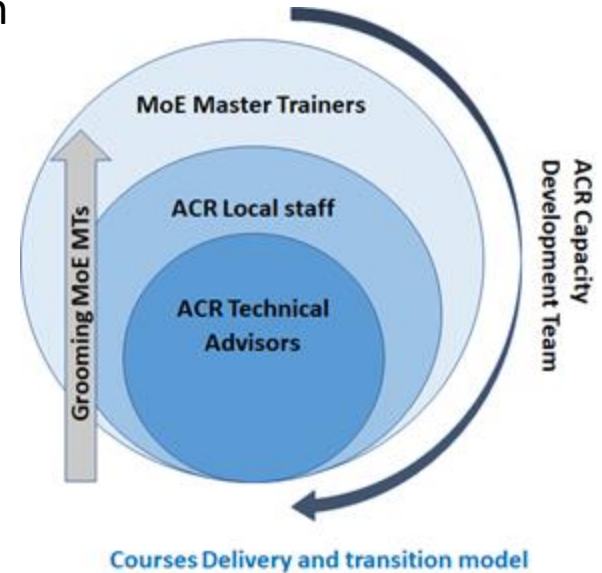Virtual during COVID 19

Face to Face Capacity Building

'Reading Labs' were established where supplementary materials are developed.

Reading Lab staff (Dari and Pashto) were trained to use Bloom during a workshop and continued support during on the job tasks and support.

Building the Organizational Capacity of the MoE during COVID-19

- Build capacity of curriculum staff of 7 other Afghan Languages 12 MoE staff (1 female, 11 male)

- Face-to-face training was impossible due to COVID19.

- Switched to virtual training.

- Yet several of the MoE staff had limited computer skills.

- Started by online training MoE to use Skype, internet, and some additional computer skills.

MoE Master Trainers

ACR Local staff

ACR Technical Advisors

Grooming MoE MTs

ACR Capacity Development Team

Courses Delivery and transition model

Adaptation of Bloom Training to Virtual

Timeframe - from 5 days to 7 weeks

- Delivered over 7 weeks
- 2-hour sessions, 3 days per week

Content and activities:

- Online lectures, discussions, assignments, "come-back days", individual support.
- 2 sessions (1 theoretical, 1 practical session) on using Bloom

Challenges: power cuts, unreliable internet, "emerging computer skills"

آموزش استفاده از بلوم (Bloom)

Use of Bloom Products

Use of Bloom Products

a. Supplementary reading books were distribution to the classrooms
- Teachers were trained
- Classroom libraries were set up
- Each class got 8 copies of a book – each child could read one supplementary reading book in a week.

b. Digital books available on website of Ministry of Education PDFs (MoE website)

Use of Bloom Products

a. Digital books being shared through online media campaign (e-pubs)

b. Talking books (for use with [Bloom Reader](#) app)

c. EGR Toolkit (teaching aids to support EGR)

زهرا نقاشی خود را

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کتاب من ناتوان نیستم

Iqraa Afghanistan - اقرأ الغانستان
18 oktober om 21:30 ·

اطفال نازنین، خواستن توانستن است و من امروز برای تان یک کتاب زیبا در این مورد می خوانم.

Question and Answer Session