THE ISSUE:

In September 2000, world leaders came together at the United Nations to adopt the United Nations Millennium Declaration, which committed their nations to a new global partnership to reduce extreme poverty and set out a series of time-bound targets called the Millennium Development Goals.

The eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – which range from halving extreme poverty to halting the spread of HIV, all by the target date of 2015 – form a blueprint agreed to by all the world’s countries and the world’s leading development institutions. They have galvanized unprecedented efforts to meet the needs of the world’s poorest.

Goal #2 is to achieve universal primary education. According to the UN, this means ensuring that children everywhere will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling by 2015.

2015 is almost upon us, and we still have a long way to go...

Globally, 123 million youth (aged 15 to 24) lack basic reading and writing skills – 61% of them are young women.

As of 2012, 31 million primary-school pupils worldwide dropped out of school. An additional 32 million repeated a grade.

Among 68 countries with data, the poorest young women are projected to achieve universal literacy only in 2072, 57 years after the 2015 deadline of universal primary education.

And not just in developing countries...

There are 15 million illiterate employees in the United States today.

Children who can’t read at grade level by the 4th grade are 400% more likely to drop out of high school.

By the end of fifth grade, disadvantaged youth in the US are nearly three grade equivalents behind their more affluent peers in reading.

Turn the page to learn how you can make a difference! >>
Where You Come In:

Guess what? You just read a page! And now you’re armed with the knowledge to make a real difference toward improving access to literacy and basic education around the world. Log your first page on our online form toward our goal of 20,015 pages read by International Literacy Day! Then share your progress or what you’re reading using #Pages4Progress.

Educate others about why basic education is so important by sharing our custom graphics below on your social media platforms!

We’ve also designed a special flier you can print out and post on bulletin boards at your local library or around your community. The more people who know about #Pages4Progress, the faster we’ll be able to reach 2,000,015 total pages!

Our Work:

At World Education we believe that ensuring a quality basic education is the best hope for long-term sustainable development. We empower children and adult learners with basic reading, writing, and numeracy skills. We understand the critical importance of developing reading skills at an early age, and many of our programs focus on early grade reading.

Learn more at worlded.org.

Ready to begin reading? Let’s get started at worlded.org/pages4progress!