

August 2017 Featured Grantee:  
Rural Education And Development  
(READ) Global



**Bhutan**

# Introducing READ Global

**The mission of READ Global is to empower rural communities to alleviate poverty**



## Where in the world?

Bhutan is a small, landlocked country in Southeast Asia sandwiched between China and India. It is about half the size of the state of Indiana, population 750,000.

The climate varies between tropical in the southern plains, cool winters and hot summers in the central valleys, and severe winters and cool summers in the Himalayas.



## **What are we supporting?**

**DFW's grant of \$48,701 over one year covers training, salaries, cooperatives, program evaluation and indirect expenses for nine rural Bhutanese communities for one year.**

**READ provides specialized training at their proprietary READ Centers, which also serve as libraries and the platform for social and economic transformation.**

**Direct Impact: 300 Indirect Impact: 1,500**

## **Life Challenges of the Women Served**

- **Nearly two-thirds live in remote areas and have few educational or economic opportunities.**
- **The most disadvantaged are rural women who are often illiterate, unemployed and have no professional or vocational skills.**
- **There is a general lack of public trust in women and this diminishes their chances of participating in the public space, including assuming leadership roles.**

## Budget

How DFW's one-year grant of \$48,701 will be used:

Item		Total
Training	Project orientation, livelihood training, financial training	\$22,462
Salaries	Staff time	\$10,694
Cooperatives	Group seed fund	\$3,409
Indirect expenses and program evaluation	Program review, office space, financial administration	\$12,136
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<b>\$48,701</b>

## About the Featured Grantee

- Since 1991, READ Global has established community-owned and managed READ Centers (community libraries) that serve as hubs for a variety of services in Southeast Asia.
- Opportunities at READ Centers expand the community's perspective on women, shifting cultural norms, decreasing gender bias, and benefitting rural communities with more empowered women leaders.



- READ targets and empowers women to become active players in shaping their futures.

## About the Featured Grantee

**READ Centers are safe spaces where women and girls can visit with their families and/or husbands.**

- **Women first learn to read and write as a step toward financial literacy.**
- **Next, they are receive gender awareness and reproductive health training, and leadership training.**
- **Women assume leadership roles and manage their own businesses with the help of**





## Share Your Thoughts

- **Why is there a particular order to the training sessions?**
- **How might the family dynamics at home change for READ participants?**
- **How do you think the program could spur an interest in education?**



Changing the world one dinner at a time