



LITERACY: KEY TO IMPROVED QUALITY OF LIFE

Alfalit International - Miami

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HOW TO PLANT A SEED

- Determine when to plant seeds.
- Fill the tray with soil.
- Use your hand or a striking board to level the soil.
- Use a firming board or your hands to compact the soil.
- Moisten the soil.
- Sow your seeds.
- Cover the seeds with soil.
- Compact the soil.
- Label the tray.
- Follow growing instructions provided on the packet.

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DOSAGE INSTRUCTIONS FOR A HEADACHE

- **Take two capsules every 6 hours while symptoms last.**
- **Do not exceed 6 caplets in 24 hours, unless directed by a doctor.**

Imagine....

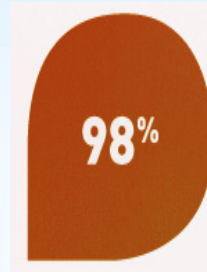
Without the ability to read or write, the world is dark and confining.

Learning to read:

- Opens a new world
 - From darkness to light
- Creates opportunities
 - Increased education and employment opportunities
- Improves self-sufficiency
 - Understanding text
 - Filling out forms
 - Teaching children

Literacy is a global challenge

775 million people over 14 yrs. old can't read.



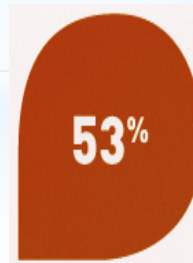
98% live in developing countries.

Nearly **1 in 5** adults are illiterate and **66%** are women.



1 in 4 women cannot read this sentence.

122 million youth globally are illiterate, **67.4 million** children are out-of-school.



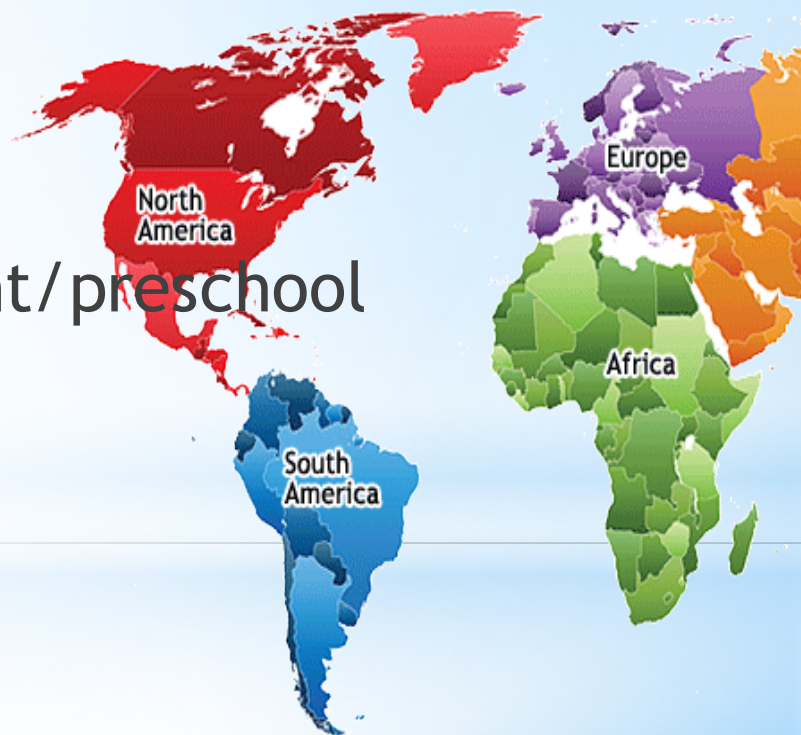
53% - 60% are girls.

Who we are

- *Alfalit is a faith-based, registered 501(c) (3) non-profit organization.
- *Founded in 1961 by educators and missionaries: Eulalia Cook, Justo and Luisa Gonzalez.
- *Our goal is to help eliminate human suffering caused by illiteracy:
 - *Bringing hope for a brighter future
 - *Providing a path to a personal connection with God.

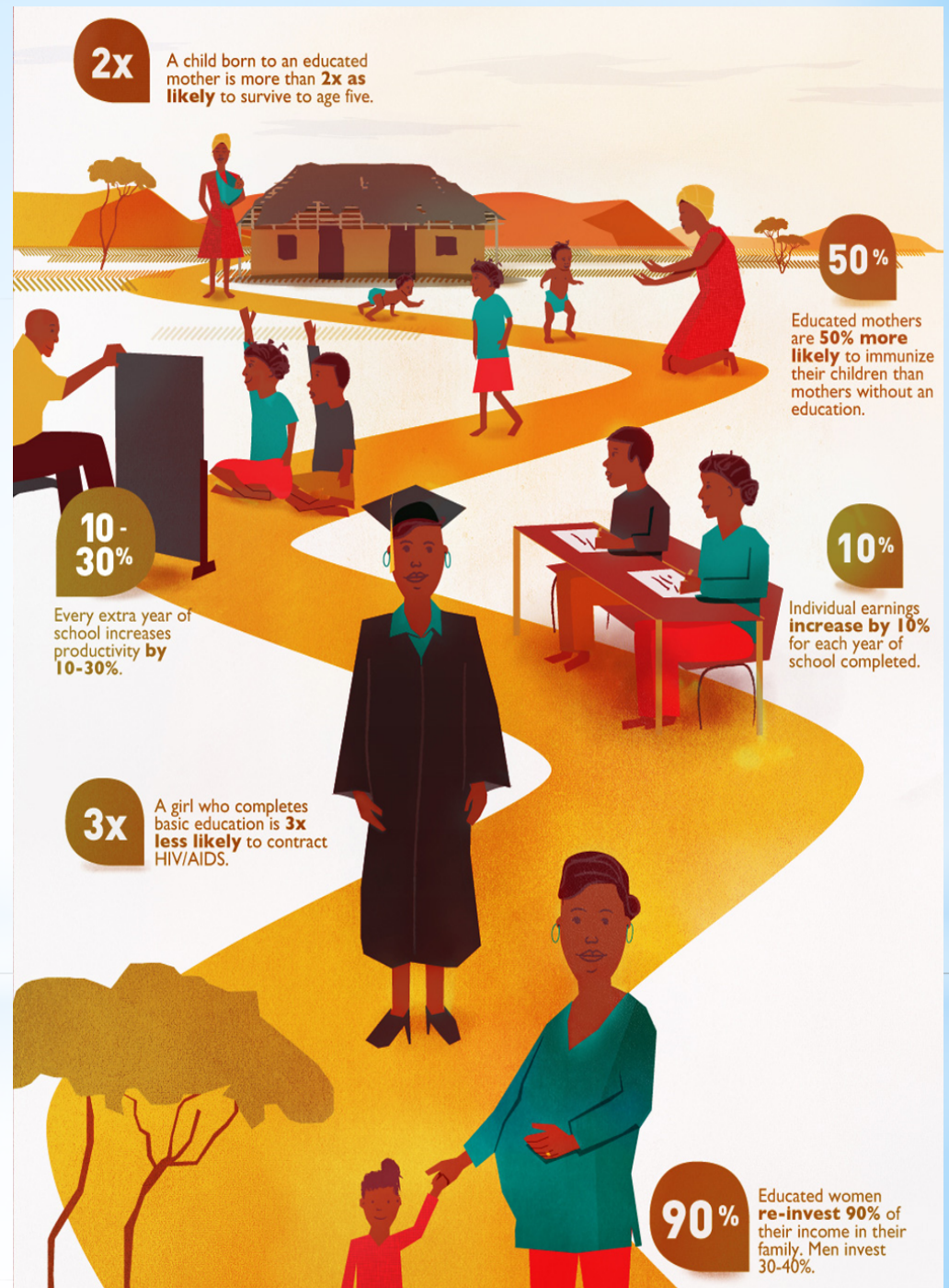
What we do

- * Alfalit believes that literacy is the cornerstone for all humanitarian efforts.
- * Alfalit offers programs in over 20 countries:
 - * Literacy
 - * Basic Education
 - * Early childhood development/preschool
 - * Health/Disease prevention
 - * Nutrition
 - * Job/Skills training
 - * Community Development

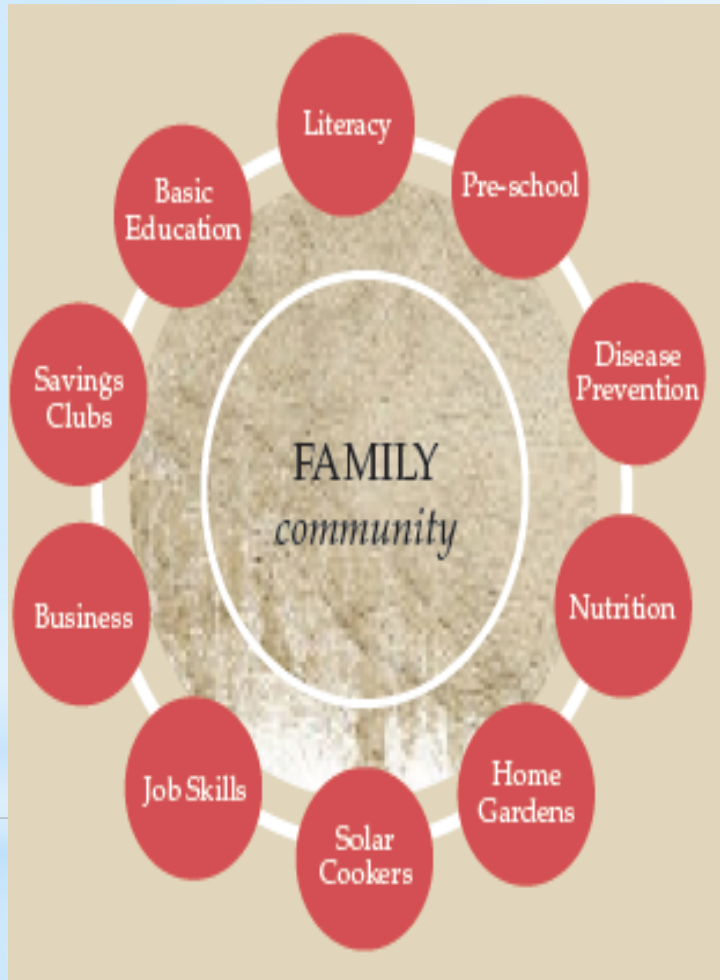


“Teach a man to fish...”

Education has a clear multiplier effect

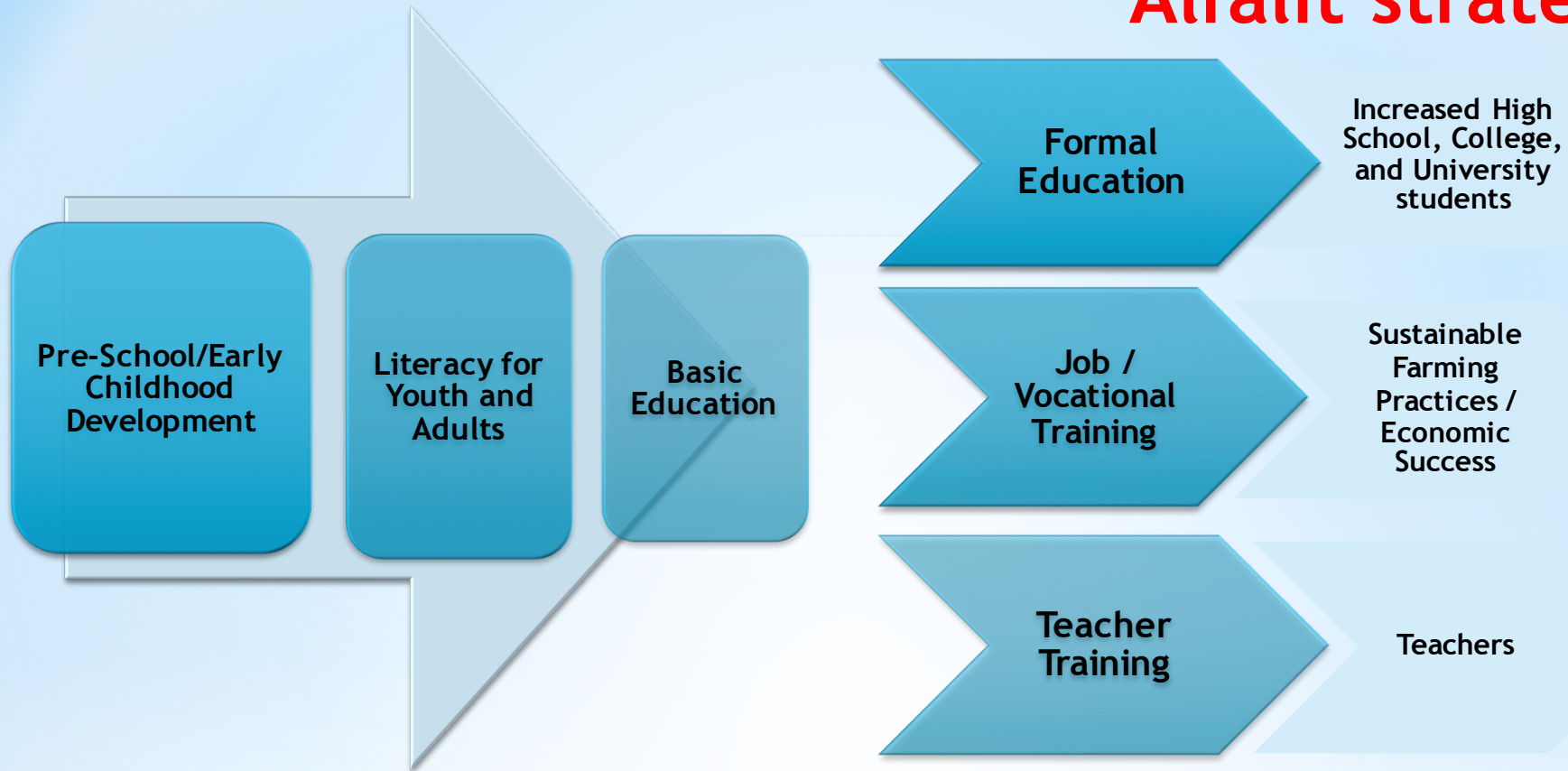


How we work



- Evaluate the need for literacy programs
- Design a culturally sensitive program
- Recruit and train teachers and leaders
- Monitor and measure program impact
- Involve the community
- Ensure sustainability

Alfalit strategy



GOAL: A Better Educated and Prosperous Community

Curriculum

- **Reading:** Primer, Skills books, flashcards
- **Writing:** Leveled workbooks
- **Arithmetic:** Leveled math concepts
- **Complementary readers:** leveled reading comprehension
- **Training Manual:** Alfalit' s philosophy, methodology and the utilization of materials
- **Basic Education:** Continued education (4-6th grade levels and beyond)
- **Job Skills / Business & Vocational Training:** Agriculture and farming, computers, tailoring, baking, savings clubs and entrepreneurship.

Complementary Reading:

Readers:

- I Am a worker
- My Home
- My Home a school
- My Neighbors
- Where there is Love
- The Candelabra

Health & Nutrition

- Good Health Begins at Home
- A Guide for Mothers
- HIV/AIDS
- Malaria
- Tuberculosis
- First Aid
- Good Nutrition/Solar Cookers
- Home Gardens
- Recipe Books

Other:

- Human Rights
- Citizenship
- Business - How to Start and Grow Your Business
- The Family and Money

Sustainability



- * Parents able to teach and read to children
- * Learners develop home libraries
- * Learners become facilitators
- * Empowered women invest in family
- * Collaborations with partners in community
- * Continued program development
- * Ministry of Education involvement

Average cost

LITERACY PROGRAM:

\$117 per student to learn to read, write and do math up to a 3rd grade level (6-12 months).

BASIC EDUCATION PROGRAM:

\$234 per student for a 2-year program, to learn up to 6th grade level of education.



Graduation Ceremonies - Liberia and Dominican Republic



Key success factors

- Church/community-based strategy ensures involvement
- Facilitator and Teacher Training aligns with the Ministries of Education
- Easy to grasp, phonetic-based literacy makes teaching/learning easy
- Attractive & durable materials become a student library after instruction
- Monitoring and Evaluation allows continued support and development
- Community development initiatives increases local economy
- Sustainability creates cycle of learning and self sufficiency
- Hope and faith create brighter futures

Continued education

85% of Alfalit students graduate from the Literacy program.

Beyond literacy, Alfalit provides life-changing educational opportunities.

- **Agriculture**
- **Job and skills training**
(Sewing, Jewelry making, Food Preparation, etc.)
- **Micro-business improvement**
(through math and business instruction)
- Programs in health and nutrition
- Scholarships for continued education



Why literacy?

The Food and Agriculture Organization identified literacy (especially financial literacy) as a key to help family farms thrive and fulfill an important role in global food security and sustainable development.

“The main obstacle to training is literacy- you can’t tackle the development of smallholder farming without addressing primary education.”

Whitehead (2015)



Connecting literacy and farming

Smallholder Farmers are major factor in global food production

- * 80% of what is being consumed in Asia and sub-Saharan Africa
- * 2 billion people depend on them for livelihood

Half of the 500 million smallholder farmers are women.

“If women farmers had the same access to agricultural resources and services as men, they could produce 20-30 percent more food than they do now.”

Nwanze (n.d.);Whelan (2014)



How can literacy help smallholder farmers?

Functional literacy skills:

- Seed packet reading
- Understanding and use of measurements and weights
- Record keeping and tracking
- Setting and charting progress towards goals
- Understanding and following written instructions
- Reading informational materials to learn best practices



Impact of literacy on training

“...one of the best, most cost-effective, most consequential ways to empower (women) farmers to manage upgrades and expansions, qualify for loans, implement sustainable production practices, protect the environment, raise their yields and incomes, enrich their communities and their economies, and feed millions more people sustainably.”

Whelan (2014)



Summary

- * Literacy is a key component of community development programs:
 - * Increases likelihood of continued education (for family)
 - * Creates job opportunities
 - * Improves effectiveness of training/materials
 - * Instills hope by providing access to Bible

- * Key to improved efficacy:
 - * Understanding written instructions
 - * Accurate record keeping
 - * Ability to calculate prices and monetary exchanges
 - * Increased sense of confidence and independence
 - * Advancement opportunities (student-teacher)
 - * Increased sustainability (ability to pass on information)

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References





**Thank
you!**

