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| DAY ONE: MONDAY, OCTOBER 28 | |
| THEME: Building on Success | |
| **LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**   1. Map the MENA Region’s progress in improving Arabic literacy and numeracy. 2. Identify opportunities for further progress in Arabic literacy and numeracy in primary grades. 3. Identify categories of marginalization and the barriers to learning caused by each category. 4. Propose steps to enhance the application of the Universal Design for Learning in their contexts. 5. Identify priority take-aways to inform country’s efforts to chart next steps on literacy and numeracy reform. | |
| **8:00-8:30** | **REGISTRATION/CHECK-IN** | |
| **8:30-8:50** | **WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS**   * ***Moderator:*** *Luis Crouch, RTI* | |
| **8:50-9:30** | **OPENING PANEL**  The Morocco Minister of Education and senior U.S. government officials open the SOTA Conference, highlighting the most promising practices and challenging issues around Arabic reading, writing, and math learning.   * ***Panelists:*** * *Mohamed Said Amzazi, Minister of Morocco Ministry of National Education, Vocational Training, & Scientific Research* * *Youssef Belqsmi, Secretary General of National Education, Morocco Ministry of National Education, Vocational Training, & Scientific Research* * *David Greene, U.S. Charge d’Affaires to Morocco* * ***Moderator:*** *Fatima Ouahmi, Director of Communications, Morocco Ministry of National Education, Vocational Training, & Scientific Research* | |
| **9:30-10:30** | **PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: Primary Grade Reading/Math in Morocco and Jordan**  Country representatives from Morocco and Jordan discuss the evolution of their primary grade reading and math programs, areas of greatest progress, and key challenges. The session concludes with questions and answers.   * ***Panelists:*** * *Mr. Fouad Chafiqi, Morocco Ministry of National Education, Vocational Training, & Scientific Research* * *Mr. Hafs Mahmoud Abu Mallouh, Jordan Ministry of Education* * ***Moderator:*** *Stefanie Kendall, USAID Middle East Bureau* | |
| **10:30-11:00** | **COFFEE/TEA BREAK** | |

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| **11:00-12:00** | **PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: Primary Grade Reading/Math in Lebanon and Egypt**  Country representatives from Lebanon and Egypt discuss the evolution of their primary grade reading and math programs, areas of greatest progress, and key challenges. The session concludes with questions and answers.   * ***Panelists:*** * *Dr. Nada Oweijane, Lebanon Center for Education Research and Development* * *Nelly El Zayat, Egypt Ministry of Education* * ***Moderator:*** *Stefanie Kendall, USAID Middle East Bureau* |
| **12:00-13:00** | **KEYNOTE:** **Progress to Date & Roads to Come**  This keynote address presents the findings of a research paper on progress achieved across the region in building foundational literacy and numeracy skills. The session concludes with questions and answers.   * ***Keynote Speaker:*** *Helen Boyle, Education Development Center* * ***Speaker:*** *Sana Tibi, Florida State University* * ***Moderator:*** *Hanada Taha Thomure, Zayed University* |
| **13:00-14:00** | **LUNCH BREAK** |
| **14:00-15:00** | **PLENARY: Reading MATTERS Framework and Its Applications for Math**  After a plenary presentation introducing the Reading MATTERS framework and its applications for math, participants explore the framework in small group discussions, after which the small groups reconvene in plenary for questions and answers.   * ***Speaker:*** *Rebecca Rhodes, USAID E3/ED* |
| **15:00-15:30** | **COFFEE/TEA BREAK** |
| **15:30-17:00** | **PANEL:** **Understanding and Addressing Marginalization More Effectively**  Expert panelists discuss different categories of marginalization and how they affects learners in and out of the primary education system. This panel also discusses why it matters to identify, reach, and program for marginalized learners and examine Universal Design for Learning best practices to help all learners.   * **Panelists:** * *Joshua Josa, USAID E3/ED* ***(Disability)*** * *Magdy Rizk, Save the Children* ***(Poverty)*** * *Raffoul Saadeh, International Rescue Committee* ***(Refugees)*** * *Michael Childress, FHI 360* ***(Intersectionality and Equity)*** * ***Moderator:*** *Anjuli Shivshanker, USAID E3/ED* |
| **17:00-17:30** | **COUNTRY TEAMS: Day 1 Synthesis & Reflection; Day Two Preview**  Country Teams, comprised of participants from Ministry of Education, USAID, and Implementing Partners, synthesize reflections on Day One and initiate action planning to guide future work. The session concludes with a preview of Day Two sessions.   * ***Moderator:*** *Luis Crouch, RTI* |
| **18:00-20:00** | **WELCOME RECEPTION** |

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| DAY TWO: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29 | | | | |
| THEME: A Framework for National High-Quality Literacy & Numeracy Education | | | | |
| **LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**   1. Identify best practices in teacher professional development for pedagogy and delivering effective early grade reading and math instruction. 2. Use the Reading MATTERS framework to consider how country systems can continue to strengthen progress in primary grade literacy and numeracy. 3. Summarize next steps in literacy and numeracy reform that the framework suggests for each context. | | | | |
| **8:00-8:30** | **CHECK-IN** | | | |
| **8:30-9:00** | **WARM-UP ACTIVITY**  The day begins with a group activity to identify key messages from Day One.   * ***Moderator:*** *Luis Crouch, RTI* | | | |
| **9:00-10:30** | **PANEL: Teacher Professional Development**  This panel presents lessons learned and best practices on teacher professional development related to teaching reading skills, including discussion of the use of structured and differentiated pedagogies and teacher skills required to implement them in a reading classroom.   * ***Speakers:*** * *Benjamin Piper, RTI* * *Nawal Shalaby, Egypt Ministry of Education* * *Youssef Al Azhar, Morocco Ministry of National Education, Vocational Training, & Scientific Research* * ***Moderator:*** *Rebeca Martinez, USAID E3/ED* | | | |
| **10:00-10:30** | **COFFEE/TEA BREAK** | | | |
| **10:30-11:25** | **BREAKOUT SESSIONS: Round 1**  Participants gather in plenary for a brief overview of each topic before moving to their chosen breakout group. Facilitated by subject matter experts, participants discuss their experience related to each topic, promising practices, and logical next steps in their education systems to expand, deepen, and solidify reading and numeracy reform.   * ***Breakout Session 1.1: Coaches and Mentors*** * *Michael Childress, FHI 360* * *Hilda Khoury, Lebanon Ministry of Education and Higher Education* * ***Breakout Session 1.2: Teachers and Classroom Instruction*** * *Rebeca Martinez, USAID E3/ED* * *Rula Al Jundi, RTI* | | | |
| **11:30-12:25** | **BREAKOUT SESSIONS: Round 2**  Participants gather in plenary for a brief overview of each topic before moving to their chosen breakout group. Subject matter experts facilitate discussions related to each topic, identifying promising practices, and logical next steps in education systems to expand, deepen, and solidify reading and numeracy reform.   * ***Breakout Session 2.1: Policy & Standards*** * *Melissa Chiappetta, USAID E3/ED* * *Nelly El Zayat, Egypt Ministry of Education* * ***Breakout Session 2.2: School Administration*** * *Andrew Epstein, Social Impact* * *Juma Al Saud, Jordan Ministry of Education* * ***Breakout Session 2.3: Regular Assessment*** * *Sana Tibi, Florida State University* * *Wafa Kotob, World Learning* | | | |
| **12:30-13:30** | **LUNCH** | | | |
| **13:30-14:30** | **B****REAKOUT SESSIONS: Round 3**  Participants gather in plenary for an introduction to the two topics before moving to their chosen break-out group. Facilitated by subject matter experts, participants discuss their experience related to each topic, promising practices, and logical next steps in their education systems to expand, deepen, and solidify reading and numeracy reform.   * ***Breakout Session 3.1: Texts & Materials*** * *Eva Kozma, World Learning* * *Hanada Taha Thomure, Zayed University* * *Fathi el-Ashry, Creative Associates* * ***Breakout Session 3.2: Extra Practice/Remedial*** * *Rebecca Rhodes, USAID E3/ED* * *Iman Elhaddouzi, Creative Associates* | | | |
| **14:30-15:00** | **COFFEE/TEA BREAK** | | | |
| **15:00-17:00** | **COUNTRY TEAMS: Synthesis and Next Steps on Reading MATTERS Framework**  Participants work in Country Teams with support from Subject Matter Experts to synthesize the Reading MATTERS Framework and its applications for each Country Team’s priorities. The session concludes with Country Teams reporting out to the plenary on their next steps.   * ***Moderator:*** *Luis Crouch, RTI* | | | |
| **17:00-17:30** | **CLOSING: Synthesis, Reflection, and Day Three Preview**  Day Two concludes with a facilitated reflection and a preview of Day Three’s agenda.   * ***Moderator:*** *Luis Crouch, RTI* | | | |
| DAY THREE: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30 | | | |
| THEME: Building Stronger Foundations Using Evidence | | | |
| **LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**   1. Understand the importance of data and benchmarks in decision-making about next steps in education reform and in scaling and sustaining successful programs. 2. Identify key-takeaways from the SOTA and determine next steps as Country Teams. | | | |
| **8:00-8:30** | | **CHECK-IN** | |
| **8:30-10:00** | | **KEYNOTE AND PANEL: Using Data to Inform Scaling & Sustainability**  This session explores how using data to measure progress toward benchmarks can support scaling up results and sustaining programs. The keynote and panel also highlight key messages that can be used to shift policy and practice around education data.   * ***Keynote Speaker and Moderator:*** *Melissa Chiappetta, USAID E3/ED* * ***Panelists:*** * *Mohammed Sassi, Morocco Ministry of National Education, Vocational Training, & Scientific Research* | |
| **10:00-10:30** | | **COFFEE/TEA BREAK** | |
| **10:30-11:30** | | **COUNTRY TEAMS: Key Scaling and Sustainability Concepts**  Following a brief overview of key scaling and sustainability concepts, Country Teams discuss how information from the morning Keynote and Panel can inform work in their countries.   * ***Moderators:*** *Anjuli Shivshanker, USAID E3/ED, and Melissa Chiappetta, USAID E3/ED* | |
| **11:30-12:30** | | **SUBJECT MATTER EXPERT DISCUSSIONS**  Subject Matter Experts meet with small groups of participants on the following topics: Math, Monitoring and Evaluation, Inclusive Education, Social-Emotional Learning, and Strategic Planning and Policy, aligned with the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.   * ***Moderator:*** *Christine Capacci-Carneal, USAID E3/ED* | |
| ***Reading***   * *Rebeca Martinez, USAID E3/ED* * *Rebeca Rhodes, USAID E3/ED* * *Hanada Taha Thomure, Zayed University* * *Fathi el-Ashry, Creative Associates*   ***Math***   * *Deepa Srikantaiah, World Learning* * *Shirin Lutfeali, Save the Children*   ***Monitoring and Evaluation***   * *Carol da Silva, Save the Children* * *Anjuli Shivshanker, USAID E3/ED* | ***Inclusive Education***   * *Joshua Josa, USAID E3/ED*   ***Social-Emotional Learning***   * *Michael Childress, FHI 360*   ***Strategic Planning and Policy***   * *Melissa Chiappetta, USAID E3/ED*   ***Remedial Learning***   * *Raffoul Saadeh, International Rescue Committee* |
| **12:30-13:30** | | **LUNCH** | |
| **13:30-14:00** | | **PLENARY: Review & Synthesis of SOTA Conference**  Participants share their perspectives on key SOTA Conference content related to future programming in early grade literacy and numeracy. This discussion synthesizes issues for consideration in the following session for Country Team planning.   * ***Moderator:*** *Luis Crouch, RTI* | |
| **14:00-15:30** | | **COUNTRY TEAMS: Summarize Action Plans, New Thinking About Next Steps**  Country Teams produce action plans on flip charts based on their discussions, notes, and key takeaways from the SOTA Conference. These action plans demonstrate what they now see as priority next steps in literacy and numeracy.   * ***Moderator:*** *Stefanie Kendall, USAID Middle East Bureau* | |
| **15:30-16:45** | | **COUNTRY TEAMS: Presentation of Country Action Plans**  Each Country Team presents its action plan to the plenary group.   * ***Moderator:*** *Rebecca Rhodes, USAID E3/ED* | |
| **16:45-17:15** | | **CLOSING REMARKS**  Facilitated reflection on the SOTA Conference and provide closing remarks on the path forward.   * ***Speakers:*** *Senior officials from the Morocco Ministry of National Education, Training, and Scientific Research, U.S. Embassy, and USAID* | |