

# CAN'T WAIT TO LEARN

## Sudan

WAR  
child

Can't Wait to Learn (CWTL) aims to develop solutions **with** and **for** children affected by conflict. The programme does this by engaging locally based education stakeholders, such as Ministries of Education and community-based organisations, as well as international expertise in software development, game development and design. The result is a self-guided serious gaming format accessed on tablets that takes children through Ministry of Education approved curriculum, providing opportunity for children to work toward primary level. In this way, CWTL aims to reinforce the education pipeline across informal and formal education, to decrease drop-out rates and encourage transition into formal primary and secondary education. In Sudan, Can't Wait to Learn works in alternative and informal learning centres.



### BARRIERS TO EDUCATION FOR OUT OF SCHOOL CHILDREN

- School fees and the lack of qualified teachers are the main barriers of access to quality education for refugees and asylum-seekers.<sup>3</sup>
- Existing schools lack sufficient infrastructure to accommodate all school-aged children, and teachers lack adequate teaching materials, while the capacity of PTAs remains weak.<sup>4</sup>
- Nomadic communities are very conservative and traditionally reluctant to accept the notion of sending children, especially girls, to school.



### CAN'T WAIT TO LEARN COMPONENTS



**Co-created by children:** culturally, contextually and curricula appropriate, in **Arabic**



**A delivery mechanism** that works across resource-constrained environments



**A digital gaming interface** that is adapted to context to support motivation and active, self-paced learning



**Maths and reading** curriculum educative game and full instructional model based on **Ministry of Education** curricula and requirements



**Diagnostics** for every learner which can be aggregated according to Ministry and sector requirements

### Enhancing learning for out of school Sudanese and refugee children

Arabic reading games (Grade 1 – 3 equivalent) were completed in January 2018, and from May 2018 are being trialed with out of school populations who, without innovative approaches, would not have access to government-supported learning opportunities at all. Arabic reading games are based on curricula and include significant new Arabic language learning content for which there is a global shortage. Maths is also being offered using Can't Wait to Learn.

### READING RESEARCH STUDY TARGETING CHILDREN IN SINAAR AND KASSALA STATES<sup>5</sup>

SCALE UP IN KASSALA, BLUE NILE AND WEST KORDOFAN STATES PLANNED, STARTING IN MID 2018

Over 2 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) and nearly 1 million asylum seekers and refugees are being hosted across Sudan. **65% of refugees and 61% of IDPs in camps are children.**<sup>3</sup>

**53%** of children in the eight conflict-affected states<sup>2</sup> are **out of school** and around **1.7 million** school age children (4-16 years) need Education in Emergencies (EiE) support, including about 0.8 million IDPs, in addition to returnees, vulnerable host communities and school-age refugees

In 2018, Can't Wait to Learn will reach up to 7,000 children as the first step to scaling up in Sudan.

At the same time, the reading research study is taking place from May – November.

Results from previous numeracy studies in Sudan show that children who have previously been excluded from education **can learn mathematics, achieving good results** using tablet-based technology.



- ▶ **Scale up of Maths (1 - 3) and Reading (1 – 3)**
- ▶ **Develop and pilot maths (4 – 6)**
- ▶ **Proof of concept and expansion to nomadic children**
- ▶ **I Further integration of Can't wait to Learn into the national education strategy**

**7,000**  
CHILDREN  
BY 2018

**65,000**  
CHILDREN  
BY 2020

# RESEARCH, PARTNERS & ACHIEVEMENTS IN SUDAN

The Can't Wait to Learn theory of change places strong emphasis on both i) **research** for evidence building and iterative design and ii) developing **partnerships** with Ministries of Education and other stakeholders as a pre-requisite for starting programming in country. The assumption being that these will support scale-up and effective programming to reach impact.

## RESEARCH COMPONENT

The story so far...during its first phase in 2014, Can't Wait to Learn focused on a numeracy trial through a project called e-Learning Sudan (eLS), which was accompanied by rigorous research and monitoring. Can't Wait to Learn showed promising academic outcomes, with children in the programme doubling their scores from 18 to 38 points out of 60 over six weeks. The programme's second pilot results showed 31-point gains in scores from pre- to post-tests among children in the treatment group, with psychosocial research indicating positive effects on the self-esteem of both boys and girls. Additionally, the initial results from the numeracy trial suggest that the model may prove to be empowering, flexible, innovative and cost-effective at scale.



Sudan reading mini-game example

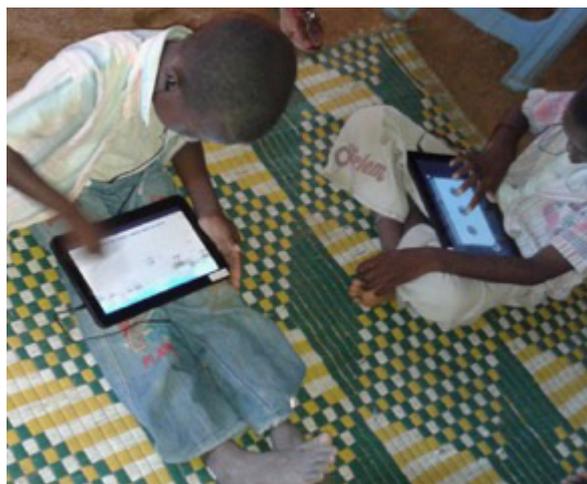
**Next steps...**in addition to research studies in Lebanon and Jordan, further research is now underway in Sudan to establish the evidence base that the reading games also facilitate quality learning outcomes for children, laying the foundation for scale up. An extensive literacy trial commenced in May 2018, with the same approach to programme roll-out and evaluation as chosen in the numeracy trial. Research findings should be available in December 2018, ahead of planned scale up in 2019.

'I love it very much because it has many games. I love to learn. I want to become a teacher'

Fatima, 8 years

## PARTNERSHIPS

National NGO Babiker Badri Scientific Association for Women's Studies (BBSAWS) is the original e-Learning Sudan partner, and is also managing the research study for Arabic reading, including community engagement. For scaling, UNICEF will lead programme implementation in Sudan, in collaboration with the Can't Wait to Learn global team. With broad humanitarian access, UNICEF is in a unique position to scale up the programme across the country, reaching the most marginalised groups, including ethnic minorities and refugees. UNICEF will integrate both the Maths and Reading 1-3 games in their current nation-wide education programming, which includes establishing and rehabilitating school infrastructure, teacher training and curriculum development. The Sudanese Ministry of Education has been heavily involved at all programme stages, and as part of their role in scaling up Can't Wait to Learn, UNICEF will continue supporting the Ministry of Education to integrate the programme into their national education strategy.



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### FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO GET INVOLVED, PLEASE CONTACT:

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#### References:

- 1 Sudan Humanitarian Needs Overview 2018. UNOCHA on behalf of the Humanitarian Country Team and partners
- 2 Darfur states, South and West Kordofan and Blue Nile
- 3 Sudan Humanitarian Needs Overview 2018. UNOCHA on behalf of the Humanitarian Country Team and partners
- 4 Ibid.
- 5 Two communities in Sinnar State and four communities in Kassala State