What randomized controlled trials can (and can't) tell us: Evidence from Egypt and Liberia

International Literacy Day
Sept 7, 2012

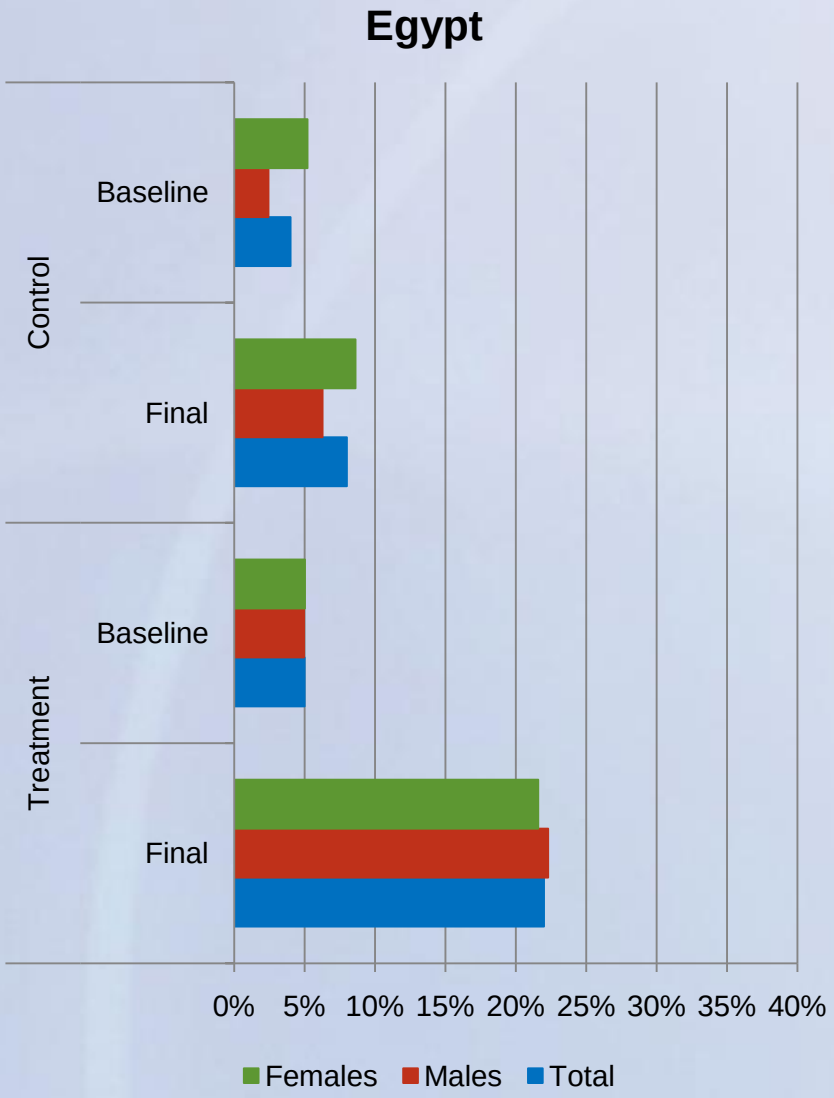
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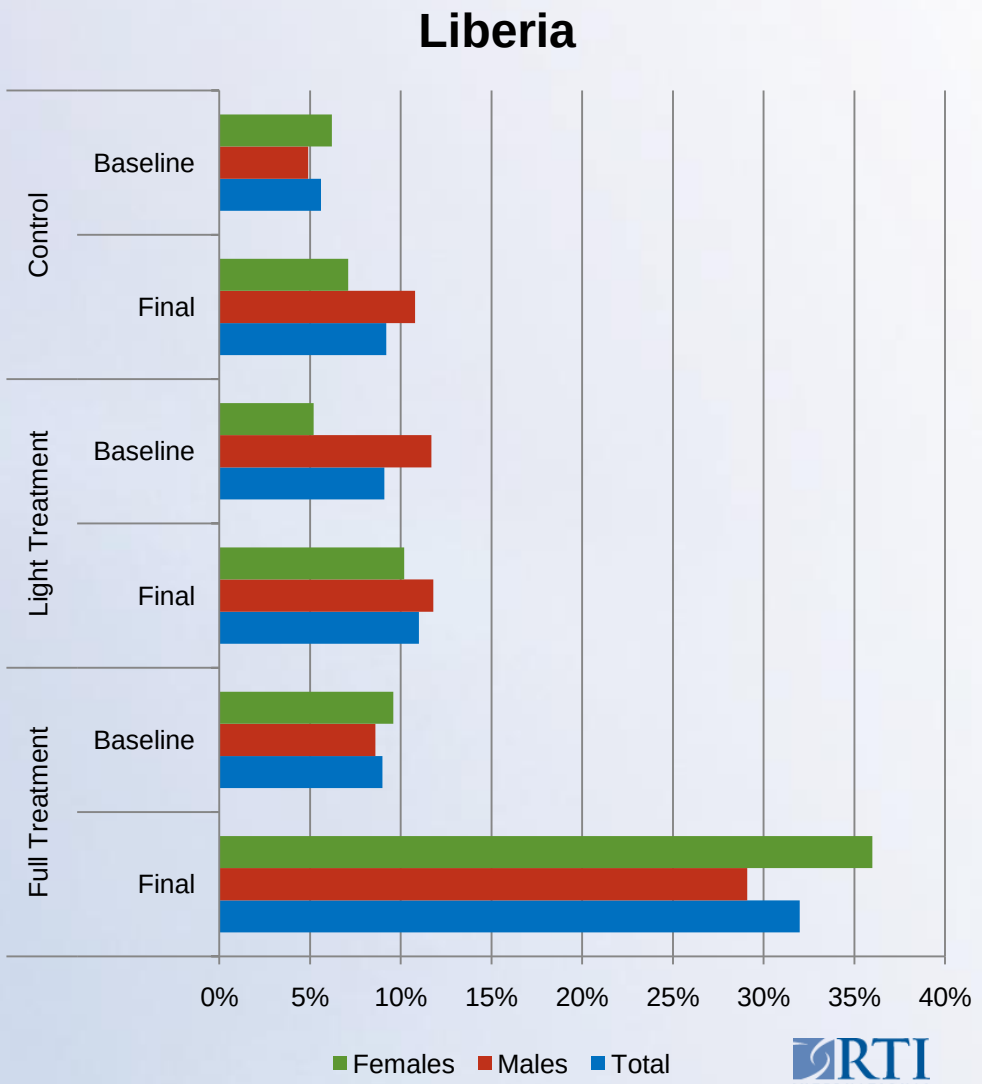
RTI International is a trade name of Research Triangle Institute.

Program Overview: EGRP and EGRA Plus

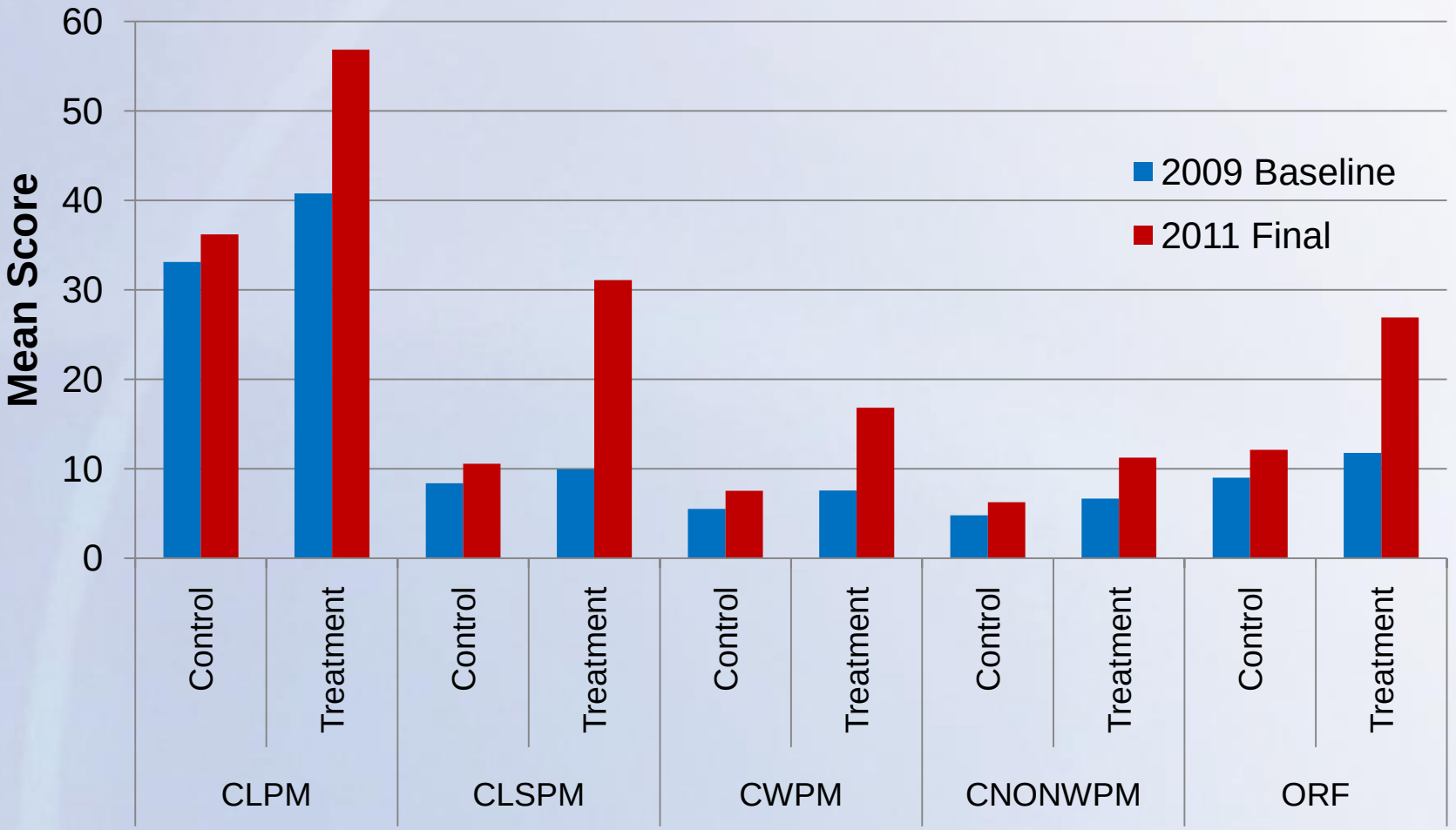
Component	Egypt/GILO EGRP	Liberia/EGRA Plus
Language of Instruction	Arabic, attention to differences between spoken and classical	English, reinforcement of teacher skills and student oral vocabulary
Instructional Design	Assessment informed initial design, key gap in phonics	Assessment informed initial design, gaps in all skills
Texts and Materials	Teacher and student manuals and materials, existing texts	Teacher and student manuals and materials, decodables for students to keep
Time on Task	25 mins per day (w/in 90 min block)	45 mins per day
Teachers	Initial 10 day training (4 EGRP), monthly coaching support	Initial 5 day training, intensive monthly coaching support
Community Support	Parental education, community meetings and literacy strategies, materials for students to use at home	Parental education and participation in home read aloud (20 mins day), Community meetings, reading competitions, radio shows
Assessment and Tracking	Impact evaluation; scale up will include teacher-administered classroom based assessment, home and school context data, classroom observations for fidelity of implementation	Impact evaluation, teacher-administered classroom based assessments and reporting to parents, home and school context data. Classroom observations for fidelity of implementation

Results: G2 % Meeting Reading Benchmark





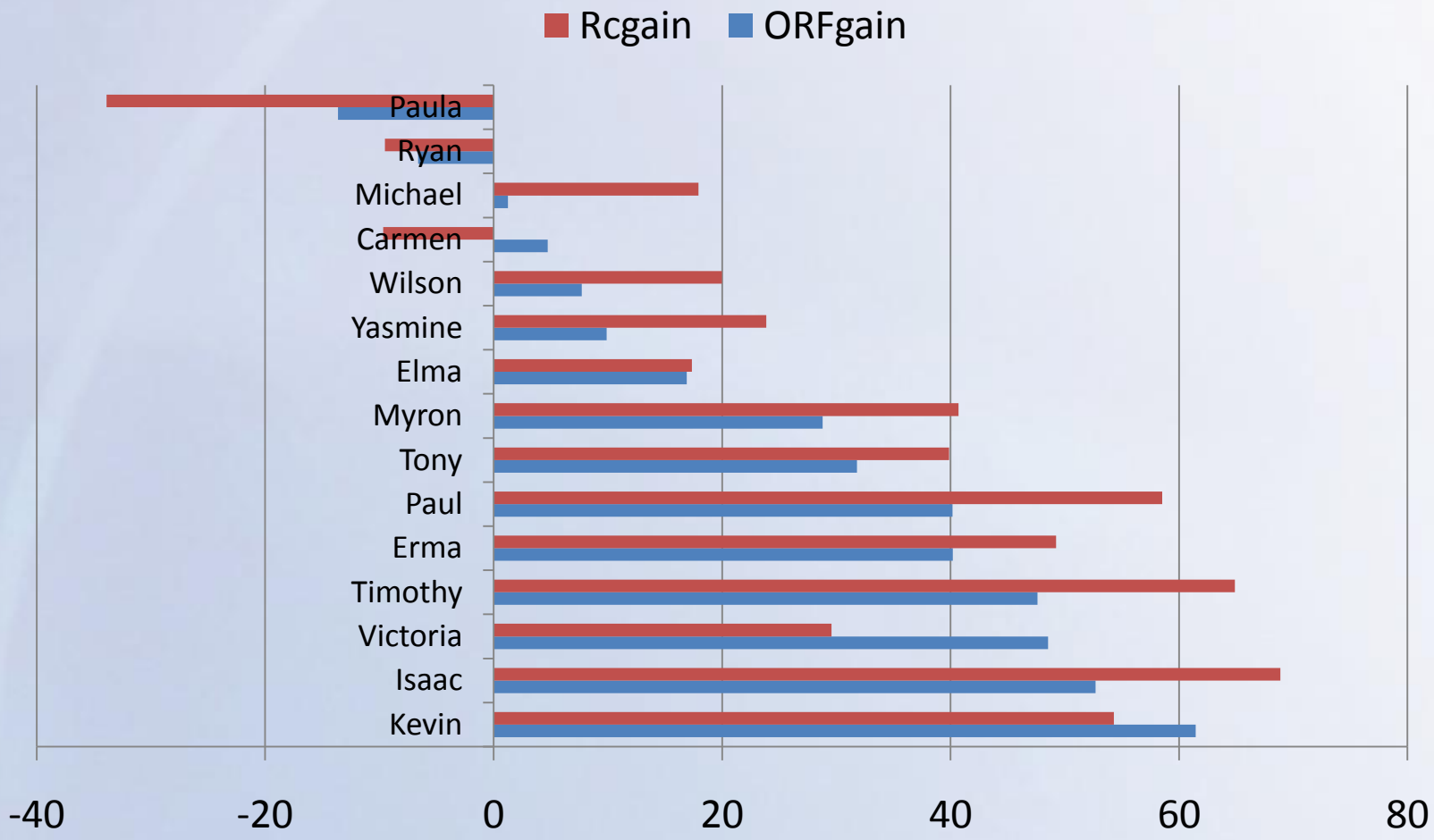
RCT ~~d~~ ~~ot~~: Which aspect of reading improved most?



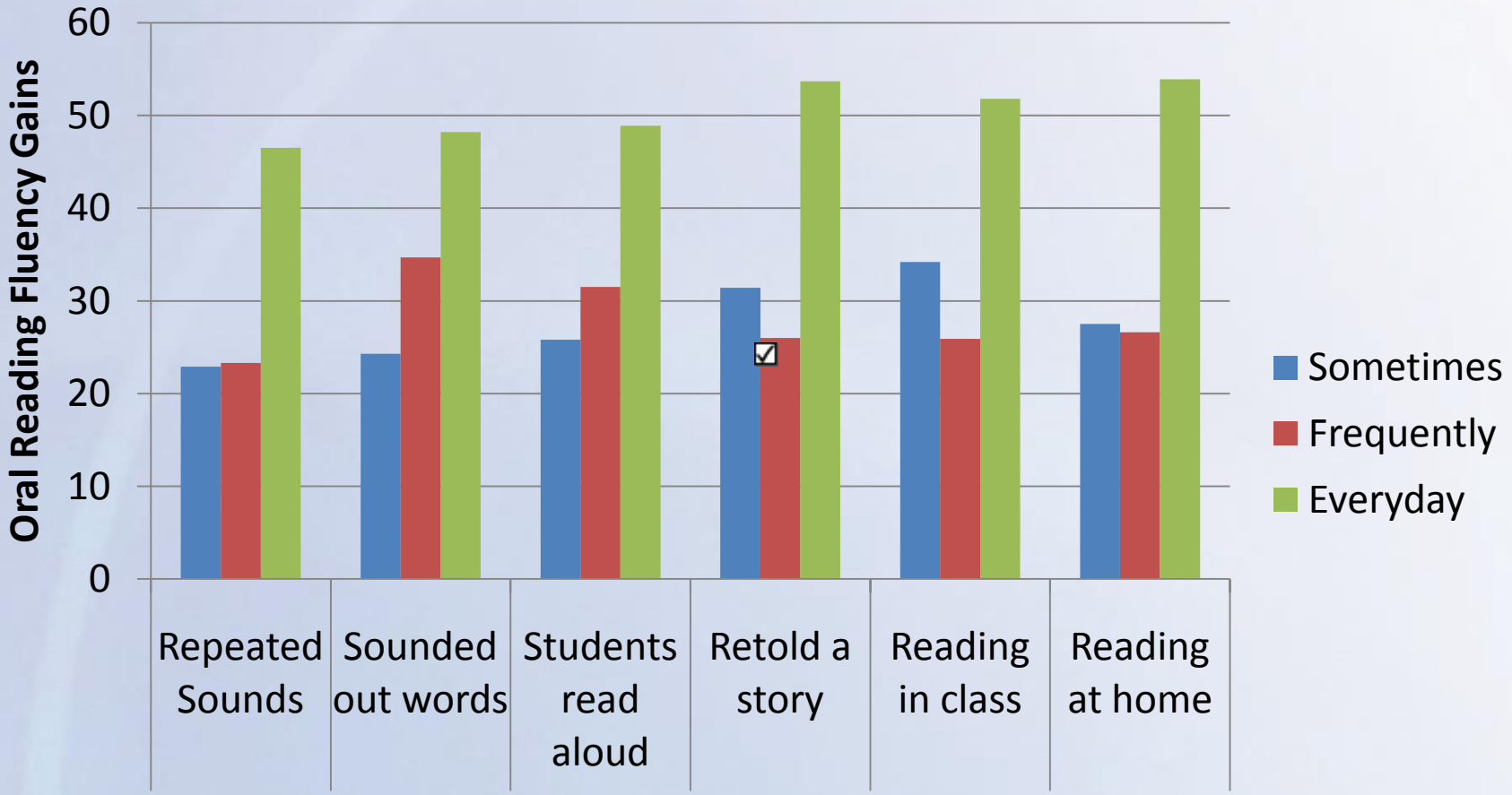
P[illegible]T or Not: Which component was the most effective?

Ranking of Impact by Participants	
Component	Ranking
Lesson Plans	1
Coach Support	2
Teacher Training	3
Other Materials (books)	4
Reading Competitions	5
Student Report Cards	6
Radio Shows	7
School Report Cards	8

RCT ~~d~~ot: Are there differences in coaching effects?



RCT or not: Which schools adhered to the program?



RCT or Not: Will the Minister take it to scale?

Quality RCT

- Clearly defined treatment
- Representative sample
- Counterfactual worth testing
- Deep understanding of treatment (and implementation variations)
- Qualitative follow-up and nuanced data

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Policy dialogue and advocacy

- Transparent
- Public
- Social
- Politically salient
- Shared process

= ?

Can, under the right conditions, provide a great deal information to inform decisions about scale up.