



Lubuto Library Project

Bringing knowledge and enlightenment to Africa's most vulnerable children and youth



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September 2012



LUBUTO WINS USAID CONTEST FOR INNOVATIVE LITERACY SOLUTIONS

We are thrilled to announce that a Lubuto innovation is among 32 winners of an [All Children Reading](#): A Grand Challenge for Development grant, a joint initiative of USAID, World Vision and the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID). The competition to create innovative solutions to improve early grade reading in the developing world elicited more than 450 submissions from more than 75 countries. Lubuto's winning proposal, ["LubutoLiteracy: Zambian teaching and learning materials for the digital age,"](#) is funded by World Vision.

The Lubuto Library Project team joined other winners to showcase their innovation at a [DevelopmentXChange](#) session on September 7 at USAID headquarters and uniquely highlighted the role that libraries play as "technology incubators." Please see our [press release](#) for more details on this exciting project.

LUBUTO REACHES OUT DURING ZAMBIA LITERACY WEEK

The first week of September was Zambia Literacy Week, a great opportunity to showcase a variety of our programs and to further our efforts to inspire the creation of high-quality books for children and youth in Zambia. Two days of demonstrations of our 700 computer-based mother-tongue reading lessons by library users and staff, in partnership with Zambia's premiere trade bookseller Planet Books, drew a great deal of attention. Special Lubuto*Drama* and Lubuto*Mentoring* sessions were on exhibit at the libraries. ZLW was also the occasion for two new activities we have been planning for some time. First was engaging prominent Zambians in reading to street youth on their own turf: in the streets. One session of "Lubuto*Storytime* on the Streets" was a lively program featuring popular celebrity Red Linso and was filmed and broadcast by MUVI TV, inspiring at least one viewer to come and volunteer with our libraries. The culminating Lubuto activity of the week was a workshop on "Creative Writing for Children" taught by award-winning Zambian writer Ellen Banda-Aaku. The participants were all published Zambian authors, and we look for some of them to produce literature for a new generation of Zambians comparable to that which we have preserved from the past. Cost of the workshop was underwritten by a grant from our friend Harriet McGuire of Africa Access in Washington, DC.

MEET THE LUBUTO COMMUNITY: LUCY

Eleven year old Lucy lives with her father and stepmother (her mother is dead). She has been using the nearby Ngwerere Lubuto Library since it opened and remembers watching it being built and being told about what a wonderful place it would be. She takes part in the Lubuto*Arts*, Lubuto*Drama*, Lubuto*Mentoring* and Lubuto*Storytime* programs, as well as reading privately. Lucy uses the library as a place to study because, she says, things can sometimes be difficult at home, and her reading ability has improved considerably since she started frequenting the library.

Lucy takes great pride in her accomplishments and clearly sees how the library has supported them: "The most important thing is the

ability to read. I have really improved, such that I am even impressed with myself. All subjects in school need your reading ability, even mathematics. So before, it was difficult to know or get what teachers really wanted. I never knew how to read so much and some words were difficult, but now I am able because most of the words are familiar. I see them in different books I read in all the days I come to the library. At home even my father thought I never used to read. But one day I got a book and started reading. He was so happy and even said 'well done'."

PLEASE JOIN US AS A SUSTAINING SUPPORTER

As a Sustaining Supporter, you will receive an email with each donation to keep you informed of Lubuto's latest developments, of which you are a key supporter. And as you know, this support gives thousands of children, who may otherwise never see the pages of a book, the opportunity to learn, communicate and grow in beautiful, safe and welcoming libraries, making a real and lasting difference in their lives. A modest donation charged to your credit card each month or quarter helps Lubuto tremendously.

[Click here to make a difference every month.](#)



[Lubuto DC Event](#)

Please join Lubuto on October 4th from 6 - 8 PM for our event at the Cleveland Park Library in Washington, DC.

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See how we're making a difference in the lives of street children and other vulnerable children and youth in Lusaka.

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