

Program objective: The USG Strategy on International Basic Education prioritizes children and youth gaining literacy skills in order to support learning.

Program approach (Global Reading Network GRN): Producing materials and providing support for designers and implementers of early-grade reading programs.

USAID (overarching) objective:
Sustainable national self-reliance

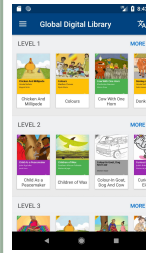
Sustained literacy development requires access to a range of high-quality reading materials

Research shows that early grade resources with controlled vocabularies and simple plots do not serve as an adequate, sole source of reading material.

To become motivated readers, children need a wide range of quality books at different levels and in different formats, such as picture books, chapter books, graphic novels, informational books and narrative non-fiction.

Challenge: The open license book repositories promoted by the GRN approach undermine the viability of local publishing. This in turn limits the availability of the full range of reading materials needed to support the development of sustainable literacy, and conflicts with the goal of national and regional self-reliance.

Directed approaches to book publishing break the critical link that is needed to support writing and illustrating for children in developing countries.



Subsidizing the production and distribution of open source titles:

- (1) inhibits development of sustainable, market-driven national environments for the creation of content; and
- (2) deprives a wide community of content creators of the financial incentive to develop skills and build the private sector capacity to produce higher-quality titles.

The short-term focus on improving early grade reading through the GRN approach simultaneously works against the development of national book industries driven by market forces and USAID sustainable self-reliance objectives, without sustainably promoting the growth of children as readers and learners.

STRENGTHENING THE ENTIRE BOOK CHAIN



Solutions: Alternatives that strengthen local publishing and work through all levels of the book chain with collaborations and public-private partnerships

AFRICAN PUBLISHERS

APNET
African Publishers Network
Publishing in Africa

cover2cover

Sub-Saharan Publishers
MUKUJI NA NYOTA PUBLISHERS

AFRICAN AUTHORS & ILLUSTRATORS

LOCAL AND REGIONAL BOOKSELLERS & DISTRIBUTORS

African Books Collective
is an African owned, worldwide marketing and distribution outlet for books from Africa → scholarly literature and children's books. Founded, owned and governed by a group of African publishers

AfricaBookClub.com

U.S.-Zambia public-private partnership created a Zambia Educational Publishing House sales kiosk at the Lubuto Model Library

Trained African Translators

Translators are bridge-builders between children and works of literature written in foreign languages. Quality translations are as important as the original literature.

Printers / Binderies

Books that can be read by many children need to be well-printed and bound. Facilities for printing and binding for libraries and schools are needed in Africa.

African Library Collection Building

Book donation programs have deprived libraries of adequate investments enabling them to identify and purchase resources that will meet their users' needs.

Solutions: the unique role public libraries play in education

USAID'S Let's Read Project works with the Ministry of General Education to improve reading outcomes for approximately 1.4 million children.

Lubuto Libraries' thrice-weekly sign language story time

LUBUTO LIBRARY PARTNERS MODEL LIBRARY AND REGIONAL TRAINING CENTER LUSAKA, ZAMBIA

MOTHER-TONGUE LEARNING IN LUBUTO LIBRARIES

ALL CHILDREN READING GRAND CHALLENGE ROUND 1 WINNER LUBUTO LITERACY: ZAMBIAN TEACHING AND LEARNING MATERIALS FOR THE DIGITAL AGE

More than 4,800 children have used Lubuto's 700+ computer-based early grade reading lessons in Lubuto libraries to develop literacy in 7 Zambian languages: Lozi, Lunda, Luvele, Tonga, Nyanja, Bemba, and Kaonde. Lessons will be introduced country-wide in 2020 in partnership with World Vision Zambia.

LUBUTO CREATES ORAL TRANSLATIONS OF POPULAR EARLY-GRADE LITERATURE WITH

BALANCED, USER-DRIVEN AND LOVED BOOK COLLECTIONS

SHAKA RISING

THE FOX, THE BIRD, AND THE BEAR

ZAMBIAN DIGITAL/MEDIA RESOURCES AND PRESERVATION

LUBUTO

Zambia Heritage Library and Women's History Museum Zambia Collections

Browse Zambian Stories

Leading Ladies

CATCH

FACILITIES THAT PROVIDE SAFE HAVENS AND ENSURE INCLUSION

USAID AMERICAN SCHOOLS AND HOSPITALS ABROAD

supported award-winning infrastructure development and purchase of model book collections and library technology

Public libraries help children of all ages to learn together in ways not possible in formal educational settings

FLEXIBLE, ADAPTABLE AND INNOVATIVE PROGRAMMING TO ADDRESS NEEDS AND INTERESTS

Family Literacy Program with childcare and ECE

Reading Horizons

Coding, critical thinking

Role model mentoring

THE PUBLIC LIBRARY, PERMANENT AND TRUSTED, IS AN IDEAL INSTITUTION FOR CONDUCTING RESEARCH, LONGITUDINAL STUDIES

- Popular Lubuto Libraries average **2,500 visits per week**
- Extensive reach into communities
- Stable, long-term user base
- Strong, adaptable data collection capacity

DREAMS

Determined Resilient Empowered AIDS-Free Mentored Safe

Reaching vulnerable adolescent girls