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## ALL CHILDREN READING:

A GRAND CHALLENGE FOR DEVELOPMENT

## ENABLING WRITERS COMPETITION WRITING MADE SIMPLE

### THE CHALLENGE

One of the main barriers to improving children's reading skills is the lack of appropriate and engaging reading materials in mother tongue languages. This means children are unable to get the reading practice they need in the language they speak and understand.

Without a supply of interesting materials, it is difficult to get girls and boys excited about reading, provide them with the opportunity to practice reading, or have books read to them by family members. This contributes to the fact that, **around the world, at least 250 million children are not learning basic reading skills.**

### THE COMPETITION: ENABLING WRITERS

To address this gap, All Children Reading created the Enabling Writers prize competition to drive the development of a software technology—or the improvement of existing solutions—to make it easier, cheaper and faster to write high-quality early grade reading materials in mother tongue languages.

**In August 2015, All Children Reading awarded SIL International's Bloom software the \$100,000 grand prize.**



All Children Reading is an ongoing series of competitions that leverages science and technology to create and apply scalable solutions to improve literacy skills of early grade learners in developing countries

## THE WINNER: SIL INTERNATIONAL

### BLOOM SOFTWARE ENABLES PEOPLE TO EASILY CREATE MOTHER TONGUE BOOKS THAT GET CHILDREN READING



SIL International's innovative *Bloom* software eases the process of bookmaking so that more people can participate – if you can type on a computer, you can create a book in *Bloom*.

*Bloom* users can create an original text or select a template, called a "shell book," and insert culturally-appropriate pictures and local translations of text. The books created can then be saved as a PDF and distributed in printed or electronic form.

SIL has been developing and using *Bloom* since 2011. For the All Children Reading Enabling Writers competition, SIL added features to let *Bloom* users create decodable texts and leveled readers.

**DECODABLE** refers to text that only contains letters and sounds a student has already learned. This introduces children systematically to reading.

**LEVELED READERS** are books or stories of increasing difficulty, so children advance their vocabulary, build comprehension skills, and increase reading fluency.

SIL International is a faith-based nonprofit organization committed to serving language communities worldwide as they build capacity for sustainable language development. SIL's linguistic investigation exceeds 2,167 languages in more than 100 countries.

## BUILDING BLOOM INTO EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMING

### DEVELOPING EXCITING MOTHER TONGUE BOOKS THAT GET CHILDREN READING

SIL International can support you by conducting:

- writers' workshops that walks local authors, storytellers, curriculum developers, educational programmers or others through the writing process and the development of mother tongue books using Bloom software, and
- training-of-trainers sessions to teach others how to use the software and roll it out nationwide.

Let SIL International support you in building a library of mother tongue content for early grade readers, leveled and decodable books to supplement the national curriculum, Science, Technology, Engineering and Math education (STEM) content to inspire the world's future scientists, and so much more.

## LET SIL HELP YOU GROW A LIBRARY

**Download Bloom software for free**  
[bloomlibrary.org](http://bloomlibrary.org)

**Contact SIL International**  
[bloom@sil-lead.org](mailto:bloom@sil-lead.org)



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