



ALL
CHILDREN
READING:
A GRAND CHALLENGE
FOR DEVELOPMENT

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

All Children Reading: A Grand Challenge for Development (ACR GCD) advances EdTech innovation and research to improve reading outcomes for marginalized children in low-resource contexts. Since its inception in 2011, ACR GCD—a partnership between the USAID, World Vision and the Australian Government—has funded more than 90 solutions through our competitions. Building on this experience and the collective reach of our partner organizations, ACR GCD is uniquely positioned to promote the use and scale of evidence-based EdTech so that the most vulnerable children are provided with increased resources and opportunities to learn to read.

Producing digital books in local languages

Creation of children's books in six local spoken and signed languages of Papua New Guinea as well as Laos and Nepal

Across these regions, the two prominent barriers to literacy are access to books and basic understanding of the importance of reading. Through the [Let's Read Asia](#) project, the Asia Foundation is collaborating with local disabled people organizations to develop children's books in six local languages to be published under Creative Commons license on the Global Digital Library (GDL) and they [Let's Read digital library](#). This initiative is bringing together local authors, illustrators, designers, language experts and volunteer translators to create and adapt early grade books for children in Lao, Tamang, Nepali Sign Language, Enga, Hiri Motu, and Tok Pisin.

With a mission devoted to ensuring all children have access to books, ACR GCD in collaboration with the Global Book Alliance launched the [Begin with Books Prize](#), a competition challenging global innovators to assemble cost-effective packages of high quality, open-licensed, accessible books in underserved spoken and signed languages. Winning innovators are uploading the books they develop to the GDL, a free web-based platform with high-quality early learning resources available in more than 100 languages.

Total Funding: \$222,243

Producing digital books for children with disabilities

Creation of accessible books in sign languages of Papua New Guinea as well as Indonesia, the Philippines, the Fiji Islands, Samoa and Somalia

In targeted regions in these countries, deaf children lack signing models in school settings and often do not have books in their local signed languages. Storytelling enables a shared experience among deaf children about the deaf experience. Through [Deaf World Around You: International Collaborative Multilingual Sign Language Books](#), Rochester Institute of Technology/National Technology Institute for the Deaf (RIT/NTID) is creating signed books using its World Around You platform, a multilingual platform hosting sign language reading materials in local and national sign languages created through open source software that enables communities to create literacy content in local and signed languages. The books are being created in six sign languages, including Indonesian and Papua New Guinea.

This project is being funded by the [Begin with Books Prize](#). (See section at left to learn more.)

Total Funding: \$236,956

Support for preschool children who are deaf and hard of hearing

Transforming reading in early education for deaf children

Most deaf children worldwide are not ready to learn before they arrive in kindergarten. Most do not receive sign language play to build language foundation skills and lack crucial shared reading opportunities at home to develop emergent reading skills and a family bond. In addition, early childhood professionals often face challenges in finding multilingual instructional strategies, curriculum materials and assessment approaches for young children who are deaf. Through [Project TREE](#) (Transforming Reading in Early Education), RIT/NTID is collaborating with experts and local disabled people organizations to produce foundational literacy materials for deaf children and their families. These materials will include six sign language storybooks and training materials utilizing Sign Language Rhythm and Rhyme (an innovative way to visually play with and learn language) and Shared Multilingual Reading Strategies (a set of best-practice interactive reading). The project is also training deaf trainers for project implementation and evaluation in Papua New Guinea as well as Fiji and the Philippines.

The project is being funded through the [Ready2Read Challenge](#), which is empowering three global solvers to implement existing or adapted EdTech solutions and activities that enable marginalized children ages 3 to 6 to build foundational language and literacy skills at home and at school. In addition to targeting key foundational language and literacy skills—including alphabetic knowledge, phonological awareness, expressive vocabulary, and comprehension—solutions will also support parents, caregivers and facilitators with resources and tools to assist in filling gaps in early learning among children.

Total Funding: \$300,000

Looking for literacy tools or resources to use in PNG?

Access high-quality, beautifully illustrated digital storybooks in local spoken and signed languages at [DigitalLibrary.io](#) and [LetsReadAsia.org](#), [DeafWorldAroundYou.org](#) and hundreds of books available in English, Tok Pisin and Papua New Guinea Sign Language at [BloomLibrary.org](#).

Access [Feed the Monster](#) on Google Play. This engaging smartphone literacy app teaches the fundamentals of reading through “play to learn” techniques and is free to download and contains no ads and no in-app purchases.

Supporting children with disabilities

Helping families and educators gain access to accessible learning materials and assessment tools

In Papua New Guinea (PNG), as estimated 95 percent of children with disabilities are not in school, a challenge that largely stems from stigma about disability and parents’ concerns about safety and teasing, according to data from Save the Children Australia. Children with disabilities in PNG’s Western Province are at an increased risk due to poor literacy outcomes in the remote province. Through the [Yumi Read Together](#) project, Save the Children is collaborating with SIL LEAD, Callan Services for Persons with Disabilities National Unit and the PNG Assembly of Disabled Persons to provide access via Bloom Reader for children with visual, hearing or learning impairments to over [500 digitized and accessible Department of Education curriculum books](#) in local spoken and signed languages. Teachers and caregivers will receive training on the use of Bloom Reader and on approaches to support literacy development for children with disabilities. The project has also created [20 new accessible storybooks](#) and is working with local education offices and partners to provide training to teachers and education professionals in screening, identifying and supporting children with disabilities.

The project is being funded through the [UnrestrICTed Challenge](#), which is empowering local and global solvers to pilot and scale information and communication technology (ICT) grounded in Universal Design for Learning principles to support the language and literacy development of children with disabilities at home and at school.

Total Funding: \$1,010,000



Looking for ways to expand access?

Try using smartphone projectors or tablet lending libraries!