ALL CHILDREN READING:
A GRAND CHALLENGE FOR DEVELOPMENT

PHILIPPINES

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.

Focus areas in the Philippines

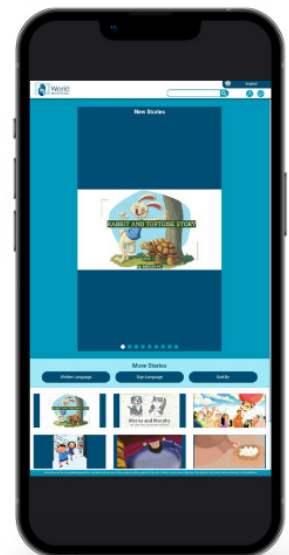*Support in school settings for children who are deaf or hard of hearing*

Support for preschool children who are deaf or hard of hearing

Producing digital books for children with disabilities

Creation of accessible digital books for the Pacific region in the sign language of the Philippines, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Fiji Islands, Samoa, and Somalia in Africa

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 200 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 200 books in Filipino Sign Language with captions in both Filipino and English.

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 Recieved: $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 the Philippines as well as Papua New Guinea and Fiji.

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 Recieved: $300,001

Looking for literacy tools or resources to use in the Philippines?

Access high-quality, beautifully illustrated digital storybooks in local spoken and signed languages at DigitalLibrary.io and LetsReadAsia.org, DeafWorldAroundYou.org and BloomLibrary.org.

Access Feed the Monster on Google Play in more than 50 languages, including Tagalog. 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.

Looking for ways to expand access?

Try using smartphone projectors or tablet lending libraries!

🌐 **AllChildrenReading.org** 🐦 **@ReadingGCD** f **@AllChildrenReading**

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