



Beginning with books, we can ensure more children are prepared to reach their full potential—while simultaneously accelerating progress across multiple global development goals.

ALL CHILDREN READING:

A GRAND CHALLENGE FOR DEVELOPMENT



BEGIN WITH BOOKS

ALL CHILDREN READING:
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A child's path to opportunity begins with literacy, and literacy begins with books. Learn about a global competition to create books for children in languages they use and understand.

THE GRAND CHALLENGE

Imagine learning to read without a book. Yet around the world, millions of children have little to no books in languages they use and understand, thereby limiting their right to literacy and quality education. For the more than 93 million children with disabilities, the shortage of books is even more severe, as resources, if available at all, often lack accessible formats.

Literacy is a cornerstone of development, placing children on a path for success in school and employment, better health, and greater participation in society.

Research shows that children experience greater reading success when learning in their local spoken or signed language. Providing engaging and accessible books in these underserved languages is essential to empowering and supporting these children on their path to literacy.

THE BIG IDEA

With a mission devoted to ensuring all children have access to books, All Children Reading: A Grand Challenge for Development in collaboration with the Global Book Alliance (GBA) 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 Global Digital Library (GDL), a free web-based platform with high-quality early learning resources available in more than 100 languages.



BEGIN WITH BOOKS PROJECTS

Open Books Malawi | Malawi

In Malawi, the problem of access to high-quality, accessible books in local languages for pre-primary and primary grades is particularly acute. None of those books are in accessible formats; and no materials in Malawian Sign Language (MSL) exist at all. **eKitabu** is collaborating with the Malawian National Association for the Deaf (MNAD) to scale work begun in Kenya and Rwanda through ACR GCD's Book Boost and Sign On For Literacy prizes to implement this project, which will deliver a total of 270 books—220 in Tumbuka and 50 in Malawian Sign Language—to the GDL. The books are open source, accessible and have human narrated audio for children who are blind.

RIT/NTID's International Collaborative Sign Language Books | Fiji, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Somalia

In most regions of the world, deaf children lack deaf signing models in school settings and rarely have books in their local signed languages. Storytelling enables a shared experience among deaf children about the deaf experience. **Rochester Institute of Technology/National Technical Institute for the Deaf** is working with six regional teams and disabled people organizations (DPO) to create and adapt 200 signed books using its ACR GCD Sign On For Literacy prize-funded software, World Around You (WAY). The 200 books will be created in six sign languages.

LINEMA | Mali

Most young children in Mali who grow up speaking Mamara Sénoufo or Soninke have never seen or read a children's book in their local language. The lack of reading materials in local languages within communities severely limits building a culture of reading for parents, their children, and within schools. **SIL LEAD** is collaborating with AMASOURD, a local DPO, to develop 200 quality, accessible books in the Soninke and Mamara Sénoufo languages of Mali, for a total of 400 books. The nonprofit also will add Malian Sign Language (LaSiMa) to 20 selected titles. All titles will be adapted or created using SIL's Bloom software, funded through ACR GCD's Enabling Writers prize, to capitalize on the software's decodable, leveled, accessible and sign language tools.

Let's Read Asia | Laos, Nepal, Papua New Guinea

Across Laos, Nepal and Papua New Guinea, the two prominent barriers to literacy are access to books and basic understanding of the importance of reading. **The Asia Foundation** is collaborating with two local DPOs, National Association of the Deaf Nepal and Hard of Hearing and National Federation of the Deaf Nepal to develop over 380 children's books, in 50 Nepali sign languages and five other local languages, to be published under Creative Commons license on the GDL and the Let's Read digital library. TAF's Let's Read 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.

