

# Organizational Overview



*"The Literate Earth Project creates a world of opportunities for children in Uganda. Within these libraries, students expand their knowledge base, increase their literacy skills and develop a love of reading. Even one book can lead to a lifetime of learning."*

*-Kelley Lach, Program Specialist for The Literate Earth Project and International Education Policy & Management Master's (2020), Vanderbilt University*

## THE CHALLENGES WE ADDRESS

"The data from the studies are clear: Late bloomer readers are rare; skill deficits are almost always what prevent children from blooming as readers. There is nearly a 90 percent chance that a poor reader in first grade will remain a poor reader."

- American Federation of Teachers

- 775 million people are illiterate globally
- 13 million people (30%) are illiterate in Uganda
- Uganda literacy rate for males (79%) vs females (62%)
- 250 million children globally aren't learning reading

## FINANCIALS

### Donations Snapshot (2015-2018)

- 96% for opening libraries
- 2% for in-country Ugandan staff
- 1% for external development consultant
- <1% for administration and fees

Furniture and Materials	\$1,485
General Library Books	\$1,145
Ugandan Books	\$765
Training	\$360
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,755</b>

## QUICK STATS

- 16 libraries opened
- 205 teachers trained
- 8,400 books loaned out
- 8,450 children benefitted
- 14,000 library class hours
- 57,425 books distributed

## STUDENT GROWTH COMPARED TO CONTROL GROUP SCHOOLS\*

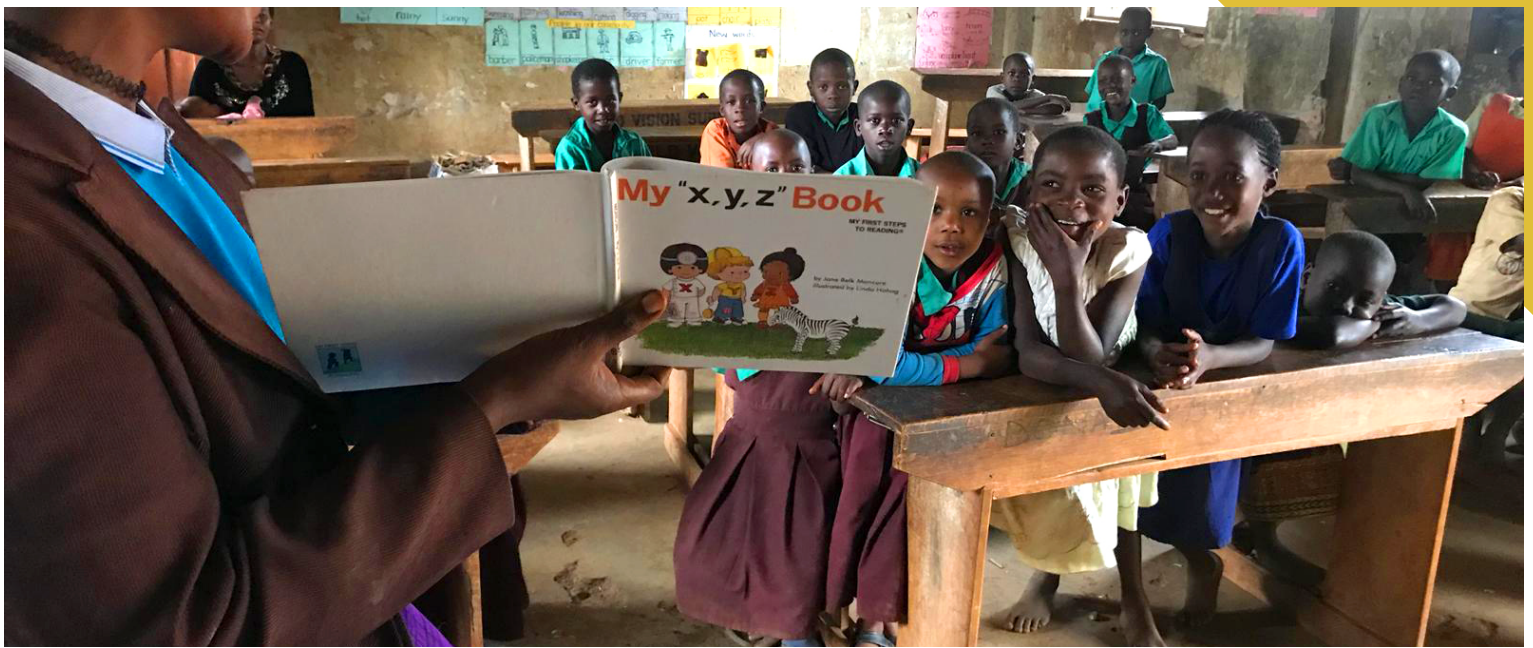
- 9.0% growth in reading comprehension
- 5.8% growth in letter sound knowledge

## BOOK RETENTION\*\*

- 2,500 books per library
- 8 books lost in the first six months
- 2 books lost annually after one year

\*For a full report of the testing conducted by The Literate Earth Project, contact us directly

\*\*While there haven't been many, school based libraries in Uganda have historically lost 10-20% of books, per year. Our libraries have had immense success in avoiding this problem



## OUR PROGRAMS

### LITERACY LIBRARY PROGRAM

John Sayid, the headmaster of Mivule Primary, told us a year after opening their library, that “**students who were once quiet and removed are now engaged because they’ve found a new skill and excitement in the library.**”

Prior to our presence on a campus, most students have never read a book for pleasure. A student who wants to learn more about sharks or China or molecules has no outlet for this information if we’re not present. We are seeing a paradigm shift at the schools where our libraries have been implemented. In 2019, we started partnering with PANGEA, to train our librarians and teachers. They’ve also worked with local authors to put Ugandan children stories to text, with these books finding their way into our libraries starting in 2020.

### PRO-BONO LITERACY CONSULTANCY

**We donate our Ugandan team’s time while our partners cover their travel costs.** After six years of operating the largest network of libraries in Uganda, we’ve gained expertise that needs to be shared.

Other national organizations, churches, and individuals send books to Uganda to open libraries, but historically they have not been very successful.

We have supported the opening of the first two libraries by Building a Bridge to Uganda.

With this organization now planning to open over three new school-based libraries, and with four additional library partnerships in the works for 2020, we will have a sustained and guiding impact on many future library openings in Uganda.

### TRAINING TEACHERS AND LIBRARIANS

Universities in Uganda do not provide training on how to use books in the classroom, as these institutions don’t expect teachers to have access to books. We not only provide access to a variety of print and reading materials,

**we are changing what it means to be a teacher in Uganda.** We partner with PANGEA, an experienced Ugandan teacher training NGO, to ensure all teachers at our schools close that gap.

We partnered with Vanderbilt University’s Peabody College, one of the top international literacy programs in the world.

We send their graduate students to work with our teachers and librarians each summer to improve the efficacy of teachers and librarians. This ensures they are not just provided with materials, but also with training and long-term technical support.

[www.theliterateearthproject.org](http://www.theliterateearthproject.org)

[info@theliterateearthproject.org](mailto:info@theliterateearthproject.org)

