



Using OER to address a fundamental educational challenge

Jennifer Glennie and Tessa Welch



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4 QUALITY
EDUCATION

Quality Education

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Key Challenge

Far too high a proportion of African children leave primary school without being fully literate.

‘Children need to have lots of practice in reading text, so that decoding letters and sounds on a page can become automatic—freeing up children’s minds for the more complex tasks of comprehension’ (Abadzi, 2008)





How can you learn
to play soccer if you
don't have a soccer
ball?

How can you learn
to read, if ?



OER publishing model

with funding from Comic Relief

Is providing **digital open access to children's picture storybooks,**

with creation and translation tools for users to develop and publish their own storybooks.



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112
LANGUAGES

828
STORYBOOKS

3702
TRANSLATIONS



Open access to picture storybooks in the languages of Africa.
For children's literacy, enjoyment and imagination.

New stories

Storybooks approved by ASb 



Key achievement

Almost all the 828 storybooks have been **written** by the African communities that use the storybooks.





Rwanda



Ghana

Story development workshops



Ethiopia



Zambia



ASb approved

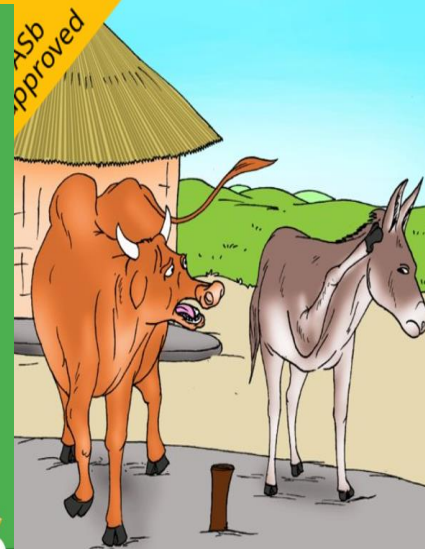
Bakafundisha Bandi

Eunice Mukonde-Mulenga
Jesse Pietersen



IciBemba

Ethiopia



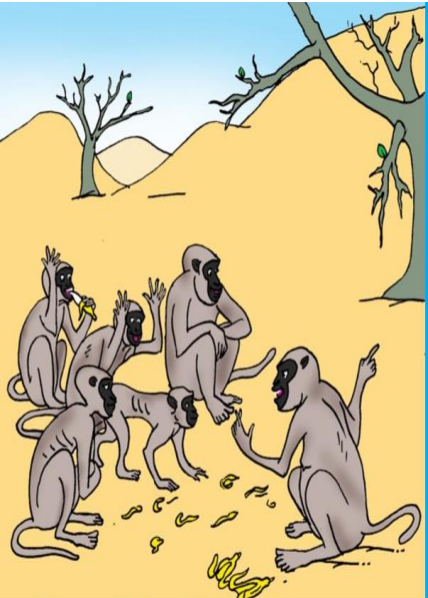
ASb approved

በሬ እና አህያ
Melese Getahun
Wolde
Salim Kasamba



Amharic

Nigeria



Birai A Lokacin Fari

Shamsuddeen
Abdulkadir Dallaje
Salim Kasamba



Hausa (Nigeria)

Ghana



ASb approved

Dɔwa'Ali Pam
Midzira Charles and
Yakubu John

Mampruli



Languages and main countries – *A Very Tall Man*

Afaan Oromo (Ethiopia)

Kakwa (Uganda)

Afrikaans (SA)

Kiswahili

Arabic

Kanuri (Niger)

Aringati (Uganda)

Likpakpaani (Ghana)

Dhopadhola (Uganda)

Shona (Zimbabwe)

French

Luganda (Uganda)

Fulfulde (Niger)

Lugbarati (Uganda)

Gurene (Ghana)

Lugbarati (official)

Hausa (Niger)

Lumasaaba (Uganda)

isiXhosa (SA)

Setswana (SA)

isiZulu (SA)

Zarma (Niger)

A Very Tall Man on Global African Storybook

Storybook translations	https://global-asp.github.io/audio/
1. Arabic	Available as audio book
2. Cantonese	
3. Mandarin	Available as audio book
4. Danish	
5. Esperanto	
6. French	Available as audio book
7. German	
8. Hindi	
9. Norwegian	Available as audio book
10. Punjabi	
11. Spanish	
12. Swedish	
13. Tagalog	Available as audio book

No. languages with 126+ books

Language	All	Approved
English	810	444
Kiswahili	251	249
isiZulu	212	142
Afrikaans	162	110
Lunyole	150	108
Ng'aturkana	149	130
Portuguese	148	127
isiXhosa	133	127
Luganda	129	65
French	129	117

42+ books

Language	All	Approved
Setswana	118	104
Sepedi	99	60
Oluwanga	90	78
Lusoga	88	54
Lugbarati	87	0
Lumasaaba	84	38
Kinyarwanda	79	25
siSwati	78	37
Amharic	75	67
Sesotho (Lesotho)	63	33
Maa	63	37
isiNdebele	62	39
Dhopadhola	57	47
Sesotho (South Africa)	55	46
Lugbarati (Official)	54	47
Kikamba	53	19
Xitsonga	47	42
Tshivenda	46	41
Hausa (Nigeria)	46	0
Ateso	43	10

How can the stories be accessed widely?





OR



**Getting the books to children:
online and offline
digital and print**



African Storybook Reader (Beta)

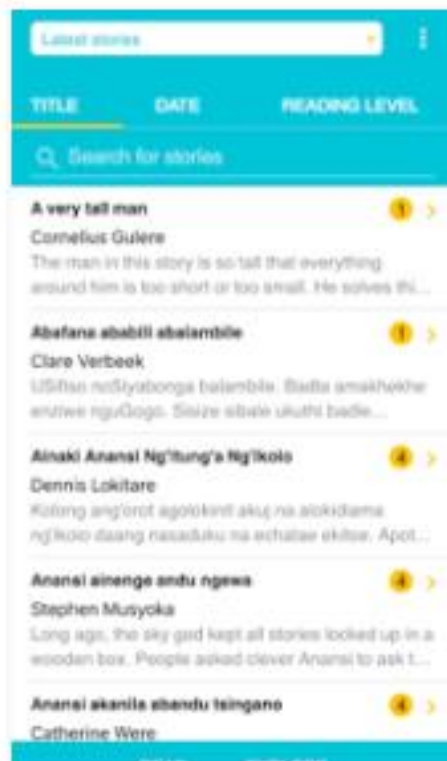
Saide Education Education

★★★★★ 15

3+

- 1 Hooray! You're a beta tester for this app.
- 1 This app is compatible with all of your devices.

Installed



Lastly, it was Ajoj's turn. She was scared. She stepped forward and started singing. But her singing sounded terrible and the words were wrong.

Unyalego shouted, "Can't you sing properly like the others?"

The snake knew that Ajoj took his golden teeth.



Dit
mc
wa
Ma
ho
din
pal

Are the storybooks being used productively to support literacy development?



Large scale use of African Storybooks

African Storybooks
preloaded on devices

The Kenyan
Institute for
Curriculum
Development has
quality assured
135 titles in three
languages for the
Digital Literacy
Programme



African Storybook Books republished by others

For example: World R.eader

- is using 51 ASb titles on mobile devices as well as in their school and library projects in SSA;
- pushed 42,968 individual ASb storybooks to their projects with more than 12,000 going to Nigeria;
- their most-read title in 2016 was an ASb storybook!



Very low print costs for printing at scale



Save the Children using 14 Hausa (Niger) and 64 French African Storybook titles in 75 Reading Clubs across Niger

Hausa (Niger) >

TITLE DATE

Search for storybooks

Ayabar Kaka
Plan Niger - Projet NECS - Usaid
Yarinya tana mamakin yadda kakarta take nana ayaba? Amma wurin da kakarta take adana ayabar sir yarinyar za ta san sirrin kakar tata?

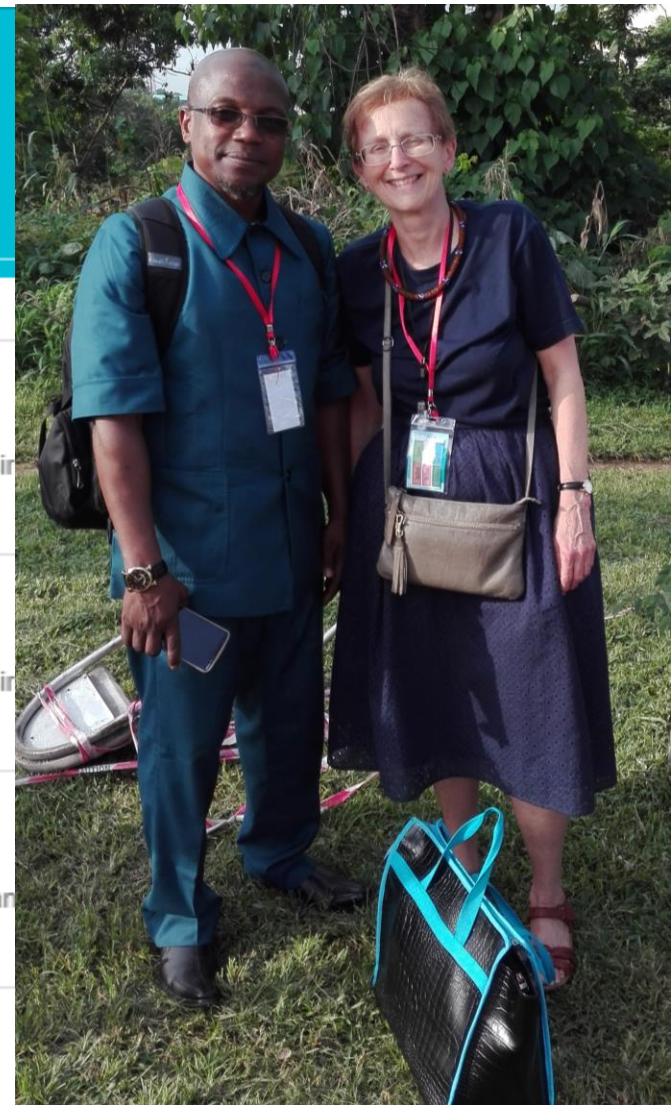
Ayabar Kaka
Plan Niger - Projet NECS - Usaid
Yarinya tana mamakin yadda kakarta take nana ayaba? Amma wurin da kakarta take adana ayabar sir yarinyar za ta san sirrin kakar tata?

Farkon Zuwana Kasuwa
Plan Niger - Projet NECS - Usaid
Ranar bikin zagayoyar cikon shekara shidda na Etabo, ma'aifiwarshi da kanwar inarshi sun kai shi wan karshe ya samu wata kyauta dalilin wannan ranar.

Farkon Zuwana Kasuwa
Plan Niger - Projet NECS - Usaid
Ranar bikin zagayoyar cikon shekara shidda na Etabo, ma'aifiwarshi da kanwar inarshi sun kai shi wan karshe ya samu wata kyauta dalilin wannan ranar.

Fati Da Kato

28 books of 4580 books match the criteria you selected.



Idrissa Abdou of Save the Children (Niger) with Tessa Welch at PALFA 2017

In our first 2.5 years, African Storybook reached over 500 000 educators and children



African Storybook on the Global Digital Library

- The Global Digital Library launching in early 2018
- Planning to use African Storybook, Storyweaver and Benetech as their core collection;
- African Storybooks in ePub can be fed to many apps and platforms without our intervention.

In Conclusion

African Storybook's OER Publishing model is contributing to solving a fundamental challenge to SDG 4 in Africa . It is

Unleashing the creativity of local story-makers -

800+ stories, 113 languages, 40+ countries, rising

Enabling fantastically cheap print-runs, e.g. UAID buying 500,000+ copies at 33 US cents each

Used enthusiastically by a wide variety of literacy development partners including education departments, libraries, reading clubs,

[Thank you](#)
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