

# Lit for Life: Literacy Project

Our library began 10 years ago as an open-air children's library under a mango tree. It was then that we realised some children were shying away from reading with us. After further inquiry, we discovered that many children in our community could not read. Since then, we have been running an ongoing literacy project, we call Lit for Life. We are empowering children with reading skills, the foundation on which all other learning is built.

by Mainess Chilumbwa



# The Problem: Literacy Gap

Children in Chilenje, Lusaka, face significant challenges in literacy and education. Despite Zambia's national adult literacy rate of 87.5% in 2020 (Macrotrends, 2020), only 4.6% of learners meet the Ministry of Education's minimum reading benchmarks for their grade level (U.S. Embassy in Zambia, 2023). Low literacy levels negatively impact academic performance and future economic opportunities, perpetuating cycles of educational disadvantage.

Previous research highlights that early reading interventions significantly improve language and literacy development in young children (Mol & Bus, 2011). Zambia's Primary Reading Program (PRP), which introduced initial literacy skills in local languages before transitioning to English, showed promise. However, challenges in transitioning from local languages to English due to inadequate teacher training limited its effectiveness (Sampa, 2005).



# Our Solution: Lit for Life Model

## Targeted Intervention

We provide literacy intervention for children aged 5–18. Focusing on foundational reading skills.

## Play-Based Learning

Our play-based sessions integrate literacy with health education creating engaging and meaningful learning experiences.

## Community Engagement

Workshops engage families and the wider community. Fostering a supportive learning environment at home and at school.



# Why Literacy Matters



## Improves Well-being

Literacy boosts health, education, and job prospects. It opens doors to a better quality of life.



## Boosts Confidence

It enhances self-esteem and promotes lifelong learning skills. Empowering children to teach themselves.



## Predicts Success

Early reading ability predicts academic success. It forms the foundation for all future learning.





# Our Vision



## Vision

To create dynamic and inclusive centres of knowledge and recreation that empower communities. Promoting lifelong learning, social cohesion, and well-being.



## Mission

To provide educational resources and capacity building opportunities that enhance literacy, education, economic status, and personal growth in underserved communities.



## Core Values

Love, Excellence, Integrity, Well-being and professionalism



# Measurable Impact

978

Number of Children Reached

We have over 900 registered Children

9,754

Learning Through Play  
Interactions

Since 2023

25,981

Library Visits

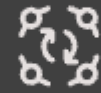
Since 2022



# Stories that Matter

“Before Nelson joined the Lit for Life literacy project, he had no interest in school and couldn’t even say the alphabet. It broke my heart to see him struggle. But everything changed after he started attending the literacy classes at the library. I have seen such a big improvement in his learning, now he enjoys school. Nelson dreams of becoming a soldier one day. As a parent, all I want is for him to have a chance at a better future. I’m grateful to the library for the support, and I truly hope they continue helping him so he can finish school and make his dream come true.” - Mother to Nelson

# What Next?



Expanding to new communities



Building Permanent Library Spaces



Introducing Digital Literacy



# Why Support Us?

1

## Proven Track Record

Clocking 10 years this Year

2

## Child-Focused Approach

We see children as children and children love to play, so we teach them through play.

3

## Replicable

Our approach can be replicated in most communities.

We are not just teaching children to read, we are helping them rewrite their futures.



# Thank you!

## Get in touch with us

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