

# Mozambique

**TAX**  
Project No: N/A



## Literacy for Life (Mission Educate)

### Overview

Bible Society Australia is supporting Mission Educate in running a Bible-based literacy project designed to provide basic literacy, numeracy and life skills. It targets those living in impoverished city areas and rural communities who have little access to education and works with churches who have very few literate people among their communities.



### The Need

Mozambique, one of the world's poorest nations, grapples with over 50% of its population living below the poverty line. A legacy of oppressive colonial rule has left the country with a national sense of inferiority.

The religious landscape is diverse, predominantly Christian, yet literacy challenges hinder easy understanding of the Bible. The lack of solid biblical teaching fosters unbiblical beliefs and practices.

The intertwining issues of illiteracy and poverty form a vicious cycle: poverty compels children to forgo education, perpetuating low incomes and trapping many in persistent poverty. This cycle fosters a deep sense of shame and worthlessness. Addressing these challenges requires urgent efforts to provide accessible literacy education for both adults and children.

# 32m

people live in Mozambique

# 50%+

live below the poverty line

# 67%

live as subsistence farmers

# 42%

are non-literate

**"In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ,"**

Ephesians 3:4, NIV

# Goals

This project targets non-literate adults and vulnerable youth, aiming to empower them to read basic signs, documents, and the Bible. Launched in Beira, it aspires to cover all ten Mozambican provinces, with current expansion in Sofala, Inhambane, and Nampula.

Conducted in community settings, the classes focus on reading, numeracy, and essential life skills like nutrition, cooking and horticulture. The project, with four full-time staff and 19 facilitators, will run 19 groups in three provinces in 2024, benefiting 546 participants. This positively influences families and communities, with an estimated 2,750 indirect beneficiaries.

Objectives include achieving a Grade 6 literacy standard, evidenced by exams and enhanced confidence. Graduates are expected to deepen their understanding of the Bible and their role in the Kingdom of God, demonstrated by regular Bible reading and church involvement. The ultimate aim is an improved overall quality of life, observable through the practical application of life skills in their daily routines.

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# Impact

In 2023, this project had a direct impact on 546 participants. Each year, the impact is felt by Mozambicans who are given the opportunity to learn to read and write, which promotes a sense of self-worth and personal value. The ability to read the Bible and learn of God's love and grace and his redemptive plan for each individual is transformative.

The classes are run in local churches, whose pastors partner with Mission Educate, which promotes community transformation, as well as developing unity amongst pastors and local congregations.

The Literacy for Life Project will transform individuals, families and communities. Church congregations are expected to be transformed with an increase in literate members who can read the Bible and engage in meaningful Bible discussions, encouraging the formation of personal faith.

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# Testimonies

"Before joining the Literacy for Life Project, I was unable to read or write. I dreamed of being an agrarian technician because I like working with land and plantations ... Today, I feel that this dream is coming true with the help of the Literacy for Life Project. With this initiative, I have implemented a small vegetable garden ... I want to thank Bible Society Australia for helping me to achieve my dream. Not only has the Literacy for Life Project given me the ability to read and write, but it has helped me to achieve my life's dream." — Maria, 3rd year participant, from Sofala province

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# Prayer Needs

- Pray for the students and their families that they will learn to read and love God's word, especially for the new groups which will begin in 2024.
- Pray especially for women and girls whose male authority figure may discourage or even prevent their attendance.
- Pray for safety and health of the Literacy Facilitators, many of whom walk long distances to lead their groups.
- Pray for Pastor Jose who is the Literacy for Life Project Coordinator, that he will be strengthened and encouraged as he leads this Project.