

Global



Building Future Literacy

Project: 103368
Tax Deductible



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UBS literacy staff are currently the only support to extensive literacy projects globally

773m

adults worldwide are still unable to read and write (2021, UNESCO Institute for Statistics)

1.6 billion

children and youth could be at risk of not achieving minimum proficiency levels in reading and mathematics by 2030 (UNESCO Global Education Monitoring Report)

Overview

Bible Society Australia is supporting the United Bible Societies (UBS) in this project, which aims to enhance the capacity of the Global Literacy Office by training a literacy officer through a Master's program in Linguistics at Moorlands College. This initiative addresses the shortage of literacy specialists assisting Bible Societies globally, ultimately improving support for literacy projects within the UBS Fellowship.

The Need

The UBS Global Literacy Office recognises a critical shortage of literacy specialists, with only three currently supporting the literacy projects of the United Bible Societies globally. This limitation hampers the ability to effectively address the vast literacy needs within the UBS Fellowship and necessitates reliance on external partner agencies for training and resources. The demand for enhanced literacy development is significant, as Bible Societies require skilled professionals to implement effective literacy programs in diverse communities.

Additionally, the existing UBS literacy team lacks sufficient technical expertise, which restricts their capacity to meet the growing literacy challenges. Without increased internal expertise, the quality of support for these projects may diminish, resulting in missed opportunities for community engagement and development. Training a literacy officer through a structured formal education program is a strategic response to develop in-house expertise. This initiative aims to build a foundation of knowledge and practical skills essential for implementing successful literacy interventions and ultimately reducing the dependency on external partners.

By wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established; through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures. – Proverbs 24:3-4, NIV

Goals

The primary goal of this project is to enhance the capacity of the Global Literacy Office by developing in-house expertise in literacy support for the United Bible Societies. By training a literacy officer through a formal education program, the project aims to increase the pool of literacy specialists available to assist with ongoing literacy initiatives across the UBS Fellowship.

In 2025, specific objectives include the completion of the Post Graduate Certificate through an intensive 18-week on-campus course, which will enhance their foundational knowledge in language, community, and development. Following this, the literacy officer will engage in a two-year professional internship, allowing them to apply theoretical knowledge in real-world literacy projects.

By the end of 2025, they will also prepare for their Post-Graduate Diploma application and begin a dissertation work. This comprehensive development will ensure that they are well-equipped to contribute to and strengthen UBS literacy projects in diverse communities.

Impact

The impact of this project will be significant for both the literacy officer and the broader United Bible Societies community. By equipping the literacy officer with advanced knowledge and practical skills in literacy, the project will enhance the overall capacity of the Global Literacy Office to support literacy initiatives effectively. With a Master's degree in Linguistics focused on Language Development, the literacy officer will bring a depth of expertise that will directly benefit literacy programs within the UBS Fellowship.

In particular, their training will empower them to implement evidence-based strategies rooted in literacy theory, facilitating more effective community engagement and educational support. This enhanced skill set will enable UBS to reduce its dependency on external partners for training and resources, ultimately lowering costs and tailoring support to the specific needs of communities. Over time, the project will contribute to improved literacy rates and educational outcomes within the Fellowship, fostering sustainable development and community empowerment, and creating a ripple effect that strengthens the capacity of local literacy stakeholders and initiatives.

Prayer Points

- Please pray for success in the application process at the Moorlands College, UK.
- Please pray for the literacy officer as they prepare and embark on this new journey, for wisdom, ability to adapt as they prepare to learn.