

Braille Literacy



Project: 103280
Tax-Deductible

Mongolia

Overview

Bible Society Australia is partnering with the Mongolian Union Bible Society to support People with Visual Disabilities (PVDs) across Mongolia through Braille literacy training. Many PVDs, especially in rural areas, lack access to education and face deep social isolation. This project, running from 2024 to 2028, provides literacy skills that open doors to learning, independence, and spiritual growth. As participants gain the ability to read and write in Braille, they can engage more fully in their communities and access God's Word for themselves.



The Need

In Mongolia, PVDs are one of the most marginalised groups, particularly in rural provinces where many experience isolation and limited access to education. Some families keep visually impaired members at home for safety or due to stigma, further restricting their independence. There is little national data on PVDs, and very few organisations advocate for their inclusion. Literacy training offers more than reading skills: it provides hope, dignity, and the opportunity to participate confidently in social and spiritual life. The Mongolian Blind Union strongly believes these programs can bring meaningful change for both individuals and communities.

- **12,000** visually disabled people in Mongolia
- **~10%** of PVDs are literate in Braille.
- **~85%** remain non-literate

Goals

This project aims to equip 450 PVDs across 21 provinces and nine districts with Braille literacy by 2028. Literacy will help participants access education, improve their social engagement and employment opportunities, and if they choose, connect them with the Bible. Families will also witness that their loved ones can grow, participate confidently in society, and move toward independence.

Braille learners will be supported with learning materials such as primers, braille writing kits, audios, and textbooks with Biblical content.

In 2026, training and materials development will be rolled out in provinces including Dundgobi, Bulgan, Huvsgul, Arkhangai, Bayankhongor, Tuv, Khentii, Dornod, Sukhbaatar, and Orkhon. Advocacy, promotion, and a midway evaluation will ensure the project's impact reaches wider communities, raising awareness of PVDs' needs and potential.

Impact

This Braille literacy project will have a profound impact as participants gain the ability to read and write in Braille. These skills help them navigate daily life more independently, access God's Word, and, if they wish, engage with their local church. The project is also raising community awareness about the abilities and needs of PVDs.

In 2025, it reached 76 participants across five provinces, completing Level 1 from January to May and Level 2 in

September–October, with Level 3 postponed to 2026. In Orkhon province, learners' skills were high enough to skip Level 2. Alongside courses for PVDs, 160 people attended Braille lessons and received certificates. Two UBS Literacy Advisors visited, observed Level 2, and provided guidance. Preparations for 2026 included meetings with local governments, refining handouts, and developing small Bible storybooks for Braille.

Impact in Numbers

450

people with visual disabilities in Mongolia will be reached by this Braille literacy project by 2028.

76

people with visual disabilities across five provinces in Mongolia started their Braille literacy training in 2025.

Testimony

"Before I did not know what Braille is, but now I know all the alphabet and numbers. I can write my name in Braille and can write down the phone numbers of others in Braille. I am very grateful for those who organised the training."

— former participant of the Braille Literacy training

How Your Support Helps

\$75

can help contribute to the cost of Braille writing tools for participants.

\$450

can help support the production of improved Braille training materials, including primers and storybooks.

\$1,500

can help towards the cost of running Braille training sessions in rural provinces.

"The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world."
— John 1:9, NIV