

# Literacy Building Futures



Project: Non-UBS  
Tax-Deductible

## Rwanda

### Overview

Bible Society Australia is partnering with African Enterprise Rwanda in implementing a literacy project seeking to improve literacy among students and ensure a brighter future for all Rwandans. This project focuses on enhancing students' reading skills in Kinyarwanda (one of the official languages of Rwanda and a first language for most Rwandan children) within the first three years of primary school.



### The Need

Rwanda has made strong progress in primary school enrolment, yet many young learners still begin school without early childhood preparation. This makes early literacy a challenge, particularly in rural areas where poverty limits access to books and learning materials. Many teachers are new and require ongoing training as education reforms, competency-based curricula, and new technologies are introduced. Parents who are non-literate also struggle to support reading at home. Strengthening early childhood learning, teacher development, and access to resources is essential to improving literacy levels and ensuring children gain foundational skills needed for future education.

- **3.6 million students** in Rwanda's education system
- **69%** of Primary 3 learners surveyed across Rwandan schools meet the global proficiency benchmark in oral reading fluency in the Kinyarwanda language, while **31%** are below the proficiency level (Learning Achievement in Rwandan Schools 2023).
- Only **49%** of learners surveyed across Rwandan schools meet the global proficiency benchmarks in Primary 3 English (Learning Achievement in Rwandan Schools 2023).

### Goals

In 2026, the project will strengthen early grade learning across 35 schools in 12 sectors by enhancing teacher skills, improving supervision, and increasing access to literacy resources for P1-P3 learners. Structured professional development and coaching will be provided for **210 teachers**, supported by regular reading assessments, remedial sessions, and the establishment of reading clubs. Alongside its literacy focus, the project will deepen Bible engagement by equipping school libraries with at least **10 Bibles per school**, providing Christian-based supplementary reading materials, and **training 70 teachers to facilitate Bible study and expository reading sessions**. Reading resources will remain balanced, with 50% Ministry-approved books and 50% Christian-based texts.

## Impact

The impact of this project will last beyond just early education. Strong literacy skill helps children think critically, understand what they learn across subjects, and build a solid foundation for future education and employment. When children learn to read well at an early age, they are more likely to succeed in school and beyond.

By the end of 2025, the project supported **18 schools, 288 teachers, and 20,880 learners**, exceeding its target.

Activities included classroom coaching, literacy assessments, and targeted remedial support for 300 struggling students. **60 reading clubs** remained active, giving learners regular opportunities to practise reading and enjoy shared stories. Teachers and headteachers reported improved classroom practice, stronger reading culture, and increased student engagement. This strong foundation positions the project for deeper impact as it expands to 35 schools in 2026.

## Impact in Numbers

# 20,880

learners and **288** teachers were supported through the project in 2025.

# 300

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

# 60

active reading clubs helped strengthen reading culture in participating schools.

## Testimony

"The reading club has become a regular and well-organised activity in our school. Learners now know when reading club time is, and they become prepared and motivated to participate. Children take turns reading, discussing stories, and helping one another, which has improved both their reading skills and their cooperation. We have also seen learners taking responsibility for the books and encouraging their peers to read. The reading club is no longer just an activity supported by the project; it is now something the school values and plans to continue."

— Reading Club Facilitator

## How Your Support Helps

# \$140

will provide 100 textbooks and learning materials for students in 2026.

# \$1,400

will help provide supplementary reading materials for school reading clubs.

# \$3,150

will help cover the cost of organising and running professional development workshops for 210 teachers in 2026.

"For we write nothing else to you than what you read and understand, and I hope you will understand until the end;"

— 2 Corinthians 1:13, NASB