African Storybook.org

# Using OER to address a fundamental educational challenge

Jennifer Glennie and Tessa Welch

Saide
Enabling successful
open learning for all

**Quality Education**

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

## Key Challenge

## Far too high a proportion of African children leave primary school without being fully literate.

*'Children need to have lots of practice in reading text, so that decoding letters and sounds on a page can become automatic– freeing up children's minds for the more complex tasks of comprehension''* **(Abadzi, 2008)**

How can you learn to play soccer if you don't have a soccer ball?

How can you learn to read, if …. ?

**African Storybook.org**

# OER publishing model

with funding from Comic Relief

Is providing **digital open access to children's picture storybooks**,

with **creation and translation tools** for users

to develop and publish their own storybooks.

# Key achievement

Almost all the 828 storybooks have been **written** by the African communities that use the storybooks.

Rwanda

Ghana

Ethiopia

# Story development workshops
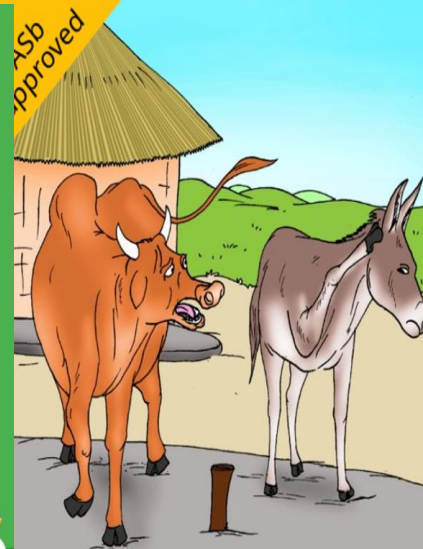
## Zambia

**Bakafundisha Bandi**

Eunice Mukonde-Mulenga

Jesse Pietersen

IciBemba

## Ethiopia

**በሬ እና አህያ**

Melese Getahun Wolde

Salim Kasamba

Amharic

## Nigeria
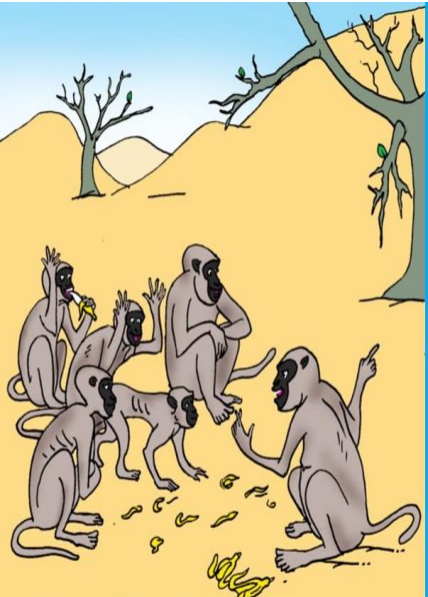
**Birai A Lokacin Fari**

Shamsuddeen Abdulkadir Dallaje

Salim Kasamba

Hausa (Nigeria)

## Ghana

**Dɔwa'Alli Pam**

Midzira Charles and Yakubu John

Mampruli

# Languages and main countries – *A Very Tall Man*

| | |
|---|---|
| Afaan Oromo (Ethiopia) | Kakwa (Uganda) |
| Afrikaans (SA) | Kiswahili |
| Arabic | Kanuri (Niger) |
| Aringati (Uganda) | Likpakpaanl (Ghana) |
| Dhopadhola (Uganda) | Shona (Zimbabwe) |
| French | Luganda (Uganda) |
| Fulfulde (Niger) | Lugbarati (Uganda) |
| Gurene (Ghana) | Lugbarati (official) |
| Hausa (Niger) | Lumasaaba (Uganda) |
| isiXhosa (SA) | Setswana (SA) |
| isiZulu (SA) | Zarma (Niger) |

# *A Very Tall Man* on Global African Strorybook

| Storybook translations | https://global-asp.github.io/audio/ |
| --- | --- |
| 1. Arabic | Available as audio book |
| 2. Cantonese | |
| 3. Mandarin | Available as audio book |
| 4. Danish | |
| 5. Esperanto | |
| 6. French | Available as audio book |
| 7. German | |
| 8. Hindi | |
| 9. Norwegian | Available as audio book |
| 10. Punjabi | |
| 11. Spanish | |
| 12. Swedish | |
| 13. Tagalog | Available as audio book |

## No. languages with 126+ books

| Language | All | Approved |
|---|---|---|
| English | 810 | 444 |
| Kiswahili | 251 | 249 |
| isiZulu | 212 | 142 |
| Afrikaans | 162 | 110 |
| Lunyole | 150 | 108 |
| Ng'aturkana | 149 | 130 |
| Portuguese | 148 | 127 |
| isiXhosa | 133 | 127 |
| Luganda | 129 | 65 |
| French | 129 | 117 |

## 42+ books

| Language | All | Approved |
|---|---|---|
| Setswana | 118 | 104 |
| Sepedi | 99 | 60 |
| Oluwanga | 90 | 78 |
| Lusoga | 88 | 54 |
| Lugbarati | 87 | 0 |
| Lumasaaba | 84 | 38 |
| Kinyarwanda | 79 | 25 |
| siSwati | 78 | 37 |
| Amharic | 75 | 67 |
| Sesotho (Lesotho) | 63 | 33 |
| Maa | 63 | 37 |
| isiNdebele | 62 | 39 |
| Dhopadhola | 57 | 47 |
| Sesotho (South Africa) | 55 | 46 |
| Lugbarati (Official) | 54 | 47 |
| Kikamba | 53 | 19 |
| Xitsonga | 47 | 42 |
| Tshivenda | 46 | 41 |
| Hausa (Nigeria) | 46 | 0 |
| Ateso | 43 | 10 |

# How can the stories be accessed widely?



AfricanStorybook.org

**Getting the books to children:**
**online and offline**
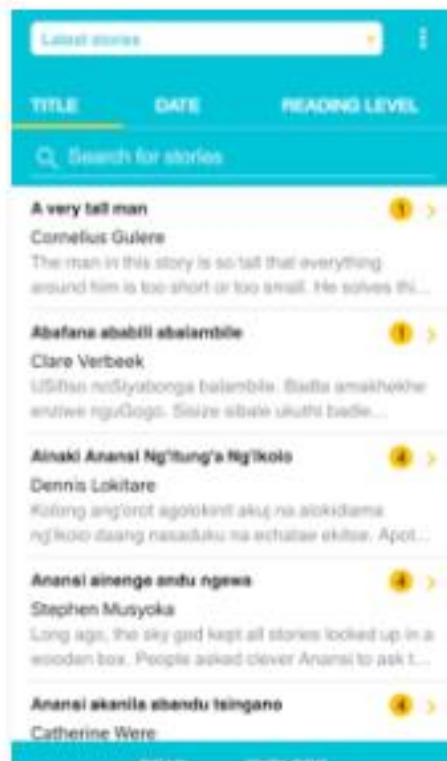**digital and print**

# African Storybook Reader (Beta)

Saide   Education   Education

3+

★★★★★ 15

- Hooray! You're a beta tester for this app.
- This app is compatible with all of your devices.

**Installed**

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Latest stories

TITLE    DATE    READING LEVEL

Search for stories

**A very tall man**  1 >
Cornelius Gulere
The man in this story is so tall that everything around him is too short or too small. He solves thi...

**Abafana ababili abalambile**  1 >
Clare Verbeek
USifiso ndSiyabonga balambile. Badla amakhekhe erutwe nguGogo. Sisize sibale ukuthi badle...

**Ainaki Ananai Ng'itung'a Ng'ikolo**  4 >
Dennis Lokitare
Kotong ang'orot agolokinit akuj na alokidama ng'ikoio daang nasaduku na echabae ekitee. Apot...

**Ananai ainenge andu ngewa**  4 >
Stephen Musyoka
Long ago, the sky god kept all stories looked up in a wooden box. People asked clever Ananai to ask t...

**Ananai akanila abandu tsingano**  4 >
Catherine Were

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TITLE ▾    DATE    EDIT

Search book titles

Lastly, it was Ajoh's turn. She was scared. She stepped forward and started singing. But her singing sounded terrible and the words were wrong.

Unyalego shouted, "Can't you sing properly like the others?"

The snake knew that Ajoh took his golden teeth.

Are the storybooks being used
productively to support
literacy development?

# Large scale use of African Storybooks

African Storybooks
preloaded on devices



The Kenyan Institute for Curriculum Development has quality assured 135 titles in three languages for the Digital Literacy Programme

# African Storybook Books republished by others

For example: Worldreader

- is using 51 ASb titles on mobile devices as well as in their school and library projects in SSA;

- pushed 42,968 individual ASb storybooks to their projects with more than 12,000 going to Nigeria;

- their most-read title in 2016 was an ASb storybook!



ASb approved

Magozwe
Kumah Godwin
Kwaku (OLE Ghana)
Wiehan de Jager

Ewe

African Storybook.org

# Very low print costs for printing at scale

# Save the Children using 14 Hausa (Niger) and 64 French African Storybook titles in 75 Reading Clubs across Niger

Hausa (Niger)  ❯

**TITLE** ▾          **DATE**

🔍 Search for storybooks

Ayabar Kaka
Plan Niger - Projet NECS - Usaid
Yarinya tana mamakin yadda kakarta take nana ayaba? Amma wurin da kakarta take adana ayabar sir
yarinyar za ta san sirrin kakar tata?

Ayabar Kaka
Plan Niger - Projet NECS - Usaid
Yarinya tana mamakin yadda kakarta take nana ayaba? Amma wurin da kakarta take adana ayabar sir
yarinyar za ta san sirrin kakar tata?

Farkon Zuwana Kasuwa
Plan Niger - Projet NECS - Usaid
Ranar bikin zagayoyar cikon shekara shidda na Etabo, ma'aifiwarshi da kanwar inarshi sun kai shi war
karshe ya samu wata kyauta dalilin wannan ranar.

Farkon Zuwana Kasuwa
Plan Niger - Projet NECS - Usaid
Ranar bikin zagayoyar cikon shekara shidda na Etabo, ma'aifiwarshi da kanwar inarshi sun kai shi war
karshe ya samu wata kyauta dalilin wannan ranar.

28 books of 4580 books match the criteria you selected.

Fati Da Kato
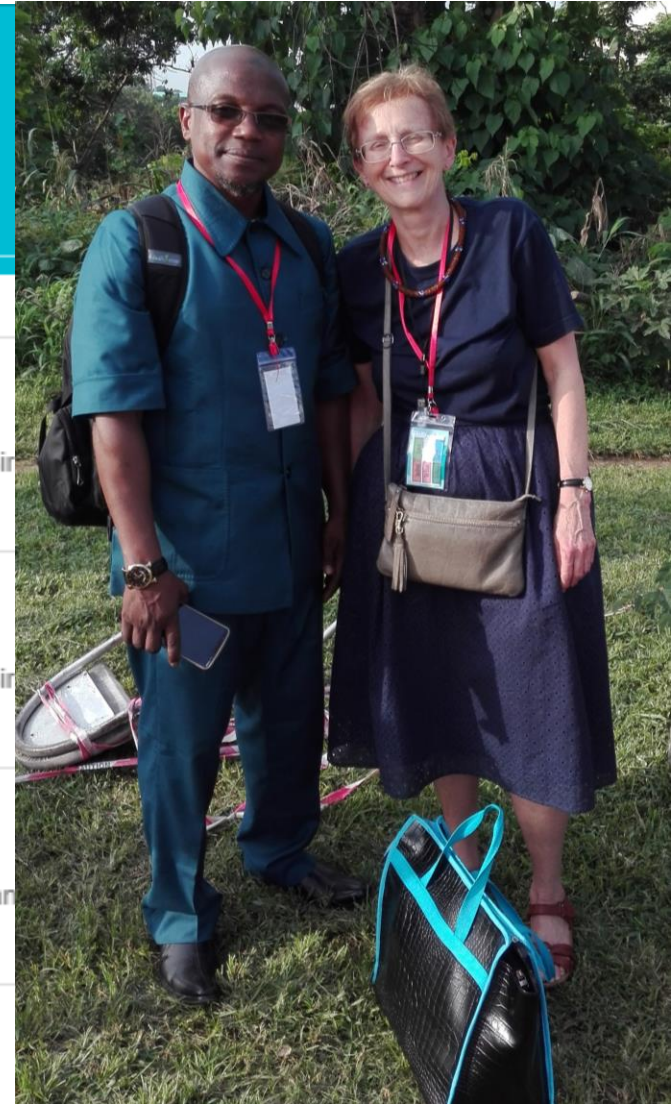


*Idrissa Abdou of Save the Children (Niger) with Tessa Welch at PALFA 2017*

# In our first 2.5 years, African Storybook reached over 500 000 educators and children

# African Storybook on the Global Digital Library

- The Global Digital Library launching in early 2018

- Planning to use African Storybook, Storyweaver and Benetech as their core collection;

- African Storybooks in ePub  can be fed to many apps and platforms without our intervention.

2ème Congrès mondial REL
Le 2e Congrès mondial des Ressources éducatives libres (REL)
du 18 au 20 septembre 2017, Ljubljana, Slovénie
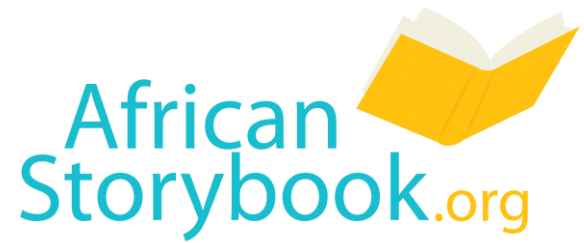
# In Conclusion

## African Storybook's OER Publishing model
**is contributing to solving a fundamental challenge to SDG 4 in Africa .** It is

**Unleashing the creativity** of local story-makers - 800+ stories, 113 languages, 40+ countries, rising

**Enabling fantastically cheap print-runs**, e.g. UAID buying 500,000+ copies at 33 US cents each

**Used enthusiastically** by a wide variety of literacy development partners including education departments, libraries, reading clubs,

Saide
Enabling successful open learning for all

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