



Zambia

Reading Room Donor Report

Letter from the Country Director

Dear Anthony and Gavina,

It is with great pleasure that I share with you the Completion Report for the library that was supported by the Mamma Lena and Dino Gustin Foundation in 2010. The Zambia Reading Room team has been very busy during these first few months of 2011 ensuring that the 2010 libraries are high quality and are being used by students and teachers. During the past few months, our field staff has been working with each librarian to make sure that book checkout systems are fully functioning, the library is welcoming and inviting to students, and that all of the books are well organized and accessible. The teachers and librarians were trained on these activities in the fall, and now we are providing support to them as they implement what they learned at their schools. For example, the team is working with teachers to ensure that they know how to use the books in their classrooms and how to support students in picking out the right book. It is my favorite time of year because our hard work is rewarded with the pleasure of witnessing the joy on children's faces as they are first introduced to the library and their love of reading begins to blossom. It is during these months that children and communities start to feel the impact of our work through access to the world of books. Room to Read and our government partners will continue to monitor the libraries regularly to ensure activities are running smoothly and provide additional support to teachers and librarians as needed.

In 2011, our Reading Room team is excited to deepen our engagement with families and communities at schools with our libraries. We will be conducting a variety of activities leading up to International Literacy Day that encourage and empower families and communities to support the development of a habit of reading in their students. We will be holding reading and writing competitions and holding fun and educational school-wide events that promote reading.

Kacheta Basic School library, funded by your gift in 2010 is up and running, and the children and teachers are excited about all of the interesting and colorful books. In the following pages, we provide a brief update on this library and share the results of your generous contribution.

Sincerely,

Samantha Chuula, Zambia Country Director

Project Details

Project ID: ZM-RR-10-0048

Name: Kacheta Basic School

Province: Lusaka

District: Kafue

City/Village: Kacheta

Grades: 1 to 9

Number of Students

Female Students: 380

Male Students: 425

Total Students: 805

Number of Teachers

Female Teachers: 7

Male Teachers: 6

Total Teachers: 13



Map of Zambia

Project Description

Through your generous support, Room to Read Zambia established a Separate Library.

The library is located in Lusaka, which is Zambia's fastest growing province with a population of over 1.5 million people. Housing the city of Lusaka, Zambia's capital, the province is a political, social, and economic center, however despite this role Lusaka experiences severe gaps in its socioeconomic landscape with pockets of concentrated wealth mirrored by areas of widespread poverty and social isolation. As local governments have been primarily focused on economic development and fostering industrial investment throughout the region, education has been neglected, a fact that is reflected in the province's 32% literacy rate, the lowest in the nation. With a new commitment to improving the infrastructure and capacity of Lusaka's academic sector, Room to Read is a welcomed addition to the provincial landscape.

Library Model

Separate Libraries are established in a designated room of the school. This is often an unused storage room or a former teacher's office. This important type of library is designed to create a print rich environment that enables and supports the creation of a habit of reading in students. The room is stocked with books in addition to shelving, furniture, games, posters, and library stationery. The walls are covered in maps and literary posters and students feel at ease and welcome to read books freely. Students may come to the library to use the books and resources during break time, before and after school, or when teachers bring students to use the library during class periods.

Resources Provided

The Reading Room team in Zambia works hard to select the most appropriate and engaging reading materials to stock the libraries. The Zambia team purchases local language and English books from retailers and publishers in Zambia, in addition to receiving English books through our global English book donation system. The majority of the books we provide are in English because children in Zambia are taught in English starting in Grade 2. Students love the fun and colorful books the team selects for them. Room to Read has provided the following books and other resources to this library:

- 1336 English Books
- Games
- Carpet / Linoleum Floor Mat; Shelves; Tables
- Globes; Posters

Community ownership is an important part of Room to Read's work and the Challenge Grant is designed to create an environment that enables communities to contribute their time and resources to the library projects. The community contributes resources, labor, and long-term support.

Training and Support

In Zambia, teacher librarians in Room to Read libraries and community members receive three days of basic training in library management and reading activities. The training focuses on ensuring the educators have adequate knowledge and skills to organize and manage the library, conduct activities with books during the reading period, and motivate and support children in reading. Future refresher trainings will reinforce these topics and provide strategies for the educator to cooperate with other teachers. They will also emphasize improving the use of library resources and engaging the community in helping to maintain and ensure library sustainability.

Start Date
4/22/2010

Length of Training
3.0 days

Training Topic
Book selection; Library set-up / management;
Other

Kacheta Basic School library will receive three full years of additional support from Room to Read, which will include approximately 1,000 new books and regular monitoring visits to assess the library and provide continued support to the librarian and teachers to ensure the library provides many years of reading enjoyment for the students.

Photos

The interior of the library



The exterior of Kacheta Basic School Library



A student reads quietly



The students, the deputy head teacher, the librarian and the LSP grade one teacher outside Kacheta Basic School Library



Dedication Plaque in the Library