

BOOK HUNGER

Take the Pledge to Help End Book Hunger

Most Languages Lack Children's Books

English has over 55,000 picture books. Portuguese has just 2000, and Zulu 500.

More than 560 languages are used in primary education. Only 10% have enough books.

Having Books Changes Everything

Research shows the most powerful predictor of a child's future is the number of books in their home.

This "book effect" holds true in countries rich and poor, capitalist and communist, and across all cultures.

United Nations Goal: All Children Reading

The UN has set a goal that by 2030, all children should be in school and learning well.

To provide 1000 titles in 500 languages, more than half a million new children's titles must be created.



One Billion Kids Have Nothing to Read

In Zambia, six-year-old Dabora scampers to a shelf in a brand-new library built by Room to Read. A bright green book has caught her eye: *Njala Nakolombo: Hunger is a Monster*.

Wide-eyed, little Dabora opens the book and puts her finger to the page. She reads fluently, her voice rising and falling, clearly enjoying the story. This book speaks to her, in her native tongue.

The United Nations has set a goal that by 2030, all children should be in school and learning well. Learning to read in one's mother tongue is an essential first step. But books are in short supply.

In Dabora's language, Njanja, only a dozen picture books are in print. All were published by Room to Read.

Worldwide, one billion children suffer from book hunger. Books are too few, too expensive, or simply not being published in the languages they speak.

Translation is Key to Ending Book Hunger

Translating existing books is dramatically more cost-effective than producing new books.

Translators Without Borders coordinates translations for around \$50 per picture book.

Nonprofits like Room to Read and Books for Asia can distribute copies to schools and libraries for as little as \$1 each.

Mobile Reading Brings Books Within Reach

The UN Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization is drawing attention to the importance of cell phones for global literacy.

Three-quarters of the world's population owns a cell phone. Soon, there will be more phones on the planet than people.

Each one is potentially a digital library, offering free and easy access to titles in hundreds of languages.



Pledge to Fight Book Hunger ...

As an AUTHOR, I commit to make my stories available for charitable use in disadvantaged languages. I will enlist my agent, publisher, and illustrators as partners in this effort.

As an ILLUSTRATOR, I will create artwork that travels well across cultures by avoiding clothing, possessions, architecture, skin tones, and other features that would mark characters as culturally Western.

As an EDITOR, I will identify and develop universally appealing titles that can help meet the global need for mother-tongue reading materials and encourage culturally-sensitive illustration.

As a PUBLISHER, I will make culturally appropriate titles available for charitable translation and distribution in both print and secure digital formats, to enable mobile reading.

As an AGENT, I will educate my clients about book hunger and empower them to donate translation rights to charity.