



**World Change Starts  
with Educated Children.®**

For more information  
or to make a contribution,  
please contact:  
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**Cambodia**

% of pupils finishing  
5<sup>th</sup> grade 81%

% of literacy (15 and older) 74%

**India**

% of pupils finishing  
5<sup>th</sup> grade 81%

% of literacy (15 and older) 61%

**Laos**

% of pupils finishing  
5<sup>th</sup> grade 74%

% of literacy (15 and older) 69%

**Nepal**

% of pupils finishing  
5<sup>th</sup> grade 78%

% of literacy (15 and older) 49%

**South Africa**

% of pupils finishing  
5<sup>th</sup> grade NA

% of literacy (15 and older) 82%

**Sri Lanka**

% of pupils finishing  
5<sup>th</sup> grade NA

% of literacy (15 and older) 90%

**Vietnam**

% of pupils finishing  
5<sup>th</sup> grade 95%

% of literacy (15 and older) 90%

**Source**

World Bank Group (2003)  
UN Statistics Division (2004)

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Tax deductible  
contribution  
needed to create a  
new Local Language  
Publishing title:  
**US \$12,000**



## Local Language Publishing

**(Providing new opportunities for early literacy in Cambodia, India, Laos, Nepal, South Africa, Sri Lanka & Vietnam)**

Over the past few years, Room to Read has established over 2,000 bi-lingual libraries in developing countries by working with local villages, educators and local Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). One serious challenge, however, is the lack of affordable local language children's books. Parents are too poor to afford reading material for their children, so a local children's book publishing industry is nearly non-existent. To maintain our commitment to the lifelong gift of education for all children, the time has come for more exciting and relevant children's literature in the local languages. We are very pleased to introduce Room to Read's Local Language Publishing Project—a pivotal step to improve our libraries in developing countries and the lives of countless children. We are actively working to significantly increase the quantity and diversity of children's books published in Khmer, Hindi, Setswana, Isixhosa, Lao, Nepali, Sinhalese, Tamil, and Vietnamese, by publishing more than 700,000 new, colorful books.

### Opportunity: Make local publishing a reality.

Investing in Room to Read will directly support local publishing in Asia and Africa. We will print over 70 titles in the coming year and invite you to invest in this endeavor. We will source new content written by local people in the local language, with some of the books being published as bi-lingual English children's books as well. For each title, we plan to print in the range of 5,000–10,000 books and contribute them to our network of schools and libraries. This will result in strengthening the local children's book industry. Picture the smile on a child's face when she gets to read an exciting, colorful new storybook in her own language—now multiply that one smile by thousands and you can begin to imagine the impact your contribution will have.

### Results: What will be the Impact on publishing?

Your contribution will translate directly to the writing, development, and printing of local language books for the children in Cambodia, India, Laos, Nepal, South Africa, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam. The process involves the following results:

**Writing & Development** Working with teachers, authors, illustrators and local publishing houses to source and develop new stories for the children's market.

**Printing** For each title, we will complete a print run of approximately 5,000–10,000 books. In appreciation of your support, your name (or a loved one's) will appear on the inside cover of each book as a dedication.

**Distribution** Titles will be donated directly to our network of schools and libraries as well as sold to our partner NGOs in order to increase the sustainability of the program.

**Replication** Room to Read will continue to expand the number and variety of titles we publish each year and will replicate the model in other countries where we operate. Thus, your investment can have a widespread impact on children's book publishing in developing countries for years to come.

## What is Room To Read?

Our mission is to provide under-privileged children with an opportunity to gain the lifelong gift of education. Founded on the belief that education is the key to breaking the cycle of poverty and taking control of one's own life, we currently focus our efforts on Cambodia, India, Laos, Nepal, South Africa, Sri Lanka and Vietnam. Room to Read is a dynamic, results-oriented organization. Since our inception as a non-profit in 2000, we have impacted the lives of over 1 million children by building over 220 schools, establishing over 3,300 school libraries, donating over 2 million books, and funding over 2,300 girls on scholarship. The vast majority of donations goes directly into programs.