



# Onani Early Literacy Project: Empowering Malawian Children through Phonics and Story Books

Justin Malewezi Jr. 2024

## Project Overview:

This project aims to develop literacy teaching materials for parents, caregivers, and nursery schoolteachers to teach children aged 3 to 6 in Malawi how to read and write. The focus will be on using the letters A, E, I, O, U, N, M, B, and G. By the end of the project, each child will own four storybooks created from a word bank originating from these letters. The project follows the successful 2020 Mphanje resource pilot project of the children of [Mkaka village](#) and [Kakule urban community](#) in Lilongwe, Malawi.

## Objectives:

1. **Develop Phonics-Based Literacy Materials including Storybooks:** Create and distribute physical engaging and culturally relevant teaching poster and storybooks focusing on the letters A, E, I, O, U, N, M, B, and G.
2. **Train Educators and Caregivers:** Provide short online video recorded training for parents, caregivers, and nursery schoolteachers on how to use these materials effectively.
3. **Promote Early Literacy:** Encourage early reading and writing skills among children aged 3 to 6.

## Target Audience:

- **Children:** Aged 3 to 6 in Malawi.
- **Parents and Caregivers:** Primary educators at home.
- **Nursery School Teachers:** Educators in early childhood education settings.

## Project Activities:

1. **Material Development:**
  - Design and produce phonics-based literacy materials (poster, and storybooks) focusing on the selected letters.
2. **Training Workshops:**
  - Develop a short online recorded training video for parents, caregivers, and teachers to demonstrate the use of the literacy materials.

- Provide ongoing evaluation and support through an online platform.

### 3. Draw and write Awards:

- Organize events where children can draw and write words to share their stories with peers and families.
- Guide children in drawing and writing words using a word bank derived from the letters A, E, I, O, U, N, M, B, and G.
- Award all children for their efforts.
- Feature the works of the children on the online platform.

### Expected Outcomes:

- Improved literacy skills among children aged 3 to 6.
- Increased confidence and involvement of parents and caregivers in their children's education.
- Enhanced teaching skills and resources for nursery schoolteachers.
- As the children own their own storybook, this will foster the love for reading and writing.

### Timeline: 2024

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	August
Research Reading and proposal drafting								
Research proposal submission								
Ethics approval								
Fund Raising								
Material Development								
Material Production								
Material Distribution								
Online Training Workshop Development								
Online Training Workshop Distribution								
Draw and write event								
Publishing of children's work								

### Evaluation

The project will involve an online feedback survey from parents, caregivers, and teachers. The feedback and outcomes will then inform the review and adaptation of materials and methods for improved impact which will need further research.

**Conclusion:**

It is hoped that this project will lay a strong foundation for early literacy in Malawian children, empowering them with the skills and confidence to succeed in their educational journey. By involving parents, caregivers, and teachers, we hope to ensure a supportive and holistic approach to learning.

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