



ETHIOPIA READS

Ethiopia Reads' mission is to build a reading culture in Ethiopia by connecting children with books. We do this by building libraries for children, publishing books in English as well as local Ethiopian languages, and training teachers and librarians to cultivate a culture of reading among children.

Summary of Accomplishments in 2008:

1. Published three books in English and Amharic. Published a dual-volume collection of Ethiopian folk tales, for distribution throughout Ethiopia. Printed two trilingual books. One book in Amharic won the Golden Kuraz award.
2. Provided training in library skills, literacy and reading to library workers, school directors, teachers and administrators who work in our school partnership network.
3. Maintained the daily operations of the Shola Children's Library, Awassa Reading Center, 18 school libraries and four donkey mobile libraries.
4. Recorded more than 90,000 visits from children at Shola Children's Library.
5. Partnered with other non-profit and NGO organizations in the U.S. and Ethiopia to expand literacy programs.
6. Secured a grant from Rotary International for planting 12 libraries and American Jewish World Service for expansion of Awassa Rural Libraries and Literacy Development Program.
7. Brought Ethiopian Executive Director to the U.S. for fundraising and strategic development in 10 states.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

Located in the capital city of Addis Ababa, Shola Children's Library is the first free public library for children in Ethiopia. Founded in 2003, the library serves children between the ages of 3 and 18, providing a safe, quiet and inviting environment in which to read, study and connect with learning. The library houses a collection of more than 20,000 books and is open six days a week. In 2008, Shola staff recorded more than 90,000 visits from children.

The Rural Libraries and Literacy Development Program connects children in rural areas of southern Ethiopia with book and literacy programs. The RLLD program encompasses a free public reading center in the city of Awassa, as well as four Donkey Mobile Libraries that transports books to children in rural villages.

The Library Development Program is an initiative to plant libraries for children throughout the city of Addis Ababa and Awassa by partnering with public schools as well as NGOs and other organizations that work to create educational opportunities for children. By the end of 2008,

eighteen school libraries were planted throughout Addis and Awasa, serving more than 40,000 elementary school boys and girls. Each library is stocked with books in English as well as local Ethiopian languages, and library workers receive training in library development and basic literacy skills. Ethiopia Reads shipped a container of 20,000 books. The Shola Library and Awassa Reading Center were moved to better locations.

In 2008, Ethiopia Reads publishes three more high-quality multi-lingual books for children in Ethiopia, a country where publications for children are scarce for a total of six unique titles. In 2008, Ethiopia Reads published four high-quality books for children in English as well as the widely spoken languages of Amharic, Tigrigna, Oromo and Sidamo. These books are distributed throughout Ethiopia Reads' network of school libraries, and provided to NGOs and other organizations for a small fee.

The Special Projects Program develops special events, such as the annual Ethiopian Children's Book Week Celebration, that celebrate and encourage literacy and reading for children. In 2008, more than 5,000 children participated in Book Week, which included workshops, a parade, theatrical performances and a reading contest. Other Special Project Initiatives include the publication of Sorena, a children's magazine created and published by Ethiopia Reads and distributed in Addis Ababa.

Training: Ethiopia Reads provides training in library skills, literacy and reading to library workers, school directors, teachers and administrators who work in our school partnership network. These trainings range from 1-2 day intensives to week-long workshops. Additional trainings have been conducted for artists, illustrators and writers who aspire to contribute to the growing field of children's publishing in Ethiopia.