



help2read

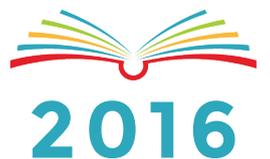
improving lives through literacy

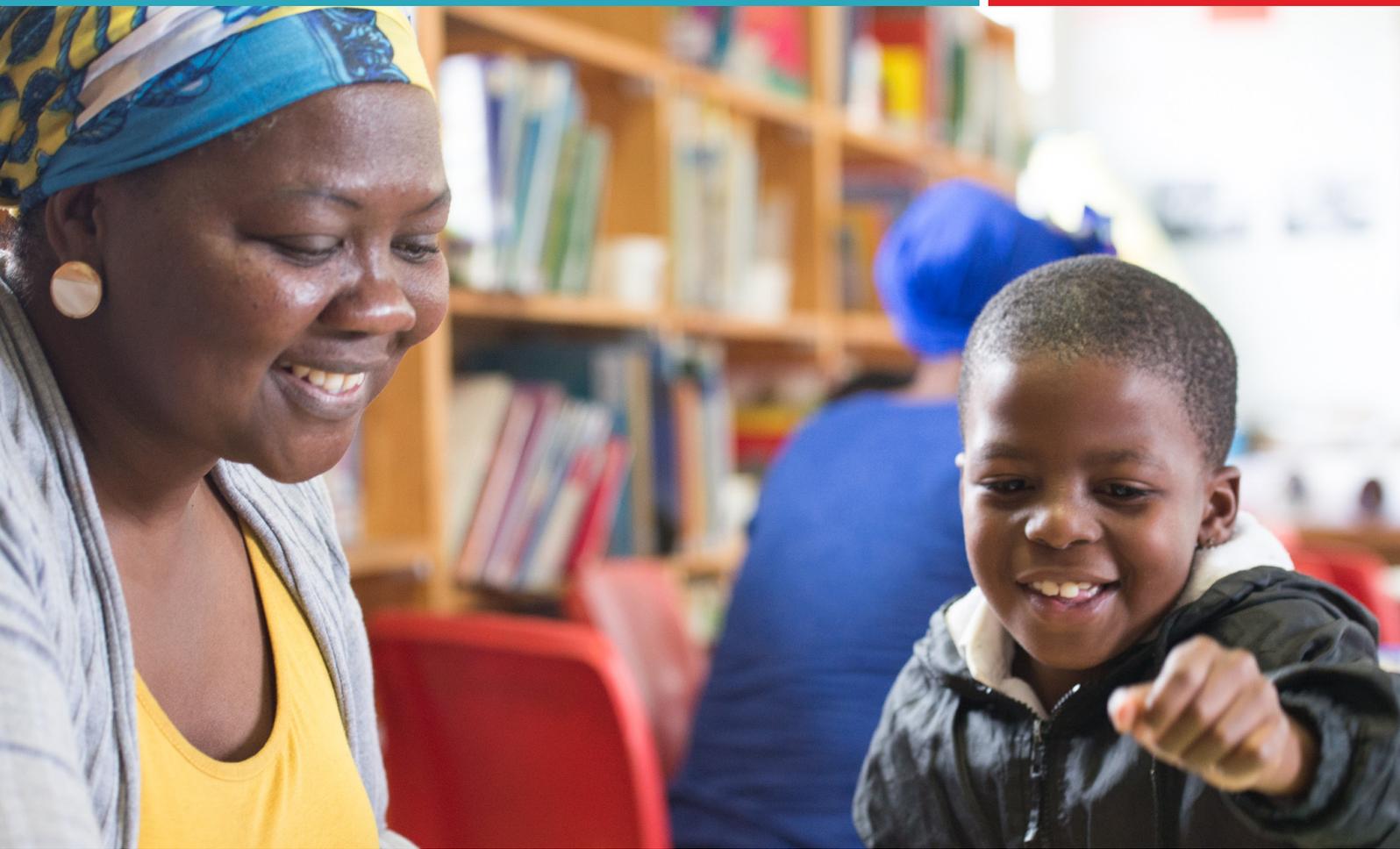


Annual Report



Improving lives
through literacy





FROM THE CHAIRPERSON



Twenty-sixteen was a watershed year for help2read: a year of achievement and preparation, of consolidation and foundation, an exciting year that prepared the ground for the significant expansion of our reach and deepening of our focus in 2017.

Marking a decade of effort and achievement is no small feat and it is thanks to your ongoing support of our work, we have touched the lives of over 14,000 primary learners in South Africa during this time.

We want to thank all of you, our donors and supporters. Your time, money, energy, skills, corporate facilities, personal friendship networks, as well as your understanding of the power of a love of reading, have all been an immensely powerful gift. Your commitment has enabled us to help ensure that thousands of children have a better chance of educational attainment.

Thank you to those who supported our Anniversary Dinner event and our Big Give campaign in the UK. Thank you also to the many Volunteer Reading Helpers who participated in our #readinghelper-and campaign, celebrating our dedicated volunteers who have consistently committed their time.

We are thankful for everyone who has participated in our work over the last decade, and we would like to honour the achievement you have made possible. A most special thanks to the continued commitment of our long-term donors, and a warm and grateful welcome to our new ones.

On behalf of the board, the staff, our wonderful Reading Helpers, Literacy Tutors and the children of South Africa, it rests upon me to say THANK YOU for your contribution to giving children the help to read that they need.

Alex Moss
Founder & Chair



WHY HELP2READ?

help2read's programme is premised on the fact that a child who cannot read, cannot learn. Without the ability to read, children cannot progress to realise their potential. In South Africa, numerous challenges hinder the attainment of literacy.

Recent research shows that almost 60% of Grade 4 learners in the country are unable to read for meaning and 29% are completely illiterate.

These figures show that the help2read programme is as relevant today as it ever was.

We seek to intervene at the earliest possible stage of reading activity, typically in Grades 2 to 4, to ensure that primary school children can benefit from their school

education. Central to our approach is the dedicated and consistent one-on-one reading help and literacy development support that is provided by our volunteers and Literacy Tutors. We provide hands-on training to all volunteers and tutors, and resource the schools and partner organisations with whom we work with the right literacy tools and books to promote a love of reading.

By motivating literate adults to help primary school learners, and by matching them with learners who need focused attention at least twice a week, we believe that an environment of trust and supportive learning is created, an environment in which children begin to thrive. The impact extends beyond developing literacy skills; it builds self-confidence, self esteem, personal motivation and a love of reading.

2016 HIGHLIGHTS




1,880
Learners Helped To Read


40
Literacy Tutors Trained


48
Student Teachers Trained


9
Partner Organisations Trained


724
Volunteer Reading Helpers


62
Primary Schools Providing Reading Help


1
New help2read Website


120
Stakeholders Participated in Literacy Discussion



PROGRAMME ACHIEVEMENTS

THE VOLUNTEER READING HELP PROGRAMME

2016 HIGHLIGHT

In 2016, we saw continued growth in volunteer numbers, extending our impact to even more learners. We were delighted to have the opportunity to deepen our conversation with volunteers and provide them with insight into the immense value of their contribution to nation building.



724

Volunteer
Reading Helpers



54%

of Volunteers were
New to Volunteering



1,440

New Children Joined
the Programme
in 2016



1,880

Learners Reached
Through Volunteer
Programme



ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

Our Volunteer Reading Help Programme trains and supports volunteers who act as dedicated one-on-one reading helpers, providing two reading sessions of 30 minutes each to struggling readers at public primary schools every week.

Since we began in 2006, our Reading Help Programme has continuously proven to be an effective method for developing the literacy and reading skills of young learners in South Africa. It has also encouraged ordinary citizens to take action and participate in civil society to help address the needs of children from disadvantaged communities.

VOLUNTEERS

THE HEARTBEAT OF OUR READING PROGRAMME

Volunteers are central to our work in primary schools across the country. During 2016 we engaged 724 volunteers in our core reading help programme. More than half of these volunteers (54%) were new to volunteering.

In 2016, we also expanded our corporate volunteer base. With limited time to volunteer, we designed a “shared responsibility” volunteer programme for our corporate volunteers, wherein two employees share reading help for the same child. This model ensures the learner receives a seamless experience, and provides a powerful way for corporates and their staff to give back, without requiring too much time away from work. We look forward to expanding this activity in 2017!

THE LITERACY TUTOR PROGRAMME

2016 HIGHLIGHT

In 2016, we saw a greater percentage of our Literacy Tutors identify positive routes for their future. Communities also enjoyed the benefits of our Literacy Tutor Programme and eagerly support our plans to establish safe, educational and recreational infrastructure within their communities to promote child, family and community literacy.



40

Literacy
Tutors



424

Learners
Assisted

ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

The Literacy Tutor Programme is a year-long personal and professional development programme for literate but unemployed township youth. Tutors receive both theoretical training and practical work experience as Literacy Tutors, delivering our reading help programme in deeply under-resourced township schools.

CHANGING COMMUNITIES THROUGH LITERACY TUTORS

The benefits of the Literacy Tutor Programme are far-reaching, from increasing employability and skills to providing valuable work experience, establishing a sense of community, and increasing literacy skills. We believe the Literacy Tutor Programme has significant potential to develop further and we are excited about our partnerships and plans to develop community reading and educational spaces in the coming year.



“help2read has been a great journey with a lot of growth. Personally, this programme has helped me find myself. I always knew that I am a great leader, but the opportunity that help2read gave me has surpassed what I thought of my abilities. I have grown as an individual and I see a whole lot of change in myself in how I view life and live it. From training, to workshops and the recent presentations we had, I would love to say thank you to help2read. I'll carry you with me for the rest of my life. This journey has been a great eye opener for me.”

*Moses Ramushaka, Literacy Tutor,
22-year-old male*





OUR EXTERNAL PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAMME



9
Partner
Organisations
Trained



132
Volunteers
Engaged in Partner
Organisations



278
Children Assisted
Through Partner
Organisations

ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

We provide training and support in the implementation of our methodology to other centres and institutions that care for and/or work with children, including children's homes, extra-mural centres, teacher training institutions and family support and development organisations.

CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS

Getting involved in help2read, whether through fundraising drives or volunteering, provides corporates and their employees with a meaningful way to give back, and greatly assists us in achieving our aims.

In 2016, Nedbank employees in Cape Town selected help2read as their CSI organisation of choice. Led by Anastasia Jacobs, Operations Administrator at Nedbank Private Wealth, a group of 11 staff members embarked on a journey to develop the skills that would help children learn to read. In April 2016, they were matched with learners at Schotchkloof Primary School in Bo Kaap.

The contribution was welcomed by the school and very well received by parents and staff alike. The team of employees won 3rd place in the Nedbank employee engagement competition that recognised employee contributions and partnerships for the greater good countrywide.

We have designed an employee-share offering for 2017 that helps corporates support employees who want to help children to read by matching two employees to one child. This lowers the demand on corporates, requiring any one of the reading help pair to be out of the office just once a week, and enables learners to still benefit from their two reading sessions each week.



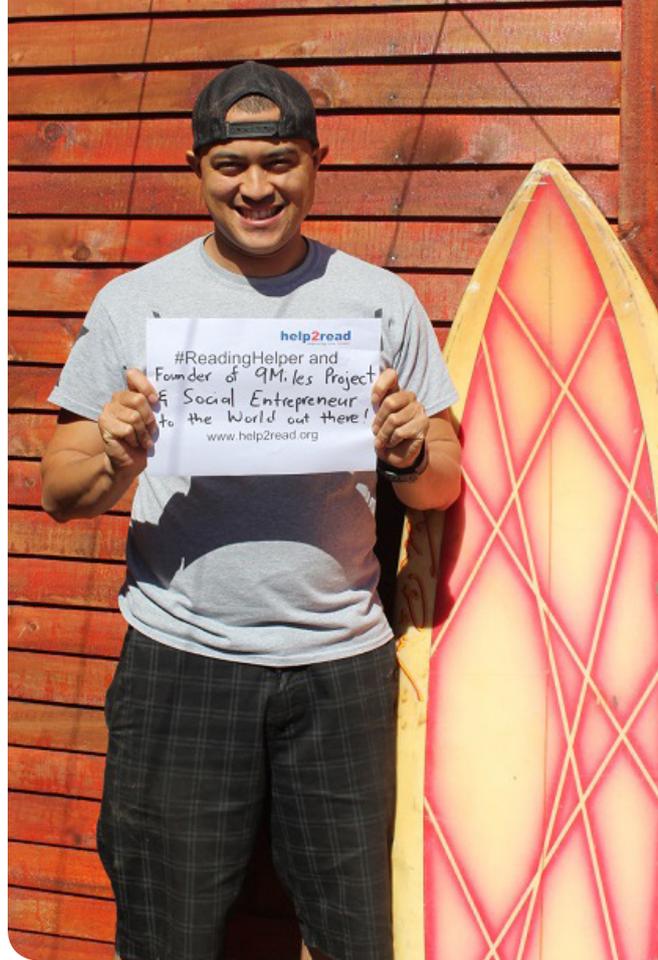
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT NGOs



Our help2read programmes are also run in community centres and NGOs around the country. Through partnering with youth development NGOs, we are able to reach children that aren't part of our programmes in schools.

In 2016, we partnered with 9Miles, a project that provides holistic support to impoverished and high-risk youth. 9Miles engages youth through surfing, coaching, mentoring, life skills and a love of reading. Staff and volunteers at 9Miles have all been trained in implementing the help2read methodology, provided with resources and are now assisting children every Tuesday and Thursday after school with a specific structured help2read session.

Soon to expand to Jeffrey's Bay, this partnership represents a whole new way of engaging children whose lives have had little hope. 9Miles Founder Nigel Savel (pictured right) is already a fully trained and active Volunteer Reading Helper.



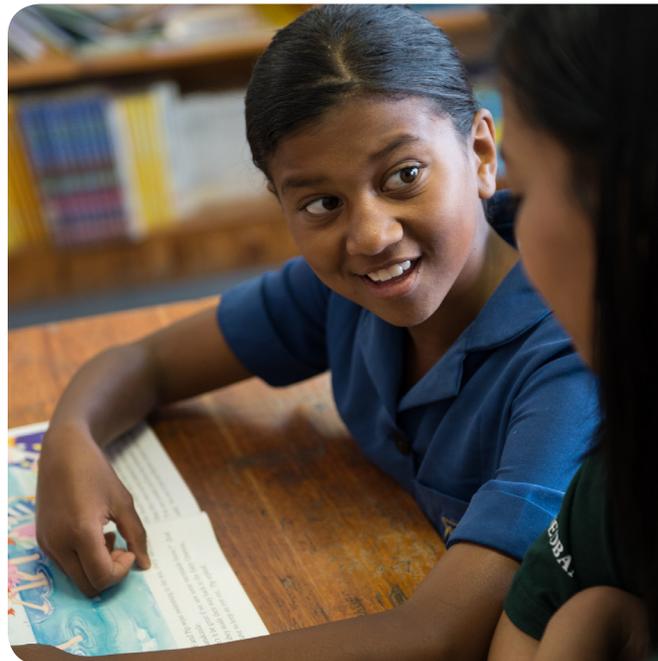
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CHILDREN'S HOMES



In 2016, we worked with a number of children's homes in Cape Town to provide caregivers and staff with the training they need to assist children that struggle to read.

Partner organisations include Home From Home, which provides foster homes for children with no family or support structure. We worked with Home From Home to train 17 of their carers, who provide academic support to children on a daily basis. We also provided similar training to 34 childcare workers at the Homestead, a project for street children operating in the City of Cape Town.



HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

Many teachers in South Africa enter classrooms with little experience on how to address low levels of literacy. This is why we partner with teacher training institutions, and are excited to be expanding this programme in 2017.

In 2016, we deepened our partnership with Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT),

providing 48 students with comprehensive training in our methodology. These students subsequently had responsibility for the implementation of the programme with between 3 and 4 learners in order to gain practical hands-on experience of developing the skills of learners. Feedback from CPUT has been remarkable with a significant increase in learner reading ability.



LOOKING FORWARD

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

It seems just yesterday that we were writing this report for the start of our 10th Anniversary year. And what a year it has been. We saw the 14,140th child enter our programme and benefit from the one-on-one attention and care of our Volunteer Reading Helpers and Literacy Tutors.

Operationally, 2016 was a very important year. A staff and stakeholder strategic review in September re-established a powerful “Preferred Future” vision, and kicked off the process of internal restructuring to establish an optimal programme environment, one positioned for growth and success. As you will have read, our activities are increasingly well defined and focus on three programmatic areas of activity, each supported by a drive to secure the resources and reading spaces to support our learners.

This process laid a strong foundation and 2017 has already started at a pace that will see us achieve significant growth goals for the year, welcoming new team members in programme activity in both Gauteng and the Western Cape, expanding our external partnerships programme in communities, universities and children’s homes and implementing extra-mural reading club sessions to promote child, family and community literacy in our communities.

As an organisation specialising in the development of reading and literacy skills in South Africa’s children, we believe we are well positioned to increase our reach and achieve a national footprint through a wide network of civil society partnerships.

We made an excellent start on establishing collaborative programmes between literacy organisations with common goals and complementary offerings. We believe this joined up action will unlock potential and maximise efficiencies and benefits for the children and communities we reach.

Central to all that we do is the dedicated one-on-one reading help and literacy development support that is provided by our Volunteer Reading Helpers and Literacy Tutors. We were thrilled that our December #readinghelper-and campaign saw so many keen volunteers join the programme and position us even more strongly for growth.

We look forward to the year ahead with great excitement and encourage you to continue the work of helping South Africa’s children to read.

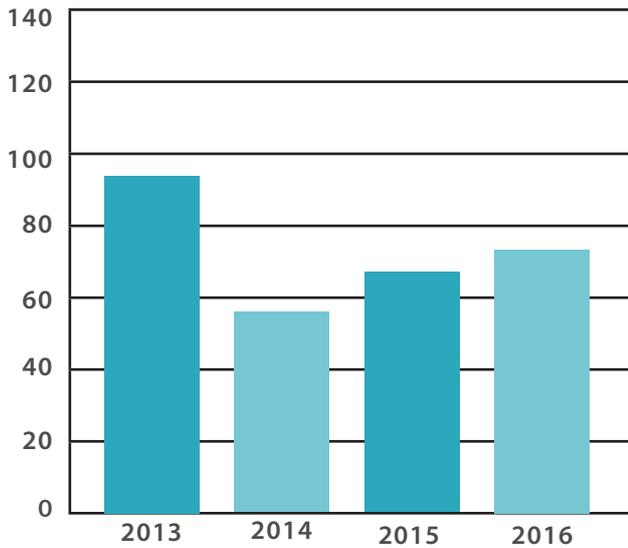
Mandy Trevor
Director, Operations



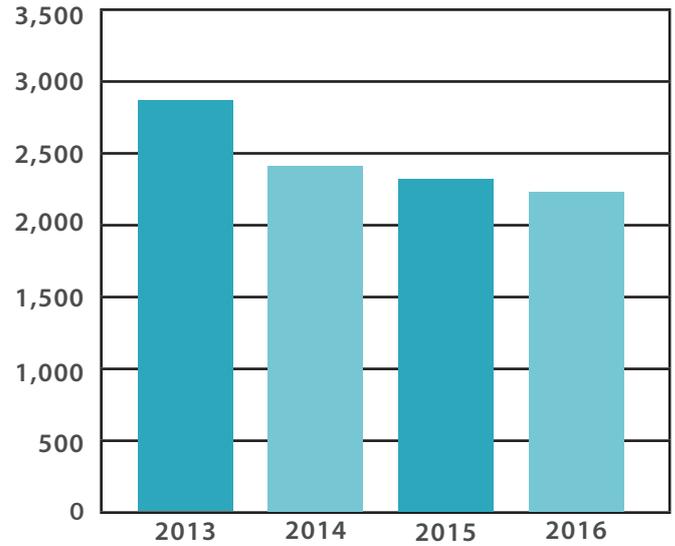
KEY IMPACT INDICATORS

SCHOOLS & PARTNERS

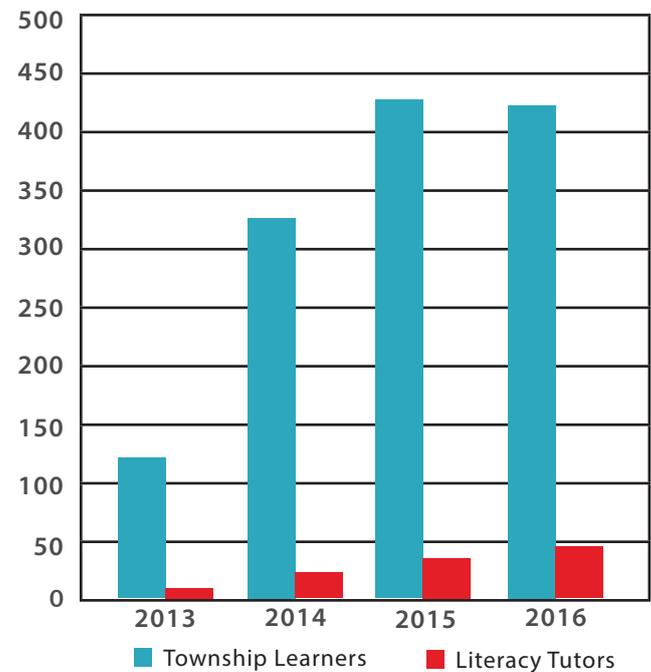
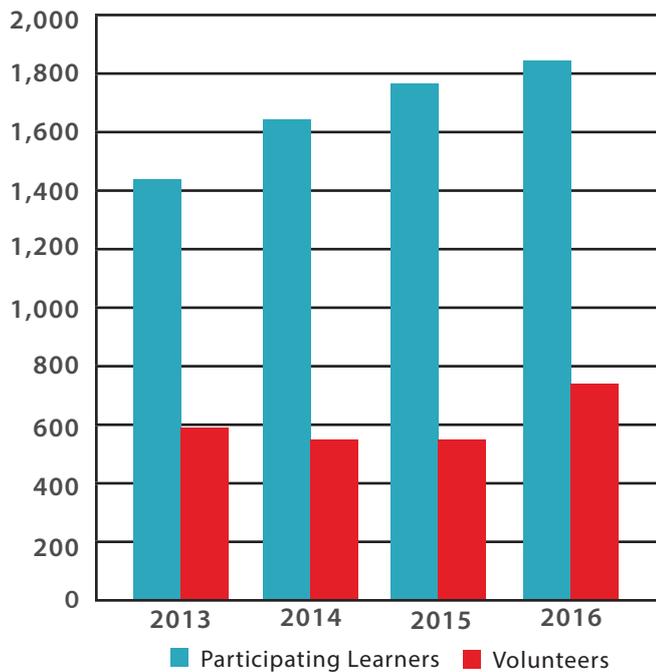
Programme Growth 2013-2014*



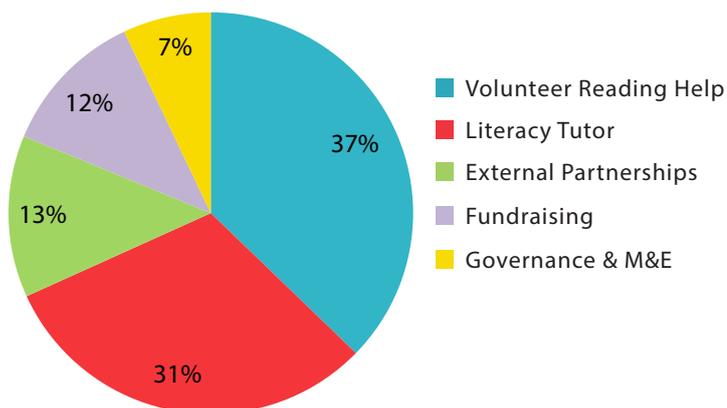
COST PER LEARNER



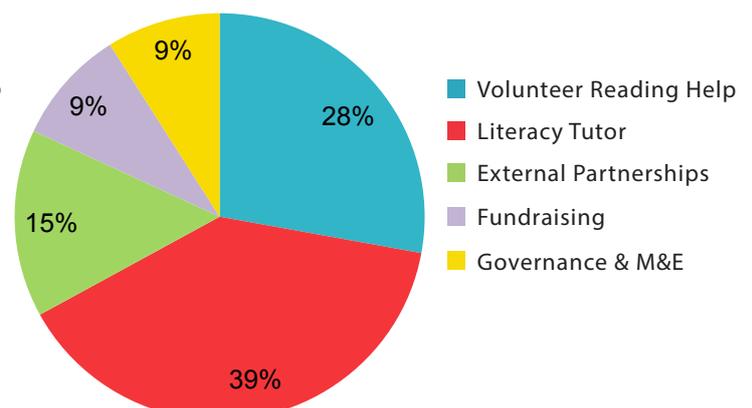
PROGRAMME BREAKDOWN 2016



TOTAL EXPENDITURE 2016



BUDGET EXPENDITURE 2017



*Note: 2014 saw the commencement of a strategy for efficiency that adopted a cluster approach, reducing the number of schools served where volunteers were less than 5. This saw a temporary drop in schools and volunteer numbers but the approach has been bearing fruit since and numbers are increasing.



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