



Annual Report | 2018



help2read

improving lives through literacy



FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

Each year, I marvel at the difference that help2read makes in the lives of children in South Africa. Through consistent support and encouragement, children that began our programmes struggling to read, progress to being able to read with confidence and with a newfound love of reading.

Twenty-eight was no different. We reached 4 466 learners through the Volunteer Reading Helper Programme, the Literacy Tutor Programme and the External Partnerships Programme. In addition, children in the Western Cape and Gauteng enjoyed belonging to 88 Reading Clubs. The numbers tell a story, but we can never fully measure the extensive impact that helping a child on this literacy path will have on future generations.

Our Literacy Tutor Programmes each provided support to communities and children by offering a safe space, the potential for internships and reading opportunities. The programmes provided youth from disadvantaged communities with

the opportunity to gain valuable experience and skills before embarking on studies or entering the formal workspace.

After 13 years, Founder and Chairman, Alex Moss, decided to follow the example of our great Madiba and take retirement at the age of 81. We thank him for his vision, personal contribution and making help2read a reality.

In March 2018, the Board took on the challenge to grow this legacy and appoint a new Managing Director. From June 2018, Lynn Campbell shadowed the organisation and officially took charge on 1 September 2018. We are thankful for the continued support provided by our Deputy Director, Polite Zhoya, during the transition process.

We are deeply thankful for each and every sponsor, volunteer, Literacy Tutor, staff member and board member that has made our work possible. It is because of you that we have been able to change the future of reading for 4 466 children in 2018.

Dee Cawcutt
help2read Chairperson

FROM THE MANAGING DIRECTOR

Twenty-eight dawned with the latest findings of the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS) fresh on our minds. The study presented a devastating truth that 8 out of 10 Grade 4 children in South Africa cannot read for meaning in any language. As an organisation dedicated to literacy advancement, the PIRLS findings called for even greater commitment to the execution of our mission and vigilant attention to determining our impact. We needed to ensure that we are indeed focussed on what works in the building of literacy skills and the promotion of a love of reading in children and their communities. Without the ability to read, children do not have the ability to learn.

In addition to our one-on-one interactions with learners during the school day, a highlight of our 2018 activity was the introduction of after-school reading clubs in the four township communities our Literacy Tutors served. Over 1 600 learners regularly participated in programmes that sought to bring reading to life in various ways—through peer and group reading, writing into reading, story dramatization and more. As importantly, our reading clubs provided safe, recreational and educational infrastructure for communities lacking such resources. These kinds of innovation in the literacy space, innovations built on collaboration and holistic reach for all, are essential for significant impact in the lives of South African learners.

Our commitment to collaborations continued throughout the year with effective and creative partnerships being built to enable collective action. We believe these partnerships are essential if we want to unlock potential and maximise efficiencies for the benefit of the children we serve. Among others, Breadline Africa has been a great partner in providing access to dedicated and beautiful reading spaces; Nal'iBali for the training of our Literacy Tutors to enable the implementation of reading clubs; Care for Education for the use of LEGO to enhance literacy; and, crucially, our sister charity in the UK, Beanstalk, for sharing key learnings and best practices with our team. Thank you all, including those we may not have mentioned.

On behalf of the learners on our programme, we would like to extend a huge thank you to all of you, our donors, supporters, partners, volunteers and tutors. You have all stepped up to the challenge of helping South Africa's children learn to read. We look forward to the year ahead, one of great promise, deepening our literacy practice together and encouraging everyone to continue the work of helping South Africa's children.

Lynn Campbell
help2read Managing Director



2018 HIGHLIGHTS



USING LEGO PLAY FOR LITERACY DEVELOPMENT

LEGO provides a wonderful medium to use during reading sessions and is a powerful literacy development tool. In 2018, we partnered with Care for Education/LEGO Foundation to train our volunteers and Literacy Tutors on how to incorporate LEGO play in literacy activities. Much to the joy of our learners, we also distributed 150 Duplo and LEGO Play boxes to partner schools to use for literacy development.



PUTTING BOOKS IN THE HANDS OF CHILDREN

Many children that we work with do not have access to age or stage appropriate books at home, and even at school. After receiving a generous donation of 22 000 books from Books For Africa in late 2017, we had the joy of distributing books, including 91 book boxes, to our partner schools and organisations, as well as to each child on our programmes.



CONTAINER LIBRARIES WITH BREADLINE AFRICA

As one of the implementing partners of Breadline Africa, it is truly wonderful to be a part of providing under-resourced schools with refurbished container libraries, filled with engaging books and literacy resources. In 2018, we partnered with Breadline to place two container libraries at help2read schools.





MANDELA DAY 'READERS ARE LEADERS' CAMPAIGN

We celebrated Mandela Day with a 'Readers are Leaders' theme, honouring the national icon. Learners across our schools had so much fun with the theme and honoured Nelson Mandela's legacy beautifully.



LEVI'S LEADS WITH READING

As part of their community engagement efforts, a team of Levi's staff spent a day reading with learners at Schotsche Kloof Primary School in the Western Cape. The team also collected and donated brand new books to the children who participated in the reading circles. Corporate partnerships are essential to help2read's continued effort for literacy development in communities; we are thankful for each and every corporate partner that has joined us in nurturing a culture of reading in South Africa.



READING CLUBS

Our Reading Clubs continue to be a source of much fun and learning in our participating schools. The clubs are open to the whole school and children enjoy attending the sessions to participate in reading circles and engaging literacy activities. Our Literacy Tutors do a wonderful job at facilitating each club in a way that creates an engaging reading adventure for every level of reader.



HELP2READ GETS A NEW LOOK

help2read refreshed its look with the development of a new website, branding and communications strategy for the organisation. We were thrilled to unveil our new logo featuring our reading child, Nolwazi, which means "Mother of knowledge" in Zulu. Reading with meaning is critical in acquiring knowledge and the new logo articulates our mission beautifully.



4 466

Learners Helped To Read



135

Literacy Tutors Trained



270

Student Teachers Trained



24

Partner Organisations Trained



575

Volunteer Reading Helpers



74

Primary Schools Providing Reading Help

PROGRAMME ACHIEVEMENTS

VOLUNTEER READING HELP PROGRAMME

ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

Our Volunteer Reading Help Programme harnesses the power and skill of volunteers to provide crucial literacy skills development and reading help to primary school learners, promoting child literacy levels in South Africa. Moreover, through volunteering, the programme encourages active citizenry and participation in whole school communities. The 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.

help2read has continued running a successful Volunteer Reading Help Programme in schools where teachers do not have the capacity to provide additional one-on-one support to learners whose reading and literacy skills fall below desired grade levels. The sessions nurture a love of reading that will motivate the learner to engage in reading beyond the classroom. One of the key factors of success for

the programme remains the level of commitment, enthusiasm and passion evidenced by volunteers who are the role models and mentors who make the reading session a positive experience for the learners.

2018 HIGHLIGHTS

We were delighted to expand the Volunteer Reading Help Programme to three new schools in Johannesburg in 2018. Two of these schools are located in Soweto, marking a much-needed move towards promoting volunteering in historically underserved areas. KhayaFM partnered with us under their Kaya Cares platform to provide reading support at Siyavuma Primary School and Entandweni Primary School in Soweto.

We owe the continued success of the Volunteer Reading Programme to our committed volunteers, who continue to give their time to provide crucial reading support.



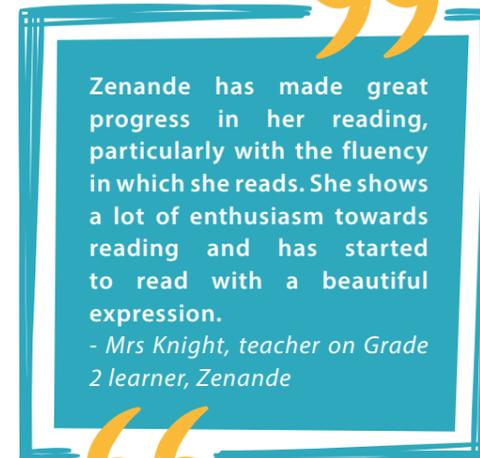
575
Volunteer
Reading
Helpers



1 248
Learners
Reached
Through the
VHR
Programme



63
Partner
Schools



Zenande has made great progress in her reading, particularly with the fluency in which she reads. She shows a lot of enthusiasm towards reading and has started to read with a beautiful expression.

- Mrs Knight, teacher on Grade 2 learner, Zenande



COMMUNITY LITERACY TUTOR PROGRAMME

ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

The Community Literacy Tutor Programme is a year-long personal and professional development programme for literate township youth. Tutors receive both theory-based training and practical work experience as Literacy Tutors, delivering our one-on-one reading help programme in deeply under-resourced township schools. The youth are an essential asset in community strengthening and are the core of this programme. Not only do the youth on the programme gain personal and professional skills, they also serve as Reading Champions in their communities and become role models who help nurture a culture of reading. At help2read, we recognise the power of using community assets to develop programmes that bring shared value and are sustainable.

2018 HIGHLIGHTS

In 2018, the Community Literacy Tutor Programme experienced exciting growth on all fronts. We were thrilled to start the year with the launch of the programme at two new schools—Sobambisana Primary School in Khayelitsha, and Diepsloot Primary School 4 in Johannesburg, the latter launched in partnership with Terre des hommes (TDH). Both communities desperately need education and youth support, and we are so proud of the tenacious teams of Literacy Tutors that have gone above and beyond to provide effective reading support to learners at the schools. We ended off the year with our largest cohort of graduates to date, with 101 youth from the Western Cape and Gauteng having completed the programme in 2018.

(Below: Visit from Terre des hommes (TDH) to Ekuhanyisweni Primary School; TDH is a key funding partner for the Community Literacy Tutor Programme in Diepsloot.)



I know what I lacked and what I needed at that stage to improve my learning and I am so happy to have an opportunity to provide a child in a similar situation with support to make them better.

- Literacy Tutor, Sobambisana Primary School



EXTERNAL PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAMME

The External Partnership Programme was honourably closed at the end of September 2018, with help2read continuing to support the 24 partner organisations to independence from help2read until the end of the year.

The programme facilitated the implementation of the help2read reading support model at 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. However, due to a strain on resources, the decision was made to cease the expansion of this programme. help2read will continue to provide organisations with training in help2read methodology but requests that organisations cover the training and implementation costs.



135
Literacy Tutors Trained



101
Literacy Tutors Completed the Programme



1 320
Learners Assisted



542
Tutor-led Reading Club Sessions Attended by 6 199 Learners



11
Literacy Tutor Partner Schools



24
Partner Organisations



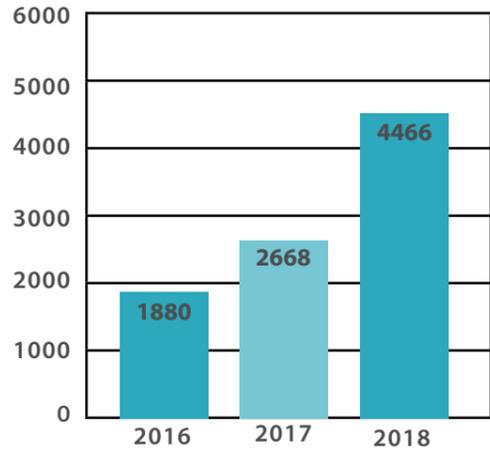
421
Volunteers Engaged in Partner Organisations



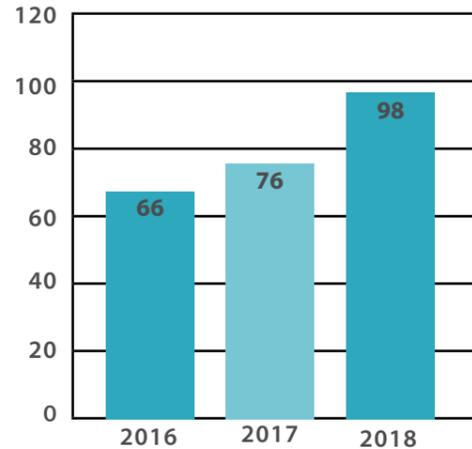
765
Children Assisted Through Partner Organisations

KEY IMPACT INDICATORS

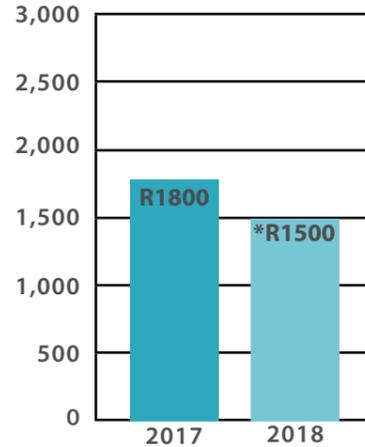
TOTAL NUMBER OF LEARNERS SUPPORTED



SCHOOLS & PARTNER ORGANISATIONS



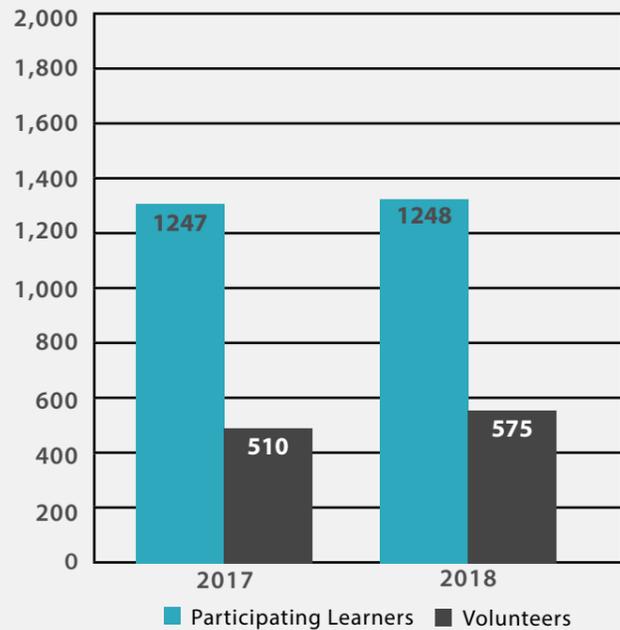
COST PER LEARNER



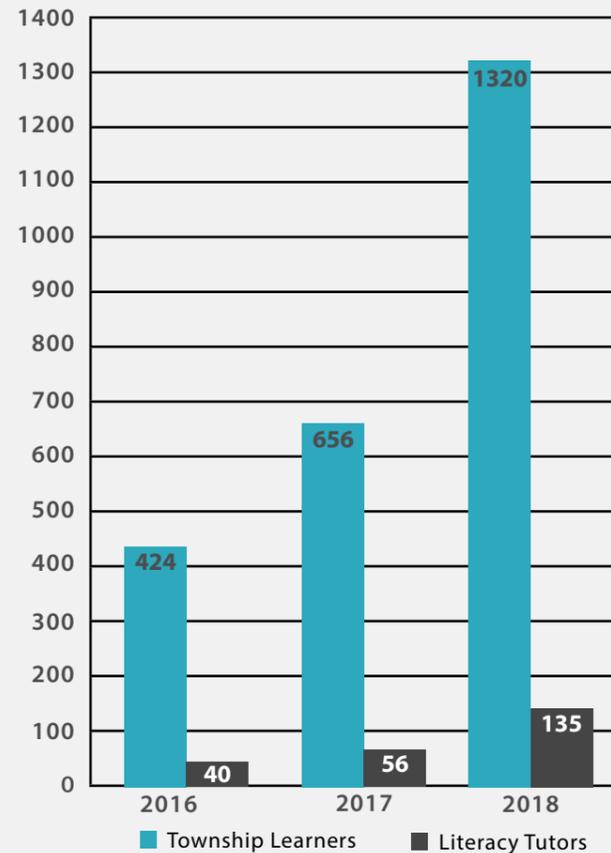
*based on total number of learners supported in 2018, including External Partnerships Programme

PROGRAMME BREAKDOWN 2018

VOLUNTEER READING HELPER PROGRAMME



COMMUNITY LITERACY TUTOR PROGRAMME



TOTAL INCOME 2016 - 2018

2016
R 3 556 088

2017
R 6 045 922

2018
R 7 045 128



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

2018 was a milestone year for us as we doubled our stipend-based Literacy Tutor Programme. This achievement would not have been possible without the crucial support from our core funders, monthly donors and in-kind service providers. We are deeply grateful for your continued support and together we are building a culture of reading in South Africa.

A special word of thanks to our core funders:

- Anglo American Chairman's Fund
- ApexHi Charitable Trust
- Binary Digital
- Goldman Sachs Annual Giving Fund
- Graaff's Trust
- HCI Foundation
- IQRAA Trust
- Joan St Lindbergh Trust
- Lipshitz Trust
- New Settler's Foundation
- Nussbaum Foundation
- Oppenheimer Memorial Trust
- Polyoak
- R & H Rail
- Rothschilds & Co
- Sage Foundation
- Stonehage Fleming Charitable Trust
- Terre des hommes (TDH)
- The Brenley Trust
- Unitrans
- Waterloo Foundation

We would also like to thank the countless individuals, in-kind donors and companies not mentioned above that have championed our cause. Thank you!



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improving lives through literacy

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