

## SUMMARY

With the lifting of pandemic restrictions, Unlock Literacy in Rwanda has made significant strides in equipping teachers, empowering parents, and establishing reading camps in the first half of fiscal year 2022. As of March, the project has helped 51,451 children unlock their potential for the future. We thank God for this encouraging progress.

### Establishing reading camps

In this reporting period, 160 new reading camp facilitators received training, bringing the total to 1,686. Together, these facilitators have distributed 134,512 books to 51,451 children, who are improving their literacy levels through participation in 562 reading camps. The project also integrated Measuring Evidence of Quality Achieved (MEQA), a tool that provides literacy instructors with feedback on their application of literacy techniques. (Read more about MEQA on page 2.)

### Equipping teachers

We celebrate that 166 teachers trained in Unlock Literacy have been instructing children using the project’s methodologies, like letter knowledge, reading comprehension, and designing classrooms to increase exposure to reading and writing materials and experiences. Additionally, the project initiated teacher coaching, which provided training for school administrators supporting 193 teachers on topics such as observation and feedback protocols, supporting inclusive classrooms, and establishing peer-to-peer learning opportunities for teachers.

Finally, 907 reading camp facilitators, teachers, and teacher trainers began meeting together to better understand one another’s roles, create a more seamless experience for students, and address challenges collaboratively.



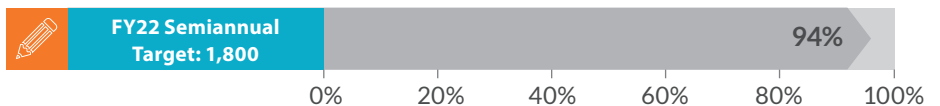
“These days, I am getting the first position in class, and because of reading, I will be a medical doctor. ... I thank my parents, especially my father, who regularly asks me to read story books to him.”

—Jean,\* 9,  
Gisagara district, Rwanda

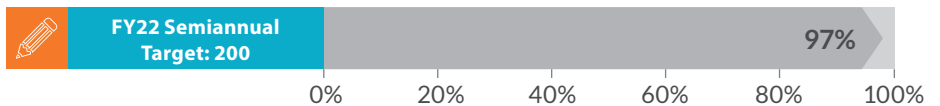
\* Name changed for privacy

## PROGRESS ON CORE ACTIVITIES

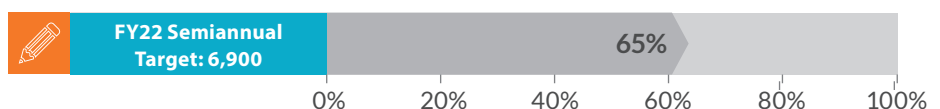
1,686 facilitators trained to lead reading camps for students



193 teachers coached to improve literacy instruction



4,510 parents empowered to support their children’s literacy



## KEY LEARNINGS

Unlock Literacy recently introduced MEQA, a tool that uses tablet technology to provide teachers and reading camp facilitators with immediate feedback on their strengths as instructors, as well as recommendations to address areas that are challenging for them. Offering this real-time input to educators has been shown to substantially improve literacy instruction.

To date, 389 education officials, head teachers, reading camp leaders, and other staff and volunteers have been trained to use MEQA, employing the tool to monitor and coach staff at 31 reading camps, in addition to four teachers in classroom settings. With the recent purchase of 149 tablets, the project will implement MEQA more broadly.



## LIFE-OF-PROJECT UPDATE



MEQA equips teachers to unlock literacy among their students, like the one above, who is reading his favorite book in celebration of World Book Day. Marie Rose Byukusenge, a teacher at Gihira Primary School, says, “[MEQA] will help us to know where we have strengths and weaknesses, depending on recommendations given.”

## PLANS FOR THE NEXT SIX MONTHS

To reach its targets, Unlock Literacy will prioritize hosting 38 more reading camps and training 114 additional facilitators, while also lending tablets to trained volunteers, who will use the MEQA tool to provide real-time feedback.

The project will continue to provide refresher trainings to increase teachers’ proficiency in Unlock Literacy methodologies. We will continue to focus on inviting parents to be actively engaged in their children’s education. Additionally, the project will continue to convene reading camp facilitators, teachers, and teacher trainers to exchange ideas on how to support literacy development among the children with whom they work.

## THANK YOU

Thanks to your ongoing and generous support, Unlock Literacy in Rwanda is providing educational tools to unleash the potential of even more children, parents, and teachers, in Christ’s name. We’re grateful for you!

*\* Due to delays caused early on by the pandemic, Unlock Literacy has been extended through September 2023 to make an even greater impact.*

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## FINANCIALS

Project spending October 2021 through March 2022

Activity Description	FY22 Budget	FY22 Spending	Project-to-Date Spending	Project-to-Date Funding
Establish reading camps in targeted area programs	\$ 88,555	\$ 31,794	\$ 607,670	\$ 523,702
Train primary school teachers in Unlock Literacy methodologies	25,191	7,930	44,606	87,808
Raise awareness among parents and other caregivers on the importance of supporting their children's literacy development	19,379	11,196	39,402	104,267
Establish strong monitoring and evaluating system	33,668	35,856	44,416	67,851
Project management costs	55,210	25,862	106,517	161,722
Office operating costs	41,256	12,868	74,323	109,337
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>263,259</b>	<b>125,506</b>	<b>916,934</b>	<b>1,054,687</b>
Management and fundraising	87,753	41,835	305,645	351,562
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 351,012</b>	<b>\$ 167,341</b>	<b>\$ 1,222,579</b>	<b>\$ 1,406,249</b>

**Note:** Project-to-date overspending on the establishment of reading camps (line 1 above) was due to the need to purchase storybooks in FY21, as the project pivoted to provide children with reading materials in English amid pandemic restrictions and shifts in the Rwandan education system. This overspending will be corrected and compensated for during the FY22 midyear budget review.