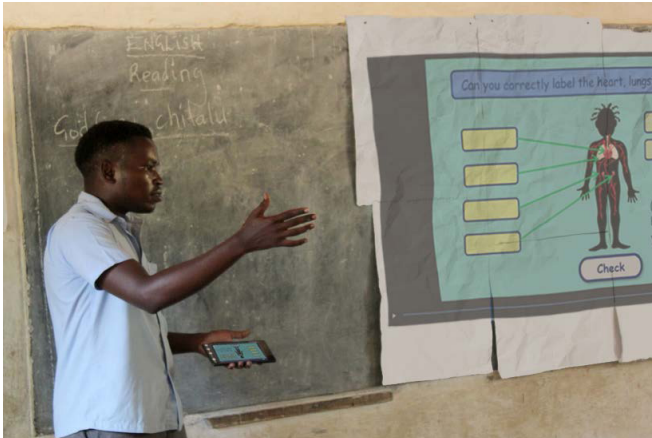


## EPIC ZAMBIA LITERACY



**LOCATION:** Zambia, Chipapa Area Program

**TIME FRAME:** July 2024–September 2027

## Overview

Despite continued investments in education, only 1 in 3 Zambian children can read at grade level by the end of primary school. Children who are unable to read by grade 3 are twice as likely to drop out, never graduate, and remain in poverty—a risk that disproportionately affects girls and children with disabilities.

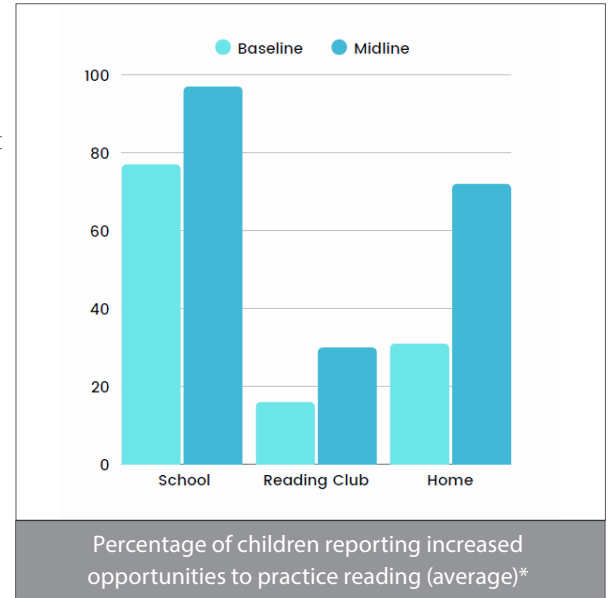
To help close this gap, a consortium of partners—including World Vision, the N50 Alliance, and Mwabu—is collaborating to pilot innovative technology-enabled solutions that support grade-appropriate learning outcomes in literacy and numeracy among underserved Zambian children. While technology alone is not sufficient to improve student outcomes, failure to leverage its power threatens to exacerbate existing inequalities between those with access and those without.

When combined with training and an enabling learning environment, technology can expand access to quality learning content. EPIC Zambia Literacy is a pilot project being implemented in five schools, in partnership with the Ministry of Education, teachers, students, and caregivers.

## Accomplishments

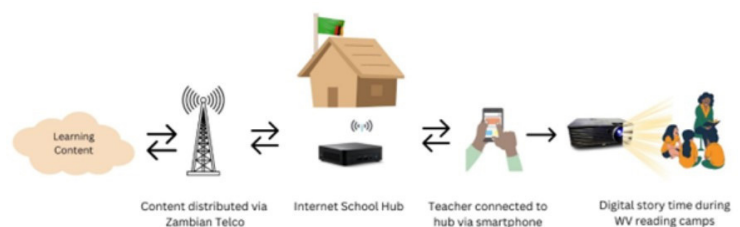
As a pilot project, EPIC Zambia Literacy required significant start-up activities to lay the foundation for effective implementation. These activities included:

- Engaging the Ministry of Education (MoE) to secure approval, inform project design, and ensure alignment with the Zambian curriculum, including the transition to English-language instruction.
- Training MoE and MoE Special Education staff to use Bloom software to develop more than 75 digital supplementary books, including versions in Zambian Sign Language.
- Training teachers to use Mwabu's digital Zambian curriculum via mobile phones and projectors.
- Procuring, installing, and training teachers to use micro-computer labs to support struggling readers and students requiring additional learning support.
- Coaching reading club facilitators and caregivers to use digital books and support reading practice beyond the classroom.



## Teacher-led blended learning in classrooms

EPIC Zambia Literacy leverages different types of technology to deliver engaging content aligned with the Ministry of Education curriculum. Across all five schools, students in grades 1 to 7 benefit from teachers trained to use the digital curriculum via smartphones in



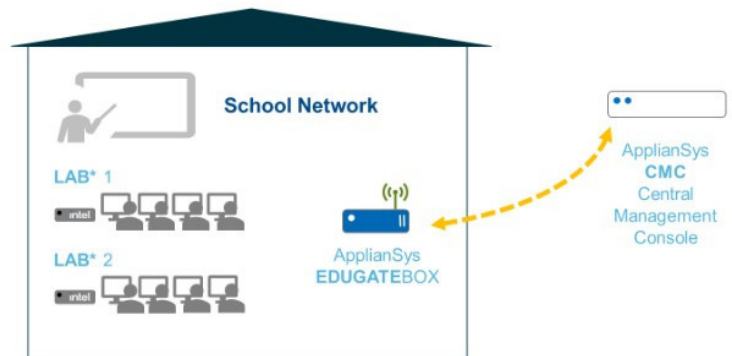
## EPIC ZAMBIA LITERACY

classrooms equipped with projectors. This approach provides interactive lessons, increased learner engagement, and opportunities to practice both local languages and English.

In overcrowded classrooms—where the average student-to-textbook ratio is 29 textbooks for every 100 learners—projected digital content significantly improves access to learning materials and, in turn, supports improved learning outcomes, school attendance, and positive reading behaviors.

### Student-led blended learning in micro labs

- **Primary use:** Catch-up/remedial instruction for students who are behind and require additional support.
- **Classroom use (teachers):** Teachers download and access digital content to support lesson planning and instruction.
- **Classroom use (students):** Students use the technology during scheduled sessions to practice literacy and numeracy and access age- and level-appropriate learning content.
- **Student use:** Digital libraries downloaded onto computers where students can choose and read stories at their level.



### Participant feedback



*"I can't wait to write my exam. EPIC program made learning easy for me. I was able to understand many topics with the help of the videos played during the lessons. It made learning easy and fun!"*

—Gloria, student in Chipapa

