

## 2011 Annual Report for *Zimbabwe reads*

*Zimbabwe reads* promotes a culture of reading by providing materials and access to information in the following ways:

**1) Distribution of Reading Materials:** We bring shipments of books to Zimbabwe without cost to partner organizations around the country. In addition, we donate large quantities of magazines to schools and community libraries.

**2) Promoting Reading Activities:** We work with the Zimbabwe Library Association, individual libraries, schools, and community groups to promote reading. These activities including support for library outreach to schoolchildren, contests, and special events. Through websites and our occasional special reports, we also raise awareness in the country about the dire shortage of reading materials and the great need for action by all levels of society.

**3) Local Language Initiatives:** we work with local publishers, authors, and cultural associations to support children's books and publications in Zimbabwe's indigenous languages.

### Websites

*Zimbabwe reads'* primary activity in 2011 was launching a series of websites. The ZimbabweReads.org site provides listings on book donations, publishing and library programs (in partnership with the Zimbabwe Library Association). Somewhat larger is RelZim.org (ReligionInZimbabwe.org), a news and reference portal on all things religious in Zimbabwe, which was typically visited by over 5000 viewers/month by year end. In addition, ZR created homepages for several non-profits under the program for "Good News Organizations"

### Magazine distribution

One of the major projects *Zimbabwe reads* launched in 2011 was a magazine distribution project. The aim of the project is to provide school children in rural areas with complementary reading materials. We entered into partnership with Munn Marketing, a Zimbabwean newspaper and magazine distribution business, where *Zimbabwe reads* buys dated (two-months or older) copies of magazines like *National Geographic*, *Living and Loving*, *The Africa Report* and *Popular Mechanics* and donates them as classroom sets to Zimbabwean secondary schools.

Magazine distributions were made in May and November. The donations went to schools in the Domboshawa area north of Harare and to Catholic schools in Matabeleland among several other areas of rural Zimbabwe. Our partnership with *Hello Harare* magazine was featured in the January 2012 issue of the Harare-based magazine.

### Mini-grants

In 2011, *Zimbabwe reads* gave a number of small grants to institutions that work to improve the education sector in Zimbabwe. Among the recipients of such grants, were:

- Zimbabwe Library Association, which we also supported by boosting their web presence
- RESTORE, a program for out-of-school youth and our logistics partner for the Sabre Foundation shipment, received an operations grant
- Our Lady Of Lourdes Catholic Parish in Bulawayo received a grant for stationary at St Luke's mission near Lupane
- Mambo Press was supported by web development and bulk purchase of their publications

Also, in 2011, *Zimbabwe reads* took part in the Zimbabwe International Book Fair, got in touch with major actors in the education sector in the country, and prepared the shipment of Sabre container with 50,000 books.