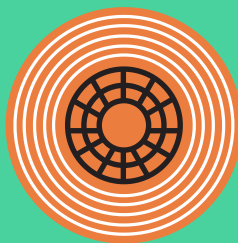




Little Zebra Books – 2023 Annual Report

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Our Vision

Little Zebra Books exists to help African children grow in their love for reading and love for the Lord.





Minah Koela

“ You can never outgrow education because reading opens up your mind! ”

There is a Xhosa saying that says you can never outgrow education because reading opens up your mind: Sithi isiXhosa imfuno ayigugelwa, kwaye xa ufunda uvuleka inngqondo.

We have been praying for Little Zebra Books' influence to grow, Well, I am delighted to report that we have launched the Masifunde Sidlala Programme which means “let's read and have fun!” 3,000 Isixhosa-speaking children are part of this programme every month. This is an opportunity for children to play and read. While they are having fun they are increasing their literacy skills, improving their language skills, and learning to capture information by using their memory muscles.

For all of this to happen Little Zebra Books has had to look at its structures. We hired a grant writer, updated our website, and produced an Annual Report which helps in the work of consistently applying for funding.

We continue to look at ways to strengthen Little Zebra Books SA. We are networking and engaging with other NGOs to spread our Little Zebra impact as we see reading become a fun, engaging, and learning tool.

Siyabulelela nge nxhaso yenu nonke. Thank you for your support.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Minah Koela'.

Minah Koela
Board Chairperson



2023 was an incredible year of growth and innovation. The launch of the Masifunde Sidlala (“Let’s read and have fun”) programme had huge potential in 2023 and now in 2024 we are seeing it grow and grow to impact thousands of Xhosa-speaking children.

In Mozambique, we were especially excited to see how Children’s Hope in Christ is impacting thousands of children every week using our books in its Tiri pabodzi! (We are together) programme. Wow! Our books were used in a children’s book production effort in São Tomé and Príncipe. And our books continue to spread around the world through the online Bloom Library.

I am very grateful to the governing board of Little Zebra Books. These visionaries worked very hard in 2023 to position our mission for long term impact in South Africa and around the world. And our dedicated “Work Family” continually amazed me by their service and hard work in 2023.

Masifunde sidlala! Let’s read and have fun!



David Ker, Director



David Ker, Director

“ 2023 was an incredible year of growth and innovation. ”

2023 at a glance



**Little Zebra Books
printed in 15 languages**



**72 partners funded our
projects with 1 grant
received**



**We had planned donors
who donated \$54,129**



**3 projects funded in
Mozambique and
South Africa**

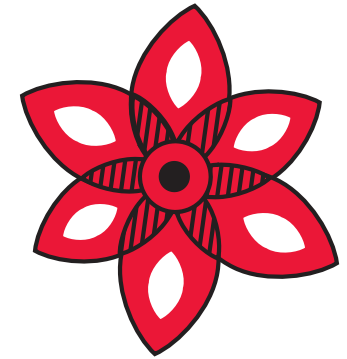


**114 293 books were
printed for various
language projects**

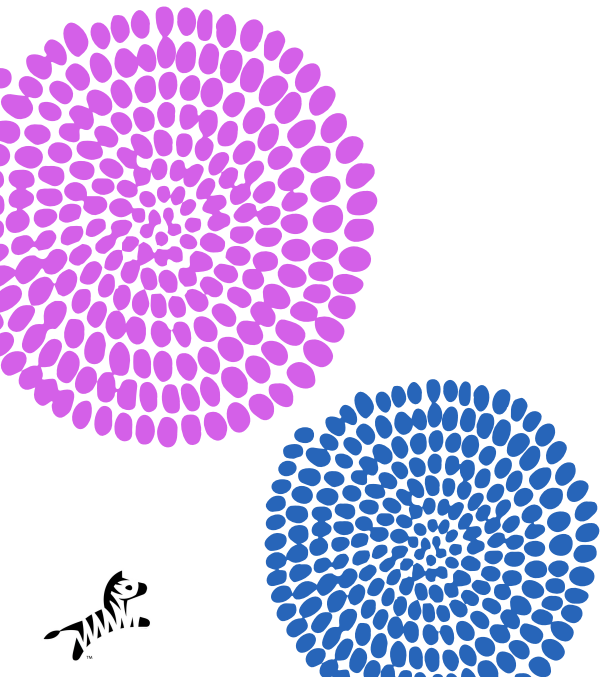


**Little Zebra Books
published 38 titles**

**We've added Zambia to our list of countries that receive our books! We sent 7 titles in 2
Zambian languages in 2023.**



**Our beneficiaries include:
Early childhood development
groups, Sunday School
programmes, homework
clubs, and more!**



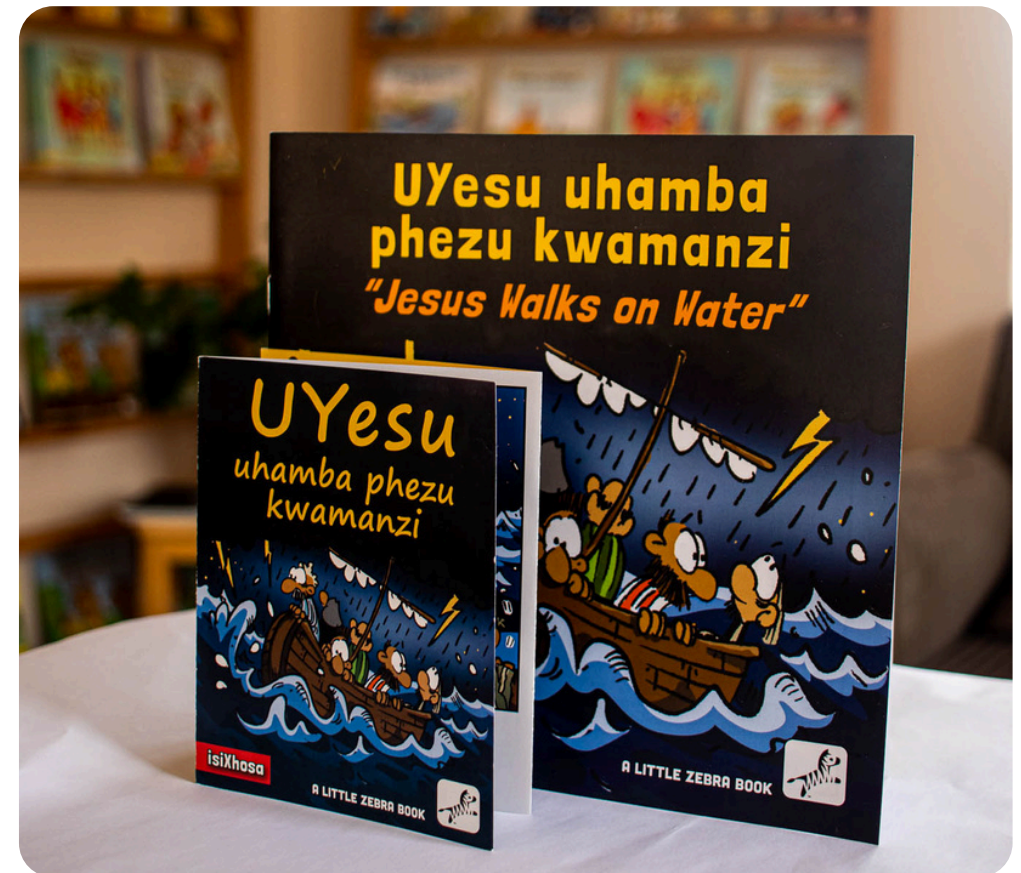
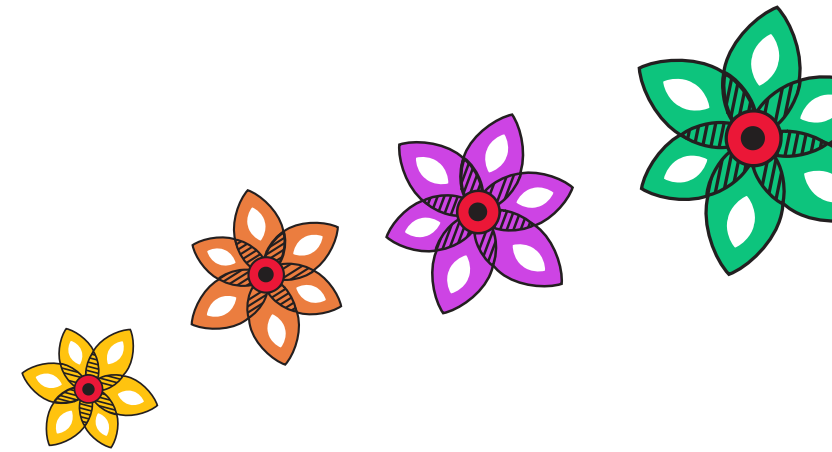
Our illustrations take culture and practices into consideration. The Friend at Night has illustrations that were not common to a local group. We contacted our illustrator and had the elements redrawn to represent their culture.



Our focus is on making sure that children have resources in their home language. This includes folktales and Bible stories.



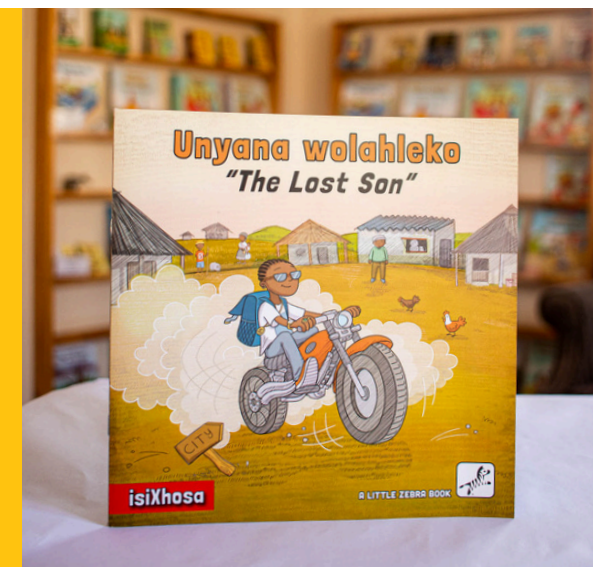
All of our Easy Readers, Folktales, and Bible Books are produced in two different formats: **small monolingual folding books and large bilingual books.**



Every Little Zebra Book is produced in a **small folding book layout**. This format is specifically designed to be a cost-effective way of printing thousands of books to distribute to children. The folding books are monolingual, containing only the children's first language.



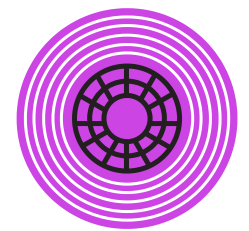
Secondly, every Little Zebra Book is produced in a **large, square, bilingual layout**. This format is specifically designed to be used by the adults, teachers, and Sunday school teachers who use our books with children. The 21x21 cm size makes it easy to show the pictures to a group of children.

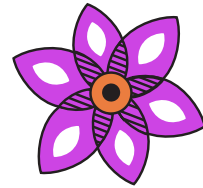






David and Hilary visited Tete, Mozambique in May 2023. While there, they were able to visit numerous community reading groups where Little Zebra books are being used. Additionally, they traveled to Vila Ulongue, a remote town on the Malawi border where our books are being used in a church-based programme involving 10 church denominations. David and Hilary were very pleased to see evidence of children reading and enjoying books thanks to these programmes.





Tiri pabodzi!

We are together!

The Mozambican charity, Children's Hope in Christ, has been using Little Zebra Books since 2015. In 2023, they began a new programme of monthly reading festivals. In these events, children from neighboring churches come together to read Little Zebra Books, recite memorized Scripture, sing songs, and perform dramas based on our books.

According to James Ficha Joanete, the director of Children's Hope in Christ, the programme is growing rapidly impacting churches across the city of Tete and in the district of Angonia. Joanete notes, "This project is bringing together Sunday school children and Sunday school Club Leaders who are using Little Zebra Books. The main aim of these different activities is to encourage the children in learning the word of God."

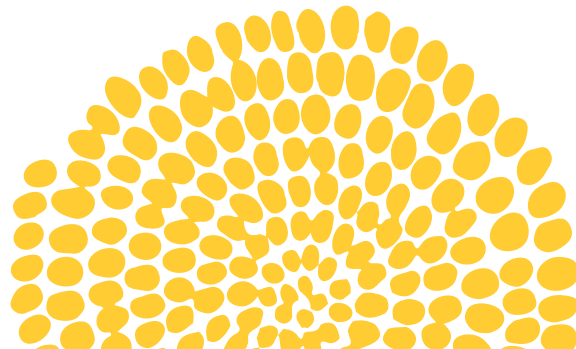


Ajudar Amiguinhos

Helping our little friends

This group in Tete, Mozambique is composed of volunteers who have been using Little Zebra Books in the Nyungwe language since 2013. Volunteers assemble children in their neighborhood for weekly story time and practice reading. All children receive books to take home.

In 2023, they started the process of forming their own nonprofit association in Mozambique. The name they chose is Ajudar Amiguinhos which means “Helping our little friends”. Their goal is to train more volunteers and spread the joy of reading across Mozambique.



In June 2023, Jeni Bister travelled to Nampula, Mozambique with books for six languages that would be represented at the first *+Leitura* Conference. The conference was jointly sponsored by SIL and YWAM. Little Zebra Books provided the children's books for this event. The 25 attendees came from Nampula, Cabo Delgado and Zambezia Provinces of Mozambique. Most of these were sent by mission organizations to learn more about how reading in mother tongue can support children's learning.

During the conference, each language group was able to share their current literacy/reading objectives, what kinds of materials or activities they use, and what kinds of challenges they face in their own language areas. Reading in a language that is spoken by the child will increase comprehension, fluency, and enjoyment of the message in the book!

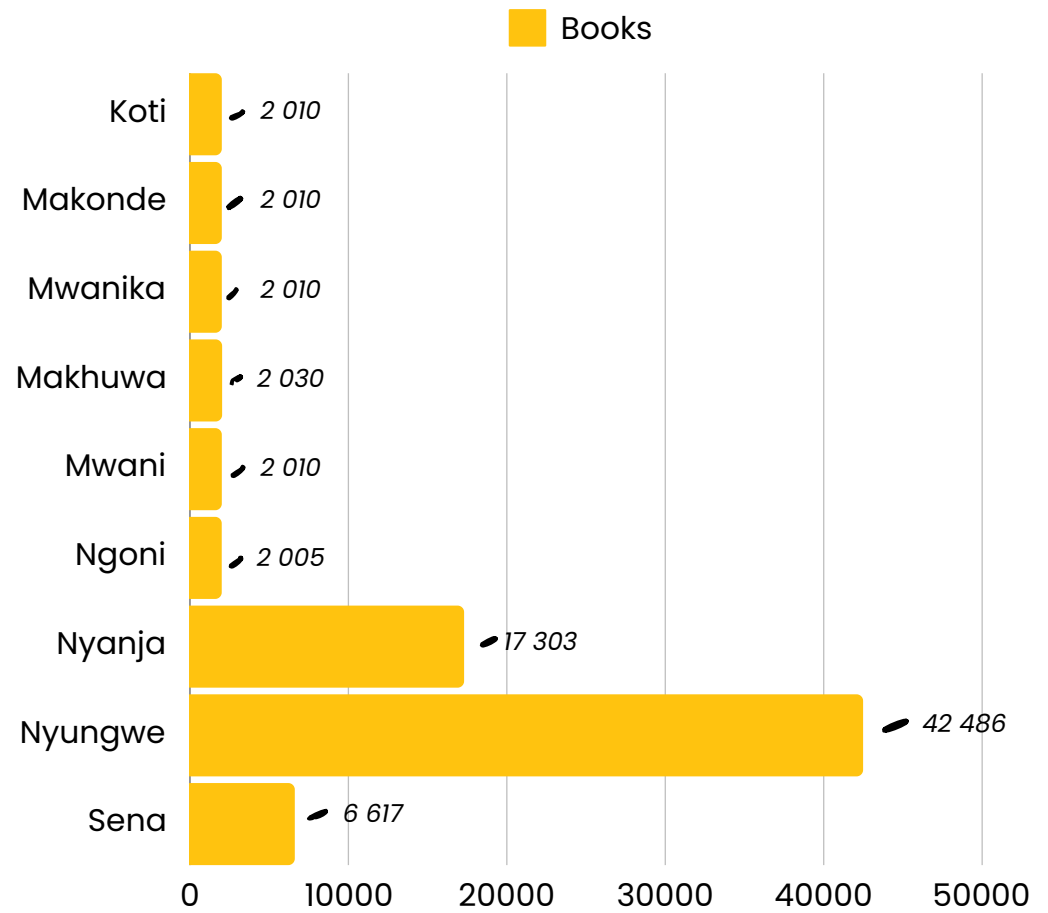


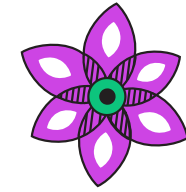
As the participants made plans to take the books home to read with children in their communities, churches, refugee camps, and mission projects, they expressed great excitement about what they had learned. The opportunity to try out using books in their own language was valuable to them. Several of the groups reported that they were able to train others to use the materials and that work is continuing to grow even months later.



MOZAMBIQUE: 2023 BOOKS

In 2023, we printed 78,481 books in 9 Mozambican languages.





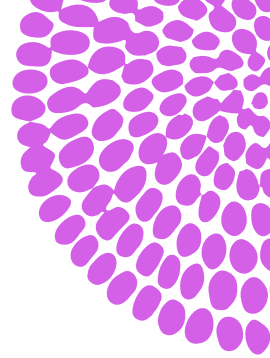
Masifunde Sidlala

In July 2023, we started a pilot project that we first named 'The Love of Reading'. This would be our first major pilot project in South Africa since 2018. This pilot project aims to reach 3,000 children in the Cape Town region whose mother tongue is isiXhosa. Our beneficiaries named this project Masifunde Sidlala, 'Let's have fun while reading'.

Our beneficiaries were chosen based on two criteria: they work with Xhosa children and spend time reading weekly in isiXhosa. We held our first meeting in September, gearing up for the new year to implement this project. At this meeting 6 books were chosen, including easy readers, folktales, and Bible stories. These books will be shared monthly from February to July, with one title being used each month. The organisations will run their own programmes using Little Zebra Books. During this time the organisations will meet once a month to discuss the books they have used and the books they will be using the following month.

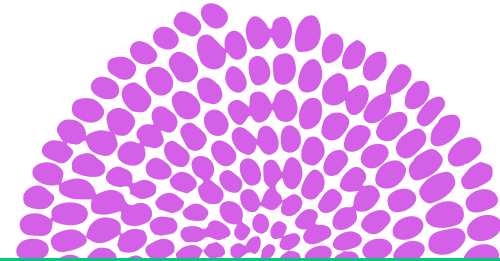
Our beneficiaries include: Amy Foundation, Beautiful Gate, Clever Kids, iThemba School, Loxion Mobile Library, Ntshentshe Academy, and Story Club.





The 2023 LITASA Conference took place at the Nelson Mandela Bay University in Gqeberha, East London. Little Zebra Books had a table display that people could come up and talk to Gillian and Jeni about Little Zebra Books. Each participant also received 3 folding books in their goodie bag with an information sheet.

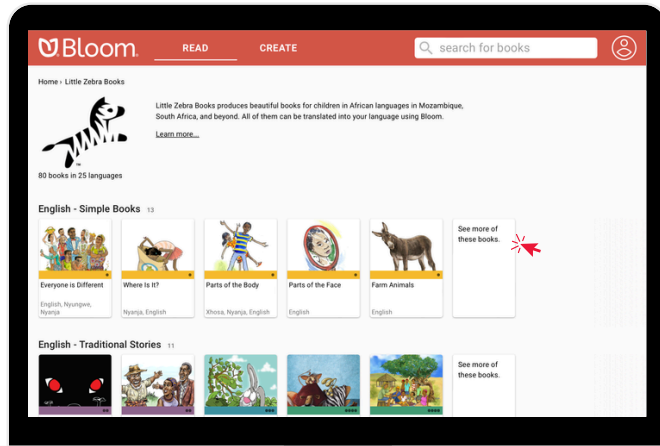




At Little Zebra Books, we believe in excellence in everything we do. That's why in 2023 we worked with Luceo Solutions to improve our skills in non-profit management. We successfully completed six modules including, Vision, Theory of Change, Fund-Raising, and more.







The Bloom Library is the new home for open access to Little Zebra Books. Anyone can read online, download digital versions, and download printable PDFs of all the Little Zebra Books in any language we have published!

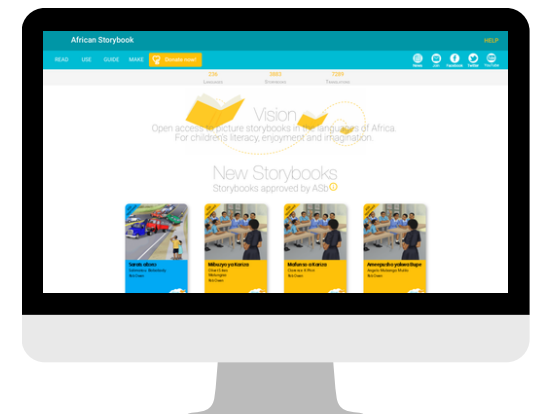
See our books on Bloom Library:

www.bloomlibrary.org/Little-Zebra-Books

African Storybook is a South African initiative that we have been involved with since 2018. Our titles have been uploaded and translated into many languages in South Africa and beyond.

See our books on African Storybook:

www.africanstorybook.org/collection.php?id=646





The Little Zebra Books
“Work Family” loves
making books for
children!

This passionate group
of professionals gives
their all for the cause of
providing beautiful
books to children across
Africa.

*Pictured: Tamlin Jethro, Jeni Bister, Gillian Brucher,
Nolusindiso Nokrayo, David Ker, and Hilary Ker*





Little Zebra Books Bloom Internship - Bloomlibrary.org

In 2023, we contracted our first Bloom intern at Little Zebra Books. The Bloom platform allows us to share all of our beautiful books freely with anyone in the world! One of the challenges has been uploading all of that material in the new format that is accessible in the Bloomlibrary.org.

Jeni Bister worked closely with Paige Cox through an orientation to the Bloom platform. Paige brilliantly picked up the tasks and learned the ins and outs of Bloom very quickly.

Thanks to Paige, all our books have now been converted to the Bloomlibrary.org format and uploaded to our own Bloom Bookshelf! There are now more than 300 books in 18 languages available worldwide.

As a result of this initiative, many have created their own free versions of Little Zebra Books. Imagine, some books are now available in Timbuktu, Mali, as sign language books! We see that others have been translated into languages as far away as Indonesia and Russia!



The Bean Book' has been translated
into 40 languages



Kupsapiiny



Afrikaans

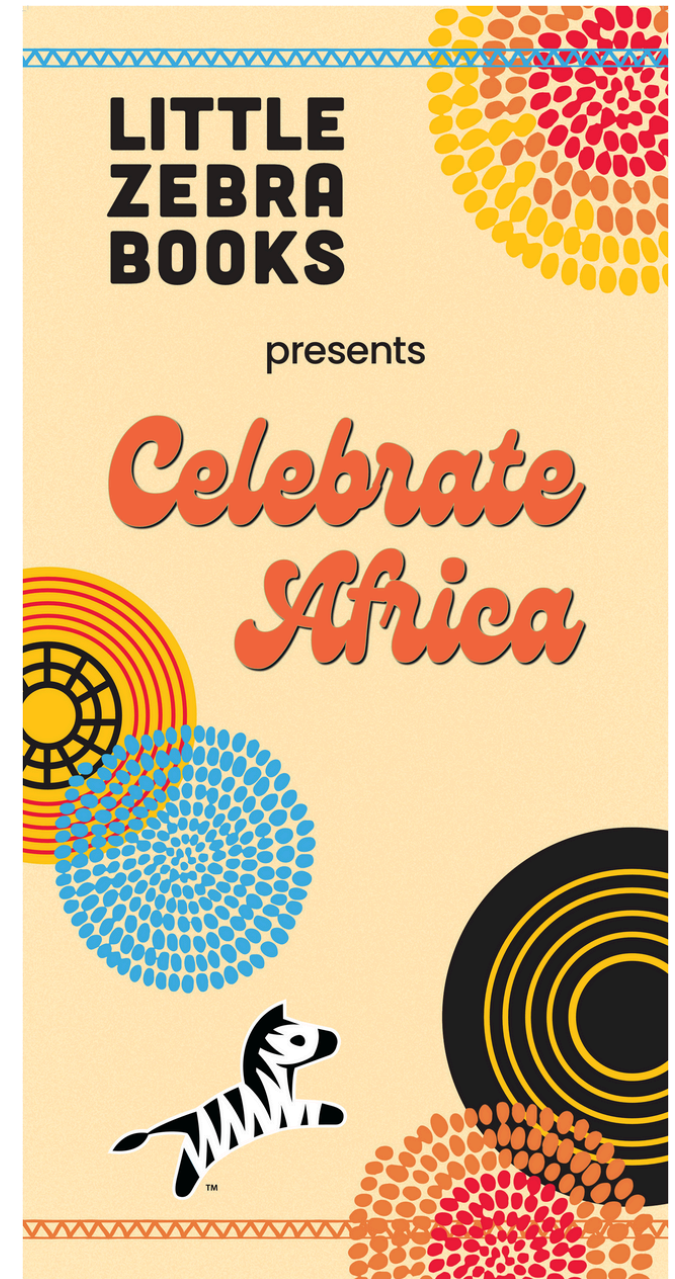


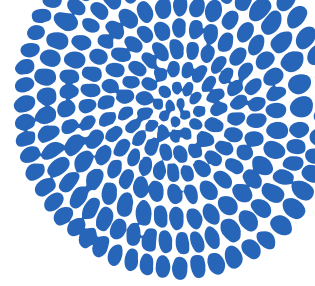
Nyanja



The Celebrate Africa event held in Shedd, Oregon USA raised funds for Little Zebra Books South Africa's general budget as well as funding the printing of 1,000s of books in Nyanja!

We are thankful for 83 guests, 16 sponsors, 12 volunteers and an incredible \$20,000 raised!



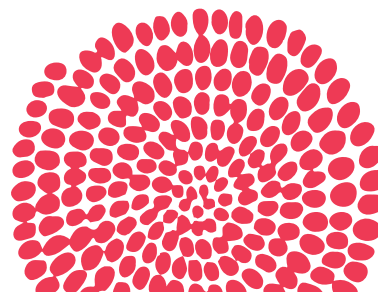


In 2023, the Governing Board of Little Zebra Books prioritized fiscal sustainability and impact in South Africa. Based on input from Luceo Solutions, the board asked the director to prioritize financial buoyancy of at least three months. In order to achieve this a decision was made to set aside at least 3% of income.

The board also took concrete steps to increase funding through approval of the hiring of a grant writer. This decision bore fruit in the award of R100.000 from the Ackerman Family Foundation. The grant writer also assisted in improving our documentation inspiring Little Zebra Books to update their website, produce an annual report, and be more consistent in applying for funding.

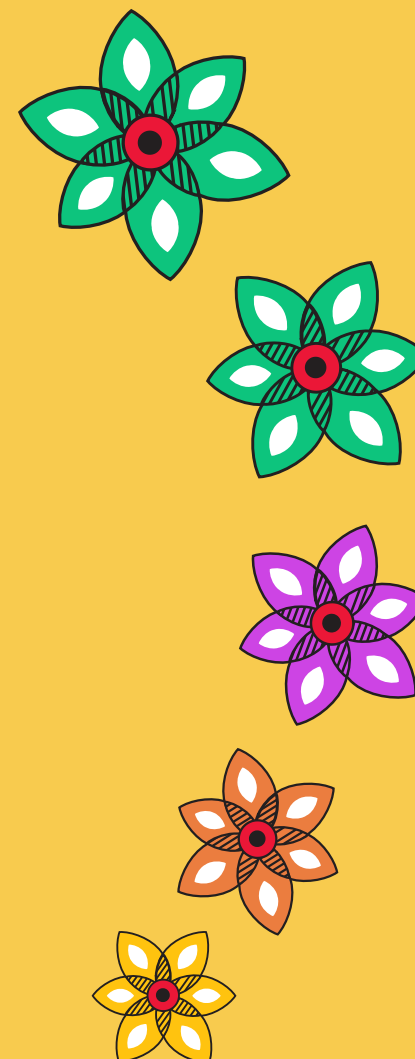


Pictured: Jeni Bister, Minah Koelah, David Ker, Kate Patience, and James Ruthven-Smith



Little Zebra Books South Africa Three Year Financial Summary

Statement of Comprehensive Income	2023 ZAR	2022 ZAR	2021 ZAR
Revenue			
Grants and Donations	938,515	682,406	356,138
Sales	50,557	250,877	6,814
Total revenues	R 989,072	R 933,283	R 362,952
Expenses			
Book Production			
Artwork	13,100	17,450	2,850
Printing	278,834	285,944	17,442
Shipping	3,950	80,892	1,993
Operations			
Administrative costs	135,013	43,012	54,590
Office	154,776	154,335	131,617
Personnel	391,196	421,602	165,169
Total expenses	R 976,869	R 1,003,235	R 373,661
Net surplus/deficit for the year	R 12,203	(R 69,952)	(R 10,709)
Statement of Financial Position	2023 ZAR	2022 ZAR	2021 ZAR
Assets			
Non-current assets	1,131	6,114	12,168
Current assets	178,094	132,977	174,528
Total assets	R 179,225	R 139,091	R 186,696
Funds and Liabilities			
Accumulated funds	139,643	112,207	182,159
Current liabilities	39,582	26,884	4,537
Total Funds and Liabilities	R 179,225	R 139,091	R 186,696



What a year! Little Zebra Books were close to breaking into the R1 million revenue for 2023. We were shy of this mark by a shade under R11'000. David and his team were superb in obtaining our first ever grants from South African foundations, which was made possible through hard work from the team who were also instrumental in securing of our Section 18(a) exception status from SARS.

A heartfelt thank-you too to everyone who has donated to Little Zebra Books. Thanks to these donations, we were able to distribute 114 293 books. Your contributions have also allowed LZB to grow as an organisation and is allowing Little Zebra Books to build for the future.

For 2024, the team has already secured more grants from South African foundations and is hard at work securing partnerships which allow Little Zebra Books to distribute books to even more kids all over Southern Africa.

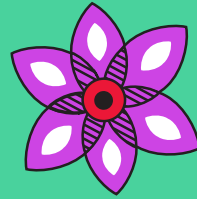
James

James Ruthven-Smith
Board Treasurer



James Ruthven-Smith





We are incredibly grateful to the many generous donors who make our ministry possible.

Your generosity has touched the lives of thousands of children in South Africa, Mozambique, and more!

Supporting Donors

72 monthly supporters

The Fitzgerald Family Foundation

Ann Hobson

Visions Made Viable

Grants

The Ackermans Family Foundation

Supporting Churches

Hope Church (Albany, Oregon)

First Baptist (Brownsville, Oregon)

G4 Church (Gillette, Wyoming)

Family Life (Gillette, Wyoming)

Bet:L (Skövde, Sweden)





Contact us:

info@littlezebrabooks.com
+27 (0)65 323 9584 RSA
+1 (541) 730-3025 USA

Donate at:

www.littlezebrabooks.com/give



Find us at:

17 Atlantic Road
Muizenberg
Cape Town 7950



**LITTLE
ZEBRA
BOOKS**