We believe

That education brings opportunity, and we’ve made it our mission to make knowledge accessible to all, equally.

We aspire

To be global experts, leveraging our growing collection of culturally diverse content and innovative education technology so 20 million children around the world are learning by 2030.

Cover photo: Girls using their Library For All tablet through our partnership with World Vision in Papua New Guinea. Photo: In partnership with ChildFund students in Laos using their digital tablets to read Library For All books.
617 million children globally aren’t learning

And that was before the COVID-19 pandemic interrupted education around the globe. Before the pandemic hit, 1 in 5 children around the world were not going to school.

Of those who do go to school, 6 in 10 aren’t learning even basic literacy and numeracy.

The World Bank estimates that so far the global COVID-19 pandemic has pushed a further 72 million children into learning poverty.

Without education and healthcare, these children will struggle to break the cycle of poverty in their lifetime.

A girl who can’t read may become a mother who can’t understand the instructions on life-saving medicine, has limited job opportunities and is less likely to overcome disadvantage throughout her life.

1 UNESCO 2017

The name of the dog is Puppy.

A seemingly simple sentence, but 3 out of 4 Year Three students in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda can’t understand it.
Our vision

20 million children by 2030

Photo: A boy from the remote Aboriginal community of Doomadgee in north-western Queensland. Credit: Robert McKechnie.
2020: Growing our impact

From remote villages in Papua New Guinea, to the classrooms of Laos and in communities across Australia, Library For All is supporting more than 410,000 children on their learning journey. With data from these learning journeys, we know that children reading with us can now recognise 71% more words than their peers².

410,000
Children learning

1,277
Books created

9
Countries impacted

Children learning

Families and communities are equipped to unlock their potential through our learning resources, empowering the next generation to experience the joy of learning and break free from the cycle of poverty.

“A lifelong joy to learn starts with books.”

6,400 digital tablets with our Accelerate learning platform

340,000 printed books

2018 50K 2019 130K 2020 410K 2030 20M

Photo: Students in Laos using their tablets.
Books created

Library For All makes learning possible, achievable and fun for children with our evidence-based approach. We are experts in three key sectors – publishing, education and technology – so children anywhere around the world can access the learning tools they need.

Our libraries are part of Accelerate – our integrated hardware and software solution we customise and deploy, so low-resource communities can access the learning tools they need to break the cycle of poverty.

Our approach

**Age-appropriate**
Levelled readers for children for all stages of their literacy journey.

**Culturally relevant**
Books acting as ‘mirrors’ and ‘windows’; providing opportunities for children to both see their own lives reflected and to discover the rest of the world.

**Linguistically diverse**
Publishing books in the languages that children speak.

**Access**
For free, on any Android device, anywhere. Where children don’t have their own devices, our Spark Digital Classroom Kit is an integrated tablet-based hardware solution that can operate offline to deliver a safe learning environment for the world’s most remote communities.

**Quality**
We equip teachers to best use these digital resources, so their students learn every day. Our independent learning app supports children to grow their literacy and numeracy skills at their own pace, and our dashboards gather data to guide their learning journey.

"We deliver free digital libraries to low-literacy communities across the world, full of books they’ve helped create."
Our impact

In 2020 we delivered programs in Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste, Laos, Kiribati, the Solomon Islands and Australia. Looking to 2021, we are launching programs in Ethiopia, Bhutan and Vietnam.

9 countries

402 authors
in our 28 country Creators community

229 illustrators
in our 28 country Creators community

We provide children with stories so they can write their own.
Paula

Year 3 student Paula is one of hundreds of students in Timor-Leste now learning to read thanks to our ongoing partnership with ChildFund Australia.
2020: Seizing opportunities

2020 was universally a year like no other, a year of both immense challenges and unprecedented opportunities – not just in each of our own lives, but also here at Library For All.

The global pandemic brought digital learning front of mind for communities around the globe impacted by school closures and lockdowns. With the pandemic halting overseas travel, we reimagined how to deliver our programs. As always, we harnessed technology to keep achieving our goals.

For example, instead of face-to-face story creation workshops with communities across the Pacific and South East Asia, we’ve run virtual workshops and received hundreds of story submissions through social media. As a result, we’ve published more books and reached more children than ever.

Halfway through 2019, discussions with Save the Children Australia highlighted the shared values of our two organisations. The team were all very excited by the extraordinary potential to grow our impact by working together. Following a period of due diligence by both organisations, we were delighted to announce that Library For All merged with Save the Children Australia in March 2020.

We’re now connected with a network of new opportunities for partnerships and programs around the world, with direct access to reach children through Save the Children’s footprint in more than 100 countries. Importantly, we can deepen our investment in growing the languages and books in our Library, refining our Accelerate education technology platform including our Spark Kits and the Library For All app, and introducing new apps to our platform to deepen children’s learning starting with Elevate.

We’ve spent 2020 building the team, technology and partnerships we need for growing our impact in 2021 and beyond. At the start of 2020 Library For All was a team of 12, by early 2021 we’ve more than doubled and we’re now impacting over 410,000 children across 9 countries.

2020 brought its share of challenges for all of us. With your ongoing support, we’ll continue to seize every opportunity and bring the joy of learning to 20 million children by 2030.

Rebecca McDonald
Founder & Chief Executive Officer

Since founding Library For All, Rebecca has dedicated the past decade to realising her simple yet powerful dream: let the world learn. Volunteering in Haiti, Rebecca saw classroom after classroom full of students eager to learn but with no books. She was struck by the injustice – an avid e-reader, she could access limitless books instantly.

"
We won’t stop until every child can learn, does learn and enjoys learning.

This is our impact goal at Library For All. We’re using technology to overcome barriers so children anywhere around the globe can access tools to learn, that they are learning from these tools – and crucially to us, that education is paving a path to lifelong learning and joy in reading.

In 2020 Library For All has focused on building our capacity to deliver this impact. I’m excited to highlight two exciting initiatives laying foundations in unchartered territory for our organisation:

Our Yarning: free digital library made by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people for their children

Culturally relevant and age-appropriate books are the cornerstone of literacy for all children – including Aboriginal children. The scale of illiteracy here in Australia has prompted us to act, for example 2 in 3 remote Aboriginal children in Year 5 can’t read at even the minimum national reading standards.

We’re delighted Dr Julie Owen has joined the team to lead this rapidly growing work.

Julie is a proud Aboriginal woman from the Nurrunga/Ngarrindjeri Nations in South Australia with extensive experience supporting culturally appropriate responses to improving health and education outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across Australia.

Elevate: independent learning software for literacy and numeracy

Launching in the Pacific in 2021, thanks to the generosity of a visionary supporter, Elevate is the next chapter in Library For All’s mission to make knowledge accessible to all. A self-directed education tool, Elevate guides children through the literacy and numeracy curriculum using animations, interactive activities and games to make learning fun.

Deployed with our Accelerate platform on Android tablets just like our free libraries, now the children we’re reaching can build on their foundation of reading by growing their literacy and numeracy skills – overcoming challenges of large class sizes, teacher shortages and a lack of education resources.

With the COVID-19 pandemic interrupting children’s education all around the world, harnessing technology for self-directed learning that can be accessed anywhere is now more vital than we’d ever anticipated.

Andrew Tyndale
Chair & Director

Following 26-years of investment banking, Andrew has spent the last 12 years focused on developing impact investment opportunities for the social sector and advising Foundations and Governments on aligning strategic investment with values.
Meet the team

Board of Directors
Andrew Tyndale (Chair)
Denise Nichols (past Chair)
Luke Philips
Sandy Pitcher
Connie Ridley
Paul Ronalds
Mat Tinkler
Liz Henderson
(resigned March 2020)
Glen Scott
(past Chair – resigned March 2020)
Philippa Tyndale
(resigned March 2020)

Leadership Team
Rebecca McDonald
Founder and Chief Executive Officer
Cameron Hemming
Chief Operating Officer & Deputy CEO
David Newman
Chief Technology Officer
Polly Banks
Head of Program Services
Daniel Belzer
Head of Business Development

We are all connected, all around the world, when we look at the stars.

Photo: Page from Out Of My Window.
We also wish to thank the other partners and supporters who make our impact possible.

Library For All is a not for profit enterprise of Save the Children Australia
Mountains, rivers and long distances are no match for our determination to get books into the hands of children...

including these boxes of books, which, after travelling for hours by car were the perfect fit for a long dugout canoe trip up the Sepik river to reach children in remote villages in Papua New Guinea.

Photo: delivery of Library For All book boxes in partnership with Save the Children in Papua New Guinea.
To achieve our vision of 20M children learning by 2030, we are working tirelessly to develop a diverse and sustainable range of funding sources.

Financials

Thanks to the financial contributions we receive from our generous donors, philanthropic supporters and international development partners we’ve been able to grow our digital library and provide books and technology to support more children learning than ever before.

At the same time, we’ve been working to create a diverse range of sustainable and ongoing revenue sources that we invest directly in to developing the teaching tools of tomorrow. As a sizeable proportion of our increasing revenue base, these growing sources now account for 46% of our annual income.

Growing revenue

2018 $861,000
2019 $1,711,000
2020 $3,453,000

Revenue through sustainable sources

2018
2019
2020

13% 22% 46%
By 2020 our global network has drawn on the contributions of creators from 28 countries.

To produce culturally relevant books for children around the world we engage a global network of authors and illustrators, investing in their training and development and providing valuable employment opportunities. As our impact grows so will the economic opportunities we provide for the creative sector.

Investments in Creators

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View our full financial report for 2020 at [libraryforall.org](http://libraryforall.org)

All figures are for the period July 2019 through December 2020, the 18-month period is to align with Save the Children Australia’s financial reporting.
We won’t stop until every child can learn, does learn and enjoys learning.

Photo: Students in Laos using tablets to read with Library For All during the pandemic.