Nuer Literacy Initiative
Project goals

- Address inequalities in access to literacy for people whose mother tongue is Nuer.
- Use new technology to support community-led production of culturally appropriate literacy resources.
- Hold two online translation workshops to quickly generate a large body of Nuer literature for children.
- Hold one creation workshop to generate original Nuer stories.
- Publish 44 new digital books in Nuer on the African Storybook Reader.
- Publish 14 original illustrated Nuer stories, printed in three 64-page books, and distribute to Nuer speaking communities.
Project partners
Akai's special mat

When Akai was a little girl, her mother used to put her to sleep on a beautiful mat. Akai's aunt made this special mat from palm leaves.

The mat had bright pink, blue and green colours. It was different from other mats that Akai's mother had in the hut.

The land around Akai's home was very dry, hot and full of stones. There were many scorpions, spiders and snakes too. But Akai was never in danger of being bitten by these dangerous creatures.
Translation workshops

- Two online workshops facilitated by African Storybook and the Nuer Literacy Initiative team.
- Will take place in January 2022 and March 2022.
- Up to 20 participants per workshop
- Funding available to reimburse participants for time and internet costs.
- Goal: Translation and publication of 30 digital storybooks into Nuer.
Participants are recruited from the Nuer Lexicon community.

Participants attend the workshops and work in small groups to translate selected texts into Nuer.

Translated texts are shared with the Nuer Lexicon community to finetune orthographic representation.

Translations are published online using the African Storybook Maker app.
One online creation workshop facilitated by African Storybook and the Nuer Literacy Initiative team.

Will take place in June 2022

Up to 20 participants.

Funding available to reimburse participants for time and internet costs.

Goal: Creating 14 original Nuer storybooks written in Nuer, and illustrated by professional African illustrators.
Participants are recruited from pool of previous workshops participants.

Participants attend the workshops and learn how to write and edit their own stories.

Illustrations are commissioned for a selection of stories created during the workshop. Texts are checked with the Nuer Lexicon community.

Original texts (and English translations) are published online, printed in physical books and distributed in East Africa.
Distribution and licensing

- The new story books created will all be made available in the African Storybook app.
- Nuer readers will be able to access them for free at any time via a mobile, tablet or, laptop.
- None of the books created will be sold and all of the physical books will be given away for free to schools and community groups.
Any questions?

www.smg.surrey.ac.uk/nuer-literacy-initiative