



TGUP Project Details

English Public Library Biougra, Morocco



PROJECT NAME: Biougra Public Library, Chtouka Ait Baha province, southern Morocco



Students in Ali Amhal's English class

PROJECT SUMMARY:

We will develop an English-language public library in the town of Biougra, in the far south of Morocco. This is a very under-resourced region with an Amazigh (Berber) population, and it will be the **FIRST** public English library **EVER**, anywhere in rural Morocco. The library will serve students and teachers from primary and secondary schools in the area, as well as the general population. English language literacy classes will also be offered.

PROJECT PARTNERS:

The Global Uplift Project (TGUP) helps American students and individuals build classrooms and other infrastructure projects in the developing world. Since its founding in 2007, TGUP has completed more than 140 such projects in 16 countries in Asia, Central America, and Africa. TGUP is an IRS registered 501c3 nonprofit.

Morocco Library Project (MLP) has been developing English libraries in underserved communities of Morocco since January 2014. MLP works closely with English teachers in these communities to understand the context and need of the local students and then curates a library tailored just for them. The books are purchased in partnership with the independent bookstore Books, Inc. in Palo Alto, through a generous educator's discount. MLP sends high-quality fiction and nonfiction literature in all genres and reading levels.

Most of MLP's libraries are at public high schools in Morocco; a few others are at youth centers, developed in partnership with the Peace Corps. These libraries generally work with after-school English clubs for extremely motivated students and support extra-curricular activities including literature circles, writing competitions, and environmental education that draws on the library resources. The libraries are in rural areas that have never had libraries before, either at school or for the public. Many in the young generation in Morocco are passionate about learning English, and MLP, working with dedicated Moroccan teachers, helps to make that possible.

One of MLP themes is to inspire interest in STEM and environmental topics so they include books on science, technology, and nature, and encourage related projects with the partner teacher. For example, they send books such as the picture-rich DK Eyewitness nature series; *The Way Things Work*; Smithsonian visual encyclopedias on science, space and inventions; books on climate such as *Drawdown*; and stories about inspiring people in STEM, such as *Hidden Figures*, *Girls Think of Everything*, *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*; and young reader biographies from Steve Jobs to Wangari Maathai. Generally, 15 to 20 percent of the books sent are of this genre, unless the teacher has an interest for more.

MLP is a program of OliveSeed Foundation, a 501c3 based in Palo Alto, California, whose mission is to inspire and empower the next generation of global citizens through literacy programs and environmental education.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT:

The Global Uplift Project

Senior Executive:

Robert Freeman
Executive Director
robertf@tgup.org
650-575-3434

Supervising Executive:

Cathy Dwulet
Director, Global Field Operations
cathyd@tgup.org
650-269-5598

Morocco Library Project (MLP)

Senior Executive:

Barb Mackraz
Founder & Executive Director
barb@oliveseed.org
650-906-8548

Supervising Executive in Morocco:

Ali Amhal
Project Manager & ESL Instructor
aliamhal2@gmail.com
+212-671-476800

PROJECT DATES: Sep 2020 – Mar 2021

ABOUT THE COMMUNITY AND PROJECT:

Biougra is a town of about 38,000 in rural southern Morocco, with an Amaizigh (Berber) population. This is an underserved region with many of the inhabitants working in small-scale farming. The library will be located in a poor, overcrowded neighborhood of Biougra not far from Ibn Sina High School, where Ali Amhal is an English teacher. A



community organization with help from Mr. Amhal is constructing a community center that will house the library.

The native language of the local population is a Moroccan dialect of Arabic, influenced by the Berber culture. This will be the first English public library in rural Morocco. It will serve students and teachers from two high schools, one middle school, two primary schools, and two private schools, as well as the general population.

The library will be managed and maintained by the staff of the community center and English teachers from local secondary schools. Mr. Amhal is heading this team. He has been one of the most active and creative teachers in MLP for over 4 years, and he is also a board member of OliveSeed Foundation. The community center is planning to give English and other courses to cover ongoing expenses of the site, including electricity, internet, and a librarian.

Teachers will use the library for community-oriented activities as an extension of what they already do with after-school clubs, including literature circles, public presentations, environmental projects, and national writing competitions with other schools in the MLP network.

ANTICIPATED BENEFITS:

This project will help bring literacy, love of learning, greater awareness of the world, and greater breadth of knowledge to a new generation in Morocco. Our goal is for young people to be not just readers, but also critical thinkers and leaders who see themselves in the global context which is their emerging reality. Our hope is that this next generation will have the literacy, knowledge, confidence, perspective, and connections to make a positive impact on the world.

Mr. Amhal reports these expected activities and benefits:

- Give high school and university students (who will come from Agadir) free access to books in English
- Promote students' English language proficiency and their love for books
- Build bridges between cultures and identities through reading books of different genres and origins
- Spread knowledge, positive mindset, hope, and guidance towards a better future
- Provide a space for teachers and students alike to come together every weekend to have a cup of tea and discuss a book, a story, a poem, or a movie
- Lend books every day to students to read at home, write book reviews, and record short videos to share with other students on the MLP YouTube channel
- Encourage teachers to resume their habit of reading
(A large number of teachers have quit reading because of their busy everyday routines and because they do not have access to high-quality books in English. Bookstores in Morocco, when they can be found, sell only Arabic or French.)
- Help girls gain more confidence and knowledge to voice their minds
(As a teacher and MLP coordinator at Ibn Sina High School, I have noticed that girls are more interested in reading books than boys.)

PRIMARY BENEFICIARIES:

The primary beneficiaries are students in and around Biougra and their families, who today have almost no enrichment to amplify their education. In many of MLP's current library locations around Morocco (over 35 in all), students have taken the lead by learning how to manage their own English clubs, writing book reviews and essays, or becoming motivated on environmental issues, even presenting to classes and conducting interviews on conservation. The illiteracy rate among local adult women is close to 100%.

We expect the impact here to be even greater than the libraries situated only in schools, as it will be open to multiple schools, and to the general public, and will bring together students, teachers and aspiring readers from all of those different settings.

An estimated 70% of the expected users belong to an unprivileged social class, such as builders, farmworkers, single mothers, drivers, and store workers. The rest of the expected users are relatively more comfortable and currently more interested in their children's education. These parents work as teachers, technicians, nurses, imams, and so on. They are considered middle class. They will pay symbolic annual fees for access to the library, to help maintain the services.

Mr. Amhal reports the following as primary beneficiaries:

- High school students (15 to 19 years old)
- University students (20 to 25 years old, visiting from the university in Agadir)
- Teachers
(Teachers of English are in desperate need of such a cultural space where they can read and discuss books, polish their language, teach their kids, and cultivate their language skills. They can either pay an annual symbolic fee or volunteer as coaches, mentors, guides, or coordinators of the library and its clubs.)

Mr. Amhal reports this expected impact on local students and families:

- Through real partnership with the immediate community, this book space will contribute to effective family engagement to support children's learning and development.
- This space will spread among families the need to shift part of their attention towards their children's education and personal development. Trusted teachers, librarian, guest speakers, artists, and ex-students will be there to inspire, guide, teach, and motivate and to open up students' minds on more interesting and positive life interests.
- The library users will be better equipped to become active good citizens, through hosting informative discussions on topics and matters related to students' personal development such as drugs, sexuality, internet and social media, higher studies orientation, friendship, school bullying, and love relationships among teenagers.
- Access to high-quality materials and activities will enhance students' school achievement.
- The positive experiences of this program will reduce the currently high dropout rates of school among teenagers.

BUDGET SUMMARY:

Summary of project costs: \$4,800

Materials	\$3,000	(cost of books @ discounted rate)
Other	\$1,000	(to ship from US to Biougra, Morocco)
Project Management	\$ 800	
100% Matching Funds	\$ 2,400	(MLP will match funds)
Total	\$2,400	

PHOTOS FROM IBN SINA HIGH SCHOOL:



THE LIBRARY ROOM UNDER CONSTRUCTION



PROPOSAL SUMMARY:

The exact collection will be curated after doing research on the needs and special interests of the local population. The following booklist is from one of MLP's typical school libraries and gives a flavor of the possible collection.

FICTION	AUTHOR	ISBN
Life of Pi	Yann Martel	978-0156027328
The Old Man and the Sea	Ernest Hemingway	978-0684801223
The Sun Also Rises	Ernest Hemingway	978-0743297332
The Secret Life of Bees	Sue Monk Kidd	978-0142001745
The Little Prince	Antoine de Saint-Exupery	978-0544671645
The Stranger	Albert Camus	978-0679720201
The Alchemist	Paulo Coelho	978-0062315007
The Kite Runner	Khaled Hosseini	978-1594631931
A Thousand Splendid Suns	Khaled Hosseini	978-0739489505
Year of Wonder	Geraldine Brooks	978-0007743032
1984	George Orwell	978-1328869333
Fahrenheit 451	Ray Bradbury	978-1451673319
What the Day Owes the Night	Yasmina Khadra	978-0099540458
The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime	Marc Haddon	978-1400032716
The Lord of the Flies	William Golding	978-9381529614
A Separate Peace	John Knowles	978-0743253970
A Foreign Country	Charles Cumming	978-1250049056
Si Yussef	Anouar Majid	978-1566565981
Murder Mysteries		
("Whodunits")		
Book 1: The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency	Alexander McCall Smith	978-1400034772
Book 2: Tears of the Giraffe	Alexander McCall Smith	978-1400031351
Book 3: Morality for Beautiful Girls	Alexander McCall Smith	978-1400031368
Adventures of Sherlock Holmes	Athur Conan Doyle	978-0241347782
Death on the Nile	Agatha Christie	978-0062073556
Contemporary Young Adult Fiction (<i>and find others along these lines</i>)		
The Fault in Our Stars	John Green	978-0142424179
Paper Towns	John Green	978-0142414934
The Hobbit	J. R. R. Tolkien	978-0618150823

Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone	JK Rowling	978-1408883747
Fangirl	Rainbow Rowell	978-1250030955
Almost Midnight: Two Festive Stories	Rainbow Rowell	978-1509869947
It Ends With Us	Colleen Hoover	978-15011110368
Without Merit	Colleen Hoover	978-1501170621
A Hope More Powerful Than the Sea	Melissa Fleming	978-1250105998
Asiyah	Zainab Karim	978-0995819900
Everything Everything	Nicola Yoon	978-0553496673
The Hunger Games	Collines, Suzanne	978-0439023528

For Middle Readers (*easier, most of these are classics for young readers*)

Little Women	Louisa May Alcott	978-0147514011
The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane	Kate DiCamillo	978-0763625894
Black Panther: The Young Prince	Ronald Smith	978-1368008495
Sarah Bishop	Scott O'Dell	978-0395618752
The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe	C.S. Lewis	978-0064404990
The Wizard of Oz	L Frank Baum	978-0735840423
Alice's Adventures in Wonderland & Through the Looking Glass	Lewis Carroll	978-1631582752
The Giver	Lois Lowry	978-1328471222
The Call of the Wild	Jack London	978-1629100111
Little Women	Louisa May Alcott	978-0141192413
The Adventures of Pinocchio	Carolo Collodi	978-1490466194

Myths, Folktales & Short Stories

Moroccan Folktales	Jilali Koudia	978-0815607892
Favorite African Folktales	Nelson Mandela	978-0393326246
Year of the Elephant	Leila Abouzeid	978-0292721722
Minutes of Glory and Other Stories	Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o	978-1620974650
Jungle Book: The Mowgli Stories	Rudyard Kipling	978-0763687861
The Best Short Stories of Edgar Allan Poe	Poe	978-1420951509

Graphic Novels

I Am Gandhi: A Graphic Biography of a Hero	Brad Meltzer	978-0525552697
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Heroes of Olympus, Book 1: The Lost Hero	Rick Riordan	978-1423163251
Heroes of Olympus, Book 2: The Son of Neptune	Rick Riordan	978-1484723036
Olympians: Apollo, the Brilliant One	George O'Connor	978-1626720152
Olympians: Hera, the Goddess and her Glory	George O'Connor	978-1596434332
Olympians: Hermes: Tales of the Trickster	O'Connor, George	978-1626725256
Olympians: Aphrodite: Goddess of Love	O'Connor, George	978-1596437395
Ghosts	Raina Telgemeier	978-0545540629

NONFICTION

Inspiring Biographies & Essays

I Am Malala (Young Readers' Edition)	Malala Yousafzai	978-0316327916
Hidden Figures (Young Readers' Edition)	Margot Lee Shetterly	978-0062662378
The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind (Young Readers' Edition)	William Kamkwamba	978-0147510426
Becoming	Michelle Obama	978-1524763138
A Long Walk to Water	Linda Sue Park	978-0547577319
This Child Will Be Great	Ellen Johnson Sirleaf	978-0061353482
Tasting the Sky: A Palestinian Childhood	Ibtisam Barakat	978-1250097187
Dreams of Trespass: Tales of a Harem Girlhood	Fatima Mernissi	978-0201489378
Nelson Mandela: "No Easy Walk to Freedom"	Denenberg, Barry	978-0545669115
Lion: A Long Way Home (Young Readers' Edition)	Saroo Brierley	978-0425291764
The Elephant Whisperer (Young Readers' Edition)	Lawrence Anthony	978-1627793094
The Finest Hours (Young Readers' Edition)	Michael Tougias	978-1250044235
Into the Wild	Jon Krakauer	978-0385486804
Leonardo da Vinci and the Pen That Drew the Future	Luca Novelli	978-1613738696
Girls Think of Everything	Catherine Thimmesh	978-0618195633
Steve Jobs: The Man Who Thought Different	Karen Blumenthal	978-1250014450
I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings	Angelou, Maya	978-0812980028

Lives of the Scientists: Experiments, Explosions...	Krull, Kathleen	978-0544810877
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Nature, Science, Tech

Drawdown	Paul Hawken	978-0143130444
Infographic Guide to Science	Tom Colbert	978-1770857919
Inventions: A Visual Encyclopedia	DK Smithsonian	978-1465458384
Geography: A Visual Encyclopedia	DK	978-1465412188
Space: A Visual Encyclopedia	DK	978-0756662776
Ocean: A Visual Encyclopedia	DK	978-1465436641
Nat Geo Animal Encyclopedia	Nat Geo	978-1426310225
Nat Geo Science Encyclopedia	Nat Geo	978-1426325427
Wonders of the World	DK Eyewitness	978-1465422491
Universe	DK Eyewitness	978-1465431875
Pyramid	David Macaulay	978-0395321218
City: A Story of Roman Planning & Construction	David Macaulay	978-0395349229
Castle	David Macaulay	978-0395329207
The Way Things Work (Now)	David Macaulay	978-0544824386

Culture, History, Places

Amazigh Arts in Morocco: Women Shaping Berber Identity	Becker, Cynthia	978-3540374329
Arts and Crafts of Morocco	James Jereb	978-0500278307
A Short History of Nearly Everything	Bill Bryson	978-0767908184

BOOKS FOR BEGINNERS

Penguin (Pearson) Leveled Readers

A Tale of Two Cities	Charles Dickens	978-1405862561
Oliver Twist	Charles Dickens	978-0803719958
Macbeth	William Shakespeare	978-1514630587
Murder is Announced	Agatha Christie	978-0008289225
Sherlock Holmes Short Stories	Arthur Conan Doyle	978-1405865234
Three Adventures of Sherlock Holmes	Arthur Conan Doyle	978-1405862424
Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde	Robert Louis Stevenson	978-0848111816
Alice in Wonderland	Lewis Carroll	978-1786750457
Treasure Island	Robert Louis Stevenson	978-1402713187
Black Beauty	Anna Sewall	978-0590486101

The Adventures of Odysseus	Hugh Lupton, adapted from Homer	
Adventures of Tom Sawyer	Mark Twain	978-0141321103
A White Heron & Other American Short Stories	Sarah Orne Jewett et al.	978-429096287
The Three Musketeers	Alexander Dumas	978-1402736957
The Invisible Man	H.G. Wells	978-1405862509
Tales of Mystery and Imagination, Level 5	Edgar Allen Poe	978-1405862547
Around the World in 80 Days	Jules Verne	978-1405865180

Nat Geo Kids Leveled Readers

Dolphins	Stewart, Melissa	978-1426306525
Mars	Carney, Elizabeth	978-1426317477
Water	Melissa Stewart	978-1426314742
In the Forest	Evans, Shira	
Day and Night	Evans, Shira	978-1426324707
Martin Luther King Jr	Kitson Jazynka	978-1426310874

Classic Starts Series (*easy abridged classics*)

20,000 Leagues Under the Sea	Jules Verne	978-1402725333
Treasure Island	Robert Louis Stevenson	978-1402713187
Journey to the Center of the Earth	Jules Verne	978-1402773136
The Story of King Arthur and His Knights	Howard Pyle	978-1402725340
Frankenstein	Mary Shelley	978-1402726668

Who Is / Who Was (*easy biographies, very popular*)

Who Were the Wright Brothers?	Buckley, James	978-0448479514
Who Was Albert Einstein?	Jess Brallier	978-0448424965
Who Was Nelson Mandela?	Pollack, Pam	978-0448479330
Who was Galileo?	Demuth, Patricia	978-0448479859
Who Was Martin Luther King, Jr.?	Bader, Bonnie	978-0448447230
Who Is Barack Obama?	Edwards, Roberta	978-0448453309
Who Was William Shakespeare?	Mannis, Celeste	978-0448439044
Who Is Jane Goodall?	Edwards, Roberta	978-0448461922
Who Is Pele?	Buckley, James	978-0399542619
Who is Bill Gates?	Demuth, Patricia	978-0448463322
Who was Pablo Picasso?	Kelley, True	978-0448449876

Who Was Leonardo da Vinci?	Edwards, Roberta	978-0448443010
Who Was Marie Curie?	Stine, Megan	978-0448478968
Who Was Isaac Newton?	Janet Pascal	978-0448479132
Who Was Nikola Tesla?	Jim Gigliotti	978-0448488592
Who Was Hellen Keller?	Gare Thompson	978-0448431444

ETC.

Reference, English Learning

Practice Makes Perfect: English Conversation	Yates, Jean	978-0071770859
Practice Makes Perfect: English Sentence Builder	Ed Swick	978-1260019230
100 Words You Need to Know (flash cards)	Barron's	978-1438075266
DK English-Arabic Visual Dictionary	DK	978-1465459275
TED Talks: The Official TED Guide to Public Speaking	Chris Anderson	978-1328710284
Merriam-Webster Dictionary, 2019 Trade Paperback		978-0877796688

Poetry

Poetry for Young People	Maya Angelou	978-0375420177
20 Love Poems and a Song of Despair	Pablo Neruda	978-0140422054

Comics

The Essential Calvin & Hobbes	Bill Watterson	978-80836218053
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Games

Scrabble

Children's Picture

Storybooks

Old Turtle	Douglas Wood	978-0439309080
The Amazing Travels of Ibn Battuta	Fatima Sharafeddine	978-1554984800
The Princess Who Lost Her Hair: An Akamba Legend	Tololwa M. Mollel	978-0816728169
Thunder Cake	Patricia Polacco	978-0698115811
Yertle the Turtle and Other Stories	Dr. Seuss	978-0375844843
Oh the Places You'll Go	Dr. Seuss	978-0679805274

Pablo Neruda: Poet of the People	Monica Brown	978-0805091984
The Dazzling Life of Josephine Baker	Patricia Powell	978-1452103143
Wangari Maathai: The Woman Who Planted Millions of Trees	Franck Prevot	978-1580896276
One Plastic Bag: The Recycling Women of Gambia	Miranda Paul	978-1338155273
The Storyteller	Evan Turk	978-1481435185

Videos

Supplies

forward-facing book racks
(get many)

Plays

Antigone	Sophocles	978-1580493888
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