

Overbrook Nippon – Network on Educational Technology (ON-NET)

ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal Year 2025

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Note: The reporting structure of this year’s annual report is different from previous years’ reports. This report covers both completed projects and projects currently in progress as they cross over from one fiscal year to the next.

Completed Projects & Activities by Country

Indonesia – Mitra Netra

Project Title: Provision of Accessible Books for the Blind

Project NO: SE-IN-03

Project Overview

Since its founding, Mitra Netra has made access to books a central priority, recognizing that accessible reading materials are essential for education, personal development, and equal participation in society. Mitra Netra provides blind and visually impaired individuals with accessible books in three main formats: Braille books, Digital Talking Books (DTBs) in DAISY format, and Electronic books in EPUB format.



This report summarizes the key activities and achievements of Mitra Netra's Accessible Book Production and Distribution Project. Throughout the year, Mitra Netra focused on producing electronic books in EPUB 3 format and Digital Talking Books (DTBs) in DAISY format. As the sole funder of DTB production, the Overbrook School for the Blind (OBS), through the ON-NET program, has made it possible for production to continue.

The project directly benefited blind and visually impaired individuals who rely on accessible reading materials for education and personal enrichment. The primary beneficiaries included:

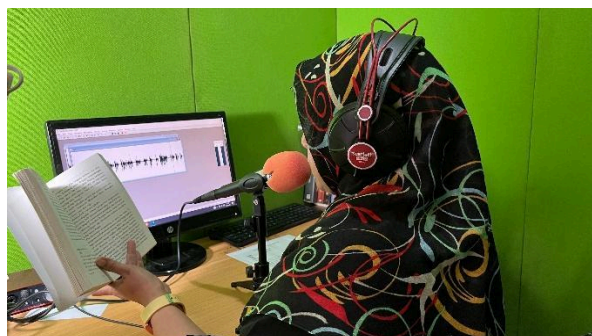
- **Online Library Members:** There are 2,569 blind members currently registered with the online library, www.pustaka.mitrانetra.or.id, who can download books directly.
- **Regular Library Members:** A total of 1,095 members utilize the physical library located in Jakarta.
- **General Public:** Any blind or visually impaired individual in Indonesia with an internet connection is eligible to join the online library and access the digital collection for free.

This broad reach ensures that the project supports both urban and rural communities, helping reduce barriers to information access nationwide.

MASTER DTB PRODUCTION

The project recorded a total of 764 hours of master DTB content while the goal for the year was 750 hours of content. More than 60 titles were recorded including fiction, novels and reference books.

The lower title count is attributed to the organization's decision to prioritize fiction, such as novels, and reference books. These types of books are typically much longer and require more time to record than shorter materials. The production is handled by a specialized team in Mitra Netra's studios, consisting of two trained readers and one DAISY structure editor. The readers record the text aloud, while the editor ensures the digital file matches the original book's structure, including headings and navigation points, to allow users to move easily through the book.



EPUB BOOK PRODUCTION

The project also aimed to produce 150 electronic books in the EPUB 3 format. The team reached this goal exactly, focusing on school textbooks, enrichment materials and popular reading titles.

The production team consists of three experienced staff members who have worked on accessible EPUB creation for more than seven years. Their workflow includes scanning, proofreading, editing, structuring, compiling, and validating each file to ensure accessibility and quality.

DTB AND EPUB BOOK DISTRIBUTION

All new DTBs and EPUB titles were successfully uploaded to Mitra Netra's online library for immediate access by members.

In addition to new content, the project worked to make older materials available online. Before 2021, many DTBs were produced only for use on CDs and were saved at a high bitrate of 128 kbps. To make these files easier to download over the internet, they were reformatted to 32 kbps. A total of 205 of these older books were reformatted and added to the online collection.



By the end of the year, the online library had 2,569 active users, held a total of 3,168 titles, and recorded 39,979 user downloads.

As Echy Wardhani shares, she still remembers the first audiobooks she borrowed through the Mitra Netra library: “I borrowed 4 books at once: A Small Letter to God, May Mother Be Loved by Allah, Verses of Love (1), and Memorizing Delisa's Prayer.”

REGULAR LIBRARY SERVICES

Mitra Netra's regular library continues to serve members who prefer in-person or remote borrowing services. The physical library in Jakarta provides Braille books, DTBs on CDs, and EPUB files. It also offers a specialized service that lets members borrow an Efo5, which is a portable digital book player. Members may visit the library or request materials remotely via email, phone, or messaging. The librarian prepares the requested items and arranges delivery through courier service.

By the end of the year, the regular library had been visited 877 times and recorded 5,111 borrowed items (including Braille, DTB, and EPUB books).

Impact

16-year-old Raden Ahmad Kano Arkendra shared his dislike of CD audiobooks with a Mitra Netra librarian, saying they didn't allow him to "move as freely as when using a portable reading device." A librarian introduced Raden to a device he could borrow and bring home." Kano went on to share, "Mrs. Indah from the Mitra Netra library has convinced me that Mitra Netra will always be ready to support my studies. Because of the support from the library of Mitra Netra, I have successfully passed my final exam and will continue to the next education level."



Conclusion

The 2024 project year has been highly productive for Mitra Netra. The organization successfully met its targets for accessible book production, ensuring a steady stream of new content for the blind and visually impaired in Indonesia. By combining modern digital distribution with traditional library services, Mitra Netra continues to bridge the information gap for visually impaired individuals, providing them with the tools necessary for education and personal growth.

Philippines – Resources for the Blind, Inc. (RBI)

Project Title: Project ON-NET in the Philippines

Project Overview

For many years, the Overbrook-Nippon Network on Educational Technology's (ON-NET) Overbrook School for the Blind – International Program has supported Resources for the Blind, Inc. (RBI) projects that promote accessible and inclusive technology for students, teachers, and adults with visual impairments. The continued partnership has enabled RBI to design and deliver programs that respond to the evolving needs of visually impaired individuals in a rapidly changing digital environment.

This report outlines the three major program areas successfully implemented during the 2024–2025 period: advocacy for audio description in Philippine cinema, training educators to create accessible documents, and Computer-Eyes digital literacy training for visually impaired students and adults. Each program was designed to reduce

barriers, promote independence, and create opportunities for people who are blind or visually impaired.

These programs show how strong collaboration among government agencies, NGOs, and disability-focused organizations can help drive inclusive development and digital literacy, and help close the digital and cultural gaps that often prevent visually impaired individuals from fully participating in society.

This project reached a total of 1,173 beneficiaries, including students, parents, teachers, and adults with visual impairments.

ADVOCATING AUDIO DESCRIPTION IN THE COMMUNITY

Project ADAM (Audio Description Awareness Movement), led by RBI and supported by a coalition of disability organizations and media partners, achieved a historic milestone by bringing the first Filipino film with audio description to commercial cinemas. Audio description provides spoken narration of visual elements, enabling blind and visually impaired audiences to fully experience films.

Key Activities and Milestones

On March 22, 2025, RBI led the first-ever commercial screening of a Filipino film with audio description (Firefly) at SM City Davao. Partner organizations led parallel screenings in Calamba, Legazpi City, Baguio, and Cebu City, demonstrating a unified national commitment to accessible entertainment. Audience members shared emotional reflections, expressing gratitude and hope for broader use of audio description in both entertainment and education.

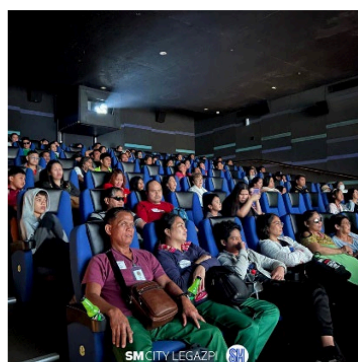


Photo sourced from SM City FB page

Impact

Across five cities, over 1,091 Filipinos participated in these screenings. Feedback from the community was overwhelmingly positive. One student expressed the hope that

audio description would eventually be applied to educational materials to help learners with disabilities. As 12-year-old Thomas Jefferson shared, “In the midst of the darkness of life, there is still a light that will guide you to where you want to go.” Ultimately, the success of this effort highlights a simple truth: These screenings are not a charitable gesture, but a rightful act of inclusion.

REGIONAL TRAINING ON CREATING ACCESSIBLE DOCUMENTS

From December 27–29, 2024, RBI and DICT Region 7 conducted a three-day national workshop titled “National Workshop on Creating Accessible Documents with AI Integration for Enhanced Accessibility.” The training brought together 24 special education teachers, including 20 educators with visual impairments.



Training Curriculum

RBI leadership and DICT officials emphasized the importance of technology in promoting inclusion. Trainers Ryan Operario and Knuehlvirn Hautea, both respected educators in special education, led the sessions and served as role models for inclusive teaching. Participants received hands-on instruction in:

- Creating accessible documents using Microsoft Word and PowerPoint
- Applying proper headings, lists, and structured tables
- Writing effective alternative text for images
- Using keyboard shortcuts for efficient navigation
- Selecting readable fonts and styles
- Using built-in accessibility checkers
- Integrating AI tools such as ChatGPT and Google Gemini
- Using Google Classroom to support digital learning

Outcomes

The training workshops strengthened the partnership between RBI and DICT and helped reinforce the commitment to inclusive education nationwide. Participants reported increased confidence in creating accessible materials and expressed gratitude for the opportunity to enhance their skills.

One teacher shared how the training provided “the skills to create accessible learning materials



for my students. I can now efficiently use MS Office applications ... as well as AI, to enhance instruction and foster an inclusive learning environment for my visually impaired learners.” The teacher went on to reflect that “These skills have a profound impact on my students. They enhance learners' independence, improve access to educational materials, increase efficiency and productivity, support collaboration and communication, and develop essential digital literacy and lifelong skills.”



COMPUTER-EYES CAMP FOR HIGH SCHOOL AND NEWLY BLIND ADULTS WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENT

RBI implemented a series of basic and advanced computer training programs under the Computer-Eyes initiative. These programs aimed to equip visually impaired students and adults with essential digital skills for education, employment, and daily life.

Basic Computer Training Sessions

General Santos City

- Conducted from November 18–29, 2025 in General Santos City
- Trained 12 participants, including students and newly blind adults
- Covered computer basics, Microsoft Office applications, NVDA use, and website navigation
- Included a cybersecurity lecture on safe online behavior
- Participants shared stories of personal growth and increased independence

Jan Jan Loyd Arocha shared how much he enjoyed the training and how much he learned: “Every [computer] key has a purpose, which I wouldn’t have understood without this training... I was so excited [to learn Excel] because I learned how to compute grades, even though I’m not a teacher yet. This knowledge also helps me as I start my small business.” Jan Jan reflected, “I never expected that, despite our limitations, we could accomplish things that others can do... The skills I gained from the Computer Eyes training will be incredibly helpful in my life... I now have the confidence and knowledge to make it happen.”



Butuan City (Caraga Region)

- Held from February 10–21, 2025
- Conducted in partnership with DICT and the City Library of Butuan
- Focused on foundational computer skills using NVDA
- Aimed to bridge the digital divide and promote equal access to education
- Strengthened collaboration between government and NGOs

Vivian Aliño, an adult who lost her vision, shared her inspiring story, as well. “In my final year of OB-GYN residency, I was diagnosed with retinitis pigmentosa... [and] blindness was inevitable. ... Then, a friend told me about training for persons with visual impairment... and what I found was more than I ever imagined. I was nervous and unsure if I could still learn, but this training gave me



renewed purpose. I now dream [about] becoming truly confident with technology. This training isn't just about learning—it's about rediscovering hope.”

Quezon City (NCDA)

- Conducted from April 14–16 and April 21–29, 2025
- Attended by 22 participants from NCR and nearby provinces
- Covered keyboarding, Microsoft Office, web navigation, and Gmail
- Participants shared transformative experiences, including renewed confidence and hope for employment
- NCDA leaders reaffirmed their commitment to supporting persons with disabilities



Nathanial Baliwis Torres, a student from Calizon Calumpit, Bulacan, shares, on his experience: “This training will help me in college and in my career... My biggest dream is to teach children with special needs. I believe my computer skills will help me support these children better.”

Advanced Computer Training Session

The Computer-Eyes Advanced Training, previously reported in November 2024, was held at the DICT Training Center in Cebu City in September 2024. A total of 23 students and adults with visual impairments participated in the program.

Outcomes

Participants in the computer training sessions expressed gratitude for the learning opportunity, and many reflected on their increased motivation and ambition to pursue their goals.

Conclusion

The various initiatives implemented by RBI in 2024 and 2025 have provided more than just technical skills; they have offered renewed hope and independence. The initiatives collectively expanded access to inclusive entertainment; strengthened educators' ability to create accessible learning materials; improved digital literacy among visually impaired individuals; fostered collaboration between government agencies, NGOs, and disability organizations; and empowered participants to pursue education, employment, and independent living.

As technology continues to evolve, these programs ensure that visually impaired Filipinos are not left behind. Through the combined efforts of advocacy, education, and digital training, the journey toward full independence and inclusion is already underway.

Vietnam – Sao Mai Center for the Blind

Project Title: Accessible Textbook Library Portal for Visually Impaired Students in Vietnam

Project NO: SE-VI-024

Project Overview

Since 2020, Vietnam has been gradually implementing major education reforms that replace the single, nationwide set of textbooks for Grades 1–12 with a more flexible system. There are currently three approved national textbook series which comprise a total of 602 textbooks. This ON-NET project focused on converting the 602 newly-issued textbooks into accessible formats and creating a centralized digital library portal for nationwide use.

The project is actually the first part of a two-year initiative aimed at improving educational accessibility for visually impaired students in Vietnam. This project began in July 2024, and the first part of this initiative concluded in April 2025.

PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships were established with major publishers, including Vietnam Education Publishing House, VEPIC, and several university publishing houses, to obtain raw digital copies of textbooks.

IMAGE PROCESSING

AI tools and input from teachers of the visually impaired were used to create descriptions for more than 5,000 images.

GRAPHIC CONVERSIONS

More than 650 images were recreated for tactile graphics suitable for Braille production.

PROCESS ENHANCEMENT

Workflow improvements included integrating Sao Mai Braille software with Mathpix services for better text and math recognition.

ACCESSIBILITY CONVERSIONS

Following Vietnam's ratification of the Marrakesh Treaty in early 2023, Organizations in Vietnam serving the visually impaired can work directly with publishers to obtain digital textbook files for accessible conversion. This activity involved collecting and organizing raw files from publishers and processing them into accessible formats.

A total of 315 textbook titles were successfully converted into accessible formats such as EPUB, DAISY, Braille BRF, Word DOCX, and Sao Mai Document (SMD).

DIGITAL LIBRARY PORTAL

A central digital library portal (the Vietnam Accessible Textbook Library Portal) with nationwide accessibility was developed, populated with data, and tested. The portal was introduced at a conference on February 28, 2025, and subsequently went officially live.

CHALLENGES

This project encountered two primary obstacles with image-based book files from publishers:

Inconsistent file formats. Some publishers provided image-based files instead of text-based files, which complicated the digital recognition and conversion process.

Complex visual layouts. Textbooks with complicated visual layouts and charts required a substantial effort, as the content had to be manually reorganized and effectively described.

Fortunately, since most files were shared as raw text-only data, these challenges didn't significantly affect this project's progress.

Conclusion

As Vietnam continues to roll out its reformed, multi-series textbook system, the tools, processes, and collaborations established through this project have ensured that students with visual impairments will not be left behind. The second year of the initiative is building on this momentum; see Vietnam's subsection of the Projects and Activities in Progress by Country portion of the report to learn more.

Myanmar

Project Title: Women Empowerment and Job Readiness

Project Overview

This project focused on improving text-to-speech services on Windows and Android devices, producing e-textbooks, and implementing a computer borrowing program.

UPGRADING TEXT TO SPEECH FOR ANDROID AND WINDOWS

Text-to-speech (TTS) is a critical tool for blind and visually impaired individuals to fully participate in society and access digital information. In Myanmar, money transfers continue to be one of the most difficult and critical challenges for the visually impaired. In light of this challenge, the project largely focused on upgrading the TTS system.

Results

- 130 successful word replacements
- 80 new/updated syllables
- 140 new Grapheme-to-Phoneme (G2P) words
- Expanded the system's ability to read numbers from 10 to 1,000
- Identified compatibility issues with the NVDA screen reader on Windows
- Removed English language support (as requested by user feedback)
- More than 10,000 system downloads

To support the further development of the TTS system, affordable user fees will be requested upon the upgraded release.

PRODUCING SCHOOL E-TEXTBOOKS

The bulk of this effort was shifted to the next term in order to focus on the TTS effort. However, the 2 English textbooks most requested by students were successfully produced: A textbook for Grade 8 and another for Grade 12. Students were provided with user training and computer support when they received the e-textbooks.

COMPUTER BORROWING PROGRAM

This effort successfully lent computers to three individuals: One woman and two men. The woman used the computer borrowing program to take basic courses, while one of the men took advanced courses to help him get a job at NGOs. The other man used the computer borrowing program to attend theology courses in pursuit of a Bachelors degree.

Conclusion

This project strengthened digital access, learning, and job readiness for visually impaired women in Myanmar, empowering them with new skills, resources, and opportunities for independence.

In-progress Projects & Activities by Country

Indonesia – Mitra Netra

Project Title: Provision of Accessible Books for the Blind

Project NO: SE-IN-03 92025)

Project Overview

This project is the continuation of Mitra Netra's efforts to provide accessible books for the blind and visually impaired. The project aims to help the visually impaired access Mitra Netra's books and also increase the availability of accessible reading materials.

Unlike previous years, this project began in July 2025 and will conclude in June 2026. This report provides an overview of the activities planned for this project.

MASTER DTB PRODUCTION

As previously mentioned, the Overbrook School for the Blind (OBS), through the ON-NET program, is the sole funder of DTB production. This support has been instrumental in sustaining the service to date.

The goal for this part of the project is to produce 750 reading hours of master DTB, which is estimated to cover about 100 book titles. Efforts are currently underway: Well-trained, highly skilled staff with extensive experience are working on DTB production in Mitra Netra's existing recording studios.

Each production involves at least two readers and one DAISY structure editor. The readers record themselves reading the printed books, while the DAISY structure editor creates the navigational heading structure in DAISY format, ensuring that it accurately reflects the original organization of the source book.

EPUB BOOK PRODUCTION

While the DTB production target is based on the number of reading hours, the EPUB production target is based on the number of completed book titles. The goal for this part of the project is to produce a total of 150 book titles (including textbooks, enrichment books, reference books, and novels) in EPUB 3 format.

EPUB production is currently being led by three Mitra Netra staff members equipped with training and experience in accessible book production. The process includes book scanning, proofreading/editing, structuring, compiling, and validating the content.

DTB AND EPUB BOOK DISTRIBUTION

All of the DTB and EPUB books produced during this project will be uploaded to the Mitra Netra's online library (www.pustaka.mitranetra.or.id) for access by members with an internet connection. A dedicated library administrator has taken responsibility for the maintenance and management of the online library.

Conclusion

This project will further expand reading opportunities for visually impaired individuals in Indonesia. Through the production and distribution of DTB and EPUB books, this project enhances access to reading materials and supports greater inclusion and independence for visually impaired users.

Philippines – Resources for the Blind, Inc. (RBI)

Project NO: SE-PH-2025

Project Overview

With support from the Overbrook School for the Blind (OSB), RBI is implementing this project's three major initiatives to improve educational access and digital inclusion for individuals with visual impairments in the Philippines.

This report provides an overview of the activities planned for this project. The project's overall efforts are focused on providing training to three target groups:

- Visually impaired junior and senior high school students with basic knowledge of using screen readers on computers and mobile devices
- Visually impaired resource and special education teachers who are serving elementary and secondary learners with visual disabilities in both Luzon and Mindanao region
- Visually impaired students, job seekers, and professionals who are seeking to transition into more relevant careers

ACCESSIBLE WINDOWS & MOBILE APPS TRAINING: FOR STUDENTS WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS (WITH PARENT/TEACHER INVOLVEMENT)

Junior and senior school students with visual impairments continue to face significant barriers in education due to the limited and inconsistent availability of accessible learning materials.

Providing training in accessible Windows and mobile applications is helping to bridge these gaps. Students are learning how to use digital tools to convert files into accessible formats, describe images, and access online resources such as accessible libraries.

By building these skills across both computer and mobile platforms, students are able to study at their own pace in ways that match their learning styles and abilities. Over time, these competencies will foster greater independence, improve academic performance, and better prepare them for higher education and future employment.

There are four training sessions planned that focus on hands-on, practical use of accessible apps and tools on computers and mobile devices:

- Ten pairs of participants from the Visayas, each consisting of a student and a parent or teacher (two sessions)
- Ten pairs of participants from Mindanao, each consisting of a student and a parent or teacher (two sessions)

This effort (Training in Accessible Windows and Mobile Apps for Junior and Senior High Students with Visual Impairments with Parent/Teacher Involvement) is currently underway, and is expected to conclude in May of 2026.

MASTERING ACCESSIBLE DOCUMENTS TRAINING: FOR TEACHERS WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS

Under the release of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) for Republic Act No. 11650, which is also known as the Inclusive Education Act, the education system in the Philippines is becoming more inclusive. Effective as of January 11, 2025, the IRR Act requires schools to provide assistive services and accessible learning materials for students with disabilities.

The IRR Act highlights the urgent need to equip today's special education teachers—particularly those with visual impairments—with the skills needed to create accessible digital educational materials like text documents, presentations, and spreadsheets. These skills empower the teachers to deliver content effectively, promote student independence, and enhance academic outcomes.

To support this project effort, RBI and its partners plan to conduct 2 three-day training programs for visually impaired teachers:

- 15 participants from the Luzon region, held in Luzon
- 15 participants from the Mindanao region, held in Mindanao

These trainings bring together special-needs educators with visual impairments and help them connect and build a network for sharing accessible educational resources. The trainings also help position the participating teachers as advocates for inclusive, accessible education in their regions.

This effort (Mastering Accessible Documents: A Regional Training for Teachers with Visual Impairment) is currently underway, and is expected to conclude in June of 2026.

COMPUTER-EYES TRAINING: FOR STUDENTS AND ADULTS WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS

Since its inception, RBI's Computer-Eyes Training Program has equipped visually impaired individuals with the essential technology skills needed to navigate the digital world, promote independence, and enhance career readiness.

Past participants have included students at all levels, job seekers, adults transitioning into new careers, and individuals adjusting to recent vision loss. However, RBI is currently expanding the program's reach by prioritizing participants from underserved or remote areas where access to computer literacy training is limited or nonexistent.

To strengthen and sustain this effort, RBI is developing partnerships with key stakeholders, including the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), Local Government Units (LGUs), and the National Council on Disability Affairs

(NCDA). Through these collaborations, RBI is hoping to inspire similar initiatives that equip visually impaired Filipinos with the skills and confidence needed to fully engage in education, employment, and daily life.

There are 3 two-week training sessions planned that focus on using NVDA screen readers, Microsoft applications, Google productivity tools, and website navigation:

- 10-20 participants from the Luzon region
- 10-20 participants from the Visayas region
- 10-20 participants from the Mindanao region

This effort (Mastering Accessible Documents: A Regional Training for Teachers with Visual Impairment) is currently underway, and is expected to conclude in June of 2026.

Conclusion

As technology continues to evolve at a rapid pace, it is essential that blind and visually impaired individuals are equipped with the tools and skills to adapt and thrive. Today, the Computer-Eyes Training Program represents a symbol of hope, empowerment, and opportunity for those who have long been excluded from the digital sphere.

Vietnam – Sao Mai Center for the Blind

Project Title: Vietnamese Accessible Books Production and Free Cross-platform E-book Web Reader App

Project NO: SE-VN-2025

Project Overview

This project is the second part of the two-year initiative previously introduced. For clarification, see the table below.

Project Title	Applicable Part of Two-Year Initiative	Project Dates
Accessible Textbook Library Portal for Visually Impaired Students in Vietnam	First year	July 2024 – April 2025
Vietnamese Accessible Books Production and Free Cross-platform E-book Web Reader App	Second year	August 2025 – June 2026

This project is designed to address the needs of visually impaired students following Vietnam's recent education reforms. The project's primary goals involve:

- Completing the conversion and production of the remaining 287 (of the total 602) textbooks into accessible formats
- Developing and releasing a web-based, cross-platform accessible e-book reader application that's fully integrated with the Vietnam Accessible Textbook Library Portal
- Sharing the outcomes from this project

COMPLETING ACCESSIBLE TEXTBOOK PRODUCTION

This will involve various activities such as:

- Collecting and organizing raw files from publishers and processing them into accessible formats
- Using Sao Mai Graphics Editor software to edit and convert raw images into tactile image formats suitable for electronic access
- Using AI and input from teachers of the visually impaired to recognize and describe images in the textbooks
- Using AI tools to assist in scanning and recognizing mathematical expressions, which will then be reviewed and edited by teachers using Sao Mai Braille software
- Formatting documents according to accessibility standards to produce multiple electronic formats
- Converting all textbooks into accessible formats, including Sao Mai Braille Document (SMD), Word (DOCX), EPUB3, DAISY, and BRF (electronic Braille)
- Uploading and distributing accessible textbooks on the Vietnam Accessible Textbook Library portal

DEVELOPING A READER APPLICATION

As demand for distribution of accessible materials grows, many publishers have emphasized the need for an end-to-end, secure reading solution. This software solution will provide visually impaired users with secure, seamless access to materials while meeting publishers' copyright requirements. The application will be designed for easy integration by other organizations and libraries, which will ultimately help expand the repository of accessible content.

This effort entails designing and implementing a cross-platform, accessible e-book web reader that supports three main reading modules: Text, math, and music. This will involve various activities such as:

- Designing the user interface and data structure
- Developing the test reading module
- Integrating and packing the math reading module
- Integrating and packing the music reading module
- Testing, fixing bugs, and implementing software enhancements

BARRIER-FREE TEXTBOOK ACCESSIBILITY EVENT

A national event is scheduled for April of 2026 to share the outcomes of this two-year initiative with representatives from educational institutions, libraries supporting the visually impaired, and media agencies.

Conclusion

This project represents an important step toward improving educational access for visually impaired students in Vietnam. Producing nationally approved, accessible textbooks empowers schools to choose their books from a broader selection of textbook series, and developing a user-friendly e-book reader application provides visually impaired individuals with further options to access and consume content.

Cambodia – Krousar Thmey

Project Title: Capacity Building of the National Institute for Special Education (NISE) Trainers and Teachers of Special High School for Visually Impaired Children

Project NO: SE-CA-2025

Project Overview

Krousar Thmey is working to further enable the integration of underprivileged children into Cambodian society through education and support tailored to their needs, while respecting their traditions and beliefs.

This project aims to enhance the skills of National Institute for Special Education (NISE) trainers and special-needs educators, empowering them to better meet the educational needs of visually impaired students at special education schools in Cambodia.

ICT CAPACITY BUILDING FOR COMPUTER TEACHERS AT SPECIAL EDUCATION SCHOOLS

This effort focuses on strengthening the skills of computer teachers at special schools so they can better support visually impaired students using Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

This training will help teachers apply inclusive educational practices and better prepare them to integrate technology into their classrooms in ways that are both effective and inclusive for all learners. The curriculum covers practical tools, techniques, and best practices for effectively teaching ICT to visually impaired students at all academic levels.

The five-day training will be held in Battambang for a total of 17 participants:

- 3 special education teachers from Battambang
- 3 special education teachers from Phnom Penh Thmey
- 3 special education teachers from Siem Reap
- 3 special education teachers from Kampong Cham
- 5 NISE members

Through this effort, Krousar Thmey is working towards a more inclusive education system that can meet the varied needs of visually impaired students.

BRaille PRINTER USE AND REPAIR TRAINING FOR TECHNICAL TEACHERS AT SPECIAL EDUCATION SCHOOLS

For visually impaired students in Cambodia, braille learning materials are not always readily available due to a general lack of printers and trained administrators. Instead, students often face extremely delayed access to braille resources. In 2024, the Ministry of Education acquired four new braille printers for the four special education schools currently serving visually impaired students. To ensure visually impaired students have consistent access to braille materials, these printers must be used properly and kept in good condition.

This effort focuses on training teachers at special education schools to effectively operate, maintain, and repair braille printer machines. The training will provide the technical skills teachers need to independently support their school's use of the braille printer, and covers topics like:

- Mechanics of braille printers
- Troubleshooting common issues
- Regular maintenance procedures
- Basic repair techniques

The training will also prepare teachers to share and spread these skills within their own schools, and is intended to empower these institutions to effectively serve their visually impaired students without being hindered by technical difficulties related to braille production equipment.

This five-day training is supported by two skilled technicians based out of NISE, and will be held in Siem Reap for a total of 17 participants:

- 3 special education teachers from Battambang
- 3 special education teachers from Phnom Penh Thmey
- 3 special education teachers from Siem Reap
- 3 special education teachers from Kampong Cham
- 5 NISE members

This effort is spreading knowledge about braille machine maintenance across the special education sector, which will increase the availability of braille learning materials for visually impaired students.

PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL MATH METHODOLOGIES TRAINING FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHERS TO SUPPORT VISUALLY IMPAIRED STUDENTS

This effort ensures that teachers from NISE and special schools are adequately trained and equipped to teach Mathematics to visually impaired students across both primary and secondary school levels.

The training provides special education teachers with the skills needed to adapt traditional mathematics teaching strategies, materials, and assessment methods to effectively meet the unique needs of visually impaired students. Teachers learn about the importance of individualized instruction and techniques for effectively assessing the progress of visually impaired students.

The four-day training is designed for a total of 33 participants:

- 8 trainers from NISE
- 25 special education teachers from various primary and secondary schools and inclusive classes

This effort is preparing special education teachers to better provide accessible, engaging, and effective mathematics instruction for visually impaired students, which ultimately supports their academic success and personal growth.

Conclusion

Together, these project efforts build a strong foundation for special education schools by improving classroom practices, increasing access to braille learning materials, and ensuring that teachers are prepared to meet the diverse needs of visually impaired

learners. These efforts are supporting greater independence, academic success, and inclusion for visually impaired students throughout Cambodia.