

# Rise Up and Read

!!!!The Library is Open!!!!

Reynosa, Mexico

5/2023

I am excited to share photos from the opening of the **Rise Up and Read** library in Reynosa, Mexico. It was a hit! Kids flocked to the library, read, shared and traded books. Exactly what we hoped for.





By getting books into the hands of kids and empowering parents to support attachment through shared reading, we can help support literacy and combat the impact of toxic stress. We also remind these children and families that they are not forgotten.

### Books:

Thanks to donations we were able to fill the library shelves with books in French, Creole and Spanish. We were thoughtful to include books for all ages from toddlers to picture books to early readers to chapter books.

All were popular, especially the beautiful comics in Creole created by graphic artist Thony Loui. Thony's generous donation was thrilling for the kids. This is the first comic book in Creole and the kids were excited to see images that reflected themselves.

More about Thony: <https://www.thonyloui.com>





**More about the library design:** How do you design a library in a refugee camp?

Rise Up and Read has been lucky to work with Global Design Initiative and Solidarity Engineering to design and build this flexible library. Our goal has always been to use locally sourced, easy to find and repurposed materials.

We had to consider factors including temperature extremes, need for flexible spaces, shade and retain the ability to move the library as needed. The library also needs to appeal to all ages from toddlers to teens.

At the end of many creative conversations, we settled upon the following flexible library design:

- Shelving:
  - Independent shelving units that open and close- creating shelving for books in addition to wall space. Each shelf (we build three) can extend for a full 10 feet of shelving. We included space for small board books, large picture books and more traditional chapter books. The design allows us to move the shelves and create different spaces as needed.



- Seating:
  - The seating was created by painted tires bolted together with wooden seats. The fun colors are welcoming. The round edges are safe for small children and toddlers. All the tires used were repurposed- instead of going into landfill they are being used.



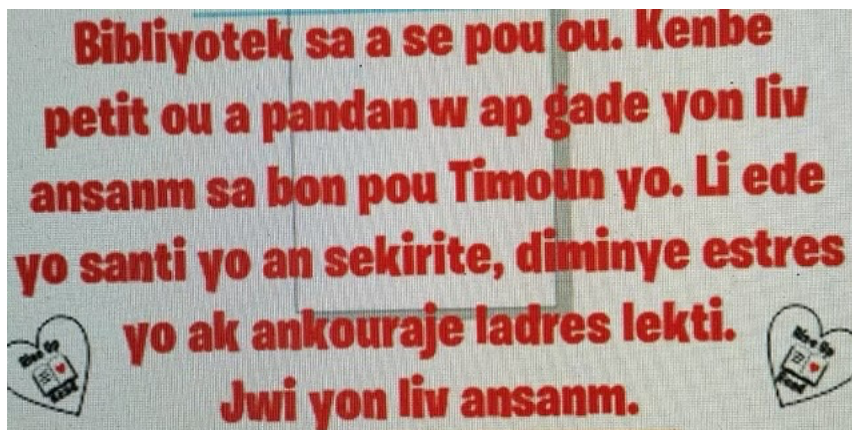
- Canopy:
  - With temperatures routinely above 100F in the summer and no natural shade, a roof or awning is essential. Global Design Initiative created and built a beautiful sail cloth canopy that now covers the playground and the library space.



### Reading prescription:

Our goal has always been to link literacy with attachment to combat the impact of toxic stress and to support literacy. We have worked with the refugee population to create reading prescriptions in the three main languages in the camp: Spanish, French, and Creole. The reading prescription is on the wall.

### Reading prescription in Creole:



*(Translation: This library is for you. Hold your little one while looking through a book together. Its great for kids and helps them feel safe, reduces stress, and encourages reading. Enjoy a book together.)*