In honor of Dr. Bob Laubach and his father, Dr. Frank Laubach, ProLiteracy has chosen to center the Dr. Robert S. Laubach Publishing & Innovation Fund’s first project on *Laubach Way to Reading*. Over the next two years, ProLiteracy plans to digitize native language literacy materials and adapt *Laubach Way to Reading*, the best-selling New Readers Press reading and writing series, for use with adults all over the world, beginning with the Arabic language.

**Project 1: Laubach Way to Reading**

Updating and digitizing *Laubach Way to Reading* will allow ProLiteracy to reach a large number of low-literate adults (goal is 1 million annually) by providing quality adult learner content through today’s technology. Creating digital versions of *Laubach Way to Reading* in Arabic will tackle two major problems:

1. the lack of materials for many of our literacy partners
2. the lack of teacher training

For example, in South Sudan, which has one of the lowest literacy rates in the world, only 60 percent of teachers are trained. The systematic instructions in the *Laubach Way to Reading* teacher’s edition and the illustrated student book will equip teachers with the tools they need to educate adults.

**Why Arabic?** Arabic is the fifth most commonly spoken language in the world. The Arab League Educational, Cultural, and Scientific Organization (ALECSO) states that the illiteracy rate in Arab countries exceeds 19 percent; that is nearly 97 million people. Of the 22 Arabic-speaking countries, we will focus on the five with the lowest literacy rates for women, starting with Morocco and Egypt. Literacy rates, especially for the adult population of women in the Arab region, are among the lowest in the world.
Project 2: Digitization of Native Language Literacy Materials

Due to the demand for low-level native language literacy material, and the research that has shown that English is easier to learn if students are literate in a native language, the second project will focus on digitizing Dr. Frank Laubach’s archived literacy manuals. Programs and learners around the world deserve easier access to these materials, which we will provide through mobile phone and tablet platforms free of charge. The manuals are available in over 50 languages, so the process will take a minimum of 12 months and will be ongoing.

For more information, head to Proliteracy.org/Laubach-Update