



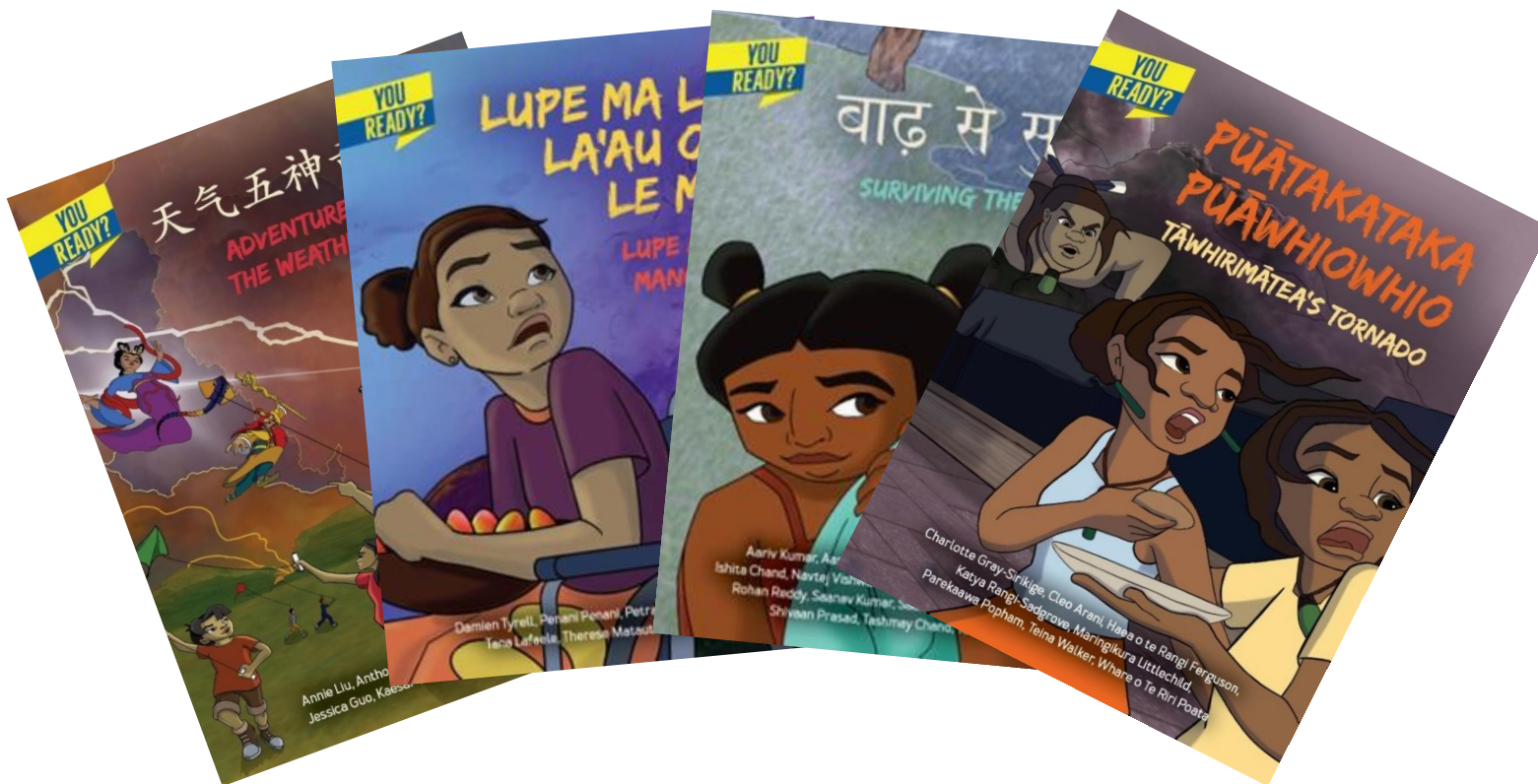
Auckland Emergency Management

Tokonga Mate Ohotata o Tāmaki Makaurau

Phase 2: Multi-lingual children's storybook – storms and floods

CDEM Resilience Fund Project

July 2024



Acknowledgements:

The project was developed by Auckland Emergency Management and funded by the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) through the Resilience Fund.

This report was prepared by Rebecca Long (Senior Education and Youth Advisor, Auckland Emergency Management).

We'd also like to acknowledge all the student narrators who helped to create these stories and the project team who supported with all the deliverables to get the audiobooks completed.

Contents

Acknowledgements:.....	2
1.0 Background:	4
2.0 Project Focus:	5
3.0 Project Deliverables:	5
3.1 E-books.....	5
3.2 Animation, Narration and Sound Effects of audiobooks.....	5
3.3 Website Integration.....	6
4.0 Project Management:	6
4.1 Budget and Expenditure	6
5.0 Challenges:	6
6.0 On-going Costs:	6
7.0 Final Comments:	7

1.0 Background:

Auckland Emergency Management (AEM) recognise children and young people as one of the groups that can be disproportionately affected by emergencies. As children and young people are agents of change, this makes them not only future leaders, but current leaders to influence and encourage their families, schools, peers and others on the importance of emergency preparedness.

This project relates to the National Disaster Resilience Strategy (NDRS) priority of enabling, empowering and supporting community resilience: specifically objectives 13, 14 and 18. These objectives link to enabling and empowering individuals, households, organisations and businesses as well as cultivating an environment for social connectedness in our communities through the engagement and design process. The project builds on the engagement with multiple cultural groups beliefs, values and stories to complete the children's audiobooks about severe weather events.

Auckland Emergency Management has also recently published their 2024-2029 Group Plan, with one of the actions being to 'Partner with community organisations supporting those communities that may be disproportionately impacted by disasters, to support their preparedness for emergencies.' Working with children and young people is one of the disproportionately affected communities that AEM support of which links directly to this action in the Group Plan, as well as those communities that speak English as their second language. The the audiobooks will not only support our children's understanding of weather events, but parents and grandparents of our communities.

Following the development of phase 1, this project wanted to include the original children who helped to write and develop the initial storybooks, so they were invited back to be the voice narrators of the audiobooks. Phase 2 of this project provides children further accessibility to these books as the initial stepping stones to develop their knowledge and skills to influence their environment as they grow.

With phase 1 of the storybooks being successful since they were launched in October 2023, building the ways our young people can access these books is crucial to ensure that all tamariki can experience these books and learn about what to do during different severe weather events.

2.0 Project Focus:

The focus of this work is to further develop the phase 1 multi-lingual children's storybooks into audiobooks so that they are available to our wider children and young people population.

The final outcome of phase 2 of these storybooks is to create a multi-purpose e-learning resource in key languages (Hindi, Chinese, Samoan, Te Reo and English) that teaches our tamariki about what to do before and during flood and storm events.

3.0 Project Deliverables:

3.1 E-books

The first part of this project was to convert the storybooks into a series of e-books which are compatible with various e-readers and are able to be shared with the Auckland Libraries team to be a part of the online collection.

Data NZ was the company that Auckland Emergency Management engaged to convert the storybooks.

Some difficulties with the conversions did occur due to the requirements needed with the image conversion and text conversion. We wanted to ensure that the user experience of the e-book was effective and clear. This required some slight modifications to the Hindi e-book as the text language was not something that could be easily converted. The decision was made to convert this book as full images as opposed to images and text so that we could ensure the true and correct language was used for this book.

These e-books are now available through the Auckland Council Libraries system (Libby) but the e-pub files can be shared with other council's and libraries around the country to have on their own online reading systems.

3.2 Animation, Narration and Sound Effects of audiobooks

Kurawaka Production Limited, who were the main developers of the original storybooks characters are also a full production company that can also produce animation, narration and sound effects. Kurawaka Production Limited initially designed the storybooks with the animation of characters and backgrounds in mind, the company also had an existing relationship with the children who wrote the books, it was deemed that they were the most appropriate to take these storybooks into phase 2.

There was some investigation into other companies that could individually produce the narration and sound effects or complete the animation separately. This process would have required multiple contracts to complete the project and likely been over budget with multiple suppliers. This supported the decision to continue working with Kurawaka Production Limited.

The sound effects that AEM wanted to be incorporated into the books were around the weather sounds on each page, to bring each page to life and get children to learn more about weather and its effects.

AEM reached out to the students of each of the four different groups to invite them back to be the narrators of each book to continue the 'by children for children' process that we followed for phase 1. Two children were approached from each of the groups to narrate both the English version and the language of their chosen book (Hindi, Samoan, Te Reo, Chinese). The children, along with their teachers came to Kurawaka Production Limited to record their voices for each of the books.

Kurawaka Productions also created the base code for integration to AEM’s website which is where the audiobooks are to be hosted. Some issues were identified by the Auckland Council web team for this integration, and they are working through this to ensure a seamless user experience prior to user testing being conducted.

3.3 Website Integration

When this project was initiated, it was originally thought that a separate platform on the AEM website would need to be created to support the audiobooks as online books. However, coinciding with this project, was a separate project driven by AEM to update and upgrade the AEM website www.aucklandemergencymanagement.co.nz.

With this coinciding update, the audiobook project was be incorporated into the wider upgrade of AEM’s website upgrade. The website upgrade is due to be user tested and completed by the end of September 2024. This upgrade will see a unique kids ready page which will be the location AEM hosts the audiobooks.

4.0 Project Management:

Auckland Emergency Management was responsible for the administration of the contracts.

The project was delivered on time and in budget.

4.1 Budget and Expenditure

Budget	Expenditure	Comment
\$43,000		Source: National Emergency Management Agency Resilience Fund
	\$41,895	Audio, Animation and Narration
	\$456	E-Book development
	\$42,351.00	Total Expenditure

5.0 Challenges:

While the main development of the e-book and audiobook had little to no challenges, there were some concerns around the compatibility of the audiobooks on AEM’s website.

A specific code was developed by both Kurawaka Productions Limited and AEM’s web team Effect to ensure a seamless user experience with the audiobooks. As AEM is in the process of reviewing and updating our website, this will give us the chance to ensure the user experience through compatibility and user testing before the whole website is relaunched later in the year.

6.0 On-going Costs:

This project was completed within budget and there is no expected ongoing costs associated with this audio book development project.

As the audiobooks are hosted on Auckland Emergency Management’s website, on-going maintenance of the website to ensure these books remain accessible via AEM’s website will be provided by Auckland Emergency Management’s website contractor. It is expected that there will be maintenance costs associated with this, but these have been accounted for in the Departments operating (OPEX) budget, outside of the main audiobook project.

7.0 Final Comments:

Auckland Emergency Management will continue to support children and young people to prepare for emergencies through the promotion and engagement of these audiobooks across the rohe.

The project has contributed to both households and the local community building their knowledge of storms and floods and bringing in cultural knowledge and understanding of what to do in these situations.

The e-books are available to read on Auckland Libraries reading app Libby and the audiobooks will be available on Auckland Emergency Management's website.