Many local language communities are multilingual. In addition, some want to communicate in the national language and possibly also in an international language. Multilingual education programs (MLE) promote first-language literacy skills, providing the means to meet broader multilingual goals. Successful MLE enables mother-tongue speakers of non-dominant languages to build a culturally and linguistically appropriate educational foundation in their home language first. Then they can successfully use that foundation as a bridge to one or more additional languages. MLE provides the opportunities for lifelong learning in the local as well as national and international languages.