



Promoting every  
child's right to read

## READING GHANA 2021-22 PROGRAM BRIEF

*"My grandmother didn't go to school because in those days, that is what happened. My mother finished junior high school, but I will go even further.... I want to be a doctor."*

-Whyteline, 12-year-old student at Kengiago School - a CODE project school

## THE CHALLENGE BEFORE US

The need for investment in children's literacy in Ghana is clear and compelling.

Nearly 40% of the poorest youth in the country are illiterate and national exams showed that on average only 24% of Grade 6 students in rural areas are proficient in English (the national language) - including in reading and writing.

This is compounded by the fact that nearly 40% of primary school teachers in Ghana have no teaching qualifications.

At CODE, we see these issues up close in the schools where we work. We see students struggling to learn the alphabet or dropping out because they cannot master foundational literacy skills. We see classroom walls that are bare and students with no books with which to learn to read. We see teachers struggling to engage their students but not sure how to do that.

We know that the need is great, and believe that skilled teachers equipped with great books is a critical place to start.

We hope that you will consider joining us as an investor in our *Reading Ghana* program this year!

## WE KNOW THIS PLACE

CODE has been working in Ghana with our current partner, the Ghana Book Trust, since 1990. Over the past 10 years alone, we have helped to improve the learning outcomes of over 47,000 boys and girls at 129 schools through provision of over 300,000 high quality locally-authored children's books and the training of nearly 700 teachers.

In the process, we've acquired unique and in-depth national and regional knowledge while building lasting partnerships with a range of government and civil society allies. We have an in-depth understanding of the need, the on-the-ground realities and the solutions that are so urgently needed to help address the education crisis in this country.

We have an entirely achievable strategy, and the tools, techniques, contacts and partnerships to deliver on our promise to the students and teachers of Ghana's Ashanti Region. What we need are the financial resources to succeed.

## AN OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

CODE's *Reading Ghana* program aims to improve the literacy skills of upper-primary (Grade 4 - 6) and lower-junior high school students, by building the skills competencies of educators, as well as inspiring the love of reading through distribution of locally-authored books and extra-curricular activities.

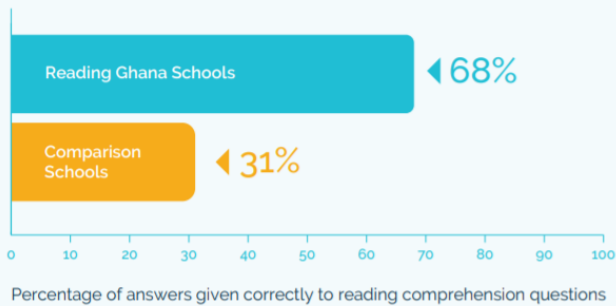
The program, which has just entered its sixth year, was designed in consultation with many local stakeholders, including schools, communities, district education authorities and CODE's local partner, the Ghana Book Trust.

CODE supporters who are investing in this program are making a real difference in the lives of children far less fortunate than our own. This difference is evidenced by CODE's monitoring and evaluation efforts, which measure the progress of students at CODE project schools against those at comparison schools. Our most current analysis showed, for example, that reading comprehension at *Reading Ghana* junior-high schools was more than double that of students at comparison schools. (see next page)





## READING COMPREHENSION



The complete impact dashboard for *Reading Ghana* can be found at: [www.code.ngo/ghana\\_impact](http://www.code.ngo/ghana_impact)

## OUR PLANS THIS YEAR - HOW YOU CAN HELP

This year, we invite you to help us provide a total of 176 educators with an opportunity to hone their literacy instruction skills by participating in CODE's multi-day literacy instruction workshops.

The training workshops (a total of 10 days of instruction) will heavily emphasize reading and listening comprehension and critical thinking; developing English vocabulary; reading fluency; writing, as well as phonics. Instructional strategies learned in the workshops will be further reinforced through in-class mentoring visits by our lead-trainers. Naturally, some changes to the workshop format needed to be made in order to abide by health and safety regulations during COVID-19.

We believe all children learn best when they have access to reading materials that are relatable, interesting, and easy to understand, so CODE will ensure the provision of high quality and culturally-relevant books to project schools.

We aim to distribute nearly 5,000 colourful, age-appropriate children's books to 44 schools this year to help them continue building their "school libraries." Also we will distribute a variety of teaching aids and posters to ensure that the teachers in our program are well-equipped to effectively implement new literacy instruction strategies in their classrooms.

The *Reading Ghana* books reflect a wide range of interests and issues including gender, disability, the environment, health, and, traditional folklore. In all cases, they are locally authored and illustrated, reflecting local content that children can relate to and get excited about.

Many of the schools that we work with are desperately overcrowded and simply do not have space for reading corners or small libraries, in those cases we will provide book boxes for safe storage. However, those that do have sufficient space for reading corners or libraries (a total of 6 schools this year) will receive basic library furniture including shelves, tables and chairs.

This year, with schools back in session following nearly a year of COVID-related school closures, we are excited to resume visits of the Book Mobile operated by the Ghana Library Authority and the hosting of reading competitions in participating schools.

## PARTNERING FOR SUSTAINABILITY

CODE's experience in Ghana, and indeed throughout Africa, incontrovertibly shows that sustained improvement is only possible through a long-term, integrated approach focused on building trust and partnerships, supported by field-tested and proven methodologies.

To deliver lasting results, we work within the framework of the Ghana National Education Plan. At the macro-level, we analyze the political, economic and social context of the countries and regions we operate in and work with our implementing partners to develop programs designed to create sustainable change.

The Ghana Book Trust, CODE's local partner organization, is central to the success of our work in Ghana. Their extensive knowledge of local issues and solid history of working side by side with local communities are essential elements contributing to the successful implementation of the program and its sustainability.



## THE COST AND OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU

Although life can be heart-breakingly difficult for the students we aim to support through this program, we believe in their tremendous potential! We hope you do too. In the short term, your investment will help these children improve their literacy skills through access to books and well-trained teachers, but in the long term it could be the launchpad for a new generation of high school graduates, entrepreneurs and community leaders.

The budget for this year (2021-2022) of the *Reading Ghana* program is \$256,530 and the program is made possible exclusively through gifts from family foundations and individual supporters like you. As of September we have raised 48% of funds required for this year's activities, so regardless of your decision, we are deeply appreciative that you have taken the time to read and consider this brief proposal.

If you choose to invest, we will direct 100% of your gift toward the *Reading Ghana* program, and report back to you next summer with both a narrative and financial report demonstrating the work we were able to accomplish with your support.



**"Medaase" - Thank you for helping us build school environments that give children a fighting chance to read, learn and grow into self-reliant citizens. We couldn't do this work without you!**



In partnership with  
**Canada**

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