Building Teaching Skills in Foundational Literacy

One of the greatest predictors of learning outcomes, including a child's ability to read, is the quality of teaching. So, we are excited to share that our teacher training programs continue to gain incredible momentum!

Earlier this fall, CODE delivered an intensive 8-day training program for nearly 2,000 primary school teachers representing 500 schools across 11 chiefdoms in Sierra Leone. The program was delivered in close collaboration with UNICEF, Global Partnership for Education and the Teacher Service Commission, to name a few.

The program helped teachers learn instructional practices that are research-based and student-centered. And through the provision of books and teaching guides, we are helping participating teachers transfer their new strategies and skills into their classrooms.

With an estimated 39% of teachers in Sierra Leone lacking formal teaching qualifications, this type of professional development opportunity is both urgently needed and deeply appreciated. And, above all, it helps more children learn to read.

At CODE we believe in the power of great books and great teachers to unleash children's potential, and we're so grateful to have you as a partner in this important work!

"Beyond any other school-based factor, teacher effectiveness has been found to be the most important predictor of student learning."

-GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR EDUCATION
The Girls' Accelerated Learning Initiative (GALI) may be one of CODE's smaller projects, but it’s delivering an out-sized impact in the lives of hundreds of girls and women in Liberia every year! And it’s all made possible by donors like you.

Results from our most recent cohort of GALI girls are in! 77% were promoted two grade levels in one year and the balance were promoted one grade. Equally important, 99% said the program helped them “feel more confident and stronger,” and 100% of participants now know how to prevent pregnancy (baseline 74%).

Your support has helped girls like Fatu (above far left) who at the age of 12 was sitting in a Grade 3 classroom. She was floundering and failing, and the possibility of dropping out of school was all too real. Living with her illiterate grandmother, Fatu lacked support at home and felt little motivation to apply herself in her studies. This all changed when she was invited to join the GALI. Her GALI teacher, Saita, helped her learn to study and pass. “That’s really when I became serious about school,” says Fatu. She is now in Grade 7 and is determined to become a nurse.

The program also provides female teachers (who are poorly represented in the education sector) with enhanced skills and confidence:

"The training has helped us in all aspects of our lives, in GALI, in our regular classes, in our church and in the community. We have the confidence now to encourage parents to send their children to school. We have completely changed our approach in our classrooms."

-Dorothy, GALI Teacher (far right in photo)