CODE’s Girls’ Accelerated Learning Initiative (GALI) in Liberia provides an intensive after-school program for teenage girls in early grades (Grades 1-4) to accelerate their learning and develop life skills. The program places a heavy emphasis on improving foundational literacy skills.

Reading assessment results for a 6-month period (Dec 2021 to June 2022) demonstrate the effectiveness of the program. Girls in Grades 1-3 in the GALI program showed greater improvement on all 8 measures of literacy tested when compared to girls not in the program. For example, 87% of girls in GALI showed improvement in phonemic awareness as compared to 68% of girls not in the program.

The focus of the assessment for Grade 4 was on students’ reading levels. A substantial number of GALI students made gains in their reading levels from the baseline to endline, surpassing the program's target of 85%.

Only 38% of girls in comparison schools improved their reading levels, with half staying the same and some falling behind. No girls in GALI lost ground in their reading level, an achievement when considering the challenging pandemic-related circumstances of these past school years.

Reading assessment data was collected from a total of 25 Liberian primary schools (N.223 girls) where GALI is currently being implemented as well as 4 comparison schools (N.125 girls) in the same region. Data collection, quality control and analysis were overseen by CODE’s and WE CARE Foundation’s program managers and monitoring and evaluation specialists contracted for this purpose.