



Especially for you –
because you care
about empowering
kids through reading



THE CODE READER: Your Gifts in Action

code.ngo | Winter 2026

OVER 60,000 BOOKS, COUNTLESS STORIES: YOUR IMPACT ARRIVES IN SIERRA LEONE AND LIBERIA

Picture a girl in a classroom in rural Liberia. She's holding a book with a bright cover, and when she opens it, the story inside could be about her neighbour, her village, the market where her mother sells vegetables. The illustrations show faces that look like hers. The rhythm of the language feels like the stories her grandmother tells. For the first time, reading feels like coming home.

We're thrilled to share that, in partnership with TALLE and the WE-CARE Foundation, more than 60,000 brand-new reading anthologies have just been delivered to schools, libraries and teacher training institutes in Liberia and Sierra Leone as part of the *Teaching and Learning in Fragile Contexts* (TLFC) program. These books were made possible by your support, together with funding from Global Affairs Canada and UNIFOR SJF.

Every one of the 12 new books contains more than 60 pages of engaging, curriculum-aligned stories written by local authors who understand the hearts and minds of the children reading them. The illustrations showcase local culture, the narratives reflect familiar experiences, and every page invites young readers to see themselves as part of the story. These books will not only help kids learn to read but also spark a love of books and reading that wasn't there before.

These books arrive at a pivotal moment, as the TLFC midline results just revealed that the teaching methods



CODE/Hickmatu Leigh, 2025

Thanks to you, more than 60,000 anthologies filled with local stories and illustrations have just reached students across Sierra Leone and Liberia. Here you can see that they're already being put to good use!

and materials you've been supporting are working. In Sierra Leone, overall literacy among Grade 2 students in TLFC schools jumped from 31% to 46% in just 24 months.

In Liberia, reading comprehension scores skyrocketed from 14% to 72% among participating second graders.

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Before your kindness, children struggled to sound out simple words. Now they read entire sentences with understanding. There are teachers who, after receiving TLFC training you helped fund, transformed their classrooms with new reading strategies. Today, 89% of TLFC-trained Grade 2 teachers in Sierra Leone and nearly half in Liberia use these evidence-based methods to support their students on their reading journeys.

And now, because of your continued generosity, these teachers have 60,000 new reasons to keep that momentum going. These anthologies, developed for 6 different reading levels, give them the tools to build on the progress they've already made, reaching even more students who are ready to discover the joy of reading.

As these books find their way into eager hands across Sierra Leone and Liberia, we want you to know that you're not just a donor. You're truly a partner in transformation. You're helping write a new chapter in the lives of thousands of children, one where they see themselves in the stories they read and begin to imagine the stories they'll write for themselves.

Thank you for making this possible. Thank you for believing in the power of literacy. And thank you for standing with us as we continue to bring reading to life in some of the world's most challenging contexts.



IMPACT REPORT 2024-2025

Discover CODE's newly released 2024-25 Annual Impact Report and Audited Financial Statements, now available in an interactive online format. Discover the difference your support has driven this year: code.ngo/accountability

LEADERSHIP UPDATE

Please join us in welcoming Brenda Okorogba and Nancy Marchiotti to the CODE Board of Directors, and Katarina Gustafsson to the CODE Foundation Board. We thank Bruce Montador and Aliou Sow for their many years of dedicated service as board members – their valuable contributions and leadership will be missed.

Learn more: code.ngo/people

Kadijatu celebrates earning her training certificate. With mentorship and training made possible by supporters like you, she's now equipped to inspire and educate students throughout her career in Sierra Leone.



TEACHER PROFILE: KADIJATU IN SIERRA LEONE

Sierra Leone desperately needs more qualified women teachers who can be role models and advocates for girls' education. Thanks to you, teachers like Kadijatu are helping fill that void.

When Kadijatu walked into teachers' college, she was determined and motivated, but also nervous about whether she had what it takes to truly make a difference in the lives of her students. Could she really become the teacher her future students would need? Would she know how to reach children who struggled?

It was the support she received after teachers' college that she says is the cornerstone of her transformation. Your kindness doesn't just help teachers like Kadijatu gain their qualifications; it provides mentoring and support at each step of their journey.

Because of you, Kadijatu didn't face the students alone during her practicum sessions in local schools. Experienced mentors guided her through the content, practical tools, and strategies to help students learn and grow.

Thanks to you, she practiced with culturally relevant teaching materials. She learned how to reach students at different learning and reading levels. She discovered what it really takes to help children learn to read.

The project, she said, came into her life at the perfect time, "transforming not just my abilities but my belief in myself."

The difference a qualified teacher makes is concrete. Teachers with strong training create classrooms where children actually learn to read, write, and think critically. When girls see a confident woman like Kadijatu teaching, they begin to imagine that future for themselves.

Today, Kadijatu stands in front of her own classroom as a motivated, self-reliant, innovative teacher. She knows how to help her students succeed because you invested in helping her succeed first. Thank you for helping make Kadijatu's transformation possible.

YOUR TRUST, VALIDATED: CODE RECOGNIZED FOR IMPACT AND EXCELLENCE

When you choose to support CODE, you're trusting us to use your donation wisely and create real change. That means the world to us, and it's why we're thrilled to share that CODE has once again been named to Charity Intelligence's Top 10 International Impact Charities of 2025, earned a 5-star rating, and been recognized as a Top 100 charity in Canada.

And now, we're also proud to share that CODE has earned accreditation through Imagine Canada's Standards Program, a respected national benchmark for strong governance, financial accountability, and ethical fundraising. This recognition reinforces what matters

most: your generosity is managed with transparency, integrity and the highest level of care.

We don't take this for granted. Every recognition represents a commitment we make to you and to the children we serve. We promise to continue operating with transparency, measuring our impact rigorously, and ensuring that every dollar you give creates the maximum possible benefit.

Thank you for trusting us with your generosity. We're honored to have your confidence, and we're committed to continuing to earn it every single day.



GALI GIRLS SOAR: YOUR SUPPORT POWERS REMARKABLE LEARNING GAINS

The *Girls' Accelerated Learning Initiative* (GALI), in partnership with the WE-CARE Foundation, wrapped up the 2024-2025 academic year with stunning results. **Of the 848 girls enrolled, 832 advanced to the next grade level, a 98% promotion rate that shattered expectations.**

Even more remarkable: 82% were double promotions, where girls didn't just move up one grade but jumped ahead two full grade levels in a single year. Thank you for supporting this program and helping close educational gaps that once seemed insurmountable.

And better yet, your impact extends far beyond test scores. **Knowledge of early marriage risks among GALI girls increased from 30% to 68%. Understanding of peer pressure jumped from 3% to 56%.** Your support is equipping girls with the knowledge and confidence to navigate critical social challenges and make informed decisions about their futures.

Every day after school, small groups of six or seven girls gather with specially trained teachers for focused instruction. On Fridays, they explore life skills together. Twice a week, they share nutritious meals. Girls over the age of 11 receive sanitary pads and learn to make reusable ones. When a girl is absent for three days, her teacher visits her home. Over 1,000 parents attended engagement meetings. This comprehensive support, fueled by you, is why dropout rates are below 1%.

These are girls who believed they'd lost their chance at education, and are now racing ahead with confidence. They're communities watching their daughters become scholars and leaders.

Your investment in GALI is proving that when girls get the right support and a community that believes in them, there's no limit to how far they can go. Thank you for helping these girls rewrite their stories. Because of you, they're not just catching up. They're soaring.



CODE/Hassan Bangura, 2024

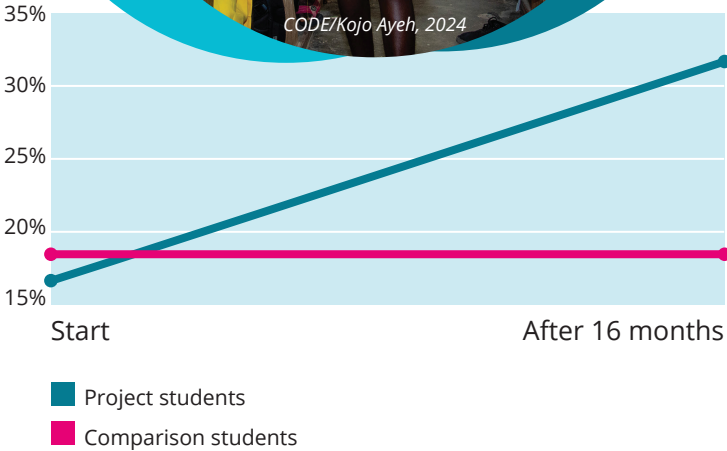
GALI girls gather for their after-school program in Liberia. Thanks to your support, 82% of participants advanced two grade levels this year, closing educational gaps and building confidence that extends far beyond the classroom.

YOU'RE HELPING IMPROVE READING SCORES IN GHANA

Thanks to you, 296 teachers in Ghana strengthened their skills in child-centered and inclusive literacy instruction this year. Our midline assessment shows the difference: Reading comprehension scores for grade 5 students in the *Reading Ghana program*, in partnership with the Olinga Foundation, increased by 15% over 16 months as compared to stagnated scores of students not in the project!



CODE/Kojo Ayeh, 2024



REMEMBERING ROBERT DYCK: A VISIONARY WHO LIFTED OTHERS



Robert Dyck (centre) preparing shipments of books destined for Kenya, embodying the hands-on spirit that defined CODE's early years.

We are deeply saddened by the passing of Robert (Bob) Dyck, a visionary whose belief in the power of literacy helped shape CODE from its earliest days. Bob's warmth, leadership, entrepreneurial spirit, and unwavering commitment to literacy created a foundation that continues to transform lives today.

As CODE's longtime Executive Director, Bob's innovative thinking led him to establish the social enterprise, CODE Inc. (1987), and later the CODE Foundation (1992) to invest business earnings in support of CODE's mission for the long term. The legacy of his enterprising approach continues to serve CODE well today.

As his daughter Christina reminds us, he lived by the philosophy: **"If you can have an amazing life, take others with you."** Today, we remain grateful for the entrepreneurial spirit he embedded in our DNA and for his reminder that when we lift each other up, extraordinary things become possible. We will continue to honour Bob's legacy in every story of learning and opportunity that CODE helps create.



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