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2026

SECOND QUARTER NEWSLETTER

(APRIL - JUNE)

A LETTER FROM OUR DIRECTOR

Dear readers

As we reflect on the second quarter of the year, I am filled with gratitude for the collective efforts that continue to advance our mission of promoting a culture of reading and improving access to quality learning resources for children across Tanzania. This quarter has been marked by meaningful progress. Through the continued support of our partners, donors, schools, and communities, we have strengthened library spaces, expanded access to books and learning resources, and supported schools in creating environments where students can develop a lifelong love of reading. We sincerely thank our partners, government institutions, schools, and community members for their continued collaboration and trust. Your support is helping create lasting change in the lives of thousands of young readers.



Ms Naemy Sillayo (Advocate)
Executive Director

Since we started, we have supported:



178 Schools



1,874,540 Students



1,330 Teachers



1,649,086 Books



613 Volunteers

MILESTONES THAT SHAPED OUR QUARTER

A NEW CHAPTER FOR DAR ES SALAAM GIRLS' SECONDARY



The refurbishment of the Dar es Salaam Girls' Secondary School library is a key achievement in creating a better learning environment for 791 students and 45 teachers. The improved library will provide access to quality learning resources and a welcoming space that supports reading, learning, and academic growth.

NEW BOOKS, NEW POSSIBILITIES



A total of 169 story and academic books were donated to Chamazi Secondary School to strengthen its library and improve students' access to quality learning resources. We appreciate the Karimjee Foundation for their continuing support in promoting access to books and learning opportunities.

CHEERS TO OUR FRIENDS OF READ



We appreciate the Friends of READ whose support continues to expand access to books and learning resources. We thank Adeline Mushi (Mc Linah) for contributing 154 reference and story books, benefiting over 1,500 students at Turiani Secondary School. We call on more individuals and organisations to lend us a hand in strengthening libraries and expanding access to books

FULL CIRCLE: A HOMECOMING FROM SCOTLAND



We were delighted to host Laela Adamson, a former volunteer and one of the founders of READ International, back to READ Tanzania during her visit to Tanzania from Scotland. Her visit provided an opportunity to reflect on the organization's journey over the years. She also visited two schools in Dar es Salaam, where she saw firsthand how reading spaces continue to support students. Her visit was a meaningful reminder of how consistent effort, shared purpose, and long-term commitment can create a lasting impact on the lives of young readers.



PARTNERING WITH TANZANIA INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION (TIE)

We had the opportunity to meet with the Tanzania Institute of Education (TIE) to discuss ways of strengthening the reading culture in schools and improving the effective use of libraries. The meeting explored opportunities for collaboration, including supporting library teachers and enhancing access to quality learning resources. We believe this partnership will contribute to promoting reading and improving learning experiences in public schools.



WORLD BOOK DAY: WHERE STORIES COME ALIVE



World Book Day was not just about marking a date, but about giving students a real reading experience. Students from Turiani Secondary School spent time reading and sharing ideas during a session with Adeline Mushi (mc Linah), which helped them view reading as something enjoyable and meaningful beyond the classroom. The experience encouraged a deeper connection with books and strengthened the reading culture among students.



DODOMA'S LIBRARY GETS A FRESH NEW LOOK

Ihumwa Secondary School is one of the three schools in the Dodoma Region supported through our library program. Following needs assessment, the school library received a top-up that included additional books, new furniture, fresh paint, and educational wall murals. These improvements transformed the space into a more welcoming and functional learning environment. Now, more students are able to read, study, and learn comfortably, making better use of the library resources available.



SOMA CONNECT: READING GOES DIGITAL

As part of the pilot phase of Soma Connect, students and school librarians at Charambe and Chamazi Secondary Schools in Temeke Municipal, Dar es Salaam, were introduced to the platform and explored its features for accessing digital learning resources. Their active participation, enthusiasm, and feedback provided valuable insights that will help improve the system and ensure it better meets the needs of its users. This marks an important step toward expanding access to digital learning, strengthening the reading culture through our online platform, and supporting more schools and learners with quality educational resources.



TOGETHER FOR LEARNING: COMMUNITIES LEAD THE WAY

A stakeholder engagement meeting was held at Dar es Salaam Girls' Secondary School to introduce the library renovation project and build shared ownership before implementation. The meeting brought together representatives from the ward, school board, school leadership, teachers, and students, who were introduced to the project's objectives and implementation plans. Their involvement marked an important step toward transforming the school library into a well-equipped, welcoming learning space that supports learning and strengthens the reading culture.



BOOK GULIO: OLD PAGES, NEW READERS



Book Gulio brought books and people together in a fun and meaningful way. Through the sale of donated second-hand books, the initiative helped spread the joy of reading while raising funds to support secondary school students with learning materials. By making books affordable and accessible, Book Gulio showed how reading can connect communities and create impact.



STANDING UP FOR EVERY AFRICAN CHILD



We commemorated the Day of the African Child in recognition of every child's right to grow, learn, and thrive. This year's theme, "Ensuring Universal Access to Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for Every Child in Africa," reminds us that children need safe and supportive environments to reach their full potential. As we marked this important day, we reaffirmed our commitment to promoting access to books, libraries, and quality learning opportunities, because every child deserves to learn and read in a safe, supportive, and enriching environment.



THE PARTNERS POWERING OUR MISSION



KARIMJEE
Foundation

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We thank our partners for believing in our vision and values. We strive to add more value and create more impact in our programs and services, your trust is the driving force behind our commitment to excellence.

We welcome more partners and call for further support to allow us to reach new heights and achieve our goals.

We also welcome any comments to improve our work. Please feel free to send us an email, visit our social media pages, or give us a call. Your feedback is valuable to us. Thank you



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