

**BOOKS FOR AFRICA Report**  
**By Librarian Esther Muinde**  
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Enhancing literacy among students and teachers has been at the heart of Kenya Connect for the last decade. Among the various programs that promote literacy is the library program. We symbolize it as the *elephant* since it is at the heart of all our programs and also, it is connected to other programs including LitClubs, the LitMoms, Girl/Boy Empowerment, the Radio Read Aloud and the Saturday Storytime.

Previously, the library program operated as a mobile library whereby books were being transported to various primary schools and high schools using our “Magic School Bus.” Early this year, we had the golden opportunity of receiving the generous donation from **Books for Africa**. The books came in at a time that we were making plans to stock our new in-house library! What a wonder! Only excitement could be described as the mood on that day.



We received 540 boxes with a wide variety of books both for children and adults. These range from easy reader, early reader, fiction, non-fiction books and other resources materials. Ruth, one of the off loaders was so curious to see a big animal picture book, she exclaimed” this is my first time to see such a big book. A like reading materials about animals and I will become a library member.



We were so excited to get additional big picture books for our collection. These have been used for read aloud during LitClubs, Girl/Boy Empowerment program and during the Saturday Storytime. Mentor Monica Commented, *“Books for Africa have really catered our need of read aloud books. Our student will get the opportunity to listen to every many varieties of stories.”*





Having a wide collection of books from **Books for Africa**, our library has provided a conducive environment for all users who come to read from the library. It has offered many books that are favorable for learners in various levels and grades. The library is loaded with approximately 30,000 books with over half from **Books for Africa**. The big and colorful books that we have displayed on the lower shelves make our library glow.





The library team is also putting in great efforts to ensure the books are cataloged and well-arranged in the shelves to ensure easy access in borrowing and returning books. Through **Books for Africa** we have a wide collection of books to take to schools during library days. Students are very excited to see the new collection.



During school holidays students from different schools come to the Kenya Connect Learning Resource Centre to access books in our library. Apart from students, teachers and other professionals come in at times for research purposes.

Among the books of Africa, we had a couple of books for girl/boy empowerment program which have really been used to mentor our students. Ann, one of the members shared the following after a read aloud on the book ***Girls Can Be Engineers*** by Jamila H. Lindo,” I can be anything I want and I should not let other people discourage me”

