



# Hope For Literacy

## A Year of Learning, Dignity & Opportunity

Delivering access to  
education, sustainable  
learning tools, and hope for  
children across Kenya.

In partnership with MOMO  
Pencils, ZOHO Corporation,  
and communities who believe  
that every child deserves the  
tools to learn.

**Narok County**

# 2025

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## A WORD FROM THE FOUNDER



## Founder's Reflection

Every year, when we pause to reflect on the journey of Hope For Literacy, we are reminded that our work is not defined by reports or numbers alone, but by children whose futures are quietly changed when given the chance to learn.

Across Kenya, thousands of children still attend school without basic writing materials. For many, a pencil is not guaranteed. And yet, that pencil is often the very first step toward confidence, participation, and possibility.

This year, Hope For Literacy took meaningful steps forward. Through partnerships, community engagement, and the innovative design of MOMO Pencils, we reached children who would otherwise be left behind, not only with learning tools but also with dignity and encouragement.

What inspires me most is not just what we delivered, but how we delivered it sustainably, locally, and with respect for both people and the planet. Each pencil placed in a child's hand represents belief: belief that education matters, that sustainability matters, and that small actions compound into lasting change.

To every supporter, partner, volunteer, and educator, thank you. This report is a reflection of what we have achieved together.

MAHAMUD OMARI  


Founder, Hope For Literacy

# WHY LITERACY MATTERS

## OUR VISION:

At Hope For Literacy, our vision is simple yet urgent:

**Every child deserves access to quality education, starting with the tools to learn.**

Literacy is the foundation of opportunity. Without it, children struggle to engage in class, fall behind academically, and are more likely to drop out of school entirely. In Kenya, the challenge is not willingness to learn, it is access.

We believe literacy goes beyond books and classrooms. It includes:

- Access to basic writing materials
- Confidence to participate in learning
- Environmental responsibility
- Community ownership of education

By addressing these interconnected needs, Hope For Literacy creates pathways out of poverty while reinforcing dignity and self-belief among learners.



**Every child deserves access to quality education, starting with the tools to learn.**

# HOPE FOR LITERACY IN NUMBERS

## 2025 Impact Highlights



• Counties reached:

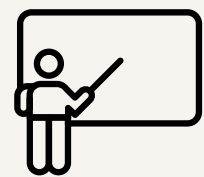
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• Eco-Friendly Pencils Donated  
245,000



• Fruit trees planted  
12,000



• Teachers Supported  
240



# THE MOMO PENCILS PARTNERSHIP

## A Pencil With a Purpose

Hope For Literacy's partnership with MOMO Pencils is at the heart of our sustainability model.

MOMO Pencils are made from 100% recycled newspapers, eliminating the need for wood and reducing environmental degradation. For every pencil distributed, we protect forests while enabling learning.

This partnership ensures:

- No tree is cut to make a pencil
- Children receive durable, affordable stationery
- Schools engage with environmental education
- Sustainability is embedded in literacy delivery

Education should never come at the cost of the environment — and with MOMO Pencils, it doesn't.



# LITERACY ACCESS ACROSS KENYA

## Reaching Underserved Communities

Hope For Literacy focuses on schools where families face economic hardship and limited access to learning materials. By working directly with school leadership and community members, we ensure that support reaches those who need it most.

Our approach is community-driven:

- Schools identify priority needs
- Teachers guide distribution
- Children receive tools without stigma
- Communities participate in sustainability efforts

This model strengthens trust and ensures long-term impact beyond donations.



# STORY FROM CLASSROOM

## Every child deserves access to quality education, starting with the tools to learn.

Before receiving her first set of pencils, Amina often shared materials with classmates or sat quietly during lessons. Writing was slow, and confidence was low. Today, Amina participates actively. She completes assignments, practices writing at home, and proudly carries her own pencil case to school.

Her story is one of many quiet transformations that remind us that literacy begins with access.

*"When I got my own pencils, I felt like school was finally for me."*

## SUSTAINABILITY AT THE HEART OF LITERACY



## Literacy That Protects the Planet

At Hope For Literacy, education and environmental responsibility are inseparable. Across Kenya, deforestation and climate change directly affect children's lives, from food security to school attendance. That reality shaped our decision to embed sustainability at the core of our literacy model.

Traditional pencils rely on timber. MOMO Pencils disrupt this cycle by producing high-quality pencils from recycled newspapers, ensuring that learning does not come at the cost of forests. Every pencil distributed is a statement: education can be both accessible and responsible.

This approach allows children not only to learn how to write, but also to understand the value of conservation and resource stewardship

# ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT IN ACTION



## From Classrooms to Climate Awareness

Through our literacy distributions, children are introduced to the idea that everyday objects have environmental consequences. Teachers incorporate sustainability discussions into lessons, linking literacy with broader life skills.

Key environmental outcomes this year include:

- Reduced demand for wood-based stationery
- Increased awareness of recycling and reuse
- School-based discussions on climate responsibility
- Tree planting linked to school partnerships

This integrated approach ensures that children grow up seeing sustainability not as a separate concept, but as part of daily life and learning.

## TREE PLANTING & LONG-TERM IMPACT



## Growing Futures, One Tree at a Time

Growing Futures, One Tree at a Time

As part of the Hope For Literacy model, each partner school receives 100 fruit seedlings to plant within the school compound. These fruit trees serve multiple purposes:

- Environmental restoration
- Shade and improved learning spaces
- Long-term food security (fruit trees)
- Practical learning tools for agriculture and science

Tree planting reinforces the idea that education is an investment — not just in minds, but in the future health of communities.





# TEACHERS AT THE CENTER OF CHANGE

## Empowering Educators

Teachers are often the unsung heroes of literacy. Many work in under-resourced environments, improvising materials and supporting large class sizes with limited tools.

By ensuring every child has access to basic stationery, Hope For Literacy directly supports teachers' ability to teach effectively. Lessons flow more smoothly, participation increases, and teachers spend less time managing scarcity and more time focusing on learning outcomes.

Teachers report:

- Improved classroom engagement
- Reduced absenteeism
- Increased confidence among learners
- More consistent lesson completion

## VOICES FROM THE CLASSROOM (TEACHER PERSPECTIVE)



"When every child has a pencil, the classroom changes. There is less shame, more confidence, and learning becomes equal."

James Mukabanga — MMU Primary School Teacher, narok, Kenya

Teachers consistently highlight how access to stationery transforms not only academic performance, but also classroom dynamics. Children who once stayed silent now participate. Group work becomes inclusive. Confidence grows. These changes may seem small, but they form the foundation for long-term educational success.

# COUNTY-LEVEL IMPACT: REACHING COMMUNITIES

## Focused, Community-Driven Distribution



Hope For Literacy works closely with school leadership to identify priority areas. Rather than a one-size-fits-all approach, each distribution is informed by local context, enrolment levels, economic challenges, and existing resources.

By partnering directly with schools, we ensure:

- Transparency in distribution
- Accountability at the community level
- Local ownership of impact
- Sustainable follow-up

This localized model strengthens trust and ensures that literacy support reaches children who need it most.

## CASE STUDY: A SCHOOL TRANSFORMED

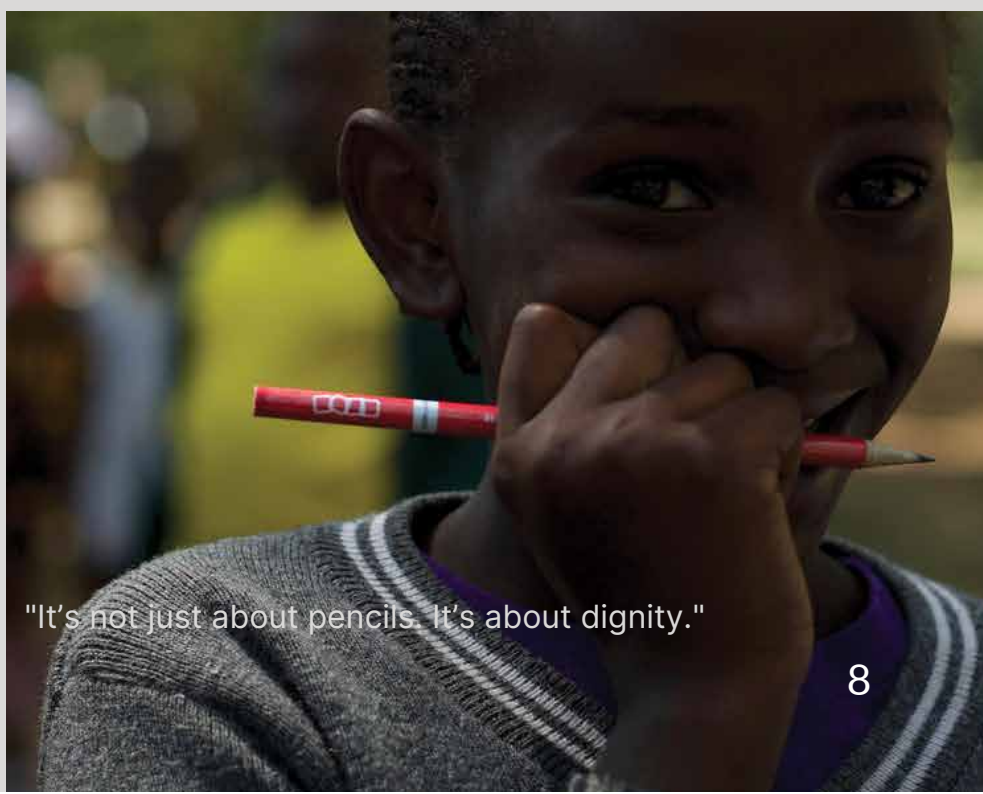
### A Shared Starting Line

At a public primary school in a semi-arid region of Kenya, teachers reported that more than half of learners regularly attended class without writing materials.

Following a Hope For Literacy distribution:

- Participation in lessons increased
- Homework completion improved
- Teachers reported higher morale
- Learners expressed pride in their materials

• One head teacher shared that for the first time, all learners began lessons on an equal footing, no borrowing, no exclusion.



"It's not just about pencils. It's about dignity."



# CORPORATE & FOUNDATION PARTNERSHIPS

## Scaling Impact Through Collaboration

Hope For Literacy's progress this year was made possible through the commitment of corporate partners, philanthropic foundations, and individual supporters who believe in scalable, sustainable impact.

Partnerships enable us to:

- Reach more schools
- Reduce per-child costs
- Strengthen logistics and distribution
- Expand environmental components

By aligning corporate responsibility with education and sustainability, partners become part of a solution that delivers measurable social and environmental returns.



## SEE THE CHILD: LITERACY THROUGH A CHILD'S EYES

### More Than Materials

At the heart of Hope For Literacy is a simple but powerful belief: **when you see the child, the solution becomes clear.** For many learners, the absence of basic stationery quietly reinforces inequality. Children who lack pencils often withdraw, not because they lack ability, but because they lack tools.

By addressing this gap, Hope For Literacy removes a barrier that too often goes unseen. Each pencil distributed is an invitation: your voice matters, your work matters, and you belong in this classroom.

# A CHILD'S STORY: FINDING CONFIDENCE

## Case Study: Samuel



*"Now I don't have to wait. I can write like everyone else."*

Samuel attends a public primary school where his class size exceeds 50 pupils. Before the Hope For Literacy distribution, Samuel regularly borrowed pencils or waited for others to finish before attempting his work.

When Samuel received his own set of MOMO Pencils, his teacher noticed immediate change. He began completing assignments independently, volunteering to read aloud, and taking pride in his schoolwork.

Samuel's story reflects a broader truth: access unlocks confidence, and confidence unlocks learning.



## GENDER & LITERACY: KEEPING GIRLS ENGAGED

### Addressing Hidden Barriers

Girls in underserved communities face compounded challenges in accessing education. Beyond poverty, social expectations and resource scarcity often limit consistent participation.

Hope For Literacy recognizes that **equitable access to learning tools is a gender issue**. When girls lack materials, they are more likely to disengage, miss lessons, or fall behind.

By ensuring equal access to stationery:

- Girls participate more confidently
- Classroom equality is reinforced
- Drop-off rates reduce
- Self-esteem increases

Education is one of the most powerful tools for gender equity — and literacy is where it begins.

**Every child deserves access to quality education, starting with the tools to learn.**



# INNOVATION IN ACTION: MOMO PENCILS

## Local Solutions, Global Thinking



MOMO Pencils represents innovation born in Kenya, responding to local needs with global relevance.

By transforming recycled newspapers into durable writing tools, MOMO Pencils:

- Reduces waste
- Eliminates reliance on timber
- Creates local employment
- Keeps costs accessible

This innovation ensures that Hope For Literacy is not dependent on imports, but instead strengthens local manufacturing ecosystems while delivering impact.

## FROM NEWSPAPER TO A PENCIL

### The Journey of a Pencil

#### Stage 1

We start by selecting and cutting old newspapers into the desired size.



#### Stage 2

After cutting newspapers, we insert graphite in the middle of the cut newspapers and stick the graphite with glue





# FROM NEWSPAPER TO A PENCIL

## The Journey of a Pencil

### Stage 3

The cut newspapers with graphite inserted are then put through a machine that rolls them into a cylindrical shape



### Stage 4

After the newspapers are rolled into the required shape, they are then sun-dried for up to 3 days.



### Stage 5

The dried pencils are now polished to attain a smooth outer finish.



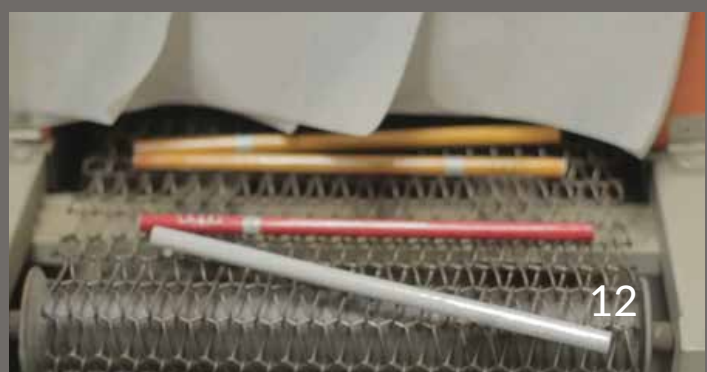
### Stage 6

At this stage we put a printed film onto the barrel of the pencil.



### Stage 7

The pencil with the printed film is then put through a heat shrinking machine, and the film shrinks to the shape of the pencil.



## The Journey of a Pencil -cont'd

### Stage 8

The pencils are then sharpened using a machine or by hand.



### Stage 9

Finally, the pencils are packed. Each pack holds 12 pencils



## MEDIA & NATIONAL RELEVANCE



### Elevating the Conversation on Literacy

Hope For Literacy's work has increasingly contributed to national conversations around education, sustainability, and innovation.

By demonstrating a scalable, environmentally responsible model, the campaign offers a blueprint for how literacy challenges can be addressed without compromising ecological integrity.

Media coverage and public engagement have helped amplify the message that education access and climate responsibility must move together.

# A MODEL FOR SCALE

## Looking Beyond One Classroom

Hope For Literacy is designed for replication. The combination of low-cost materials, local production, and school-led distribution makes the model adaptable across regions.

As demand grows, so does opportunity:

- More schools reached
- More children supported
- Greater environmental impact
- Stronger local partnerships

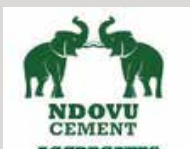
This year demonstrated that scalable impact does not require complexity — it requires clarity, collaboration, and commitment.



# OUR PARTNERS: MAKING IMPACT POSSIBLE

## Collaboration at the Core

1. Hope For Literacy is built on partnership. Our impact this year would not have been possible without the trust, belief, and commitment of organizations and individuals who share our vision.
2. From schools and community leaders to corporate foundations and philanthropic supporters, every partnership strengthens our ability to deliver literacy with dignity.
3. We believe partnerships should be:
4. Values-aligned
5. Transparent
6. Impact-driven
7. Mutually accountable
8. Together, we move faster, reach further, and create lasting change.





# CORPORATE & FOUNDATION ENGAGEMENT

## Shared Value, Shared Outcomes



1. Corporate and foundation partners play a critical role in scaling Hope For Literacy. Their support enables:
2. Bulk distribution of stationery
3. Expansion into new counties
4. Investment in sustainability initiatives
5. Long-term planning and stability

By aligning literacy with ESG and sustainability goals, partners create measurable social and environmental returns, while directly transforming children's lives.

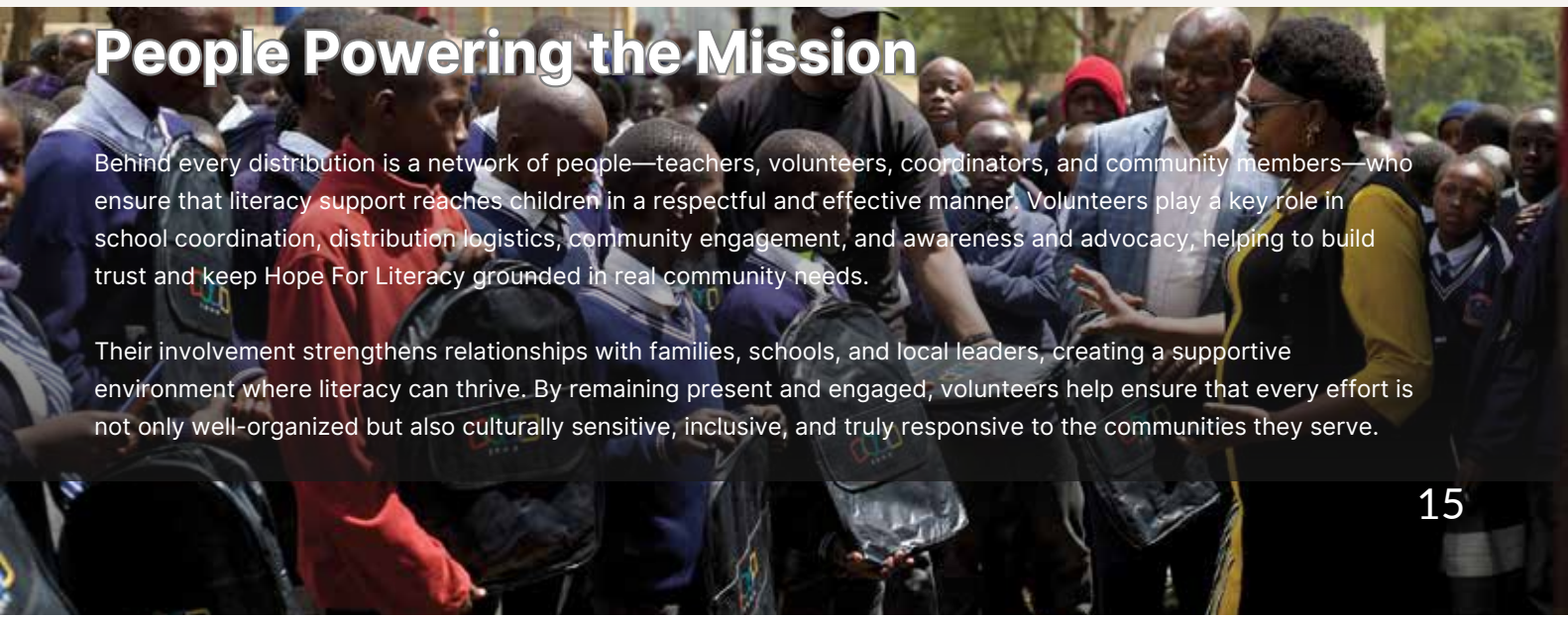
*"This partnership demonstrates how business can drive meaningful social impact."*

# COMMUNITY & VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT

## People Powering the Mission

Behind every distribution is a network of people—teachers, volunteers, coordinators, and community members—who ensure that literacy support reaches children in a respectful and effective manner. Volunteers play a key role in school coordination, distribution logistics, community engagement, and awareness and advocacy, helping to build trust and keep Hope For Literacy grounded in real community needs.

Their involvement strengthens relationships with families, schools, and local leaders, creating a supportive environment where literacy can thrive. By remaining present and engaged, volunteers help ensure that every effort is not only well-organized but also culturally sensitive, inclusive, and truly responsive to the communities they serve.



# STEWARDSHIP & ACCOUNTABILITY

## Responsible Use of Every Contribution



Hope For Literacy is committed to transparency and responsible stewardship. Every contribution is directed toward maximizing child-level impact while maintaining operational efficiency.

Our approach emphasizes:

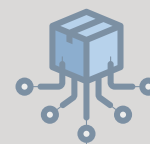
- Cost-effective procurement
- Local sourcing through MOMO Pencils
- Lean operations
- Clear impact tracking

Donors can be confident that their support delivers tangible, measurable outcomes in classrooms across Kenya. Rather than focusing solely on figures, Hope For Literacy prioritizes how resources translate into impact.

This year:

- The majority of funding supported direct program delivery
- Local manufacturing reduced costs and emissions
- Partnerships increased value per dollar spent

This approach ensures sustainability not only for today's learners but for future generations.





# LESSONS LEARNED

## What This Year Taught Us

This year reinforced key lessons:

- Access is foundational. Without tools, learning stalls
- Sustainability must be built in from the start
- Local solutions outperform imported ones
- Dignity matters as much as delivery

These insights will continue to shape Hope For Literacy's strategy and growth.



## LOOKING AHEAD: 2026–2028 STRATEGY

### Scaling With Purpose

#### Beyond the Pencil

Over the next three years, Hope For Literacy aims to:

- Reach 1 million school children
- Expand school partnerships across Kenya
- Deepen environmental education components
- Strengthen data and impact measurement
- Grow corporate and foundation collaborations

Growth will remain intentional, prioritizing quality, sustainability, and community ownership.






# INNOVATION & FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

## Beyond the Pencil

While stationery remains our entry point, Hope For Literacy continues to explore complementary interventions that support literacy outcomes, including reading culture, teacher resources, and school environments. Innovation will remain guided by one principle: simple solutions, deep impact.



## Join the Movement

Hope For Literacy's journey continues, and there is space for more partners, supporters, and advocates. You can support by partnering as a corporate or foundation, sponsoring school distributions, donating pencils, and sharing our story. Together, we can ensure that no child is held back simply because they lack a pencil.

## A FINAL REFLECTION

### Why This Work Matters

Education changes lives, quietly, steadily, and permanently. When a child learns to write, they begin to imagine a future they can shape. Hope For Literacy exists to protect that moment, the moment a child realizes they belong in the classroom, that their voice matters, and that learning is possible.

This year reminded us that meaningful change often starts small, with a pencil, a teacher, and a child ready to learn.

# THANK YOU



## With Gratitude

To every donor, partner, teacher, volunteer, and supporter, thank you. Your belief fuels Hope For Literacy. Your support places tools in children's hands. Your trust enables futures to unfold.

We look forward to continuing this journey together.

Contact:

🌐 [www.hopefor-literacy.com](http://www.hopefor-literacy.com)

✏️ [www.momopencils.com](http://www.momopencils.com)

