

A child in Malawi reads a newly published book from the Global Book Alliance.



GLOBAL BOOK ALLIANCE

Closing the Global Book Gap

Global Book Alliance in Action • July 2019–January 2023



Books for Every Child by 2030



Working toward a world in which all children have access to quality books in a language they use and understand.

The Global Book Alliance (GBA) is a partnership of donors, multilateral agencies, and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) working to increase the availability of high-quality reading resources in underserved languages by tackling the interconnected elements across the book supply chain.

In 2019, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), as a member of GBA, initiated the **Global Book Alliance in Action (GBAIA)**, a four-year program to improve national book supply chains so children have access to the books they need to learn to read.

Children gather at a book distribution event in Dowa, Malawi



By the Numbers

Supply Chain Analyses

9

Book Supply Chain Analyses Conducted

400+

Stakeholder Interviews

Training

12

Dissemination Events

135

Staff Trained on the Global Digital Library

244

Participants Trained on Book Supply Chains

Global Digital Library

2,700

Books in the Global Digital Library

46

Languages

8

Different Sign Languages

Mali

16

Publishers

21

Books Published

105,000

Books Printed

200

Schools Received Books

Malawi

50

New Children's Books Developed

500,000

Books Printed

246

Schools Received Books

Tanzania

10

New Children's Books Developed

A participant at the Tanzania publishers workshop smiles while she writes.



Supply Chain Analyses

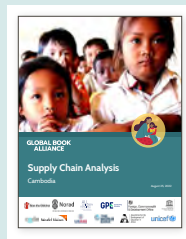
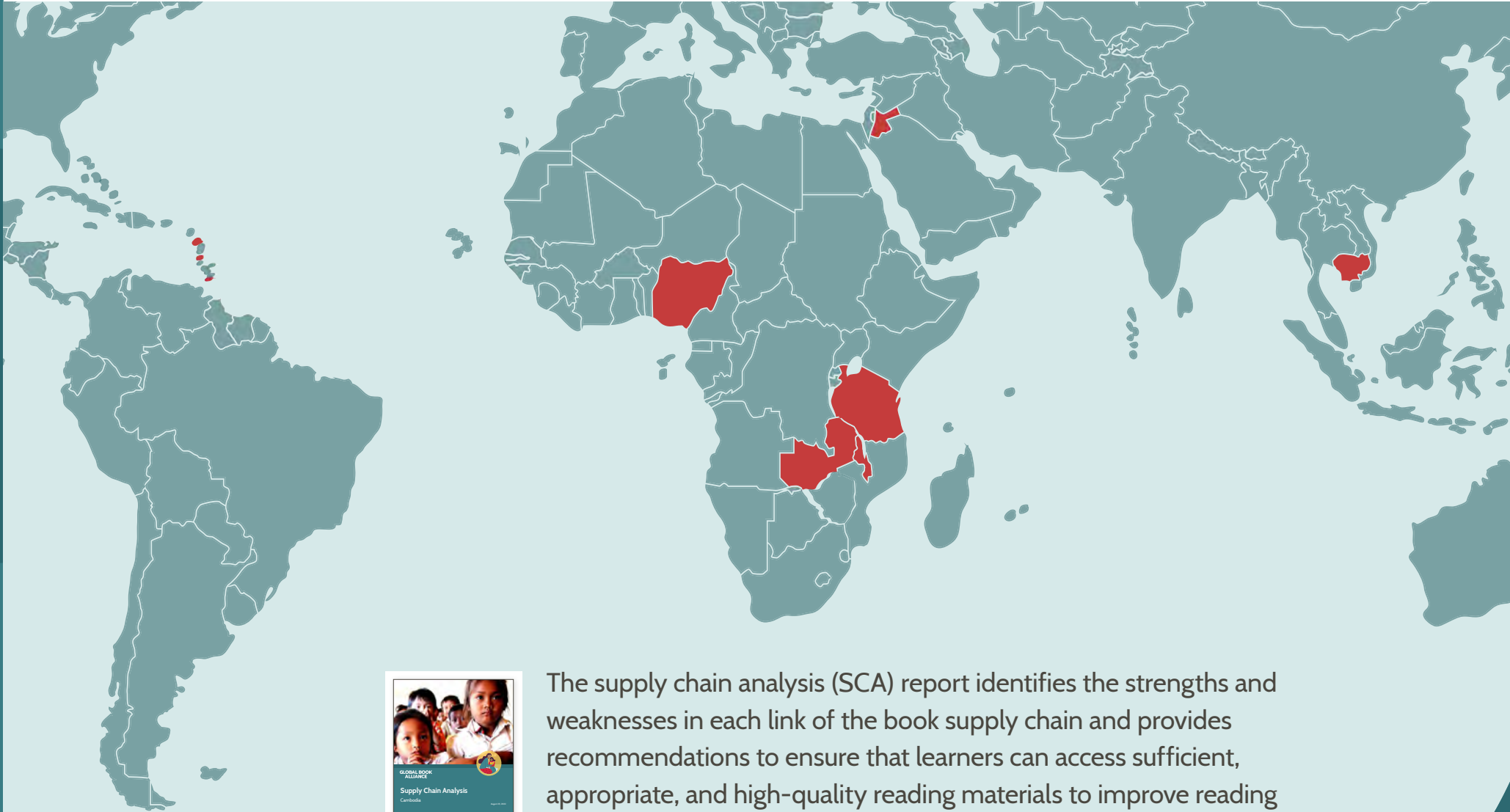
Although countries share many common issues contributing to the lack of reading materials available to young learners, the context in each country varies drastically.

To identify country-specific issues, GBAIA conducts supply chain analyses (SCAs)—collecting data from a wide variety of stakeholders—in order to develop plans that will address country-specific book chain issues and challenges. GBAIA conducted SCAs in Malawi, Zambia, Jordan, Cambodia, Tanzania, Nigeria, Dominica, St. Lucia, and Grenada.

An adult and a child read a book together.



Supply Chain Analysis Countries



The supply chain analysis (SCA) report identifies the strengths and weaknesses in each link of the book supply chain and provides recommendations to ensure that learners can access sufficient, appropriate, and high-quality reading materials to improve reading outcomes in each country. The SCA primarily focuses on the supply of essential reading materials for children in primary school grades 1–4.

“Reading skills come with practice. The more you read, the more you gain the skills.”

—Parent in Salima, Malawi

Addressing Supply Chain Challenges

In response to each SCA, GBAIA designed initiatives to rapidly address some of the challenges identified.

In Malawi, for example, GBAIA facilitated the development of a National Book Policy, the creation of 50 high-quality children’s books in local languages, and a social behavior change campaign (Tiwerege) to encourage reading.

Parents in Dowa, Malawi, participate in GBAIA’s book distribution alongside GBAIA’s national consultant.





Tiwerenge — “Let’s Read” in Chichewa

Tiwerenge Campaign

The Tiwerenge campaign, a partnership between GBAIA and Malawi’s Ministry of Education, has three central messages:

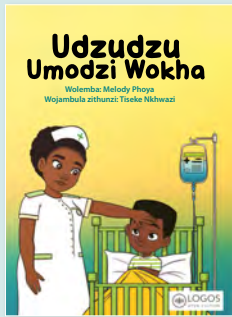
1. All parents can support their children’s reading even if they are illiterate or new to reading.
2. Reading is a key to success. Investing time in reading with your children will directly increase your family’s economic opportunities in the future.
3. Reading is an enjoyable way to strengthen your relationship with your child.

Children read with an adult at a book distribution event in Malawi.

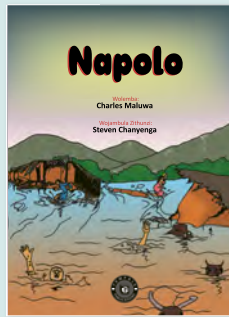


Children's Books in Local Languages

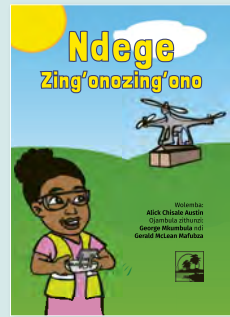
Malawi



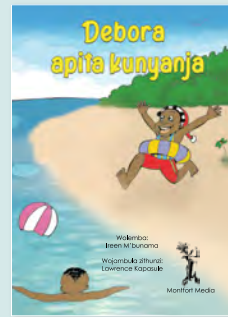
Logos Open Culture



Tumpale Publications



Sunrise Publications

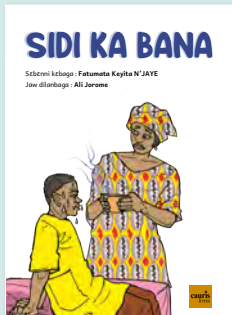


Montfort Media

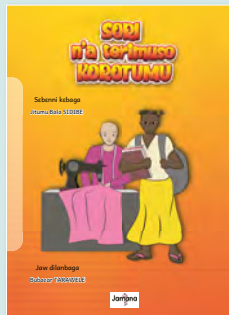


Pro-Publishing

Mali



Cauris Livres



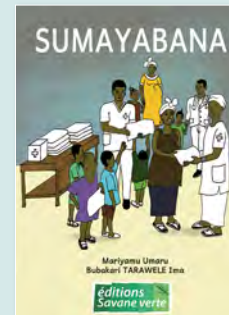
Jamana



ÉDIS



Éditions Asselar



Éditions Savane Verte

Tanzania



Milele Book House



GDY Publications Company



Tanzania Educational Publishers Ltd.



Abantu Publications



Alif Publication

Authors & Illustrators

(Listed in order from left to right)

Malawi:

1. Illustrator: Tiseke Nkhwazi
Author: Melody Phoya
2. Illustrator: Steven Chanyenga
Author: Charles Maluwa
3. Illustrator: George M'kumbula and Gerald McLean Mafubza
Author: Alick Chisale Austin
4. Illustrator: Lawrence Kapasule
Author: Ireen M'bunama
5. Illustrator: Haswel Kunyenje
Author: Amanda Nazombe

Mali:

1. Illustrator: Ali Zorome
Author: Fatumata Keyita N'Jaye
2. Illustrator: Bubacar Tarawele
Author: Jituma Bala Sidibe
3. Illustrator: Ali Zorome
Author: Fatumata Keyita N'Jaye
4. Illustrator: Modibo Sidibe
Author: Salimata Mayiga
5. Illustrator: Bubakar Tarawele
Author: Mariyamu Umaru

Tanzania:

1. Illustrator: Aloyce Mwanandegwe
Author: Adila Ariff
2. Illustrator: Walter Raphael Lema and James Washer Mbibo
Author: Halima Juma Adam
3. Illustrator: Idd Marumba
Author: Angelica C. Mulokozi
4. Illustrator: Chris Katembo
Author: Elias Magutta
5. Illustrator: Godwin Chipenya

Covers of books created in GBAIA's children's book development workshops

“If children know how to read books that are culturally relevant, we are creating readers of the future.”

—Elieshi Lema, E&D Vision Publishing

Publisher Workshops

In Mali, Malawi, and Tanzania, GBAIA led in-person trainings with book professionals to improve the development and production of high-quality, open-licensed children’s books in local languages.

GBAIA contracted with local publishers using a unique results-based financing model.

Publishers and authors sign in at GBAIA’s publishers workshop in Tanzania.



In their words ...

“I learned so much from this workshop. As a children’s writer, I’ve written such books before, but I didn’t even know how many words to put on a page. So this has improved my writing as the quality will be good and the recipients, children and parents, will be able to get quality knowledge from the books I’m able to write.”

—Children’s book author at the Malawi book development workshop

Participants at the Tanzania publishers training use software to design the pages of their children’s books.



In their words ...

“Given the number of books that were already produced by the project, and the quality training that authors and publishers received, it is certain that they will use this to continue the work in order to provide a lot more books of high quality in Mali and beyond.”

—Coach at GBAIA's Mali publishers training

A father and son read a new book together in Dowa, Malawi.



In their words ...

“To produce, to read in one’s mother tongue, is to give a chance of survival to this language. Because, just as a tree needs to be watered to blossom, the mother tongue needs to be spoken, read, and worked in to survive over time and escape extinction. This is why the project to produce children’s reading material in Bamanankan is wonderful. It gives the opportunity to the Bamanankan language to breathe, to blossom, to escape oblivion.”

—Fatoumata Keita, author, publisher, and activity coordinator for GBAIA-Mali



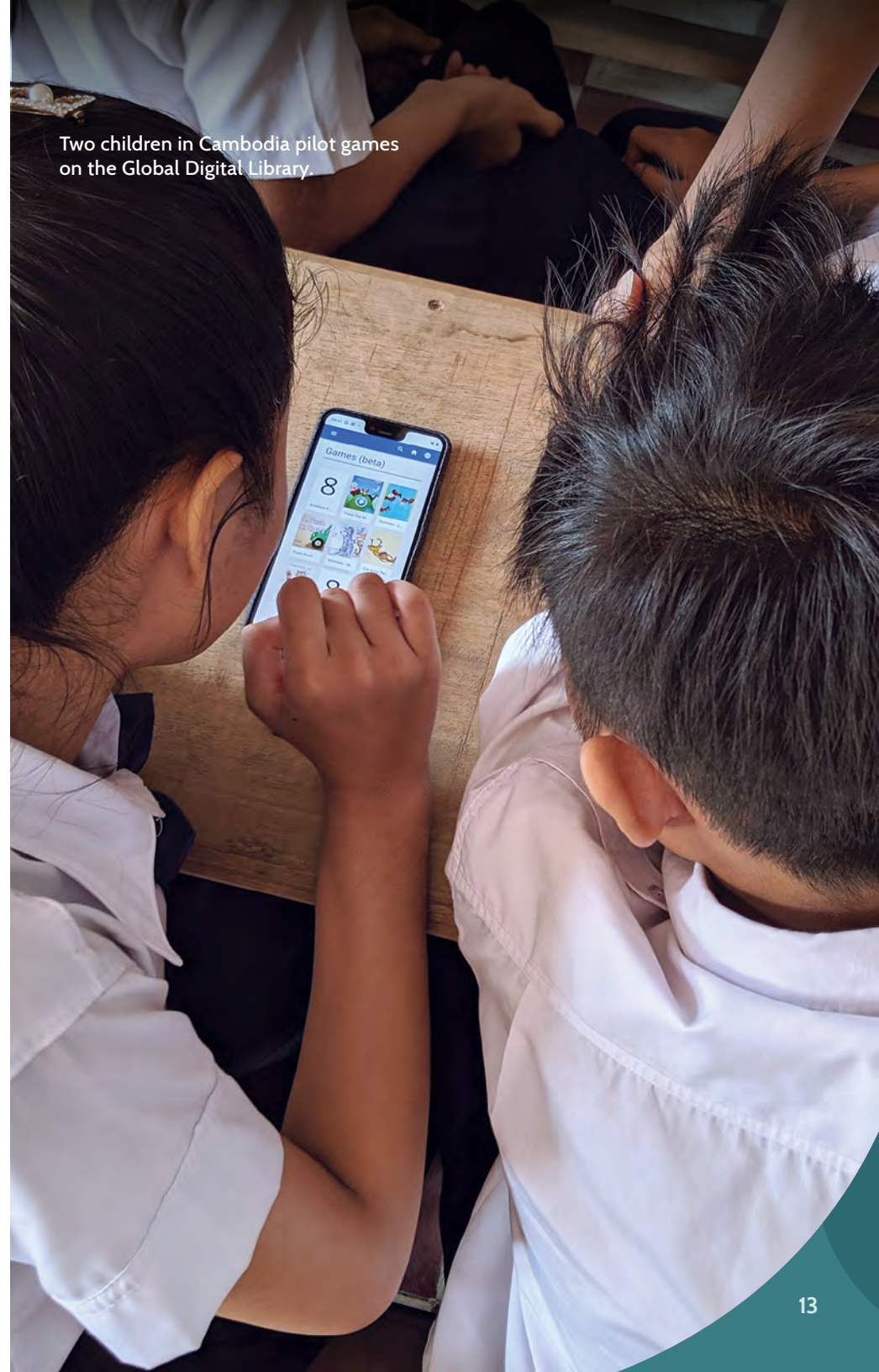
Parents and GBAIA's national consultant, Dorah Nyirenda, read with children in Dowa, Malawi.

All children deserve access to reading materials so they can learn to read and read to learn.

Global Digital Library

The Global Digital Library (GDL) provides free access to high-quality early-grade reading materials in a wide range of languages.

GBAIA works with USAID missions and implementing partners to support both the contribution and use of GDL reading materials and to increase the number of languages offered. For example, GBAIA worked with the Pakistan Reading Project to contribute more than 300 high-quality books in underserved languages, including Balochi and Sindhi.



Two children in Cambodia pilot games on the Global Digital Library.

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GBA Partners



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New GBAIA-created books in Chichewa are distributed in Malawi.