



2022  
ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT  
**mc2h foundation**

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*Photo taken at a Radio School, Kano State, N.W Nigeria, 2023*

# MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

2022 was an important, foundational year for the mc2h foundation:

First and foremost, we met a brilliant network of local organisations, many of whom we are now proud to collaborate with and call partners.

It was also a year of targeted learning – one where we tried not to draw conclusions, but instead ask as many questions as possible:

- **How can we best support** our local implementing partners?
- **Where do we sit in the literacy ecosystem?**
- **How we can be more than the sum of our parts?**
- **What literacy models work best** and how can we apply them to West Africa?

We have commissioned research, joined communities, forged relationships, sought to understand the literacy landscape in West Africa. And we have listened and listened and listened.

But whilst we have much to learn, we also believe that as a new donor we have a unique opportunity:

- **We are unburdened and nimble** – and pledge to support our partners flexibly and courageously, putting our philanthropic capital where others don't.
- **We have a late-comer advantage** – we will not reinvent the wheel, but promise to learn and integrate others' experiences along the way.
- **We have fresh eyes** – and as such, promise to challenge the status quo when necessary, and explore how things can be done better, in particular with regards supporting and amplifying our partners' work.

With this balance of curiosity and courage, we embrace this urgent mission to get more children in Africa reading. And we will use every day, every conversation and every connection to drive us towards this goal.



**Tara Wondraczek**  
CEO mc2h foundation

## 2022 AT A GLANCE:

- We welcomed **4 new partners** with annual learning grants, with a vision to extend to multi-year support.
- Our portfolio has now grown to 7 organizations with **100% unrestricted funds**.
- We disbursed a further **400,000 USD of funding**, putting our grant-giving budget at nearly 800,000 USD per year.
- We interviewed **44 literacy organisations**, as well as 15 local organisations in Ghana with a view to understand shared challenges and opportunities.
- We **embedded learning** at the core of our organisation, by bringing on local and international monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) specialists, and committing a minimum of **10% of our operational budget to learning**.
- We attended **2 literacy conferences** and **joined 2 literacy communities** - we know that we're stronger when we work together.
- We brought on our first **external board member**, Jo Ensor. We welcome her breadth of experience, depth of knowledge, and incisive leadership.



Photos (left to right): Tamale, Ghana; Imagine Schools; Radio Schools Program

# WHY LITERACY – A REMINDER

Every year a staggering 86% of 10-year olds in Africa spend time at school, but don't learn how to read.

The impact of this on learning and life chances is huge:

**Children who cannot read struggle to learn anything else in school. They are more likely to repeat a grade, and more likely to drop out of school.**

This in turn leads to **greater unemployment, worse health outcomes and deeper levels of poverty.**

The numbers are bleak:

- An estimated 260 million children worldwide cannot read and write a basic sentence
- 60% of those are in Sub Saharan Africa
- 60% of them women
- 60 million children will never have access to school.

**But if children can read, they stand a chance.**

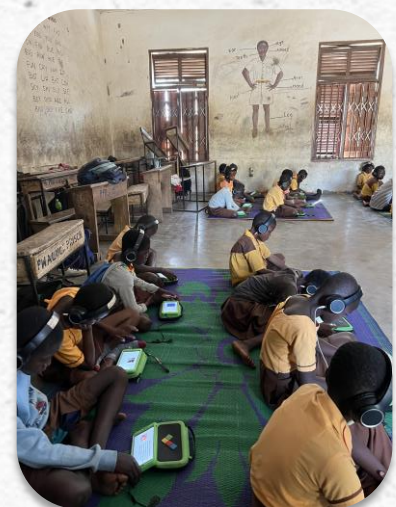
A chance to make their lives better, a chance to make their families' lives better and a chance to impact their communities, villages or cities.



## OUR BELIEF

- 1) Reading can and should happen everywhere: at schools, at home and within communities.
- 2) Reading is the single best tool we have to help break the cycle of poverty that many children are born into.
- 3) Getting more children reading sooner goes way beyond just helping learning, it fundamentally changes a child's ability to interact with the world.

**We exist to fund, amplify and connect organisations that, like us, believe that literacy can change lives.**



# OUR PARTNERS

Our partners are our experts.

They have the in-depth knowledge and expertise needed to shed light on the complex educational and social challenges faced in Africa, as well as potential solutions.

See the next pages for a brief overview of each of our partner organisations.

This is just a tiny snapshot into the myriad of things they are achieving – please take the time to go to their websites and understand more about their operations and ambitions, they are truly inspiring.



# EDULUTION

transforming learning

## EDULUTION

### IN A NUTSHELL

A learning platform for the developing world, enabled by a unique mix of technology, data, and empowered and incentivised coaches. In 2022, Edulution operated 71 Learning Centres and served 18,300 learners, employing over 200 formally unemployed youth.

### WHY WE LOVE THEM:

This catch-up programme is tech-led but still wonderfully human, bringing the best of both of these worlds to the fore. Children benefit from all the upsides of tech, without compromising on the human factor that is so critical to the joy of learning.

### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

- **The annual rate of improvement was 122%**
- **25.7% of learners reached their grade level.**
- **Edulution learners outperformed their peers by 23% in Grade seven final maths exams**

### KEY STATS

**Countries:** South Africa, Zambia

**Website:** <https://www.edulution.org/>







# IMAGINE WORLDWIDE

## IN A NUTSHELL

Imagine Worldwide boosts literacy by providing child-directed, tech-enabled literacy apps that allow children to learn to read and practice reading at their own pace.

## WHY WE LOVE THEM

Education technology (Ed Tech) is a key supplement to help school-based learning, and this is technology at its best: accessible, effective and affordable. Today, Imagine is able to increase access by driving down costs, to just 8\$/child/year.

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Imagine children show **higher school attendance**
- Imagine children show **higher confidence as learners**
- **50% more children advanced on national literacy benchmarks**

## KEY STATS

- **Countries:** Senegal, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Liberia, Burkina Faso, Tanzania, Malawi
- **Website:** <https://www.imagineworldwide.org/>



# THE LUMINOS FUND

## LUMINOS FUND

### IN A NUTSHELL

Luminos boosts foundational literacy and numeracy for out-of-school children, through their intensive, 10-month catch-up programmes.

### WHY WE LOVE THEM

Upon completion of the programmes, over 90% of students advance into government schools. Results like this are rare to come by.

### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

Luminos children fare better than their government counterparts:

- They have **higher aspirations**
- They are **happier and more confident**
- They **complete primary school at twice the rate** of their peers

### KEY STATS:

**Countries:** Ethiopia, Ghana, Lebanon, Liberia, The Gambia

**Website:** [www.luminosfund.org](http://www.luminosfund.org)





## Radio School Program

# RADIO SCHOOL PROGRAM

### IN A NUTSHELL

The Radio School Program boosts literacy in both Hausa and English for out of school children, through its 84-episode radio programme, delivered across learning centres in North-West Nigeria.



### WHY WE LOVE THEM

Lack of investment in infrastructure has left a vacuum of formal learning in North West Nigeria. As such, many children will never have access or exposure to basic education. The Radio School Program uses radio as a learning platform to facilitate learning for children who live too remotely or too nomadically to ever go to school.



### KEY STATS

- **7 states in North West Nigeria**
- **84 episodes developed**
- **337 teachers received pedagogy training**
- **56,000 children followed the radio classes**





RISING ACADEMY  
NETWORK

# RISING ACADEMIES

## IN A NUTSHELL

Rising boosts literacy levels through its proven academic model, and in particular their Faster Reading programme.

## WHY WE LOVE THEM

The Rising approach is unique: using their own schools as innovation hubs to try out great content and quality coaching, they then roll out their model cost-effectively at scale in partnership with national and regional governments



## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

### Compared to similar schools:

- Students in **Rising schools made twice as much progress** in reading and maths
- The **children furthest behind progressed fastest** (with **girls progressing 4x faster** in Rising Schools)
- **Enrollment in Rising schools grew by 17%** per school



## KEY STATS:

**Countries:** Sierra Leone, Rwanda, Liberia, Ghana

**Website:** <https://www.risingacademies.com/>

# OUR THEORY OF CHANGE

## OUR VISION

Every child in Africa reading by the age of 10

## OUR MISSION

Boost literacy levels and habit of reading through funding, connecting and amplifying our partners.

## OUR THEORY OF CHANGE

### mc2h ACTIVITIES

FIND & FUND

CONNECT & COLLABORATE

AMPLIFY & ADVOCATE

CREATE EVIDENCE & SHARE

By supporting our partners in the above ways, we aim to deliver the following joint outcomes:

### JOINT OUTCOMES

TEACHERS' LITERACY & TEACHING IMPROVED

LITERACY RESOURCES IMPROVED

FAMILIES & COMMUNITIES ENGAGED

READING MATERIAL IMPROVED

IMPROVED AWARENESS OF LITERACY IN AFRICA

### JOINT IMPACT

Improved literacy outcomes

Increased love & habit of reading

Improved social and emotional learning

African literacy landscape strengthened

# OUR STRATEGY

## OUR STRATEGY

2023-2025



### Year 1 - 2023 FIND & FUND

Build knowledge of literacy landscape in West Africa through a “fund and learn” approach with 5-10 medium-size implementing partners

Set up a MEL framework to document learning journey.



### Year 2 - 2024 CONNECT & COLLABORATE

Deepen our knowledge and contribution to literacy in West Africa, by collating and disseminating “fund and learn” results.

Start Collective Impact journey, by bringing individual players together.



### Year 3 - 2025 AMPLIFY & ADVOCATE

Using our data and learnings, drive awareness of literacy issues in West Africa.

Strengthen the literacy landscape by empowering our partners and amplifying the collective voice.

## OUR VALUES

Empowering

Unifying

Learning

Flexible

Courageous

# OUR GOALS

Delivering on the below annual goals has given us the stable roots and the wide-reaching branches needed to progress effectively towards our mission:

- 1: Be an empowering partner and grant-maker
- 2: Embed MEL in the foundation and all its relationships
- 3: Build knowledge and network around literacy
- 4: Build mc2h knowledge of education West Africa
- 5: Build trust, credibility and awareness of the foundation

## A DEEP DIVE INTO GOAL 3 – Build knowledge and network around literacy

A critical starting point for the foundation has been to identify what a healthy, functioning, literacy ecosystem looks like. **We share some of our key learnings here:**

### Start early

Early grade reading is one of the most effective investments donors and governments can make.

### More & better books

Children need a variety of age/context appropriate books.

### Engaged parents & communities

Family engagement is key to supporting children's learning at school.

### Ensure teachers can teach reading

Teachers need better pre-service and in-service literacy training – a teacher cannot teach what they don't know!

### Children learn best in mother tongue

When children start reading in their mother tongue, confidence, belonging, and social and emotional learning (SEL) are all improved .

### Build a culture of reading

Children who practice reading out of school show significantly higher reading gains.

### 'Smaller, quicker, cheaper' assessments

Regular, easy and cost-effective – enabling teachers to use results for more targeted teaching.

# A WORD ON IMPACT

As a start-up foundation in our first year of literacy learning, it is too early days for us to make meaningful impact claims, but we are proud to share our direction of travel:

## IMPACT IS LOCAL

Our vision will be achieved through our partners, their work, their stories and their experiences.

Our role is to showcase and amplify our partners' work – sharing how their efforts are changing the system and what we are learning from this.

## CHANGE COMES FROM PEOPLE NOT NUMBERS

The impact generated by our partners' work is often long-term and deeply qualitative, as well as quantitative.

We will do our best to shed light on these stories and in turn unlock invaluable insights that will help shift the agenda around literacy.

## COLLECTIVE IMPACT AMBITIONS

We strive to be the glue between the individual parts. By bringing individuals together and creating a collective voice, we hope to unlock a collective impact which can be more powerful than the sum of its parts.



## What we can say, is that this year:

- ✓ We have disbursed **400,000 USD** in grants and impact investing
- ✓ Our partners currently work in **10 countries** across Africa
- ✓ Our funds are touching **500,000 children** across rural and marginalised communities in Africa
- ✓ We have invested **10% of our budget in M&E**, the results of which we will share transparently
- ✓ We have invested another **10% in network strengthening**, to invest in joint planning, shared learning and collective action



# LOOKING AHEAD

## 2023 will be another important year for the foundation:

- We will grow our partner network to approximately 10, thus strengthening and supporting the early childhood literacy space in West Africa.
- We will increase our portfolio to our total budget of 800,000 USD of grant-giving funds per year.
- Recognising that we can achieve more collectively than individually, we will start to bring our partners together to share best practice and identify collective goals.
- We will develop and share a literacy learning framework, against which our and our partners' collective goals will be measured.



### Final word...

None of this would be possible without the support and trust of our core donor, **Mocoh**.

Mocoh's belief in the importance of working in partnership and empowering others is the reason mc2h's vision is becoming a reality. **Thank you.**



**TODAY'S READERS ARE  
TOMORROW'S LEADERS**



THANK YOU