

A LIBRARY THAT SOUNDS LIKE HOME

Few things ruin a ten-year-old's day like wearing a sack announcing: *I was caught speaking my mother tongue.*
For many Africans, that memory is painfully familiar.



And yet, children learn best in the languages closest to them. [UNESCO estimates](#) that children taught in a familiar language are 30% more likely to read with understanding before high school. With [more than 200 million African children](#) still struggling to read for meaning today, the cost of getting this wrong runs deeper than a report card.

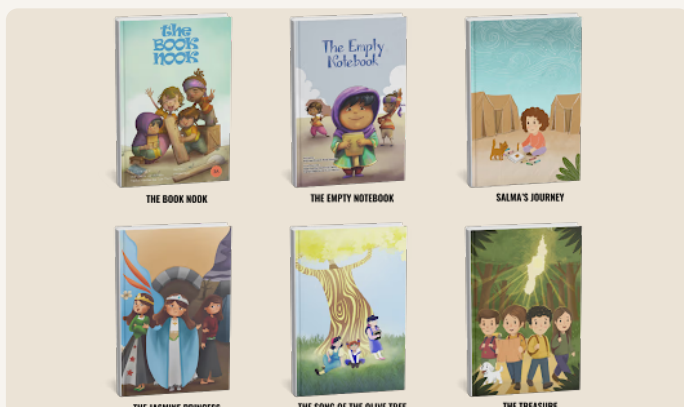
Across the continent, organisations have stepped in to help close the gap, building the libraries, platforms, and content pipelines that schools often cannot.

THE COMPANY BUILDING A LIBRARY IN AFRICAN MOTHER TONGUES

[NABU](#) is a tech-enabled nonprofit that publishes free mother tongue storybooks for children across Africa.

For the past 12 years, they've published storybooks in local African languages like Kiswahili, Hausa, Yoruba and Amharic. And today, their library now stretches across more than 1,200 titles in 41 languages, all freely available on mobile and web.

The titles capture diverse experiences of African kids.



Salma's Journey follows a displaced family holding onto joy through art and memory.

The Book Nook tells the story of a quiet boy who slowly finds confidence tucked away in the corner of a library while life around him feels uncertain.

While in Bagamoyo, Tanzania, 300 bilingual Kiswahili-English storybooks found their way into classrooms, helping children first learn to read in the language they think in.



Earlier this year, the work earned NABU its [third straight Best EdTech and Learning App award.](#)

