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Lowapi Study Centre 

## Update on Book Distribution and the Bala Kids Centre Initiative

Dear Books for Africa Team,





I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to provide an exciting update on the progress we've made since receiving your generous book donation last year. Your support has allowed us to significantly impact communities across Botswana in partnership with other key stakeholders. Here's what we've been up to since our last update in November:

### Book Distribution Across Botswana

Since November, we have partnered with Standard Chartered Bank Botswana to distribute the donated books to various government schools across the country. This initiative has been a tremendous success. While we provided the books, Standard Chartered Bank contributed in other impactful ways- donating computers, school supplies, socks shoes in the different areas. Together, we have reached schools in various regions and the response has been overwhelmingly positive.





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### **Bala Kids Centre- A Community Reading Hub**





In September 2024, we launched the Bala Kids Centre (Setswana word meaning read), in collaboration with First National Bank Botswana. This Centre serves a community with limited access to books and has quickly become a popular after-school destination. The library operates Monday to Friday from 2PM to 5PM and Saturdays from 9AM to 12PM, consistently welcoming 30+ children each afternoon.

#### Successful Events at Bala Kids Centre

- International Literacy Day: We commemorated this day with 53 children, all eager to explore the joy of reading.
- Botswana Independence Celebration: On September 21<sup>st</sup>, we hosted two local authors and welcomed 63 children to join in the festivities. We read the local authors story, the kids came up with their own story-teaching them the writing process and we also played traditional games. These events have reinforced the importance of reading as a meaningful after-school and weekend activity in the community.









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### Looking Ahead: Expanding the Bala Kids Centre Model

Seeing the success of Bala Kids Centre, we are excited about the possibility of replicating this model in other rural and low-income areas across Botswana, where access to books is similarly limited. With your continued support, of a similar sized consignment we could establish upto 18 more Bala Kids Centres. If we are fortunate enough to receive another substantial consignment like the last one, it would enable us to bring this vision to life. We are also exploring partnerships with local organizations to help us put up structures for these new Centres.





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We would love to hear from you regarding future opportunities for collaboration and support.

Thank you once again for your ongoing commitment to promoting literacy in Botswana. We look forward to continuing the impactful work together.

Warm regards,

Bonolo Boitshwarelo

Director

