

# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



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# News

## Readopia: A Game-Changer for African Children's Book Publishers

After seven years of championing African children's literature, Muna Kalati is launching Readopia, an innovative mobile and web platform. Readopia addresses a crucial gap: the lack of a centralized platform for African children's books.

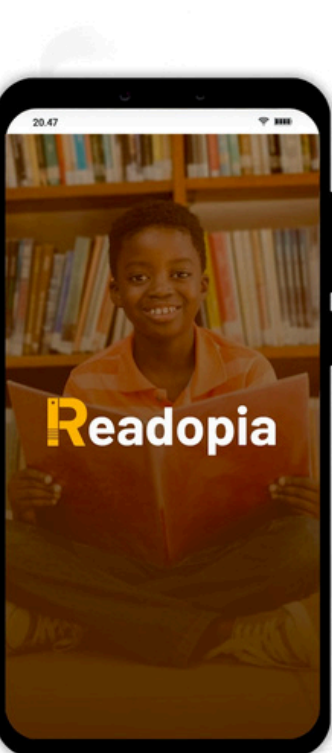
This app aims to consolidate an extensive catalog of books from various African publishers, facilitating their management, distribution, and sales.

For **publishers**, Readopia offers personalized profiles and content management tools, simplifying catalog updates and order processing. Additionally, the platform enables targeted promotion to parents, teachers, and booksellers.

By centralizing African children's books, Readopia provides a unique opportunity for publishers to broaden their reach and enhance their impact, while enriching access to culturally significant books for young African readers.

To give you a sneak peek, we have included a **demo video** showcasing the platform's features and functionalities.

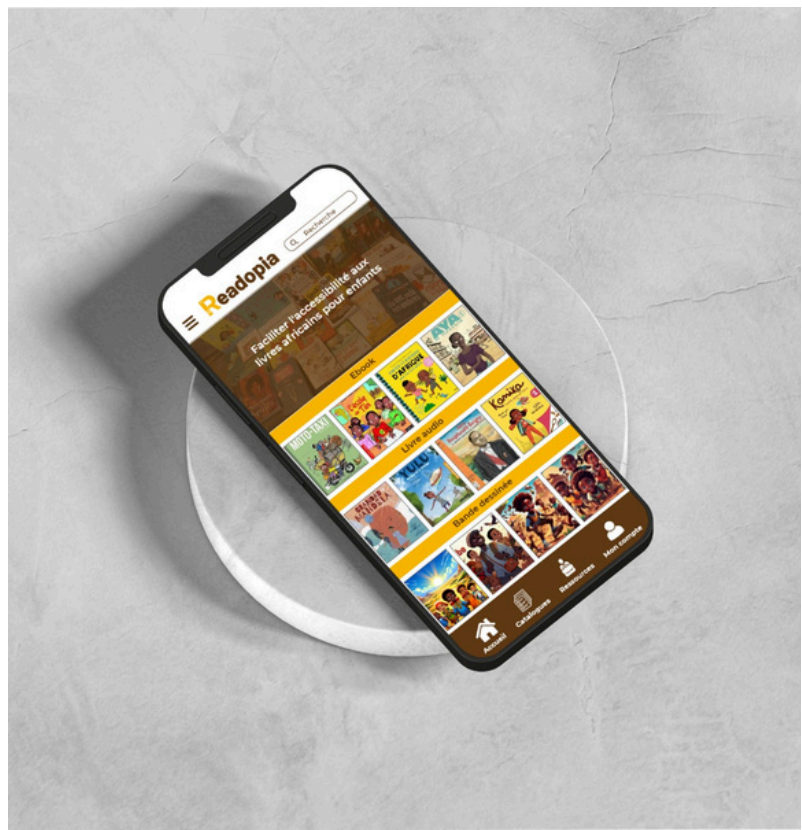
We value your feedback and invite you to participate in our **survey** to help us make Readopia even better!



**ARE YOU READY FOR AFRICA'S MOST VALUABLE APP FOR CHILDREN ?**

**" What if we told you we are building a world for your children to learn about their heritage, inculcate reading habits and improve foundational literacy skills ? "**

**WHAT ARE SOME FEATURES YOU WOULD LOVE TO SEE ON SUCH AN APP ?**



# MK Podcast

## From resistance to passion: Aichatà Sylla's inspiring career in Malian publishing

**Aichata**, initially resistant to the publishing world due to her familial connections, eventually embraced her true calling. After studying in Paris, she returned to Mali to invigorate her family's publishing business with a deep-seated love for literature.

In this engaging episode, Aichata reveals how L'Harmattan Mali stands out through its dedication to quality, diversity, and the promotion of local languages such as Bambara. She addresses significant topics, including the representation of women in Malian publishing, the impact of digital advancements on books, and the challenges of fostering a reading culture.

Learn about the publishing house's ambitious projects, including the launch of a major bookstore in Bamako.

Tune in now to explore this inspiring interview and stay informed about future episodes of Muna Kalati Talks!

Listen to the podcast in French [here](#).

## "I wrote on my Sketch pad Okon David, the Illustrator".

*An Interview with a Nigerian illustrator primarily interested in faith-based content.*

Struggling with the challenges of illustrating African children's books? Gain valuable insights from **David Okon**, a Nigerian illustrator renowned for his faith-based content, in our latest interview.

David Okon opens up about his artistic journey, detailing how he navigated creative blocks, industry challenges, and his aspirations for 3D animation and game development. In this engaging conversation, he offers practical advice for aspiring illustrators and shares his perspectives on the growing influence of AI in the children's book industry.

Listen to the podcast [here](#).

Read the full interview [here](#).



# Book Release

## The Adventures of Assia

We are pleased to announce the publication of "The Adventures of Assia" by **Boniface Dansou**. Boniface is an English teacher, youth worker and former volunteer at Muna Kalati.

"The Adventures of Assia" highlights the importance of using mother tongues to connect children to their families, cultural traditions and communities. Through captivating adventures, Assia teaches us that our mother tongue is the foundation of our traditions, civilization and cultural identity.

This book is a valuable resource for early learning, making the process enjoyable and meaningful in the language most comfortable for families.

Ready to embark on this journey with Assia?

Get your copy today!

Price: 7000 FCFA (approx. 10.67€ or 11.57\$)

Contact for purchase :

WhatsApp : +22966664168

Email: bonifacedansou2@gmail.com



# Industry Insights

## Digital Books Project Aims to Increase Kenya Literacy Rate

WORLDREADER, the global non-profit organisation providing children and families in developing countries with access to digital books, has expanded its services to Kenya.

The American-based organisation has activated a **BookSmart** platform, which contains a vast amount of digital reading resources and tools for locals in the East African country.

Minors between the ages of three to 12 are to be the main beneficiaries of the project run in partnership with the Kenya National Library Services (KNLS).

Worldreader pledges to help readers build a better world through the power of literacy, with beneficiaries using e-readers, mobile phones and other digital technology to access content.

Read the full article [here](#).



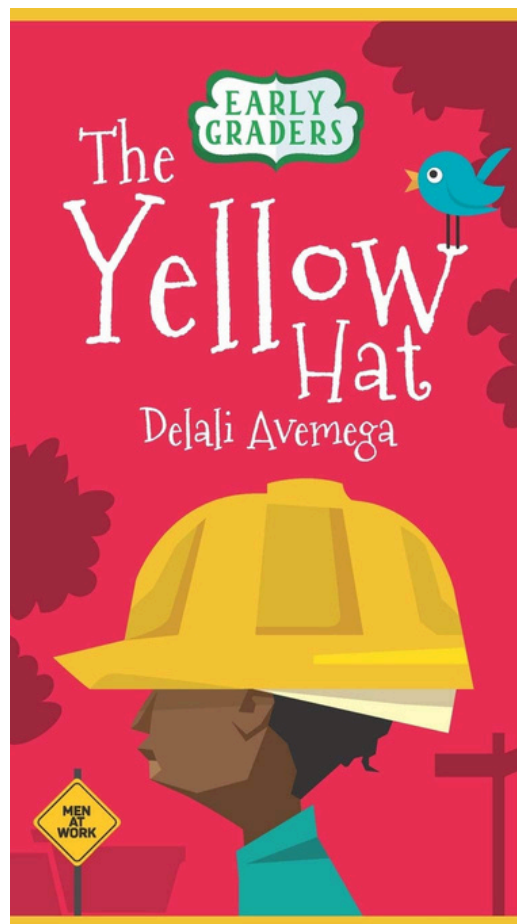
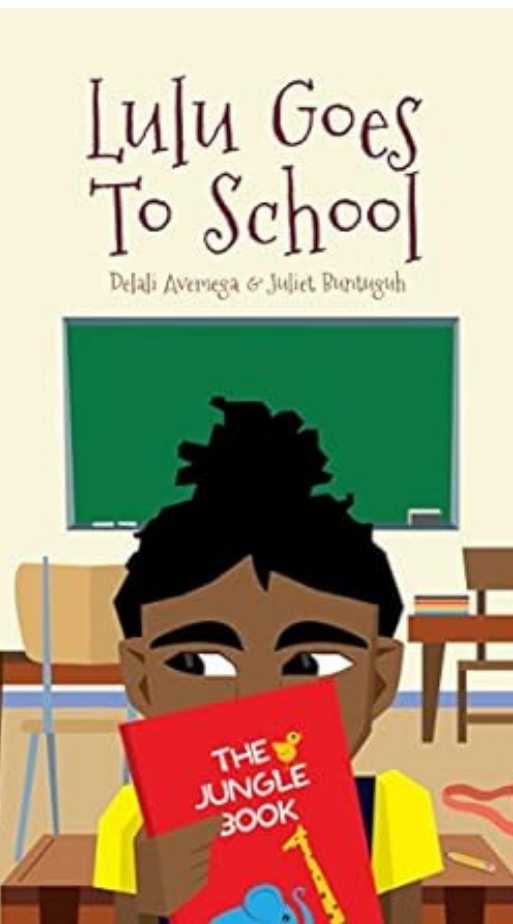
# Author Spotlight

## Meet Delali Avemega

This month, we shine the spotlight on **Delali Avemega**, a talented designer, writer, and illustrator of children's books. Based in Accra, Ghana, Delali creates stories that resonate with African children, featuring relatable characters and vibrant illustrations.

His popular publications include *Bobo & Friends*, *The Big Kick*, *The Little Baker*, *The Girl In The New Dress*, and *Lulu and Tambo*, among others.

Discover more about Delali Avemega and his work [here](#).



# Tips

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## 5 Tips for Supporting Early Childhood Education

- Encourage curiosity and a love for learning by providing a variety of stimulating activities. Engage children with interactive books, educational games, and hands-on projects that spark their interest and creativity.
- Establish a structured daily routine that includes designated times for learning, play, and rest. Consistency helps children feel secure and understand expectations, which supports their overall development and learning.
- Engage in frequent conversations with children and read aloud to them daily. Ask open-ended questions, encourage them to express their thoughts, and introduce new vocabulary in context to build their language skills and comprehension.
- Support the development of social and emotional skills by modeling positive behaviors, teaching empathy, and guiding children in resolving conflicts. Create opportunities for cooperative play and group activities to help them learn to interact positively with others.
- Incorporate hands-on learning experiences into everyday activities. Encourage children to explore, experiment, and discover through sensory play, art projects, and practical tasks. This approach helps them develop problem-solving skills and a deeper understanding of concepts.



# Resources & Opportunities

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The Black Atlantic Residency  
[Learn more here](#)

Call for Research Consultant - Kenya  
[Learn more here](#)

Call for Research Consultant - Nigeria  
[Learn more and apply here](#)

Call for Submissions - Purple Shelves  
[Learn more here](#)

6th Edition of the AWT Manuscript  
Assessment Programme  
[Learn more here.](#)



# Literary Festivals & Book Fairs

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6 - 11  
August

Soma Nami's African Book  
Festival 2024, Nairobi, Kenya

8 - 11  
August

Ghana International Book Fair  
2024, Accra, Ghana

21 - 24  
August

Doek Literary Festival 2024,  
Windhoek, Namibia



# Fun Facts



1. Africa The typical number of pages in picture books (illustrated books, usually for younger children) is just over thirty. [Read more here.](#)

2. **Ethiopia** is the only African country with its own indigenous writing system. This system is known as Ge'ez or Ethiopic. The Ethiopic alphabet is one of the oldest writing systems still in use today. Its history can be traced back several centuries. [Read more here.](#)

3. **In Ghana**, the need for local books for children that show indigenous background arose in the 60's to 70's when the country began to face foreign exchange problems. There was no money to import books because the economy of the country had started a downward trend. [Read more here.](#)



# Book List

## Top 5 Must-Read African Children's Books

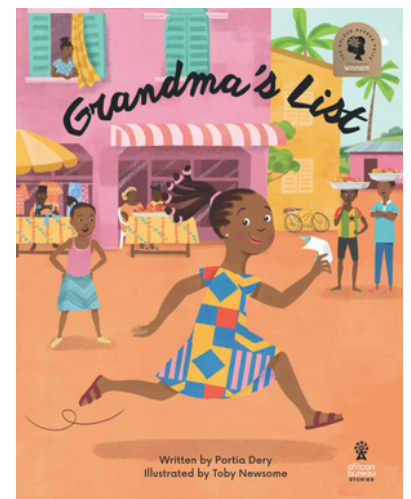
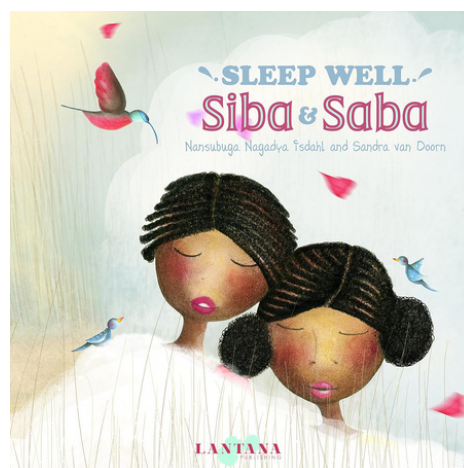
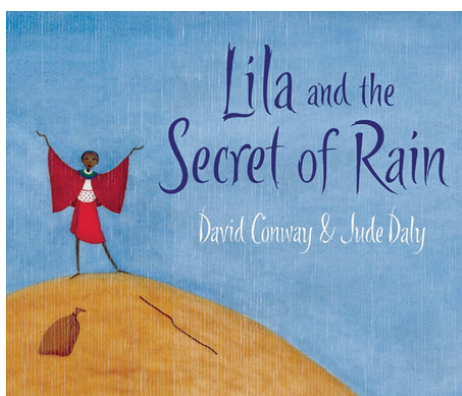
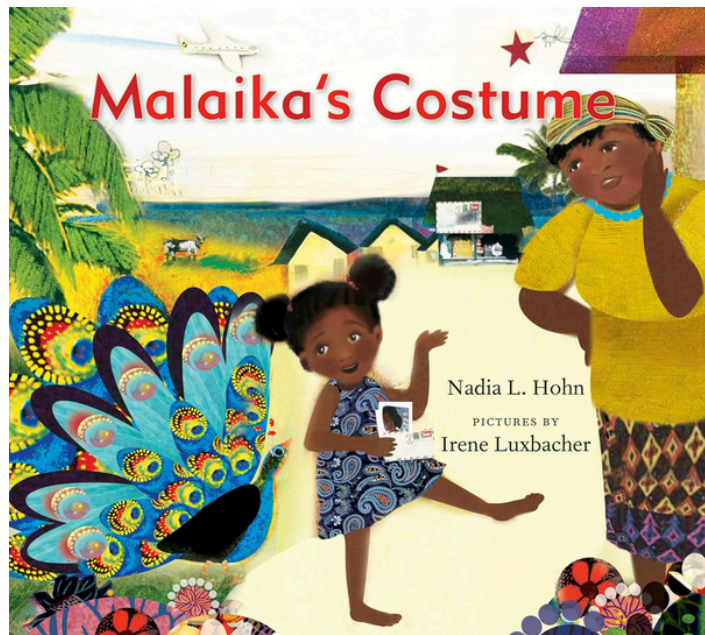
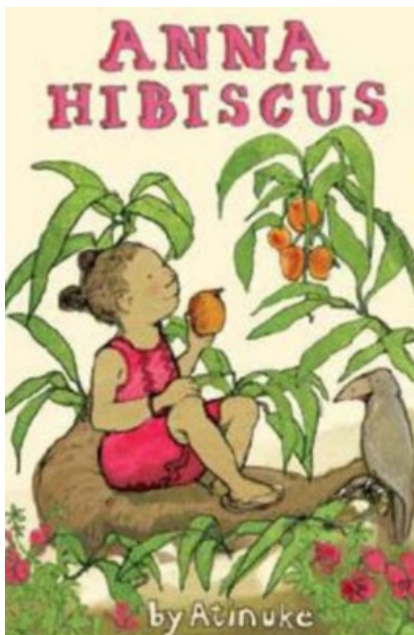
*Anna Hibiscus* by Atinuke

*Malaika's Costume* by Nadia L. Hohn

*Lila and the Secret of Rain* by David Conway

*Sleep Well, Siba & Saba* by Nansubuga Nagadya Isdahl

*Grandma's List* by Portia Dery



# Our Services

At Muna Kalati, we are dedicated to supporting African book professionals in their journey to success. Here's how our comprehensive services can help you thrive in the competitive literary market.



[f](#) [v](#) [in](#) [@](#) muna kalati

**MUN  
KALATI**

## Muna Kalati MARKETING SERVICES

### OUR SERVICES

- 1 Targeted Marketing Strategies
- 2 Brand Development and Positioning
- 3 Online Presence and Website Development
- 4 Social Media Management
- 5 Book Launch and Promotion
- 6 Collaborations and Partnerships
- 7 Digital Advertising

→ **CONTACT US**

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At Muna Kalati, we offer comprehensive marketing services tailored specifically for the children's book industry.

Ready to elevate your literary career? Contact us today to learn more about our services.

# ABOUT US

Muna Kalati is a thriving international book publishing community established in 2017 as a way to help children book publishing professionals (writers, illustrators, publishers, booksellers etc.) to feel connected, learn new things, grow professionally, and improve their prospects.

We increase access to children's books and enhance the visibility of children's book professionals in Africa through research, advocacy, and collaborative initiatives.


In 2024 we launched Muna Kalati Agency, a marketing arm offering event management and programming, digital and social media marketing, book launches, project management, book translation, copywriting, and copy-editing services.

Muna Kalati strives to foster a literary ecosystem that celebrates African storytelling and promotes literacy and education for children across the continent.

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HERE

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