



2025
ANNUAL
REPORT



Table of Contents

Message from the Trustees	1
2025 Snapshot	2
Grassroots Education	3
Creative Futures	8
Advocacy	12
Financial Summary	16
Volunteer and Staff Highlights	18
Organizational Update	21
Looking Ahead	22
Acknowledgements	23

Message from the Trustees

What an extraordinary year COAL has had. On behalf of the Trustees and Advisors, we are pleased to share COAL's 2025 Annual Report with our community. The pages that follow go beyond statistics and outputs; they reflect powerful stories of impact, resilience, and renewed hope across Nigeria and Sub-Saharan Africa.

This year, COAL's grassroots accelerated learning program played a critical role in addressing foundational gaps in literacy and numeracy. Through community-anchored approaches, children who were previously out of school or lagging behind were supported to re-enter learning pathways with confidence and measurable progress. These interventions reaffirm COAL's belief that sustainable change begins at the community level and that every child deserves the opportunity to build strong foundational skills.

Alongside this, COAL continued to create spaces for young artists to rediscover their talents, refine their craft, and engage meaningfully with creative industries. Through strategic partnerships and a shared commitment to impact, COAL deepened its work while extending its influence across education, creativity, and community development.



As you read this report, we hope you are inspired by what is possible when vision is matched with action and collaboration. We invite you to join us, whether as partners, supporters, or advocates as we work together to scale impact and reach even more communities.

We sincerely acknowledge the management team and staff whose dedication, leadership, and integrity made the achievements in this report possible. Their commitment continues to position COAL as a trusted catalyst for inclusive and sustainable change. We look forward to building on this momentum and to an even more impactful 2026.

Busola Oni
Trustee

Snapshot of 2025



₦4M

Invested in grassroots education

204

Young people supported with a platform

176

Volunteer hours clocked

543

Learners supported
(194 directly, 349 indirectly)



10

Out of school children enrolled in formal school

48

Teachers trained

400+

People reached across COAL's and partners events

₦1M

Worth of cash prizes disbursed to young creatives

52%

Of literacy achieved

40%

Of numeracy achieved



Staff and volunteers rating on job satisfaction and workplace culture



Of young creatives rated our Open Mics "good" & "excellent"



8

Countries reached with creative youth advocacy campaigns in Nigeria, Zambia, Uganda, Kenya, Zimbabwe, UK, US, Netherlands



Grassroots Education

Accelerating learning through local and asset-based approaches





2025 was an exceptionally challenging year to be a child in Nigeria. Widespread insecurity, displacement, and repeated school closures continued to disrupt learning, rendering education unsafe or inaccessible for many children. Nationwide, over 300 children and teachers were abducted, underscoring the fragility of the learning environment. These challenges are compounded by deep structural inequalities: two out of every three children in Nigeria live in multidimensional poverty; more than half experience some form of violence before the age of 18; and two in five girls are married before reaching adulthood.

Against this backdrop, our work in accelerated education continued to focus on community-led, low-cost solutions grounded in an asset-based community development approach. Since 2024, we have worked with grassroots initiatives and citizen aid actors, best positioned to respond to learning gaps in their own communities.

Through modest grant-making and institutional support, this approach enables community-based actors to design and deliver education solutions that are locally relevant, trusted, and sustainable.

Through this work, in 2024 alone, we supported 125 learners and successfully transitioned 13 out-of-school children into mainstream education, laying the foundation for increased access and retention.

Scaling our community-led education efforts

Building on the early outcomes, and guided by the same low-cost, community-driven model, we scaled this work by launching the Grassroots Accelerated Education Fund (GAEF) in April 2025. The fund strengthened existing education efforts in four communities across Bassa, Jos North, and Jos South LGAs, working with Claire Aid Foundation (CAF), Uplifting Our Children (UoC), and Patris Empowerment Initiative. Through literacy, numeracy, and school-readiness activities, **194 learners** (including those in 2024 cohort) received targeted support focused on foundational skills, including phonics, reading fluency, comprehension, and basic mathematics.



3

Grassroots education initiatives supported



194

Learners directly supported and 349 indirectly supported



48

Teachers trained

18

Schools supported



52%

Of literacy achieved

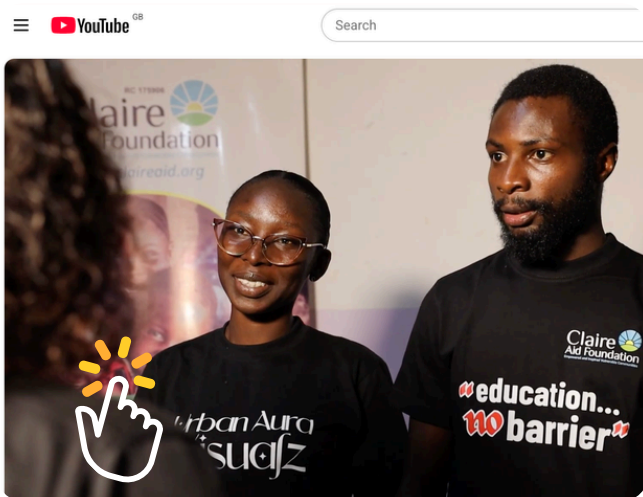
40%

Of numeracy achieved

Key highlights

In March 2025, we concluded the 2024 pilot phase of GAEF with a multi-stakeholder advocacy forum that convened **91 participants**, including representatives from the Plateau State Universal Basic Education Board (PLSUBEB), the Plateau State Child Protection Network, civil society organizations, and public and private schools. The forum fostered dialogue and commitments around advancing locally led solutions to address both formal and informal education inequalities.

[Watch highlights from the forum below](#)



As a direct outcome of this engagement, and through our partner Claire Aid Foundation, a series of community stakeholder engagements were organized in Miango, Jebbu Bassa, and Jebbu-Miango, in collaboration with the Child Protection Network (CPN) Plateau State Chapter and the Bassa LGA Social Services Department.

Following these discussions, a **Community Child Protection Committee (CCPCs)** was established comprising **15 members** in all three communities. The committee is now responsible for coordinating child protection efforts, handling reported violations, and raising awareness on child safety issues. As a result of these efforts, awareness of child protection has increased, with several child protection cases reported and documented, and families seeking justice through collaboration with relevant government agencies.



The training taught me how to teach phonics using pictorial flashcards, and it was really captivating for the children.”

— Female teacher, public school



Strengthening teaching quality and learning resources

Teacher training remained central to improving learning quality. Through CAF and UoC, **48 teachers across 18 public and private schools** in Plateau State were trained, indirectly supporting **over 300 learners** in under-resourced communities. Training focused on Jolly Phonics, classroom improvisation, and the development of low-cost teaching aids, with support from PLSUBEB officials. Teachers reported strong engagement and practical learning outcomes.





Library support

To further strengthen literacy outcomes, on 18 November 2025, LEA Fwawwei public school received classroom libraries furnished by UoC, including three secured cabinets stocked **with over 150 age-appropriate books**. The initiative was positively received by both students and school administrators, expanding access to reading materials and supporting literacy practice.

School enrollment

Through the programme, **10 out-of-school children** across three communities have been enrolled in government public schools: four in Jebbu-Miango, three in Miango, and three in Bassa. Their school levies were covered for one full academic year, and each child received uniforms, books, and stationery to support attendance.





Case studies

Returning to School



Mary Sunday
Age: 13 years
LGA/Community: Bassa,
Jebbu Miango

Mary is 13 years old and lives in Jebbu-Miango, Plateau State. She comes from a household of eight children, supported by a mother who earns little income selling fried potatoes and tofu at the local market. With limited income and growing household responsibilities, four children in the family dropped out of school.

When Mary's mother gave birth to another set of twins, Mary was forced to leave school to provide childcare at home. This is a common arrangement in the community, particularly in large households facing economic hardship.

Through COAL'-CAF education support, Mary was re-enrolled at LEA Jebbu-Miango. Her school levies were covered for the academic year, and she received uniforms, books, and stationery. Mary has since returned to regular attendance and is receiving additional learning support at the Jebbu Miango reads to address challenges with comprehension and self-expression.



Veronica Emmanuel
Age: 9 years
LGA/Community: Jos-
South Fwavwei

Veronica Emmanuel struggled with mental math and reading accuracy. In class, she was often hesitant to participate and found it difficult to keep pace with drills and exercises.

Through structured and play-based learning activities such as Math Bingo, puzzles, and sight-word challenges, her teachers introduced alternative ways to practise numeracy and literacy. These methods employed repetition, speed, and accuracy without pressure. Veronica now attempts calculations more confidently and **recognises over 70% of sight words**. She participates more consistently in class activities and continues to build reading fluency through guided practice.



Lana Obed
Age: 8 years
LGA/Community: Jos-
South Fwavwei

Lana Obed was initially reserved in class and reluctant to answer questions, particularly during math lessons. Traditional instruction methods did not hold his attention.

Interactive lessons using flash cards, number games, and hands-on activities changed his engagement. Games such as Bingo and problem-solving exercises encouraged participation and peer interaction.

As a result, Lana's mental math speed and accuracy have improved, and his workbook scores show steady progress. He now attempts questions independently and participates more actively during lessons.

Creative Futures

Expanding pathways for young creatives to learn, lead, and shape social change



Open Mics



Nigeria's creative sector is projected to grow to **\$13.6 billion by 2028**, positioning the country as a global exporter of creative talent. Within this expanding ecosystem, open mic platforms have evolved beyond informal talent showcases to become important spaces for professional development, cultural exchange, and civic expression. While most open mics remain concentrated in urban centres such as Lagos, Abuja, Port Harcourt, and Benin City; Jos, Plateau State, is a significant creative hub for open mics in Northern Nigeria supported by COAL's sustained engagement with young creatives over the years.

In 2025, our open mics operated as talent incubators, supporting poets, musicians, visual artists, and performers to develop their craft in a structured yet accessible environment. The programme moved beyond performance alone, combining creative expression with constructive feedback, skill-building, and civic dialogue. By integrating socially conscious themes, the open mics encouraged artists to engage with issues shaping their communities, including identity, mental health, entrepreneurship, peacebuilding and coexistence.

We prioritized the creation of safe, inclusive spaces where young people could experiment, receive critique, and build confidence before live audiences. In Plateau State, a state marked by artistic brilliance, the open mics continue to contribute to social cohesion, bringing together young creatives across different backgrounds and using art as a shared platform for dialogue, connection and growth.

For many participants in 2025, the open mics became consistent creative hubs for learning, peer exchange, and community building. Across literary, visual, and performing arts, participants reported increased confidence, improved skills, and stronger networks. Through poetry, storytelling, visual art, and facilitated discussions, the programme demonstrated how creative platforms can support youth development and community dialogue, positioning creative expression as both cultural practice and a pathway to social engagement.

2025 Open Mic Snapshot

4

Open mics implemented

176

Attendees across open mics

80

women participants attended in 2025, a 264% increase from 2024

208

Sign-ups (45% increase from 2024)

54

Total performances by creatives mostly (63%) between the ages of 18–29

60%

Of participants rated the open mics as “good” or “excellent”

Case study



Joseph Sunday

When 20 year old Joseph Sunday first attended COAL's open mic in late 2023, he came with a love for performance but little confidence and no clear sense of himself as a spoken word poet. Having grown up in a church band, he admired being on stage, but performing alone had not yet translated into confidence or craft, he was unfamiliar with the discipline of writing and refining spoken word poetry.

Through regular participation in open mics, Joseph was introduced to poetry as a learnable craft. The feedback culture at the open mics became central to his growth, early feedback, though challenging, helped him recognise progress over time and understood how deliberate practice could improve his work. As his understanding of craft deepened, confidence followed, not in instinct alone but in knowledge and clarity.

Skills gained through the open mic extended beyond poetry. Practical performance techniques, including microphone use and stage presence, strengthened his work as a voice-over artist and creative practitioner.

Through relationships built at the open mic, Joseph was encouraged to take his work beyond Jos. In 2024, he travelled to Abuja to participate in his first poetry slam through a sponsored opportunity facilitated by a COAL volunteer. It was his first time performing outside the city of Jos, an opportunity he might not have pursued without this support. While he did not win the slam, the experience significantly increased his confidence and sense of possibility.

Now a Psychology student at the University of Jos, Joseph continues to balance his studies with creative work as a performance poet, video editor, and voice-over artist, remaining an active part of the open mic community.



“The first time... all three feedback on my performances were bad. The second time it was two bad and one good. And the third time it was good.”

— Joseph Sunday, Open mic participant



COAL has been a home for me. It helped build my confidence and created space for growth and networking”

— Open mic participant



COAL was my first public performance on stage.”

— Open mic participant



This open mic helped me build the confidence and courage to perform in front of an audience.”

— Open mic participant



Personally, I was moved with the amazing creativity performed on the stage, it was amazing and I learned a lot from ma'am Christy(Money Mechanic) was a great one.”

— Open mic participant



It's always a space that has my mind buzzing with ideas and other ways I can write and perform my poems.

— Open mic participant



The open mic helped me understand the importance of belonging to a creative community.

— Open mic participant

Book reading



Alongside performance-based programming, we created spaces for collective reading and literary dialogue, recognising books as important tools for reflection, learning, and shared understanding. In February 2025, COAL hosted an interactive book chat with writer, journalist, and performance poet David Onot. The session centred on his book *How Butterflies Are Made*, a contemporary Nigerian story that follows the experiences of young people navigating hardship, ambition, and self-discovery.



Through the character of *Happy Boy*, the book explores themes of resilience, perseverance, and the quiet determination required to pursue opportunity in challenging circumstances. The conversation invited participants to reflect on their own experiences, ask questions, and engage with literature as something closely connected to everyday life rather than removed from it. The session reinforced the role of reading and storytelling in helping young people make sense of their realities, articulate personal journeys, and engage more deeply with ideas that shape their creative and civic identities.



Advocacy

Amplifying youth voice on public health and social justice awareness and advocacy campaigns



Art4Life Campaign

In 2025, we marked the second year of the International Awareness Day for Avoidable Disaster Deaths ([IAD4AD](#)) through the [Art4Life awareness and advocacy campaign](#), delivered in partnership with the University of Leicester, the [Avoidable Deaths Network](#), and SEVHAGE Literary and Development Initiative. The campaign was launched in February to raise awareness on preventable public health crises in Sub-Saharan Africa, while centring youth voices as agents of social change.

Art4Life leveraged creative forms as tools for advocacy, inviting young artists from across Sub-saharan Africa to respond through poetry, flash fiction, and photography.

A modest **\$500 incentivised competition** encouraged submissions across four critical public health issues: snakebite, maternal mortality, drowning, and silicosis. Beyond awareness, the campaign intentionally created the space for young people to engage with complex social justice issues using art as a means of reflection and public dialogue.



“...Art4Life Campaign means so much to me. It is a reminder that we are not powerless, that art, awareness, and action can make a difference”...

— Contributor

Overview of Art4Life Call

104

Total submission received

10

Winners selected with a total prize of \$500

18

Honourable mentions

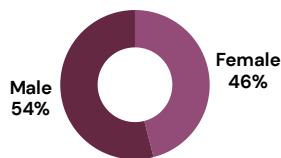
96%

of participating creatives discovered the IAD4AD for the first time through this call.

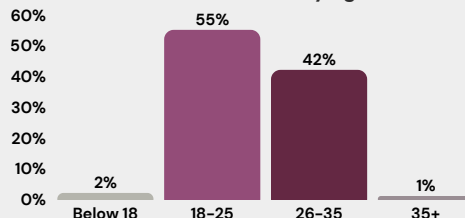
55%

Of submissions came from youth between the ages of 18-25

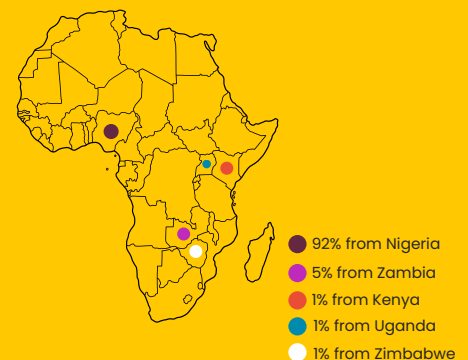
Submission by gender



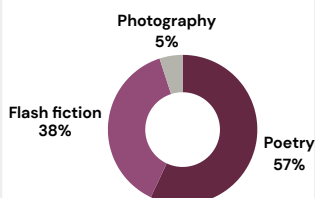
Breakdown of submission by age



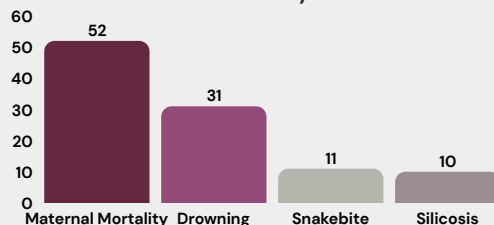
Submission by country



Submission by genre



Breakdown of submission by theme





Ibrahim Babátúndé
Ibrahim



Emma Kennedy



S. E. Su'eddie
Vershima Agema



Vanessa
Chisakula



Anre John


The judging panel

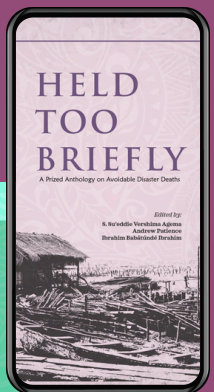
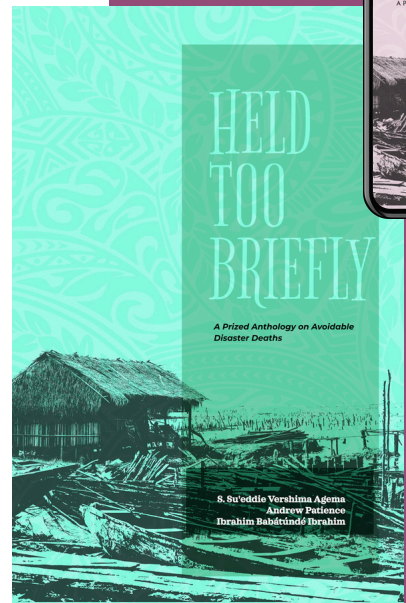
The campaign received 104 submissions from five African countries: Nigeria, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Kenya, and Uganda, reflecting both the relevance of the themes and the reach of the platform. Selected works were curated into a digital anthology as a key advocacy output of the campaign.

Anthology Launch

Titled *Held Too Briefly*, the anthology brings together poetry, flash fiction, and visual art that centre the human stories behind avoidable deaths. In August 2025 the anthology was launched, convening over 30 participants including creatives, academics and art promoters from Nigeria, Zambia, US and the UK. [See a video recap of the session here.](#)

Furthermore, and as part of COAL's commitment to supporting young creatives, **#1 million in prizes** was disbursed to selected contributors, providing practical support for their artistic practice. Through Art4Life, young artists were not only heard, but also resourced, reinforcing COAL's approach to advocacy as both expression and empowerment.

<p>Dr Funmi Adewole Elliott</p> <p>Performer, dramaturge and academic</p> <p>»»»</p>		<p>Ibrahim Babátúndé Ibrahim</p> <p>Writer and editor of the Journal of African Youth Literature (JAY Lit)</p>	<p>The Role of Art-Based Advocacy for Social Change</p>
	<p>«««</p> <p>Vanessa Chisakula</p> <p>Poet and Activist</p>		<p>Dr Nibedita S. Ray-Bennett</p> <p>Founding President and Convenor of the Avoidable deaths Network (ADN)</p> <p>»»»</p>



Get a copy.



Case study



Chisom Nsiegbunam

Chisom Nsiegbunam is a creative writer based in Anambra State and a student at Nnamdi Azikiwe University. Before engaging with COAL, writing was already part of her life shaped through years of journaling and publications. This private practice laid the foundation for her later creative work.

In 2025, Chisom participated in COAL's Art4Life campaign with a short piece titled **Little Bodies**. While responding to the campaign's environmental and public health themes, she chose to tell a deeply personal story rooted in family memory and transition. The process marked a turning point in her practice. Instead of writing instinctively, she approached the piece with deliberate attention to point of view, structure, and voice.

What shifted for Chisom was not simply the recognition of being selected. It was the writing process itself. Although *Little Bodies* was only 250 words, she approached it differently from anything she had written before. Rather than telling the story directly, she slowed down to think carefully about point of view, who knew the story best, and who should be positioned to tell it.

Recognition from the campaign also strengthened her confidence to submit her works more widely. Chisom described the COAL win as one of her first major writing wins in 2025 and a turning point in how she approached opportunities. *"It gives you the confidence of going for other opportunities,"* she said. In 2025 alone, she recorded over 70 rejections, but continued submitting, tracking entries carefully and treating writing as a serious, sustained practice.

Since the campaign, her writing has received growing recognition, including notable entry at the Abebi Afro-Nonfiction Awards, an invitation to the Abebi Residency, a Pushcart Prize nomination, and a Best of Net Awards nomination. Her work has also been featured in Afrocritik's 40 Notable Essays in Africa (2025) and 50 Remarkable Stories in Africa (2025), with publications in Ubwali Literary Magazine, Aprilcentaur Network, Eunoia Review, and African Writer Magazine.

Beyond recognition, the Art4Life prize provided practical support at a critical moment, enabling her to meet basic needs as a student while continuing to write. Chisom describes the campaign as affirming not only for the outcome, but for how it strengthened her confidence, craft, and commitment to sustained creative practice.



"I actually sat down as a writer and thought deeply about point of view... about who knew the story best. I paused and thought deeply for days, until I finally wrote the first draft"

— Chisom, Art4Life winner, short story category

Case study



Solomon Idah Hamza

Solomon Idah Hamza is a teacher, environmentalist, and writer from Kaduna State whose writing is shaped by lived experience and concern for social and environmental realities. His relationship with storytelling began early, influenced by his mother's oral storytelling tradition, and later evolved into a practice centred on poetry and social commentary.

In 2025, Solomon participated in COAL's Art4Life campaign after engaging with COAL's literary spaces and bookstore the previous year. The campaign's focus on avoidable deaths and public health risks resonated strongly with him, both professionally and personally. Drawing on his background in environmental health and repeated encounters with snakebite risk in his community, Solomon submitted a piece centred on snakebite, a danger he had witnessed and narrowly avoided himself. Winning the Art4Life prize marked a significant milestone in his writing journey.

Although he had been published online since 2021, the recognition affirmed years of persistence and strengthened his motivation to continue writing and submitting his works more broadly. Solomon described the experience as encouraging, reinforcing the value of using creative expression to raise awareness about urgent public health issues.

Since the campaign, Solomon has continued to develop his practice, receiving further recognition, including the recent "**Brigitte James EcoPoetry Prize 2025**" which won poem of the year titled "All of It". He views Art4Life as a platform that demonstrated how creative writing can make everyday risks visible, challenge fatalism, and contribute to public dialogue on preventable deaths, particularly in communities where such issues are often normalised.



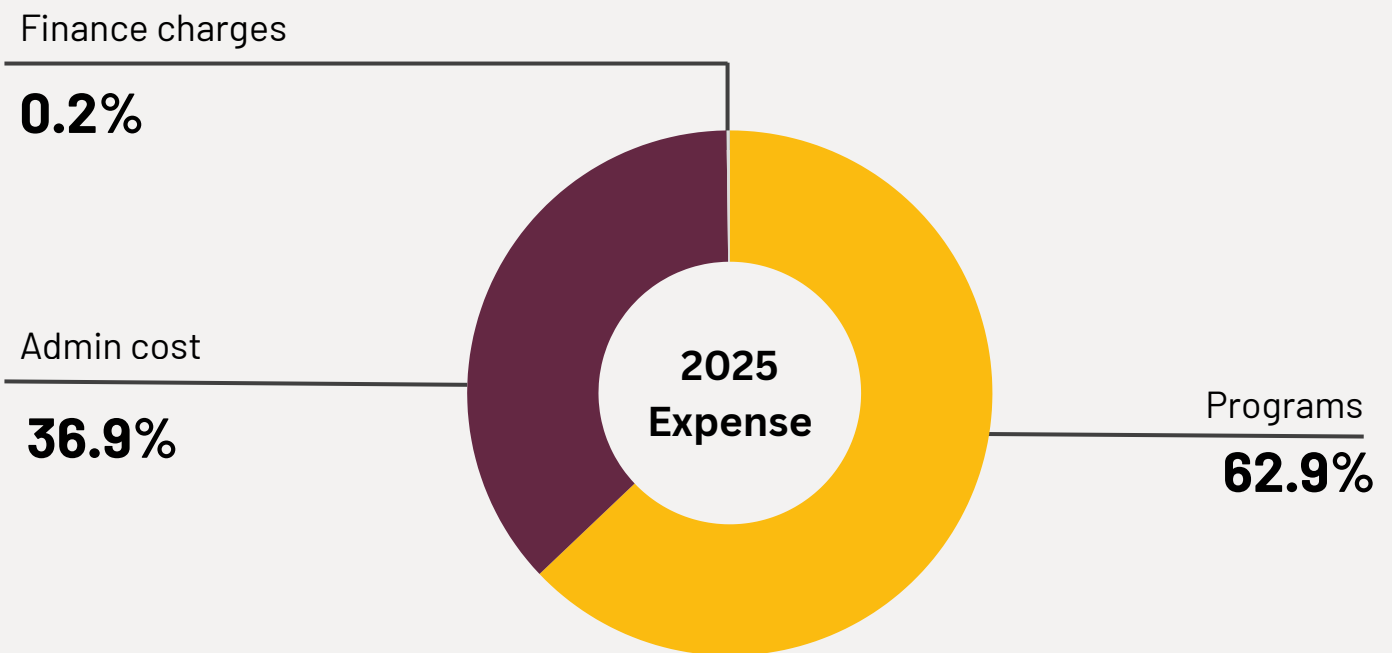
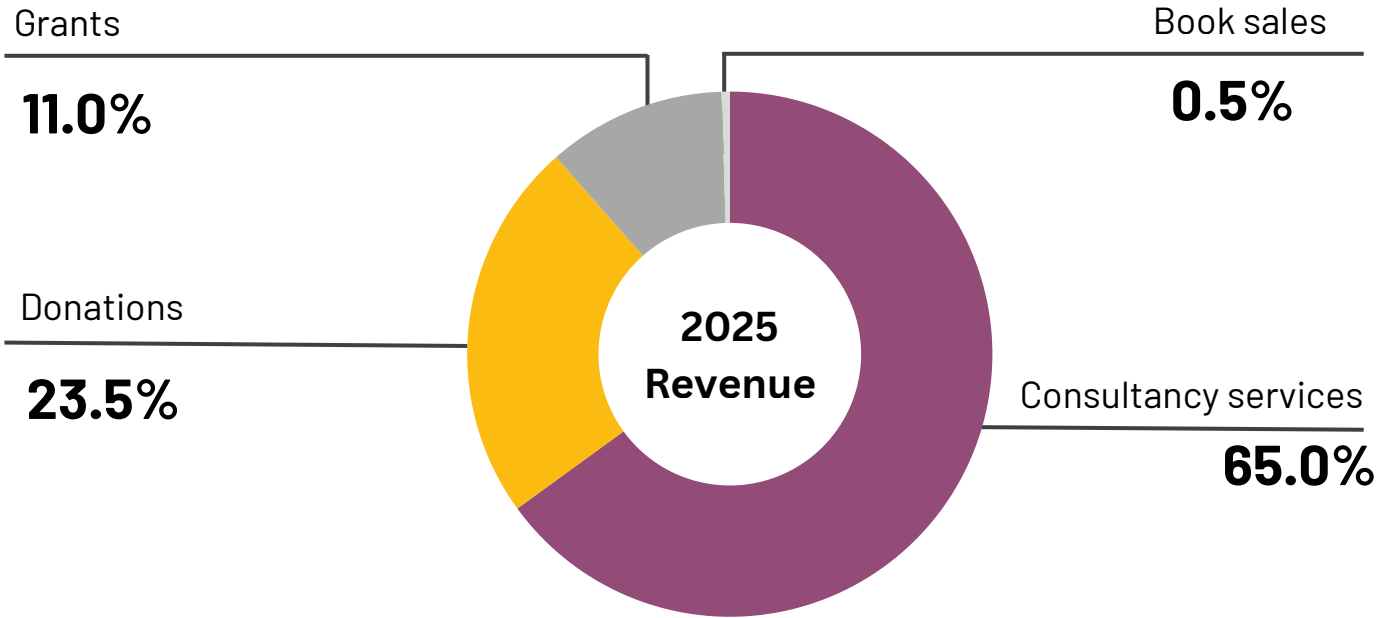
Winning gave me the courage to write more, submit more, and create more awareness"

— Solomon, Art4Life winner, short story category

Financial Summary



2025 Financial Snapshot



REVENUE AND SUPPORT

Rate @1,472.9 to a \$	2025 (₦)	2025 (\$)	2024 (₦)	2024 (\$)
Grants	₦942,383	\$640.00	₦1,161,000	\$789.00
Donations	₦2,018,431	\$1,371.00	₦617,282	\$419.00
Book sales	₦42,510	\$29.00	₦109,400	\$74.00
Consultancy services	₦5,580,410	\$3,791.00	₦6,646,795	\$4,515.00
Total revenue and support	₦8,583,734	\$5,831.00	₦8,534,477	\$5,797.00

EXPENSES

Program expenses	₦3,804,397	\$2,585.00	₦3,566,648	\$2,423.00
Administrative expenses	₦2,228,467	\$1,514.00	₦1,416,983	\$963.00
Finance charges	₦12,232	\$8.00	₦6,415	\$4.00
Total expenses	₦6,045,096	\$4,107.00	₦4,990,046	\$3,390.00
Accumulated funds unrestricted	₦8,345,093	\$5,783.00	₦9,973,122	\$6,649.00
Cash & cash equivalents at year end	₦5,647,568	\$3,765.00	₦7,965,694	\$5,520.00

[See detailed audited financial statement here.](#)

Board of Trustees and Advisors

- Sunga Kufeyani
- Umar Turaki
- Oluwabusola Oni
- Patience Andrew
- Nnonye Obi
- Olisa Omenye
- Olu Oyekeye

Volunteer & Staff Highlights



Creative enterprise — Building AFÒ

Adekunbi “Lardo” Ogunsuyi is a long-time volunteer with COAL whose journey reflects a sustained transition from creative participant to youth leader and founder. She first engaged with COAL in 2017, at the age of 19, through poetry slams, open mics and creative writing workshops. Over the years, she developed her creative practice while gradually taking on facilitation and leadership roles within COAL’s creative programs. From 2018, Adekunbi continued to volunteer with COAL, becoming a key facilitator across its creative portfolio.

In 2025, Adekunbi channelled her collective experiences over the years into founding AFÒ, an ideas lab designed to amplify local voices across arts, research, innovation, and social impact in Africa. Rather than rushing to a public launch, AFÒ spent 2025 in a deliberate foundation-building phase, focused on clarifying its vision, values, and purpose.



Adekunbi Ogunsuyi

This approach allowed Adekunbi to test ideas, learn from early engagements, and shape a platform grounded in community relevance, critical thinking, and local context. AFÒ represents a new stage in Adekunbi’s youth leadership journey, one that moves beyond individual creative success toward building shared spaces for dialogue, collaboration, and collective problem-solving. Looking ahead to 2026, AFÒ is preparing for its first pilot event alongside a series of virtual conversations to engage young people across Nigeria.

Through AFÒ, Adekunbi is translating years of creative practice, mentorship, and volunteer experience into a sustainable, youth-led platform that supports community-driven ideas and long-term impact.

[Learn more about AFÒ here](#)



Internship highlight

Nanbal Monday serves as a Communications intern with COAL, where the experience became a defining step in his professional and leadership journey. During his internship, Nanbal supported content creation, documentation, and strategic communication across COAL's programs, helping to amplify youth development initiatives and community-centred projects.

Through this role, he gained hands-on experience in communicating impact and engaging diverse audiences. The internship strengthened his skills in writing, coordination, and digital engagement, while exposing him to the importance of clear, ethical, and compelling communication in shaping narratives and driving social change.



Nanbal Monday

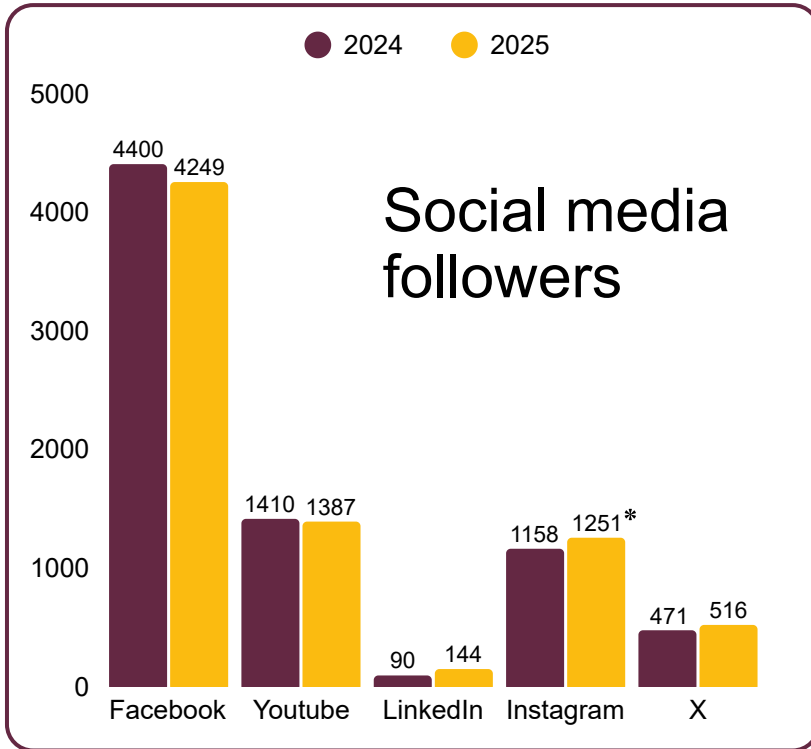
Nanbal credits his time at COAL as a key factor in his selection as a Fellow of the Plateau Emerging Leaders Fellowship (PELF) 2025. The fellowship recognises young leaders who combine community engagement with strategic communication for shaping national policies. His internship helped build this capacity, strengthening his confidence to articulate ideas, mobilise people, and contribute meaningfully to leadership and policy conversations.



My time in COAL significantly contributed to my selection as a Fellow of the Plateau Emerging Leaders Fellowship (PELF) 2025.”

— Intern, COAL

How we did on social media



Across COAL's digital platforms, audience growth in 2025 reflected both consolidation and targeted gains.

- Facebook followers declined by 3.4%, from 4,400 in 2024 to 4,249 in 2025, while YouTube subscribers decreased slightly by 1.6%, from 1,410 to 1,387.
- In contrast, LinkedIn recorded the strongest growth, increasing by 60% from 90 to 144 followers, reflecting expanded professional engagement.
- Instagram followers grew by 8%, rising from 1,158 to 1,251, while X followers increased by 9.6%, from 471 to 516, indicating steady interest in COAL's programmes and advocacy content.

*Instagram figures include figures from COAL's bookstore instagram account

2025 Social Media Performance Overview



Organizational Update





Strategic Plan (2026-2030)

In 2025, we set a clear course for the future with a new bold five-year strategic plan focused on expanding access to foundational learning, unlocking creative pathways for young people, and strengthening youth voice and systems for lasting change. Leveraging local expertise and partnerships designed for measurable results, the strategy positions COAL to scale what works and invest resources where they matter most.

Read the full strategy here: [COAL Strategic Plan 2026–2030](#)



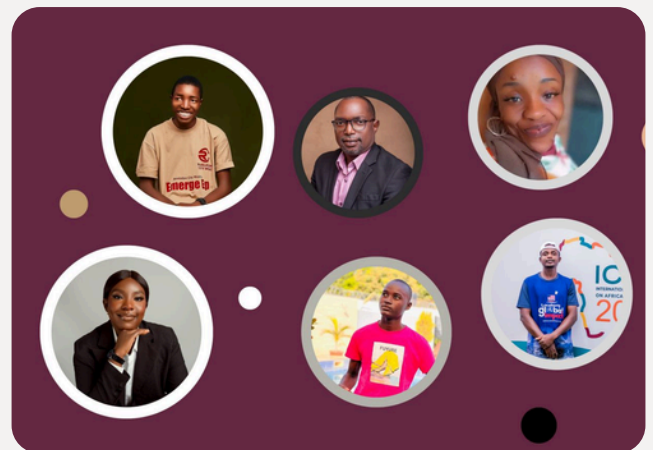
Strengthening our governance

In April 2025, we welcomed four new Advisory Board members. Their diverse expertise and shared commitment to education, creativity, and community-led development has continued to strengthen COAL’s governance and strategic direction.



Award and recognition

In May 2025, COAL was recognised at the Plateau State Literary Festival 2025, for our commitment to promoting, preserving and advancing indigenous literary arts.



Expanding our volunteer network

In August 2025, we onboarded eight new volunteers, increasing our total volunteer base to 20. These volunteers contribute across executive leadership, programmes, communications, and operations, playing a vital role in delivering COAL’s work and sustaining community engagement.

Looking Ahead

As we look to the years ahead, COAL is entering a new phase of growth, one shaped by reflection, learning, and a renewed focus on what matters most—people and communities. Our [2026–2030 Strategic Plan](#) marks a clear commitment to deepening community-led education efforts, expanding youth creative development, and strengthening our role as a trusted partner in grassroots development, advocacy, and youth creative development.

In this next phase, we will focus on fewer but more intentional programmes, those with the greatest potential to deliver meaningful, measurable, and lasting impact. We will invest deliberately in the people, systems, and partnerships that sustain our work, while expanding collaboration across education, creative, and civic spaces. At the centre of our new strategy is a continued commitment to young people, local knowledge, and creative practice as powerful drivers of social change. This chapter of COAL’s journey is about scaling with purpose, partnering with integrity, and creating impact that endures.

Patience Andrew
Executive Director



With **20 million children out of school and two-thirds of Nigerian children living in multidimensional poverty**, education inequality continues to limit opportunities for children and young people in low resource settings. Each day of exclusion pushes children further behind, narrows pathways to fulfilled lives for young people, and weakens community resilience.

Your support can help change this.



Thanks to our clients



We extend our sincere thanks to all our partners and clients who chose to work with COAL in 2025. Whether collaborating with us on annual reports, monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) plans, impact evaluations, or communications and brand assets, we value the trust you placed in our team to deliver thoughtful and high-quality consulting support.

By choosing COAL, you did more than engage professional services. Your partnership directly supported grassroots education initiatives and helped sustain creative spaces where young people can learn, express themselves, and thrive. We are grateful for the opportunity to work alongside organisations committed to impact, integrity, and community-led change.

See news story of a service we delivered

- **Reproductive health kit** designed for researchers at the University of Leicester for women in Asia



Dr Nibedita Ray-Bennett
Founder & President of the
Avoidable Deaths Network and
Avoidable Deaths Lab, University of
Leicester, UK.



Avoidable Deaths Network (ADN) and COAL have successfully collaborated on two projects, with ADN also benefiting from a consultancy service provided by COAL to develop our MEL framework for the International Awareness Day for Avoidable Deaths (IAD4AD) and designing the brand for our Reproductive Health Kit. We deeply value our partnership with COAL, which has been a significant learning opportunity for ADN. Looking ahead, we are enthusiastic about our continued long-term collaboration, aiming for impactful work in Sub-Saharan Africa.”

Thanks to our donors, partners, supporters and clients



Grants

- University of Leicester (ADN IAD4AD campaign micro grant)

Individual donors

- Dr Funmi Adewole Elliot
- Geoff and Alison Kennedy
- COAL Trustees

In-kind support

- Sandra Adik
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2025 clients

- Center for Advocacy, Transparency, and Accountability Initiative (CATAI)
- African Youth for Peace Development and Empowerment Foundation (AFRYDEYV)
- Future Resilience and Development Foundation (FRAD)
- Avoidable Deaths Network (ADN)



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