



LitWorld™

Girls Clubs

What are LitWorld Girls Clubs?

LitWorld Girls Clubs for Literacy are a series of reading and writing workshops that cultivate girls' natural ability to tell and share their stories. Girls become literacy leaders for their generation, promoting health and empowerment, and feeling confident in the power of their voices to change the world.

Workshops are organized around
LitWorld's Seven Strengths:

- **Belonging**
- **Curiosity**
- **Sisterhood**
- **Compassion**
- **Hope**
- **Confidence**
- **Esteem**

Interested in Starting a Girls Club?

LitWorld provides:

- 3 Facilitator Training Sessions
- Facilitator Handbook
- Detailed 12-Week Curriculum (Includes Writing Activities Connected to the Seven Strengths, Recommended Read Aloud Books and Discussion Questions to Spark Conversations)
- Ongoing Online Support for Facilitators



About LitWorld: LitWorld's mission is to cultivate literacy leaders through transformational literacy experiences that build connection, understanding, resilience, and strength. We work with teachers, parents, community members, and children to support the development of literacy and the power of story in the world's most vulnerable communities. Visit litworld.org for more...

The LitWorld Girls Clubs for Literacy Initiative

Staggering statistics show that millions of girls in developing countries drop out before reaching secondary school, greatly diminishing their possibilities in income and economic self-sufficiency and putting their health and their families' health at risk. Statistics show that girls' literacy levels impacts their own health as well as the health of their future children. Here in the United States, girls are threatened by circumstances of poverty and their emotional, physical and intellectual wellbeing is compromised by weak literacy skills. Literacy is protection, information, inspiration and transformation.

The LitWorld Girls Clubs for Literacy Initiative as Response to the Crisis

The LitWorld Girls Clubs for Literacy identify women in their local communities who can serve as literacy mentors for young girls and teens, helping them to continue their education using the power of words to change their worlds. Girls participate together in a series of workshops designed to support their leadership and literacy learning. Participants receive mentoring and read and write together in ways that help them explore their sense of self as well as put their ideas out into the world. Topics of empowerment, leadership, and collegiality fuel these sessions, inspiring and motivating participants to make an impact in their own communities as community literacy leaders.

The Vision

Challenges facing girls' education is a major obstacle towards societal progress and development. By focusing on girls, the Clubs address the personal needs of these young women, strengthen their literacy skills, help them see their own stories as making a powerful difference and position them for future success; and instill communities with a cadre of certified literacy leaders to support girls' development moving forward.

The Girls Clubs for Literacy

Girls Clubs for Literacy will focus on equipping young women with the literacy leadership skills to support and guide their communities and especially the girls in their communities to begin to envision hopeful healthful futures. **Girls Clubs for Literacy** will provide leadership training, cultivate young women with leadership potential, and equip them to be literacy leaders for their generation, spreading messages regarding health and empowerment, and leading the way for their peers to share in the power of sharing of words and stories. The **Girls Club for Literacy** members will be ambassadors for literacy in their own communities, armed with the tools they need to help younger children learn how to read and write through the power of stories. They will also use their newfound skills to convey issues of health, information, safety and inspiration pertinent to young women, sharing these with one another. This initiative will bring young women and mentors in the fields of education and health together, bringing young women a more global perspective and better equipping them to function in the global marketplace as entrepreneurs and as female leaders.

The **Girls Clubs for Literacy** will provide a safe arena to explore the female coming of age experience, provide educational information about the menstrual cycle--its purpose and effects on the body, and share stories. This group work would be designed to build confidence around the universality and acceptability of this transition. Writing sessions on this topic will tap into women and girls' own understandings and narratives to convert experiences that have felt vulnerable into a shared power. LitWorld expertise would contribute a reservoir of young adult literature including poems and short stories that reflect the changing lives of girls and women. **Girls Clubs for Literacy** across the world will connect via Internet options to discuss the texts and share their own writing, thereby alleviating the isolation and loneliness of adolescence and of life circumstances created by gender inequities. They will maintain contact through text messaging systems, blogs and other venues for sharing both online and through snail mail.

LitWorld Leaders will facilitate writing workshops for the girls that would not only be a way for the girls to build resilience and reflect on their own experiences, but also to convey learnings and teachings to other girls. The writing developed will include health related information shared and conveyed by the girls themselves from girls to other girls, all across the world. Books will be created by the Clubs that would be available online through the LitWorld digital library as well as created in actual book form by the Book in a Day Project. These books would then be disseminated throughout all **Girls Clubs for Literacy** and for them to share with younger girls in their communities. LitWorld Leaders will work side by side with medical professionals and medical organizations to ensure that the girls learn and distribute vital information to the girls of their communities.

Pilot Girls Clubs for Literacy

We are currently running 9 international Girls Clubs in various stages of progress. These include:

- Red Rose School in Kibera, Kenya
- Magadi Primary School in Kisumu, Kenya
- Migosi Primary School in Kisumu, Kenya
- Nanga Primary School in Kisumu, Kenya
- La Enoble Junior High School in Accra, Ghana
- Lubunda R.C. Primary School in Bugonma, Kenya
- Becky Primary School in Monrovia, Liberia
- Leer, Sudan
- Erbil, Iraq

We are also running US Girls Clubs, currently in sites around New York and Connecticut. These Girls Clubs are funded separately from our international Girls Clubs. We envision our Girls Clubs in more financially stable areas serving as support for those in more vulnerable areas.

Budget

The total budget for the Launch Year of an international Girls Club is \$3,375. The budget for the subsequent years of the club is \$2,875.

Type of Expense	Price
(1) One Time Expenses	\$500
(2) Yearly Expenses	\$1,210
(3) Expenses Per 12 Week Cycle	\$555

- (1) One Time Expenses include a laptop, digital camera and printer.
- (2) Yearly Expenses include writing and drawing supplies, books, ink cartridges, paper, notebooks and a LW supervisor (whose cost may be lowered by spreading it over multiple Girls Clubs).
- (3) Cycle Expenses include activities, snacks, sanitary supplies, and internet service.

A line item budget is available upon request.

We hope to replicate LitWorld Girls Clubs for Literacy in at least 6 new sites in the coming year, reaching hundreds of girls worldwide. LitWorld Clubs give girls and women the power of words through the sharing of literature, poems and stories. LitWorld's focus is specifically on reading and writing as a tool for social change for marginalized women so that their voices are heard. We commit to creating an online structure for the Clubs to communicate worldwide and to share their stories of resilience, while learning to read and write.

We are creating a global online writing project conveying the stories of girls worldwide.

Developing girls' capacities to express ideas clearly and confidently enables them to advocate for their own rights and the rights of others; build stronger social networks; understand and cope with difficult personal experiences; and share vital information with the world, thereby creating communities and bringing girls out of isolation. This project exemplifies and demonstrates the concept of literacy as protection. By nurturing and fostering literacy skills, girls in the world's most vulnerable settings have the opportunity to tell their stories and empower themselves through them.

You can find more information on our Girls Club Blog, litworldgirlsclubs.wordpress.com, or on our website, litworld.org. Please feel free to email us at girlsclubs@litworld.org or call 917-727-5295 if you have any questions.