



Year in Review

2022



A Message from the Founder

The past few years put a spotlight on an undeniable truth: traditional school can be fragile and unreliable.

I'm not against institutional education. Quite the contrary, in fact. But I have witnessed how quickly education falls off the list of priorities during crises - the time when learning is arguably the most needed.

We saw brick-and-mortar schools shut down first during a pandemic. We saw children deprived of learning for far too long. When the refugee camps shut down learning centers, when the Taliban took over Afghanistan, when Ukrainians fled their homes, the list goes on.

Something that our team is proud of is that our programs didn't stop. When brick-and-mortar schools shut down in refugee camps, teachers continued doing what they do best. We came alongside to support them by doing what we do best: providing contextualized, relevant informal learning materials.

Put simply? We made books full of cartoons that represent the readers. We support the pop-up schools that appear in private homes, community centers, even under a tree.

What if an Afghan girl stepped off the airplane in the US with a book in hand already tailored to her culture and language?

What if a Ukrainian boy who spent 9+ hours anxiously waiting in a train station had a coloring book in hand - with scenes from his own city?

What if a Rohingya girl learned that girls around the world also menstruate - it's not just her (pg. 27). And what if she learned about her menstrual cycle **before** she started her first period so she didn't think she had a serious disease (pg. 2 & pg. 29)?

I started Books Unbound by a series of "what if's" that I wanted to see play out in the world. Really, the end goal was to see if we could elicit a few more smiles by bringing a little extra color into this world.



These books might just be a bunch of fun cartoons to the average reader.

But once you've survived genocide and fled your country - a home you are no longer welcome - I think these books might mean something more.

Our simple cartoons are created to show displaced populations that they are recognized, valued, and have a purpose. We will never understand the trauma they have endured, but we can help them navigate their new chapter of life.

We may only have a few products in circulation right now, but I'd like to say that we're just getting started. We want to build our resources with new topics in more communities around the world.

There is something special about building something from nothing, but thankfully, I was never alone. Perhaps the reason I was born with no artistic talent was so I could navigate the world to find the incredible artists who are now part of my team. I am also honored to work with such inspiring leaders in the Rohingya, Afghan, Ukrainian, and Bangla communities who are dedicated to bringing change. Good change.

As always, we are grateful for your support and for coming along the journey of **cartoonizing communities** with us. THANK YOU!"

- Sophie Danielson, Founder

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Thoughts from our users

"This picture dictionary gives me so much confidence in my ability to make good sense of my own thoughts and feelings regarding my cultural identity. **The most important specialty of this book is that it's based on my culture.**"

- Sadek (age 14)

Rohingya Picture Dictionary, Bangladesh



"This is the **first time my camp's community is presented in a realistic way.** I love this picture dictionary very much. I can easily find out the real characters of my community by going through this picture dictionary."

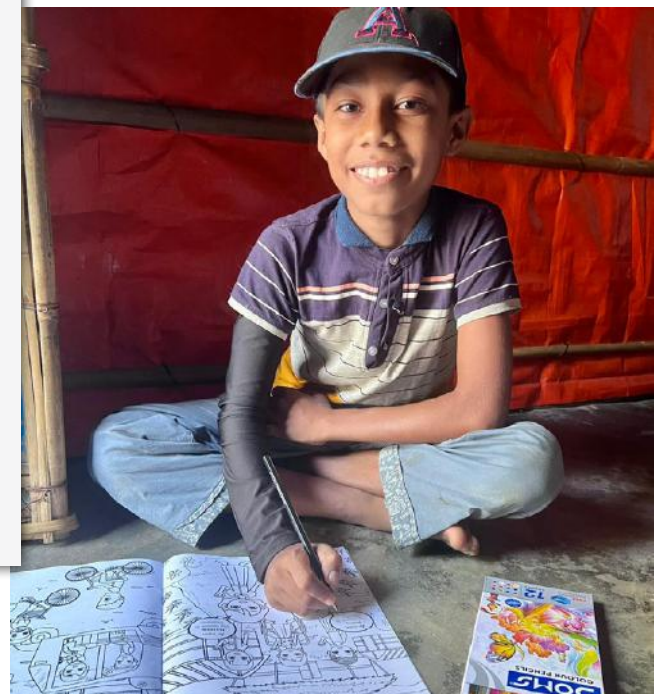
- Yeaser Arfat (age 10)

Rohingya Picture Dictionary, Bangladesh

"I used to draw pictures at the very beginning of my school life in Myanmar. But after leaving my country, **I almost lost my hope to become an artist** because I don't know how will be the journey in a new country (Bangladesh). But I'm adjusting with the situation. This coloring book is awesome. **This is the first time that I've received a tool from an organization which is related to my talent.** I love to use my talent in drawing and coloring pictures. Thank you Books Unbound for these amazing materials."

- Rofiath (age 11)

Rohingya Coloring Book, Bangladesh





"My period started few months ago. Before my period I didn't have idea about it. So, I was **thinking and was scared and shy to share with anyone**. I **thought it was a serious disease**. I think every girl should **know about periods prior their first period** and using of pad. I hope Books Unbound will support all the girls to get this program."

- Rohingya student

Girls' Program, Bangladesh

"This is **one of the best training** among all of trainings that I've received."

- Participant

Teacher Training, Bangladesh



"Afghan Picture Dictionary is a **top-notch resource for ESL work with Afghan families**. Book will last through many lessons and many students! Has much of the material that I need for ESL with attractive graphics. Having materials for Afghan refugees is immensely helpful. Not much is available."

- Janet, ESL Teacher

Afghan Picture Dictionary, USA

"I didn't have any material to read and write. Finally I've received a picture dictionary along with notebook and pen for the first time. My study's journey started with these materials."

- Mohammad Wares

Rohingya Picture Dictionary, Bangladesh



It's no surprise that education in context of displacement is fragile and inconsistent.



Educational environments change often for a refugee because of:

- Political instability in host country
- Fluidity of program funds based on trending current events
- Natural and human-caused disasters, such as fire, flooding, and famine
- Global pandemics and associated restrictions to movement

These factors, paired with minority language challenges, make traditional, centralized curriculum delivery networks difficult to maintain.

The alternative?

A more resilient, community-driven informal education delivery network that is less susceptible to these disruptions.

That's where we come in.

Contextualized Learning

for refugees & marginalized
communities

Our Mission

To drive community-driven informal education networks through contextualized resources.

Our Vision

To be the go-to "cartoonizers" in the humanitarian field and provide immediate access to informal learning during times of crises, when education can fall off the list of priorities.



Where We Work

Refugee Camps

Resources contextualized for life in
refugee camps & temporary shelters.

Local & international organizations / Independent educators

Resettled Countries

Resources tailored to the immediate needs of refugees walking
through the resettlement process in western countries.

*Schools / Libraries / Universities / Churches /
Nonprofit Organizations / Individuals*

In Colorado Springs, Khin Ma carries her traditional Chin scarf, 12 years after she fled her home in Myanmar.

Why We Do It



Representation
for the world's most marginalized communities

Preservation
for ethnic minority language and culture

Creation
of community-based informal learning

Everyone likes cartoons,
especially the ones that
look like them.



Simple. Relatable. Culturally Sensitive.



Our Methodology

Cartoonizing Communities



Local Team:
Cultural Consultants
Translators
Educators



International Team:
Project Manager
Artists & Designers
Researchers

We're a diverse team of content creators around the world, many of whom are refugees themselves. We work with photographers, artists, translators, and educators who are

dedicated to providing displaced communities with immediate learning opportunities. Our projects require an extensive feedback process in the focus community.

1



Ideation

- Identify target community
- Consult with local educators
- Assemble local team

2



Consultation

- Design outline
- Collect reference photos in the community

3



Contextualization

- Create cartoons
- Feedback process begins
- Cartoon modification
- Cartoon approval by local team
- Translation of text to relevant language(s)

4



Verification

Cartoons & translations
shared among community members
(randomized method)
Book design & small-batch prints
Focus groups formed to provide
feedback on translations, cartoons,
activities & book themes

5



Implementation

Book distributions
Launch first classes
Collect qualitative feedback
Make necessary adjustments

6



Expansion

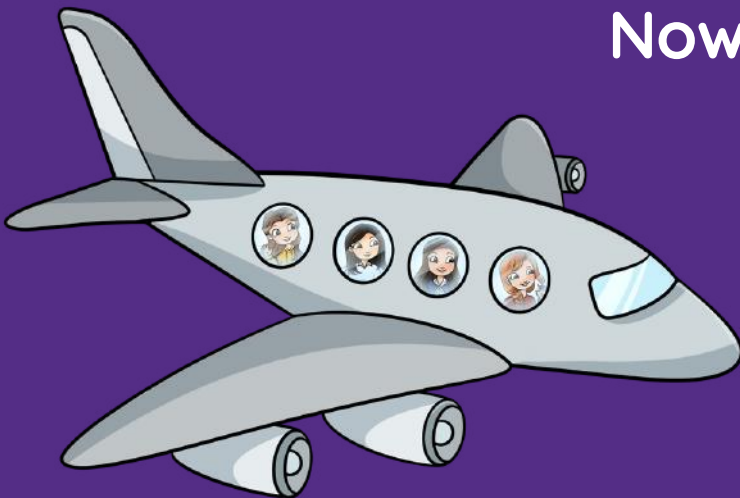
More book distributions
Hire local teachers
Launch more classes
Solidify project sponsors
Market & sell books to NGOs

Ex. We have contextualized
our first Picture Dictionary to
3 different communities.



Now what?

Contextualize the
current product
to a new community



Meet the Team

Core Creators

Founder &
Managing Director



Sophie Danielson
USA

R & D Consultant



Carolyn Morris Collier
United Kingdom

Artist



Anastasia Hladilka
Ukraine

Artist



Beatrice Jasmine
Indonesia

Afghan Community
Consultant



Zainab
Pakistan

Local Education
Consultant



Samuda
Bangladesh

Local Manager
& Teacher Trainer



Ramjan
Bangladesh

Interns

Head Research
Assistant



Minh-E Lau
USA

Cultural Assistant



Jasmin Fatema
Bangladesh

Research & Data



Iffat Mahjabin
Bangladesh

Research & Data



Silvia Alam
Bangladesh

Research & Data



Fowzia Sinthiya
Bangladesh

Media & Blog



Molly Proctor
Australia

Marketing &
Outreach



Esha Sharma
USA

Internship Program

We launched a remote internship program during the 2022 fall semester. Seven interns from Bangladesh, Australia, and the United States joined our team to aid in research, content development, and outreach.

Our ongoing relationship with the Asian University for Women (AUW) in Chittagong, Bangladesh has connected us with interns who have first-hand experience with the local refugee crisis.

For 2023, we have invited several Afghan students from AUW to join the research & content development team as we develop new Afghan projects.

The majority of the interns have an interest in public health, education programming, and women's health.

Our interns attend the following schools:



Partner Organizations

Our partners assist in research & development, monitoring & evaluation, and in-field program implementation of Books Unbound's materials.



INTERNATIONAL LITERACY
AND DEVELOPMENT




The *Learn Rohingya* Team



Translators

We work with local translators and international linguists to produce translations for ethnic minority languages.

A photograph of a young woman in a traditional orange Burmese longyi standing in a kitchen. She is positioned in front of a white door, with floral wallpaper on either side. A dark cloth is laid out on the wooden floor in the foreground.

A young Rohingya mother who fled her home in Myanmar cooks dinner for her family in Clarkston, GA.

It's a common problem that organizations across the world are facing: lack of contextualized learning materials.

We're here to help.

Every project is designed to be contextualized to **any community in the world**, making our projects easily expandable.

Communities

Rohingya

Bangladesh, Thailand, Malaysia, USA

Afghan

USA

Ukrainian

USA, United Kingdom, Ukraine

Bangla

Bangladesh



Rohingya Community

📍
Bangladesh
USA
Malaysia
Thailand

The Rohingya are a Muslim ethnic minority from Rakhine State, Myanmar. For decades, they have faced persecution at the hands of the Myanmar military. In August 2017, an outbreak of violence by the military forced over 600,000 Rohingya to flee to neighboring Bangladesh. They now live in Kutupalong, also known as the World's Largest Refugee Camp.

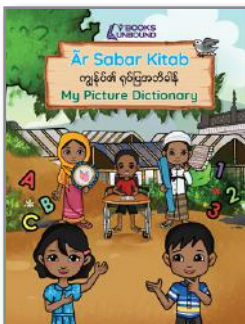
Displaced for years and still waiting in limbo, the Rohingya in Bangladesh face barriers of entry to receiving a formal education. With an unwritten native language, there are few mother tongue-first literacy programs available to the Rohingya.

Education politics and government restrictions have put the Rohingya and educators in a difficult position: Do they implement the Myanmar curriculum with the expectation that the Rohingya will return to their homeland under a government that so brutally drove them out?

Or will they be recognized in their new home in Bangladesh and finally be allowed to integrate into the public school system?



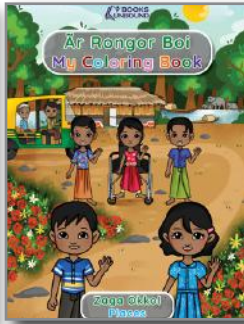
Picture Dictionary
(in refugee camps)



Teacher Trainings



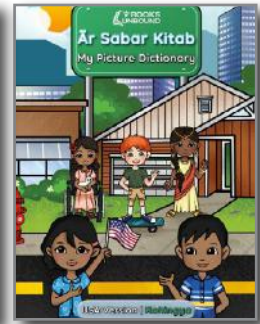
Coloring Books



Girls' Book



Picture Dictionary
(resettled in USA)



Our Impact

We stand on the sidelines and wait for the education politics to play out. In the meantime, learning must continue, regardless of where the Rohingya will end up. Time spent in a refugee camp shouldn't be seen as a waste, but rather a productive time of growth.

Enter our Rohingya Picture Dictionary. Used as either a primary or supplementary education resource.

Our first grassroots programs (book distributions and teacher trainings) started in the Rohingya community and have continued to grow. We recognized a huge need to provide Rohingya children with culturally sensitive materials in their own language.

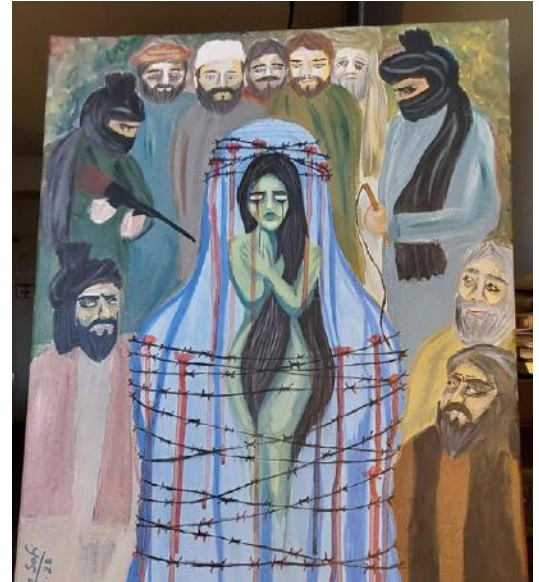
The urgency grew when we faced one of the strictest COVID-related school lockdowns in the world. Our Rohingya Picture Dictionaries and teacher trainings continued to circulate through the refugee camps during this time.

We collaborate with scholars and linguists who have been developing a written form of Rohingya so we can provide materials in their native language. The overwhelmingly positive feedback has confirmed our belief in the impact of contextualizing materials to suit the needs of the communities. We decided to take it a step further and bring our work to the Afghan community.

The Afghan people are no strangers to conflict, forced displacement, and an education disrupted. The whole world watched in horror as videos circulated in 2021 of Afghans plunging to their deaths as they fell from the wings of airplanes.

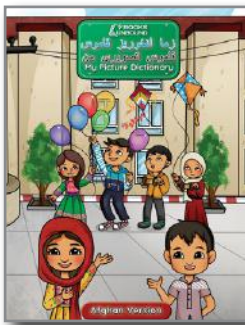
After the Taliban seized control in 2021, violence in Afghanistan intensified and spread across the country, displacing over 600,000 Afghans – 80% of which are women and children.

There were hundreds of universities and thousands of schools actively educating people in Afghanistan before the Taliban. Over time, cultural expectations and years of conflict deprived equal access to education, especially for women and girls. Since the Taliban has taken over, education was partially stopped for an unknown period of time and girls were banned from secondary school.

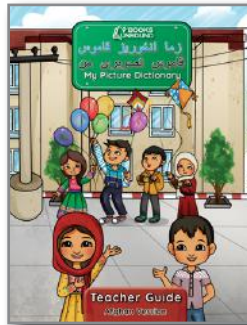


A painting by our Afghan consultant illustrating her perspective of a woman's reality under Taliban-ruled Afghanistan.

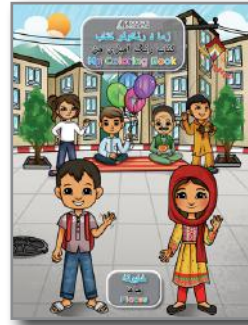
Picture Dictionary



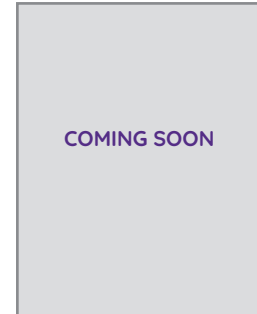
Teacher Guide



Coloring Books



Girls' Book



Our Impact

The education levels of incoming Afghan refugees to the US vary greatly, which is where informal learning tools play an important role.

We anticipated the arrival of Afghan refugees to the USA and acted fast to provide a useful "Welcome to the USA" resource.

We fill the immediate education gap by providing inclusive products that can be used to learn vocabulary, build conversation, and preserve culture and language.

To aid in the integration process, we have designed an Afghan Picture Dictionary and Coloring Book to welcome Afghans - available in Pashto, Dari, and English.

Based on user feedback, we've proven that our Afghan education materials are:

- Specifically tailored to the immediate needs of arrivals walking through the resettlement process.
- Preserving Afghan culture while assisting families in the process of learning a new language.
- Providing opportunity for newcomers to become learners too, prompting a mutual knowledge exchange.
- Increasing learning engagement through illustrations of familiar words, objects, and scenes.

Since February 2022, around 6.6 million people have fled Ukraine to neighboring countries. While it is unknown how long the conflict will last between Ukraine and Russia, it is safe to say that education for Ukrainian children will remain disrupted for quite some time.

Neighboring countries continue to welcome Ukrainian refugees into the classrooms, but the transition is anything but simple for the teachers and students.

While watching the news and hearing of Ukrainians waiting in train stations and temporary shelters for days, we couldn't help but think: wouldn't it be great if the children had something that could offer a mental escape - even for a few moments a day - from their current situation?



Coloring Books



Downloadables



Our Impact

We have been actively working alongside victims of the Ukrainian crisis to provide access to creative learning materials when education is the most disrupted. Having a few learning materials that present familiarity and a sense of home is crucial for young children, especially during a time of uncertainty and instability.

After one of our main artists, a Ukrainian, was forced to flee her home, she insisted on designing a project for her own community, even in the midst of the chaos around her.

"Working for Book Unbound now feels like a breath of fresh air, I like creating coloring books and pictures for different cultures to represent their lifestyles and special features for children all over the world.

One of my fave books so far was dedicated to **Ukraine and Ukrainians**, it goes about our diversity, culture, land, architecture, it feels so warm to draw something which can be truly helpful for others, this coloring book may acquaint people with our life and let them glance at our lovely culture and traditions."

- *Anastasia, Ukraine | Artist for Books Unbound*



Bangla Community

The Bangla people are the world's third largest ethnic community. They live in Bangladesh, one of the most densely populated countries in the world. Bangladesh is also known as the host country for over 1 million Rohingya refugees. With this large influx of refugees, resources have become scarce, especially in rural areas.

Sadly, refugees tend to find themselves in countries that are already suffering from extreme poverty. This makes it difficult for the host country to support the refugees without external support from international organizations.

The education needs in Bangladesh continue to be urgent, not just in the Rohingya community, but also in the host community.



Coloring Books



Our Impact

We were warmly welcomed into Bangladesh from our first vision trip, which was dedicated to the Rohingya community. After a few visits to some orphanages, we saw how Books Unbound could also play a role in the Bangla community. We have since partnered with local organizations that work in orphanages and boarding schools to provide mental health resources for Bangla children.

These orphanages are located in rural areas that are difficult to access - where children do not necessarily have an easy opportunity to

attend school. If there is a school in the area, the learning resources are scarce.

We designed a Bangla Coloring Book to bring something fun and colorful into these rural communities. Coloring competitions are becoming a new favorite tradition during the holidays as we launch our book distributions. We are honored to work with incredible individuals and organizations dedicated to bringing our resources into these rural areas.



"As a linguist and someone educated in anthropology, I can tell you I haven't seen anything else like what Books Unbound has developed - especially for the Rohingya community."

- Miranda Kuykendall, Program Manager at ILAD
Dallas, Texas



A Rohingya family going through Books Unbound's cartoon verification process.

Featured Projects

Picture Dictionary

Teacher Trainings

For the Girls

Coloring Book

Miscellaneous





Why a Picture Dictionary?

It's an immediate learning resource.

We believe that education should be prioritized as an immediate need in the midst of a crisis. A simple picture dictionary can serve as a solution while children wait for a formal program.

It's an aid for trauma healing.

Education – even in the form of a simple picture book – can serve as a coping mechanism, which can aid in the trauma-healing process and build critical thinking skills.

It's for everyone.

A Picture Dictionary can be used by anyone, literate or illiterate. The topics that can be included are endless, making it an ongoing project that is constantly evolving. It's the first step to bridge the education gap in communities where formal education is unpredictable and unreliable.

Student Book: What's In It?

The Basics

Alphabet - native language & English, numbers, local currency, colors, shapes

About Me

My face, my body, my feelings, my clothes, I like / don't like

Food

Common food, fruit, vegetables, kitchen, I have / don't have

People

My family, my community, jobs, opposites

Everyday

Time, daily routine, days of the week, calendar

Let's Go

Direction opposites, transportation, places, weather, natural disasters, animals

Health

Symptoms, health problems, washing hands, stretching, physical activity

Where are you going?

Map to describe places & distances



Target Communities:

Rohingya | USA | Afghan

The Rohingya Picture Dictionary was our very first project and it has continued through 2022. Because this product is catered to the Rohingya diaspora, we are continuously making adjustments to the content based on feedback from users.

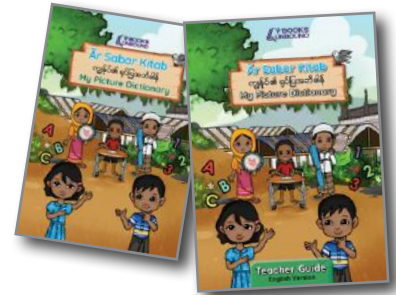
This book is used as a primary resource for independent teachers and a supplementary resource for international NGOs with a more established curriculum.

When the COVID restrictions in Bangladesh brought school-based learning to a halt, our books continued to circulate at a more grassroots level. Family members reported using our books at home when there was no opportunity to attend school.

Teachers continued participating in the Teacher Training program we developed (see more on page 23) and our mission to spread informal education delivery networks started to organically take root.

Rohingya

Student Book & Teacher Guide



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Teachers Trained

See pg. 23 for more info

Each teacher received on average

~20

student books

97% of students reported sharing something they learned from the Picture Dictionary with someone they know.

"Some of them reported that their **other family members are also interested** in this picture dictionary. They love to go through the book."

70% of teachers reported using our Picture Dictionary to teach Rohingya cultural activities, language, and traditions.

"I do it a bit by the help of picture dictionary because there is **no any other sources which are based on my culture**. Students love to learn about their own cultural activities."

74% of students reported using the Picture Dictionary at home for self-study.

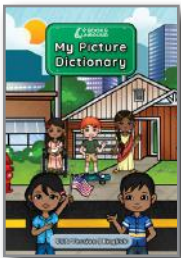
We provide each student with a notebook, pen, and Picture Dictionary to take home.

"I **don't have any option except picture dictionary**. Picture Dictionary is the only way to Rohingya Language."

"They do self study at home and **ask me** if they don't understand any words."

These comments were taken from **follow-up surveys** of Rohingya teachers who completed our Teacher Training and received our Picture Dictionaries for their students in Kutupalong. These surveys are conducted **every 3 months** from each teacher that received our materials.

General USA



Rohingya



Teacher Guide

After meeting with Rohingya friends who were resettled in the US, we realized the need for contextualized materials for newly arrived refugees.

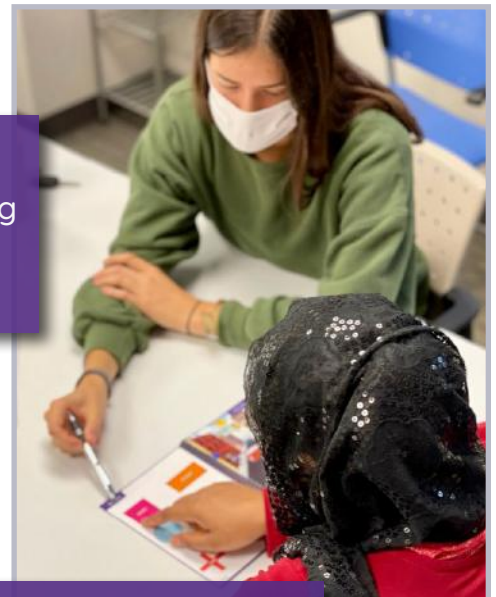
Organizations needed more culturally sensitive "survival" English resources for refugees who were trying to navigate unfamiliar US systems. Volunteers at libraries and churches were looking for more resources to use as icebreakers and perhaps learn a few words in the Rohingya language.

The Rohingya children in the USA are starting to lose their mother tongue. With no resources written in Rohingya, we foresaw the future generation at risk of losing their mother language.

We took the foundation of the Rohingya Picture Dictionary and started to contextualize each page, making it relatable for refugees arriving in the US. We worked closely with ILAD (International Literacy & Development) to design and pilot the USA version for Rohingya.

A resource for employees

Businesses like Vickery Trading Company are using our Picture Dictionary to provide their employees with culturally sensitive ESL materials.



A resource for community centers

We provide our resources to the [Burmese Rohingya Community of Wisconsin](#). Volunteers use it to learn some Rohingya while Rohingya parents use it to teach written Rohingya to their children.



Preparing to distribute Rohingya Picture Dictionaries during an event with [Sesame Street](#) in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Afghan

Student Book & Teacher Guide



Our development process involved consultations with Afghans from regions across Afghanistan, many of whom were resettled in the US. For simplicity, we refer to the people of Afghanistan as the Afghan Community, though we are aware of the various ethnic groups and acknowledge their diversity in language, clothing, religion, customs, and more.

This Picture Dictionary combined elements of the Afghan culture in the US environment, showcasing some common US systems a refugee will need to know: going to the DMV, understanding US grocery stores, US currency, etc.

The feedback from the Afghan Picture Dictionary gives us helpful insight as we dive into a new project - For the Girls | Afghan Version (pg 30).

This book is currently used by:

34+
schools

**schools | churches | libraries | nonprofit
organizations | community colleges |
universities | individuals**

36
states
across the USA

"I like that the books are culturally appropriate and illustrate familiar objects and needs they may have at the store or at home. I like the food, feelings and body sections as it pertains more to immediate needs they may have to communicate."

-ESL Coordinator, USA

"The division of topics are so applicable for the family we are co-hosting. I can't wait to give it to them and use it together. The maladies page is brilliant! These types of concerns are difficult to express for anyone learning a new language."

- Julie, Welcomer, USA

"Perfect for our Afghan neighbors. When I brought it to the family, Rahila who is 8 and currently in 2nd grade claimed it and excitedly showed me what English she knew and the Dari for it and went on to get the English pronunciation correct. It went in her backpack for use at school."

-Jillian, Welcomer, USA

"There are so many pages of vocabulary and beautiful illustrations. It is also helpful for Afghans who have left and want to hold onto their heritage as they learn English."

-Sharon, Educator in Colorado, USA



Teacher Trainings

The Teacher Training Program and Guide was designed by several educators with teaching experience in Southeast Asia. The common teaching method is a typical back-and-forth 'teacher speaks, students repeat' strategy. A lot of memorization, chanting, but lacking in creativity or critical thinking skills. This is a difficult method to maintain, especially with students who may have attention-deficit issues.

Our program was designed to provide teachers with innovative teaching methods to spice up their lesson planning. The activities are a combination of drawing, partner, and group activities that can be applied to any topic in our Picture Dictionary and beyond.

The purpose of the trainings is to build a teaching community and encourage more creative teaching methods that might be outside of the educators' comfort zone.



Teacher Guide: What's In It?

For every page in the Student Book, we provide:

- Learning Objectives
- Discussion Points
- Drawing Activity
- Partner Activity
- Group Activity

An index full of activities that can be applied to any topic.

During each session, the teachers go through each page and discuss learning objectives, discussion points, then participate in all activities themselves.

Topic: Kitchen

Objectives:
We have many items in our kitchen. This is a great place to learn more vocabulary and talk about what each item does.

Students can identify and discuss the purpose of each item available in the kitchen.

This is a great lesson to introduce the phrase, "I need" and "I have."

Discussion Points:

- Describe your kitchen at home.
- Look at the items in this kitchen. What items do you have in your kitchen?
- Can you name these items in your language?
- Can you name these items in English?
- What is the purpose of each item?

Activities

- With a piece of paper, draw 5 items you see in your kitchen at home.
- Label each item.
- What is the purpose for each item?
- Draw yourself using each item in the kitchen.
- Find a partner.
- Look at the page.
- Point to an item and ask the questions:
 - What is this?
 - [Partner should answer this question]
 - What does it do?
 - [Partner should answer this question]
- After the partner answers for 1 item, change roles so each partner has a chance to answer questions.

You will need:

- A room with space to sit in a circle with all students.

This activity helps students understand the purpose of each kitchen item.

Guess the Action (Index: Activity 23)

- The teacher will perform an action using an imaginary kitchen item.
- The students need to guess the kitchen item that is being used.

For example, the teacher is pretending to chop a vegetable. The students would shout, "Knife!"

- Continue playing until the teacher has performed an action for every kitchen item.
- "Advanced" Give the students a chance to be the teacher and perform an action.

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Teachers Trained

10 - 15

sessions per training

~ 2.5

hours per session



98% of teachers reported teaching from their private homes.

Neighbors, family members, and friends in the immediate vicinity (~ ages 7-16 years old).

"Their family members are also enjoying the books at home."

30% of teachers reported using the Picture Dictionary as primary curriculum.

The majority use it in combination with other materials.

"My teaching system has been changed after receiving the training program from Books Unbound. I have learned creative ways how to make class more productive. Now students are learning more fruitfully and more effectively."

69% of teachers reported using the Teacher Guide as a daily resource for lesson planning

"I create my own lesson plan weekly based on curriculum by the help of teacher guide. Sometimes I do it with my friend."

99% of teachers reported using the recommended group activities & games with their own students.

"I'm well pleased because of the training that I received from Books Unbound because now it's really helping me in my teaching career. If I have a bit doubt on any activities than I can take help from Teacher guide. Students are also encouraging to attend the class regularly."

These comments were taken from **follow-up surveys** of Rohingya teachers who completed our Teacher Training and received our Picture Dictionaries for their students in Kutupalong. These surveys are conducted **every 3 months** from each teacher that received our materials.

Sponsors

Picture Dictionary & Teacher Trainings

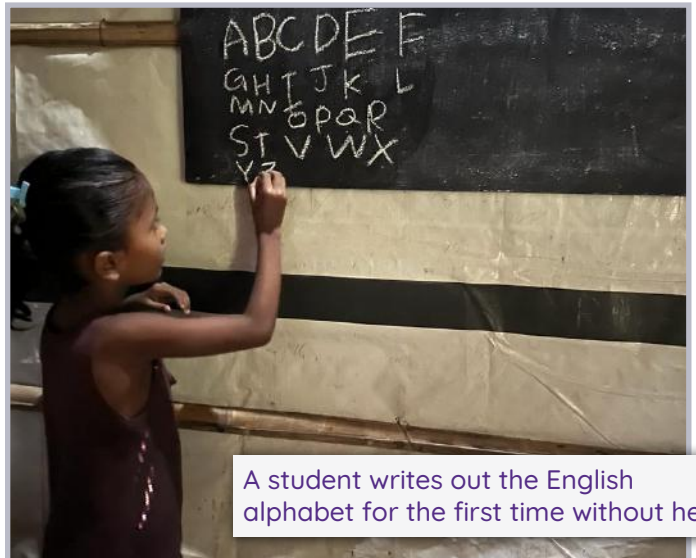
Private Donors & SK Dream Japan

SK Dream Japan has played a huge part in the development and implementation of our Rohingya Programs in Kutupalong, Bangladesh.

Thanks to their support, we are able to equip independent Rohingya teachers with trainings, contextualized curriculum, and notebooks to support grassroots education movements in

the World's Largest Refugee Camp.

We print locally and hire local managers to coordinate book distributions. All students receive notebooks, pens, and a copy of our Rohingya Picture Dictionary - which they have reported to share with their family members and friends.



A student writes out the English alphabet for the first time without help.

Featured organizations using our Picture Dictionaries





"I'm really pleased for being a part of the Books Unbound's teacher training. I didn't get enough opportunity to attend this kind of training before. This training was a blessing for me. It will impact positively in my teaching profession."

- Participant

Rohingya Teacher Training Program, Bangladesh



By Girls, For Girls

School continues to be a luxury for Rohingya girls, making it all the more necessary to foster informal education programs in the privacy of their homes.

Rohingya adolescent girls are prone to [high levels of depression and loneliness](#) due to isolation & lack of opportunity to study. Living in an unhygienic environment without proper access to health education, Rohingya girls are vulnerable to preventable diseases.

With an understanding that other girls around the world face similar problems, we've designed a program with universal topics, but present it in a highly contextualized manner for each community. We promote healthy lifestyle changes in Rohingya adolescent girls - encouraging physical activity, improved nutrition habits, and female health education.

Student Book: What's In It?

Diversity

Discussing similarities & differences with girls around the world

Infancy

Basic infant care, nutrition for nursing mothers, healthy habits

Childhood

Staying active, creativity, literacy and numeracy, healthy habits

Adolescence

Menstruation, creativity, literacy and numeracy, healthy habits

Adulthood

Pregnancy, entrepreneurship, creativity, healthy habits

Seniorhood

Menopause, community involvement, healthy habits

Diversity

Diversity in the Rohingya community, diversity around the world



Teacher Guide: What's In It?

For every page in the Student Book, we provide:

- Learning Objectives
- Discussion Points
- Drawing Activity
- Partner Activity
- Group Activity

An index full of activities applicable to any topic.

"Most of the students didn't know about menstrual pads and girls around the world, they didn't know that **every girl have period**. They are happy to know that a period is normal around the world."

- Rohingya teacher

Girls' Program, Bangladesh

Target Communities:

Rohingya | Afghan

Our *For the Girls* Student Book and Teacher Guide are implemented through a **grassroots program** in the refugee camp in Kutupalong, Bangladesh.

The program is built into sessions lasting 2 - 2.5 hours, with 24 sessions per class. There are about 20 participants in each program who gather in the private home of our trusted female community leader. Each student receives a student book, notebook, pen, drawing supplies, and a healthy snack. Students are awarded a certificate of completion.

This [case study](#) provides an in-depth summary of the Girls' Book impact.

Rohingya



100

girls completed our program

15

years old

Average age of participants

Physical Wellbeing

At the start of the program, **60% of girls** shared that they didn't do much physical activity.

By the end of the program, there was an **increase in weekly physical activity** as girls learned more about its various forms

Before

1.8



After

6.6

of times per week engaging in physical activity

"I thought only boys can do exercise and didn't know the importance of exercise."

Psychosocial Wellbeing

100% of students reported making new friends in the program.

83% said it is very likely they would talk with one of their classmates if they were going through something difficult. The majority of students reported feeling "supported" or "very supported" by other girls in this program.





28




The narrative data we collected revealed menstruation was one of the **most crucial topics** covered in the program.


Ar gusol šuru ow,
դրանք քրտնիկ օտարն է
My period starts.


Forst xahat test test diti i ban ban mahan lagan,
դրանք յուրաքանչյուր օրն էլ կրնայ անոթի մեջ ընկնել
During each moon cycle, sometimes I feel different.




Այս գուսոն սեւ,
դրանք անոթ ընկած լինելու
I feel angry.




Այս օտարն երկ,
դրանք երեւոյթ ընկած լինելու
I feel sad.



Այս անոթ մոտ,
դրանք անոթի մոտ ընկած
I have a headache.




Այս քիչ քիչ,
դրանք քիչ քիչ ընկած լինելու
I have stomach cramps.





Այս օտար երկ,
դրանք օտար երկ ընկած
I feel tired.





Ar gusol šuru ow,
դրանք քրտնիկ օտարն է
My period starts.




Ar gatu 3 – 5 din fujot han azabo.
դրանք 3-5 օրն էլ
սեւ քրտնիկ օտարն է
My body will bleed for 3 to 5 days.

Ar gun bombire self testabala ti bombire butone ekean
դրանք ինքն ինքն զննելու
դրանք ինքն ինքն զննելու
անոթի մոտ ընկած լինելու
I use a pad to keep my underwear clean.

Ar self testabala nujar har hysanone gono
գոնե խոտով
օտար ինքն ինքն զննելու
դրանք ինքն ինքն զննելու
դրանք ինքն ինքն զննելու
I change my pad frequently to stay clean.



At last, one of my friends came to see me who was educated and knows about periods. She helped me. So, I think this topic is very important to all the Rohingya girls.

- Rohingya student
Girls' Program, Bangladesh



Including written Rohingya could enable a higher degree of linguistic preservation and increased literacy rates.

Sponsors

For the Girls

Private Donors & SK Dream Japan

Our Girls' Programs are supported by private donors and most notably, SK Dream Japan. Some donors have chosen to sponsor a student while others sponsor a class, providing books, writing supplies, healthy snacks, and a teacher's salary for the program.

This program has been spreading by word-of-mouth and we're trying to keep up with the requests from Rohingya girls wanting to participate in our program. This is easier said than done in a refugee camp of over 1 million people where news travels quickly...but we take it as a positive sign that we're doing something right. We hope to expand these programs to reach more girls in Kutupalong.

Featured organizations using our Girls' Books



Project in development: Afghan Version





Why a Coloring Book?

Art therapy.

Refugee children suffer from conflict-related trauma, which severely harms their mental health and stalls the learning process. Coloring is a proven aid in the trauma healing process.

Inclusivity.

Coloring is an activity for everyone - literate or illiterate. The cartoons are designed to represent the target community, giving them a chance to color in themselves.

Versatility.

Coloring requires focus on a specific image for an extended period of time. A helpful tool when learning a new concept. The topics are endless that we can put in coloring form - nutrition, exercise, geography, literacy, numeracy, the list goes on.

My Coloring Book | Places: What's In It?

Typical scenes you would find in any community.

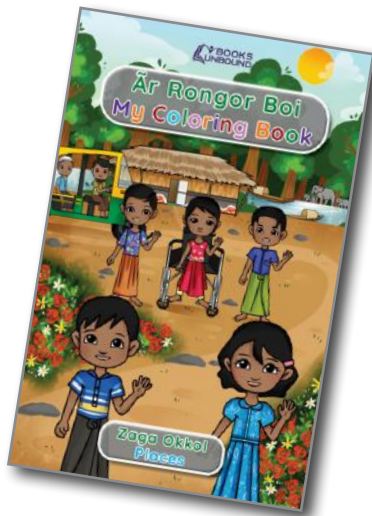


Table of Contents for Rohingya Version

Assalamualaikum	Hello
Ārar Šomaz	Our Community
Ārar Bazar	Our Market
Ārar Kelasrum	Our Classroom
Ārar Gôr	Our House
Ārar Rasta	Our Road
Ārar Zôl	Our Jungle
Ārar Naw Samman Okkol	Our Boats
Ārar Bagan	Our Garden
Ārar Šohor	Our City
Ārar Alkēti	Our Farm
Ārar Bosoror Boro Din Okkol	Our Festivals
Abar Dolaoiyum	See You Later

Target Communities:

Rohingya | Bangla | Afghan | Ukrainian | USA

Our first coloring book program was launched in Kutupalong. We started with simple book distributions, providing each student with coloring pencils and a pencil sharpener.

We took it a step further and launched coloring competitions for the students who were interested.

These programs continued to be a crowd favorite in the camps.



We split students into **groups of 20** for the coloring competition. Judges were selected from the Rohingya community (local teachers). Winners were selected based on a variety of categories (ie. most colorful, most creative, etc). Winners received a prize, provided by Books Unbound. Many of the parents attended the competition, making it a great community event.



Due to a tight budget in 2022, we were able to distribute **500 Coloring Books** as opposed to the **1,400 Coloring Books** distributed in 2021. Please see our website for more information on how to support our Coloring Book program.

Bangla

Coloring Books



Every year since 2020, we have provided a local partner with 200 - 500 Bangla Coloring Books. Our local partner distributes this in boarding schools and orphanages in the Hill Tracts areas and parts of Cox's Bazar.

The students look forward to the Coloring Book distribution every year as we also host a coloring competition with prizes. This December, we raised enough funds to provide **200 Bangla Coloring books** to our local partner. This will be printed and distributed in February, 2023.



USA

Coloring Books



We designed a USA Coloring Book to test the demand for more products among migrants and refugees in the United States.

This book features 4 main characters from the DRC, Afghanistan, Ireland, and Mexico. We added a fill-in-the-blank space for each page so children can write the titles from English to their own language.

As we connected with nonprofit organizations and made several small book donations (50 - 100 books / organization), we received requests for an Afghan version.



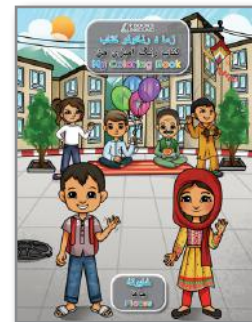
Arriving in a new country is an exciting, but scary transition for most refugees. Our Afghan Coloring Book is designed to represent scenes from their home country, giving them a sense of familiarity and recognition during this new chapter of their lives.

While our Afghan Picture Dictionary was specific for Afghans coming to the US, our Afghan Coloring Book is more versatile, representing life in Afghanistan.

We're starting to see demand for our Afghan products in European countries, where they are continuing to receive Afghan refugees. As of December 2022, we received funding to launch a small book distribution of **100 Afghan Coloring Books** to a small nonprofit organization in Barcelona.

Afghan

Coloring Books



"Brought the books for Afghan refugees in Europe, they loved them. Were working on them every time I came in the room. So nice to have coloring books that 'speak their language', culture, etc."

- Kay

Afghan Coloring Books, Germany

In response to the war in Ukraine, we created a Ukrainian Coloring Book. As one of our primary artists is Ukrainian, this project became especially important to our organization. She translated and designed scenes familiar to all Ukrainians, incorporating cultural elements, holidays, and foods. After initially releasing downloadable pages and a mental health activity for kids, we compiled the scenes into a book.

We donated **200 Ukrainian Coloring Books** to **4 schools** around the United Kingdom. These materials are being used for classroom integration, intercultural exchange, and bringing a taste of familiarity upon arrival. We have just received funds to print and distribute **200 Ukrainian Coloring Books in Ukraine**. The distribution will be launched in February, 2023.

Ukrainian

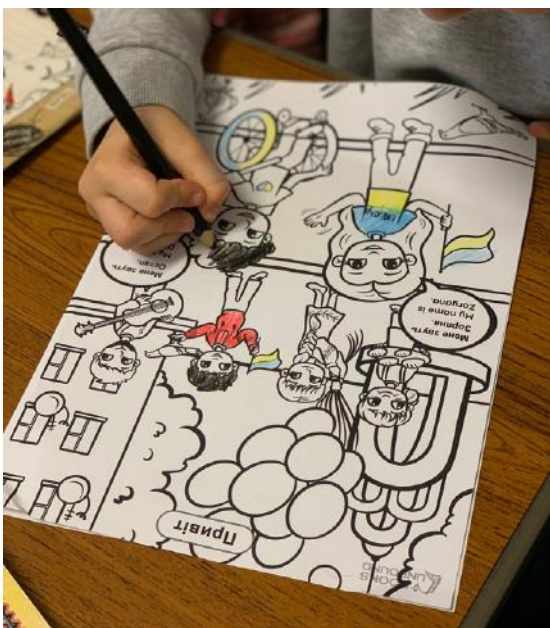
Coloring Books



"One mum and her two children looked through the book pointing out things that they recognised as Ukrainian. The 8 year old boy said, **"This is home."** Another child pointed at the picture of a child in the classroom and then pointed to themselves. One mum **had tears in her eyes**, thanking us for the colouring books for her children.

The books have been wonderful for helping the children feel seen. We should all recognise ourselves in art and literature. The books have been a wonderful way to help the children positively reflect on their past and their future."

- Erica at Rochdale Borough Council
United Kingdom



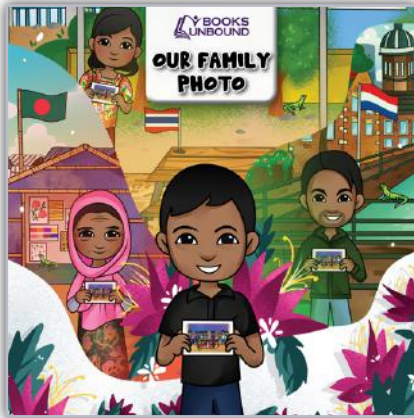


Miscellaneous Projects

We create miscellaneous projects with the intention of expanding them to long-term programs. These projects are tested on small focus groups to help us determine which ones would be scalable and feasible for communities around the world.

The expansion of these projects depend on the availability of funds and demand from the users.

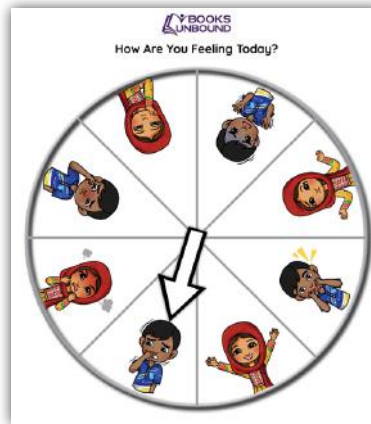
Children's Books



Our children's books provide a platform to share the true stories of our Rohingya friends around the world. Our first children's book will be translated into Rohingya in early 2023.

[Learn more.](#)

Mental Health Printables



We design free downloadable mental health activities - helpful for teachers in need of materials, but can't access our books.

[Learn more.](#)

Exercise is for Everyone



Introducing contextualized health education to encourage physical activity among displaced populations.

[Learn more.](#)

"Family is important to me, so I enjoyed a book that talks about the importance of family and how you can be together no matter where you live."

- Taylee (age 8)
Colorado, USA



Our Family Photo
Learn more [here](#).

Finances

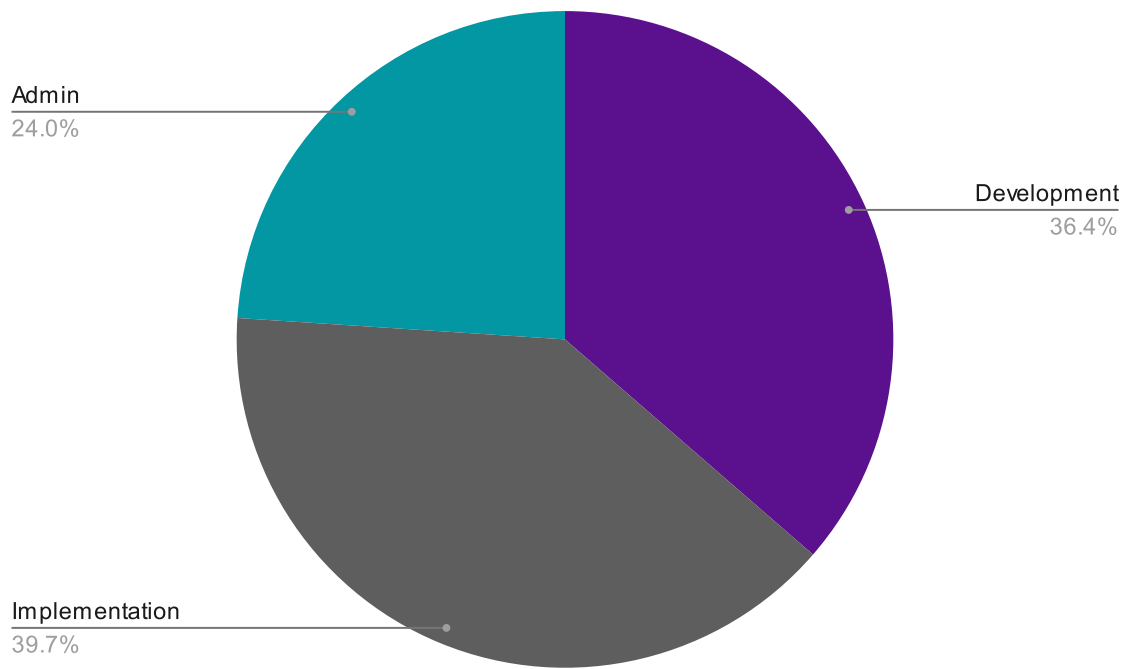
The projects funded by private donors are **ongoing scalable projects**, created solely by Books Unbound's team.

Donations support the **development**, **implementation**, and **administration** expenses of each project.

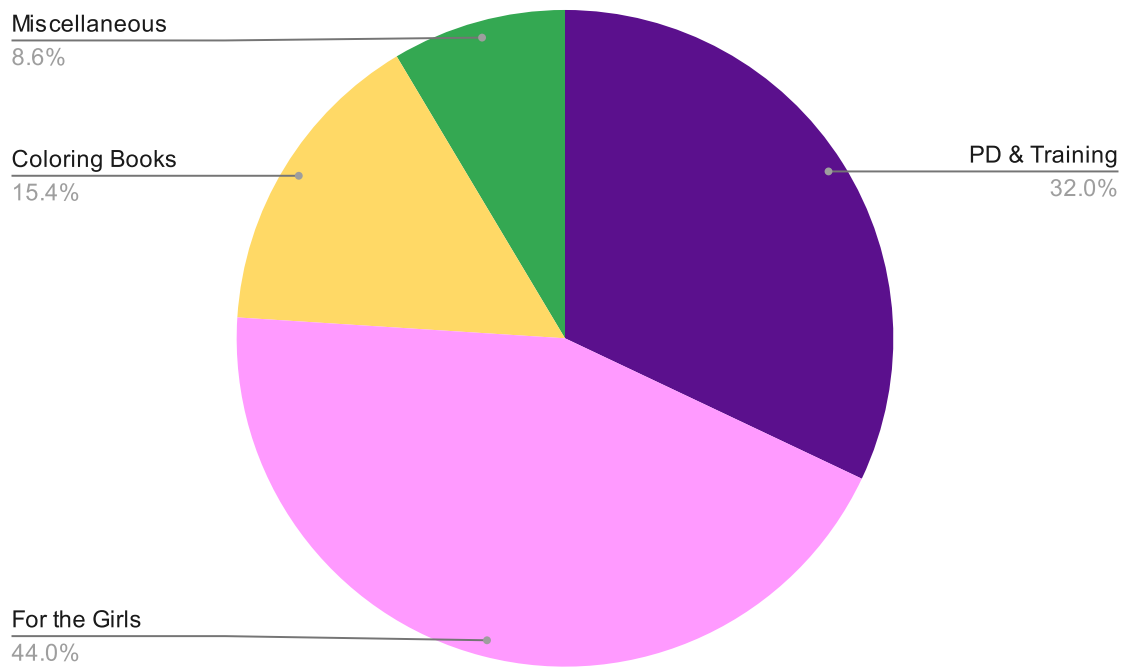


Development	Implementation	Admin
Research In-field research Cultural assistants Cartoon & contextual verification Travel expenses	Printing Sample prints Local print orders Shipping expenses	Overhead costs Warehouse / storage Marketing / Donor outreach New Horizons Foundation platform
Artwork Contract artists Reference photo collection Outline development	Distribution Stationery supplies for students Project coordinator fees Handling costs	Subscriptions Accounting software Graphic design software
Translations Translation work Translation verification Community feedback	Trainings Teacher Trainer salary Stationery supplies Food / Drinks per training Printing Certificates & Surveys	Salaries Managing Director Curriculum Developer Operations Management
Graphic design Design work Community feedback	Travel Participant travel expenses Teacher travel expenses Distribution travel expenses	Miscellaneous Transfer fees Grant application fees Office expenses
Animation Scene development Voice actors Animators / Editors Subtitle translation Community feedback	Community Testing Focus group sessions Food / drinks for participants Research assistant Survey development & collection	

Allocation of Funds by Category



Allocation of Funds by Project



For a breakdown of detailed project expenses, please contact us directly.

Private Donors

The majority of our programs are sponsored by private donors.

None of this would be possible without the **272 private donors** who have made a donation over the past 3 years.

This support helps us bring more color into the world, one cartoon at a time.



Purchasing our books is another great way to support us!

Definitely a win-win situation.

Check out our [online store](#) today.



Interested in supporting us monthly?
Check out our [website](#) to learn more!

Business Sponsors

Both private donors and business sponsors support our programs. We're seeing more businesses build out their Corporate Social Responsibility programs, which is where we fit in quite nicely.

We're supported by businesses with shared values and aligned visions who want to provide direct support to refugees around the world.

Sadly, there is no shortage of refugees these days, which gives us an endless pool of areas that need support. When a business chooses to sponsor us, we give them the option to support refugees close to home or on the other side of the world. Either way, their support is very much needed and helps us accomplish our mission.

Featured Business Sponsors



Sponsoring:
The Afghan Community

ELKE is helping us develop an Afghan version of our Girls' Program. This program is designed to address the basic health education needs of Afghan adolescent girls who fled Afghanistan.

ELKE is a holistic day spa that specializes in natural wellness and beauty services. Based in Colorado Springs, conveniently near a decent population of Afghans, **ELKE's** support directly impacts the local refugee community. We work with Afghan women in Colorado Springs to tailor the content of our Girls' Program. The support for this program goes hand-in-hand with **ELKE's** vision: wellness + beauty go together.



Sponsoring:
The Rohingya Community

Here's a cartoonized depiction of our dream: building pop-up, temporary schools and gyms around the world - all under tents provided by **Tentrix** and curriculum provided by **Books Unbound**.

Tentrix is the go-to company for premium stretch tent solutions, offering installation and development services throughout the US and beyond. The owner of **Tentrix** has seen firsthand the power of informal learning in context of displacement and continues to support our work in the World's Largest Refugee Camp.



Become a Sponsor

More info here:
[Our Sponsors](#)



We keep our business sponsors in the loop with everything we build in their select community, providing full transparency and allowing them to choose their level of involvement.

Short-term and long-term commitments are accepted.

Sponsorship Level Perks

Level 1

- Logo printed on books
- Custom sponsorship package with marketing materials
- Quarterly updates
- Logo feature in presentations, reports, website, and social media
- Free copy of each learning material created
- Presentations by founder (based on request)
- Custom cartoon of your business

Level 2

- Custom sponsorship package with marketing materials
- Quarterly updates
- Logo feature in presentations, reports, website, and social media
- Free copy of each learning material created
- Presentations by founder (based on request)

Level 3

- Quarterly updates
- Logo feature in presentations, reports, website, and social media
- Free copy of each learning material created
- Presentations by founder (based on request)

Choose the community you want to support and [contact us](#).

If it's a new community that we haven't cartoonized yet, reach out to us! We're open to expansion. Perhaps your support is what we need to get started.



Expert Endorsements

We are looking for experts in the following areas to review & endorse our materials:

- Public health
- Women's health
- Nutrition
- Functional training
- Early childhood development
- Literacy
- Curriculum development

Contact: sophie@books-unbound.org

In Sheboygan, Wisconsin, a young Rohingya girl puts on her best dress to take a family photo.

What's Next?

2023 & beyond

Community Expansion

Afghans (outside the USA)

Congolese

TBD (based on demand)

Topic Expansion

Health & Nutrition

Physical Education

Gender-Based Violence

Child Marriage

Geography

Vocabulary essentials every refugee should know

Partner Expansion

Looking for more partners in the following locations for program expansion:

Bangladesh

Greece

Malaysia

United Kingdom

Ukraine

Contact me directly:

sophie@books-unbound.org

Thank you!

Featured photographers:

Nihab Rahman [[website](#)]

Hailey Sadler [[website](#)]

Sophie Danielson [[website](#)]

Hossain Ahammod Masum [[website](#)]

Thanks for coming along for the journey!
Your support makes all of our work possible.

Interested in getting involved?

Here's how you can help:

Become a Business Sponsor

Support refugees in your local community or abroad

Learn more here: [Business Sponsors](#)

Arrange a fundraiser

Choose a project to support and arrange a fundraiser with your community / church / school

Learn more: [Host a fundraiser](#)

Use our free resources

We develop free downloadable resources for anyone to use to showcase what we do.

Learn more: [Free Resources](#)

Buy our books

Working with refugees?

Learn more: [Our Shop](#)

Request a guest speaker

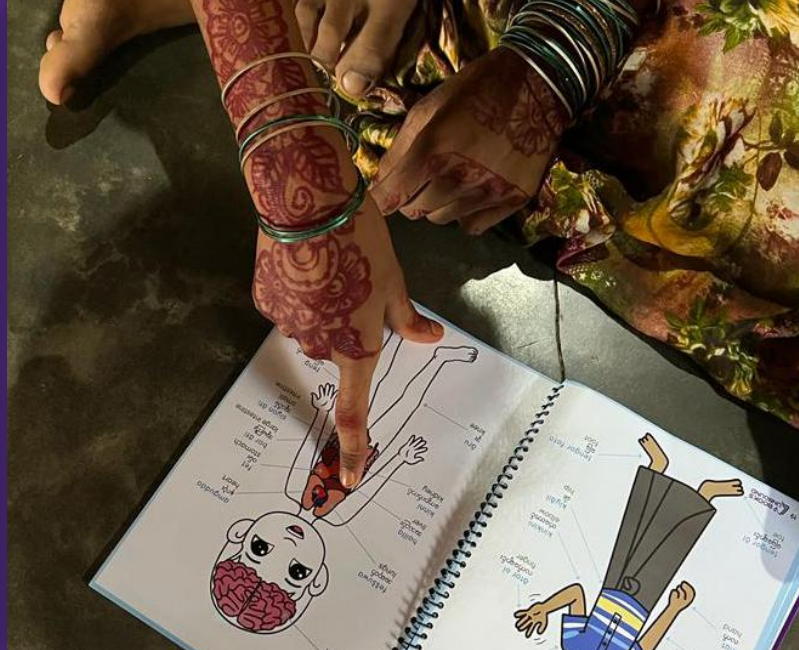
Request a presentation by founder, Sophie Danielson

Learn more: [Request a Speaker](#)

Donate Today

If you like what we do, help us keep it going.

[Donate Now!](#)



Learn more about our work:

www.books-unbound.org

Contact us directly:

sophie@books-unbound.org



