



African Library & Information Associations & Institutions

AfLIA Statement on International Literacy for Development

Literacy is important for economic development as well as individual and community well-being. It facilitates enlightenment and necessary for bettering livelihoods. Literacy and education are fundamental to building progressive societies and like other human rights, it cannot be taken for granted.

Significant progress has been made in advancing literacy as currently about 17% of the world remains illiterate. Nonetheless, more work remains to be done, especially in Africa, to ensure continuous reduction in education inequality and the eradication of illiteracy.

The International Literacy Day highlights improvements in world literacy rates and reminds world leaders, stakeholders and the public of the present state of literacy and learning, hence, the need to commit to the cause of universal access to quality education and learning opportunities throughout people's lives. This year's theme is *'Literacy and skills development'*.

AfLIA, the Library and Information Association for Africa, joins the world to celebrate this important day with the complete knowledge of the pivotal role the Library and Information Science sector plays in contributing to literacy development. We celebrate this day with the resolution that empowering and developing librarians enhance literacy of the community they serve and improves the livelihood of the people. We celebrate this day with the consciousness that librarians are literacy leaders.

AfLIA has a continual commitment towards facilitating development of the LIS sector of Africa; a commitment that has birthed strategic partnerships with key stakeholders such Global Libraries, IFLA, EIFL, TASCHA, PLA, Worldreader, NIDA, WIPO and CLIR/DLF resulting in critical leadership programmes such as the International Network of Emerging Library Innovators-Sub Saharan Africa (INELI-SSAf), Young African Library Innovators (IYALI) and African Leadership Academy (AfLAc).

In the next few years, these strategic partnerships will be strengthened, new partnerships will be made and many more LIS-development oriented programs and projects will be rolled out. We are committed to promoting the development of LIS sector so that limitations on libraries in providing services for literacy education is eradicated.

By this statement, AfLIA celebrates the International Literacy Day and honours the year's theme: Literacy in Development. Visit our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter handles](#) to learn more about activities and happenings around the world on this day.