Amplio Network is a nonprofit organization empowering the world's most vulnerable communities through knowledge sharing.
Fifteen years ago, we set out to design a device for knowledge sharing in the most challenging contexts. We worked closely with rural communities in Ghana. The Talking Book was the result.

In 2021, we continued to use the power of Talking Books to reach vulnerable communities with quality information. We started new partnerships in Ethiopia, Haiti, Bangladesh, Malawi, and Nigeria. We supported the Ghana government to expand the reach of health education. We also released new software to monitor program impact and understand community needs.

We have now reached 1.3 million people. Amplio technology is being used to amplify learning and improve lives across many sectors.

All of this is possible because of the dedication of our partners, our Board of Directors, our Amplio team, and our donors and friends like you. For your ongoing support, a heartfelt thanks.

Cliff Schmidt
Founder and Executive Director
TALKING BOOKS HAVE NOW REACHED 1.3 MILLION PEOPLE ACROSS 13 COUNTRIES.

With access to information through Talking Books, low-literate adults and youth gain new skills and knowledge to transform their livelihoods and lives.

You make it possible. Thank you.
1.3M
PEOPLE SERVED THROUGH TALKING BOOK TECHNOLOGY AND PROGRAMS

PROMOTED SOCIAL & BEHAVIOR CHANGE TO TRANSFORM LIVES & LIVELIHOODS IN RURAL REMOTE COMMUNITIES

"THE TALKING BOOK IS A SUCCESSFUL DIGITAL TOOL. IT BUILDS UP SO MUCH TRUST."
DISTRICT HEALTH DIRECTOR, GHANA

DELI.VERED CULTURALLY RELEVANT CONTENT IN 23 INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES

EXPANDED PROGRAMS & PARTNERSHIPS INTO 5 NEW COUNTRIES IN AFRICA, SOUTH ASIA & LATIN AMERICA

EXPANDED GENDER DIGITAL INCLUSION TO SERVE 90%

"THE COMMUNITY LISTENS ATTENTIVELY. I DELIVER WHAT I LEARNED EFFECTIVELY."
MENTOR MOTHER, ETHIOPIA

174 ADULTS & YOUTH REACHED PER DEVICE * TOTAL AVERAGE

IMPROVED EDUCATION & ENGAGEMENT ON KEY SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES
In 2021, Talking Book programs scaled in Sub-Saharan Africa. We expanded to Latin America and South Asia, with CARE Haiti and CARE Bangladesh.
REWARDING OUTREACH

OUR COVID-19 RESPONSE IN GHANA WON A GOLD ANTHEM AWARD

Launched in 2020, our Covid-19 awareness campaign was led by Amplio Ghana. The team leveraged a strong partnership with UNICEF and Ghana Health Service. Community health workers used the Amplio Talking Book to share consistent and accurate health messages.

With generous support from Arm and VoLo Foundation, the project pivoted in 2021 to promote COVID-19 vaccination uptake.

In addition, the team added messages to alert communities about other disease outbreaks in the region, including yellow fever and polio.

Our COVID-19 response reached over 218,000 people in the Upper West Region. © UNICEF/Joseph Mills
PROGRAMS AND PARTNERS

Joint Action for Nutrition Outcomes
CARE Bangladesh

Women volunteers are using Talking Books to educate mothers, farmers, and adolescent girls, sharing messages on agriculture, health, nutrition, gender, and more.

Cocoa Life
Good Agricultural Practices Training
CARE Ghana

Amplio Ghana worked with CARE Ghana to improve sustainable cocoa practices. Farmers who listened to Talking Books reported a 10-20% increase in yield.

Act With Her & BERHAN Projects
CARE Ethiopia

Volunteers used Talking Books to deliver sexual health education to nomadic youth in Afar and to engage girls in Amhara on gender issues and child marriage.

ASARANGA
Nutrition and Food Security Project
CARE Haiti

CARE Haiti is using Talking Books for a multi-sectoral response in Grand'Anse. Topics include agriculture, health, nutrition, inclusive governance, and more.

Liberia Women’s Land Rights & USAID LEVERAGE Projects
Landesa

Landesa is working with Liberia Land Authority to educate communities about women’s legal land rights and women’s participation in land governance.

Farmers’ Economic Advancement Through Seedlings
MEDA Ghana

Talking Books helped 6,000 women shea farmers in northern Ghana access training on climate-smart farming practices, bookkeeping, and leadership.
WIDE-RANGING PROJECTS

USAID/Nigeria ADAPT II Program
Mercy Corps

Mothers are using Talking Books to deliver infant and child nutrition messages with peer-to-peer support groups in conflict-affected Northeast Nigeria.

Nandom Agriculture Extension Pilot
Nandom Municipal, Upper West, Ghana

Extension officers piloted Talking Books to support social distancing and deliver climate-smart agriculture practices for soybean and groundnut production.

Ready2Read Malawi Early Childhood Development
ILC Africa

Talking Books are being used to engage, inform, and empower caregivers, parents, and kids to improve children's literacy and early learning skills.

Ethiopia Agricultural Extension Pilot
Sasakawa Africa

Sasakawa is using Talking Books to deliver post-harvest management information to farmers, with updates which align with the growing season.

Niger Smart Villages
International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

In partnership with ITU, this government-led initiative is piloting Talking Books to improve digital inclusion. Topics include agriculture, health, and education.

Somali Region Health Education
UNICEF Ethiopia

Mentor mothers and health extension workers are sharing messages on maternal, newborn, and child health, hygiene, nutrition, cholera, and COVID-19.
TRANSFORMING MINDS AND LIVES

Community Health Education Outreach, Ghana Health Service and UNICEF Ghana

Community health nurses and volunteers are using Talking Books to share knowledge about maternal and child health, hygiene, disease prevention, and men's role in health.

Adolescent Training and Local Knowledge (TALK) II, VSO Zambia

VSO volunteers are using Talking Books to inform youth about sexual and reproductive health and rights. An external evaluation showed improved message reach, message quality, data collection, and engagement.

"We had serious cultural beliefs that restricted discussion of reproductive health. With the Talking Book, parents now have accurate information to support youth in their health needs."

LOCAL LEADER, CHISHI ISLAND, SAMFYA DISTRICT, ZAMBIA
R&D

DESIGNING WITH THE USER FOR SCALE AND SUSTAINABILITY

In 2021, we created a web-based user feedback processing system. Analysts can sample, listen to, and categorize messages that people record onto Talking Books. This enables our partners to identify issues and trends for monitoring and evaluation.

Amplio Talking Book 2 launched! We added a rechargeable battery and an Arm Cortex-M4 processor to add more power and help reduce cost and waste.
“The Talking Book is the easiest learning tool ever. It sings and is fun to use. I have learned so many important things about pregnancy and I also share my learning with other women.”

AYESHA SIDDQIQA, PROGRAM BENEFICIARY, JOINT ACTION FOR NUTRITION OUTCOMES PROJECT, CARE BANGLADESH
VoLo Foundation accelerates change and impact through science-based climate solutions, education, and global health. VoLo’s investments in Amplio and Talking Book programs have provided a foundation for our success. We share their vision of a world where all people have access to a clean and sustainable environment, education, and health services.

COTTON & CHAPPLE FAMILIES

In 2021, two generous and solutions-driven families joined forces to support Amplio’s expansion beyond Africa. The result? The first Talking Book project launched in South Asia and Latin America in partnership with CARE Haiti and CARE Bangladesh.

In Bangladesh, Talking Books have reached over 85,000 people so far. CARE Haiti is moving forward after delays due to a major earthquake and political instability.

A UNICEF staff member consults with a community health nurse in Ghana. ©UNICEF/Joseph Mills

Women volunteers participate in a Talking Book training conducted by CARE Bangladesh.

Toffic Dapilaah, Amplio Ghana, records audio messages on climate-smart agriculture.

ARM

An Amplio donor for over a decade, Arm is the leading technology provider of processor IP. Arm supports innovative technology to achieve the United Nations’ Global Goals, including affordable and accessible devices like the Amplio Talking Book.

In 2021, Arm's support strengthened our partnership and health education initiative with UNICEF and Ghana Health Service.

Driving Positive Change

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Toffic Dapilaah, Amplio Ghana, records audio messages on climate-smart agriculture.
OUR COMMUNITY OF SUPPORTERS

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Karl Yen

“Amplio empowers people who might not otherwise have a way to access information. For us, that’s always been compelling.”

BRIAN BEHLENDORF & KATE MILLER, AMPLIO DONORS
Mothers listen to health messages in Grand’Anse, one of the country’s poorest regions. ©CARE Haiti

Honoring a Commitment to LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND

Amplio helps the poorest of the poor on the planet — people who are often ignored by large aid organizations because they are simply too hard to reach.

Amplio’s technology, the Talking Book, is ideal for the harsh environments in places like rural Africa and Asia. It’s a simple device that provides disadvantaged people with educational content tailored to their needs. That’s why my wife Cathy and I, along with others, provided the funding to expand Amplio’s programs outside of Africa. It’s exciting to see the first projects launch in Asia and Latin America, in Haiti and Bangladesh.

Join us, and help Amplio grow worldwide. Your financial support enables knowledge sharing that empowers people to transform their lives.

Paul Cotton, Board Chair

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tawiah Agyorko-Kwarteng  Christine Chew  Cliff Schmidt
Tim Akinbo  Paul Cotton  Margo Schneider
Tony Cavalieri  Dena Morris  Revi Sterling
Kevin Reed  David Vogel

Mothers listen to health messages in Grand’Anse, one of the country’s poorest regions. ©CARE Haiti
FINANCIALS

In 2021, we invested $1,275,068 to share knowledge and transform lives through Talking Book programs, consulting services, and responsible technology.

See our 990s and financial reports >

ALLOCATION OF EXPENSES

- 63% Global Programs
- 14% Ghana Programs
- 17% Admin & Operations
- 3.5% R&D
- 2.5% Fundraising

*Total investment of $1,275,068
A HEARTFELT THANK YOU!

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

Amplio works alongside local partners to engage, inform, and empower underserved communities. Thanks to donors like you, we can offer Talking Book programs and expertise to build their capacity for greater impact. Together, we’re sharing knowledge people can use to transform their lives.

Your support means the world.