

## IBBY-Yamada Fund

Project reports 2025

# IBBY Nigeria

## Book Storm – Children’s Writers Training Programme



Every child has the right to become a reader

## **IBBY–Yamada Fund 2025**

### **Final Narrative Report**

#### **Project Title**

##### **Book Storm – Children’s Publishing Training Programme**

*(Implemented through the Lagos International Festival of Illustration – LIFI 2025)*

#### **IBBY National Section**

IBBY Nigeria

#### **Implementing Organisation**

Book Buzz Foundation

#### **Implementation Dates**

18–20 September 2025

#### **Location**

Lagos, Nigeria

#### **Project Partner**

Lagos International Festival of Illustration (LIFI)

## **1. Project Overview**

The Book Storm – Children’s Publishing Training Programme was designed to address the shortage of high-quality, culturally relevant children’s books in Nigeria by strengthening the skills of professionals involved in children’s publishing, particularly illustrators and visual storytellers.

In 2025, the project objectives were implemented through the Lagos International Festival of Illustration (LIFI), a three-day intensive training and professional development programme. This delivery model provided a concentrated, high-impact learning environment led by international and local experts, while remaining aligned with the approved objectives of the IBBY–Yamada Fund grant.

The ultimate beneficiaries of the project remain Nigerian children aged 3–7 years, who will benefit indirectly from improved illustration quality, stronger visual narratives, and culturally relevant content in children’s books produced by trained professionals.

## **2. Objectives and Results**

### **Approved Objectives**

1. To train illustrators, writers, and graphic designers of children’s books.
2. To strengthen professional skills within Nigeria’s children’s publishing ecosystem.

3. To improve the quality and cultural relevance of children's picture books produced locally.

## **Results Achieved**

- **39 Nigerian illustrators**, aged **21–40 years**, participated in the training.
- **9 international tutors** delivered the programme:
  - 3 tutors from **Spain**
  - 3 tutors from **Latin America**
  - 3 tutors from **Slovenia**
- Participants gained exposure to diverse global illustration traditions, contemporary practices, and culturally grounded visual storytelling approaches.
- The programme strengthened participants' readiness to contribute to children's book illustration and publishing projects.

## **3. Activities and Methods**

The programme was delivered over three days (18–20 September 2025) and consisted of structured learning and mentoring activities:

- **Introduction to Favourite Illustrators**  
Tutors introduced influential illustrators from their regions, highlighting style, technique, cultural context, and narrative approach.
- **New Concepts in Illustration**  
Sessions explored emerging tools, techniques, and conceptual approaches shaping contemporary illustration, with discussions on adapting these practices to Nigerian contexts.

- **Practical Workshops**

Participants applied new concepts in hands-on exercises, producing original illustration work under tutor guidance.

- **Portfolio Clinics and Q&A Sessions**

Individual and group feedback sessions focused on technique, originality, storytelling clarity, and professional presentation, alongside open discussions on illustration careers and publishing opportunities.

The festival-based intensive format represented an adaptation from the originally proposed extended course model. This adjustment allowed for concentrated learning, high participant engagement, and direct international mentorship within a limited timeframe, while meeting the project's core capacity-building objectives.

#### **4. Target Groups and Reach**

- **Primary beneficiaries:**

39 emerging Nigerian illustrators aged 21–40 years (direct participants).

- **Secondary beneficiaries:**

Writers, publishers, educators, and other stakeholders within the children's publishing value chain.

- **Indirect beneficiaries:**

Nigerian children aged 3–7 years, who will benefit from improved illustration quality and culturally relevant visual content in books.

## 5. Qualitative Results and Indicators of Change

Key qualitative outcomes observed during and after the programme included:

- Enhanced understanding of visual storytelling for children.
- Increased confidence in professional self-presentation and portfolio development.
- Broader awareness of international illustration standards and practices.

### Examples of impact:

1. Participants revised illustration concepts during workshops, incorporating stronger narrative coherence and culturally grounded visual elements.
2. Feedback from portfolio clinics directly informed participants' plans to refine existing projects and prepare work for submission to publishers and commissioning platforms.

## 6. Quantitative Outputs

Output	Planned	Achieved
Training programme	1	1
Duration	Multi-week (adapted)	3-day intensive
Participants	10-15	39
Tutors	2-4	9 (Spain, Latin

		America, Slovenia)
Workshops/Clinics	Multiple	4 structured sessions

Success was measured by participant attendance, engagement, completion of practical exercises, and evidence of improved illustration concepts and portfolios.

## 7. Challenges and Adjustments

The primary challenge involved condensing training content originally designed for a longer course into a three-day intensive format. This was addressed through:

- Careful session planning and time management.
- A balance of presentations, practical work, and mentorship.
- Focused learning objectives for each session.

The adjustment enhanced learning efficiency without compromising quality or relevance.

## 8. Visibility and Acknowledgement

Support from the **IBBY-Yamada Fund** was clearly acknowledged throughout the project. The **IBBY Africa logo** was included in event materials, and acknowledgements were made during programme sessions. Photographic documentation is available and will be submitted as supporting material.

## **9. Sustainability and Continuity**

LIFI is an annual initiative that provides a sustainable platform for ongoing professional development in illustration and visual storytelling. Skills acquired during LIFI 2025 will continue to inform participants' work in children's publishing. Book Buzz Foundation plans to integrate insights from the programme into future Book Storm training cycles and alumni engagement activities.