The newsletter for supporters of Book Aid International

Spring 2016
The books you help to send

Yes Africa Can: Success stories from a dynamic continent

*Donated by World Bank.*

Copies have already been sent to university libraries in Zambia and community libraries run by our NGO partners in South Sudan, with further copies due to reach avid readers in more countries throughout 2016.

Rastamouse

*Series donated by Macmillan Children’s Books.*

These bright, colourful picture books with appealing characters and engaging storylines are especially sought after by children’s librarians. Books like these are very popular with children and copies have been sent to our partners in Cameroon, Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda for school and community libraries.

A Dance to Remember

*Written and donated by Lorna Liverpool.*

This brightly illustrated adventure story gently addresses issues of confidence and includes questions at the end to help parents and teachers discuss the issues raised. Copies are on their way to community libraries in Zimbabwe along with thousands more brand new books for their Children’s Corners.

Waiting for the Biblioburro

*Donated by Letterbox Library.*

Set in Columbia, this is a delightful story of a mobile library, carried by donkeys, which visits Ana’s village. Encouraged by the librarian, Ana writes down her own stories in a book which then joins the other books in the Biblioburro. Fittingly, copies of this book have been sent to our partner Rural Libraries Resource and Development Programme which operates donkey-drawn libraries in Zimbabwe.

The CTA Practical Guides

*Series produced and donated by CTA.*

This series has been created for use by rural communities to help them develop small agricultural enterprises, from keeping bees and chickens to producing compost and harvesting rainwater. They are very popular with our partners who distribute them to community libraries and agricultural colleges.

Which endangered animal lives in . . . ?

*Series written and donated by Jenny Tulip.*

These books teach children about endangered species across the world in a way that is fun and engaging. Colourful illustrations bring the creatures and their habitats to life and the books are ideal for our Open Doors Children’s Corners programme in public libraries and our Inspiring Readers school library programme.
My favourite books

As we visit our library partners in Africa, we meet many people who love books and enjoy telling us about their favourites. Here are some of the children we met recently and their favourite books to read:

“My favourite book is Neompheli and the Red Bicycle, it’s very good. I like the pictures. I read it to my little sister Priscilla as well.”

Victoria aged 8, Uganda.

“My favourite books are history and geography books. I love the way they teach me how the animals move, how they look, how they help each other.”

Angelo Kere, aged 14, Kenya.

“Yesterday I read a book at the library which made me come again today as I want to read it again. It’s called Small Steps.”

Alex Odhimbo Smith, aged 12, Kenya.

“For me, I like science most because everything we do concerns science – moving is science, breathing is science, talking is science, everything is science. So that is the best subject I love. Science is what I like doing most and reading more about science activities and works in science.”

Harriet Chenge Muthoni aged 12, Kenya.
How do we select the right books?

At Book Aid International we support a broad range of libraries in an equally diverse range of locations through our book provision programme, which is at the heart of everything we do.

It is vital that we send our partners the books which most closely fit their users’ needs.

We seek to meet these needs through careful selection of books that are appropriate for each partner, according to their specific requests, and the purchase of locally published titles. The UK book selection process is overseen by our Collections Development Manager Stevie Russell, a qualified, chartered librarian:

“Stevie Russell selects books based on partners’ requests”

We have recently dispatched a shipment for our Cameroonian partner Education Information Services International (EISERVI) which supports community and council libraries, and libraries in schools, universities, orphanages and prisons throughout the country. The books we sent range from books for children and teens to academic, healthcare and vocational texts. Our selections are based on detailed information provided by EISERVI about the books these libraries need. This shipment also includes children’s books for the Open Doors Children’s Corners and Inspiring Readers programmes that we are running with EISERVI in Cameroon.

For both programmes, we complement the provision of books from our UK warehouse with grants to purchase locally published titles, often in local or regional languages.”
Recent news

One million books, one million chances

2016 is now well underway and we’re delighted to let you know that because of your support, we were able to send 1.1 million books to our partners in Africa in 2015. Every book represents a chance to change a life, so thank you for increasing the number of books being enjoyed in libraries in Africa right now.

A shared vision comes full circle

When the Daly Library opened in 1978, Abu Dhabi lacked a single bookshop. The Ranfurly Library Service (now Book Aid International) sent 500 books to help to found the library’s collection. But as numbers of users declined, last year the founder Jocelyn Henderson decided that it was time for the library to close.

This was a sad occasion, but the trustees kindly decided to donate the remaining funds from the library to Book Aid International. This will help us to continue our work to support libraries, learning and literacy, as the library in Abu Dhabi has done for over 40 years.

We’d like to say a huge thank you to the trustees and founder of the Daly Library.

World Book Day

It’s that time of year again! On 3rd March thousands of children will be dressing up as their favourite book characters to raise money for Book Aid International. Every £2 raised can help us send a new book to a library in Africa and we’d like to say a huge thank you to everyone taking part.

www.bookaid.org/worldbookday

Dress up and donate for World Book Day!
Spotlight on Zambia

We have been working to support libraries in Zambia since 1965. In 2015 we sent 103,293 books to our partners there.

Our book provision includes books for children, schools, universities and public libraries. In 2015, we opened our first Children’s Corner in Zambia as part of our Open Doors programme.

Supporting school libraries in Zambia

For many years we have supported Zambia Open Community Schools (ZOCS) in their work to provide and improve education for some of Zambia’s poorest children. Community schools are vital in Zambia – without them some 600,000 orphaned or vulnerable children would have to walk up to 80km to reach their nearest government school, or forego their education altogether. Many of the ZOCS schools are over-subscribed and lacking in space and resources, but they aim to never turn a child away. In 2015 we sent 28,505 books to ZOCS to support the libraries in their network of schools.

These books are changing the prospects of thousands of children in Zambia, who may never have held a book before.

“The library is very important. I’m really happy. By bringing many books here you’ve really helped this school. I want to say thank you and hope that you continue to help with this school, it has really helped us. Without you there’s nowhere we can go, we just need your help to continue.”

Victor, student at Rosa Mystica Community School
Launching Open Doors in Zambia

In October last year we were delighted to launch the first of our Open Doors Children’s Corners in Zambia. The Children’s Corner in Choma, stocked with 2,500 brand new books and refurbished to create a welcoming, safe and vibrant space for children, is the first of six planned Corners in Zambia. Our Project Manager Judith visited Zambia in January to run the first training session for librarians, in which they share ideas and good practice to become great children’s librarians who can inspire the next generation of readers in Zambia. Five further libraries are now developing their Corners which will open later in the year, providing reading opportunities for thousands of children in Zambia.

Furthering education in Zambian libraries

The Kitwe Campus of the University of Zambia offers a wide range of undergraduate and postgraduate courses in agricultural, social and natural sciences, education, engineering, humanities, law, medicine and veterinary medicine. The campus library operates with a very small budget and cannot afford to purchase many of the texts its students require. Book donations from Book Aid International enable this campus, over six hours away from the main campus library in Lusaka, to provide the students and tutors at Kitwe with the books and materials they need to support their studies.

“My students’ assignments often lacked citations and relevant references but with the stocking of the library with new books, the quality of assignments being submitted has improved greatly. In short, thanks to these resources, learning is now taking place.”

Nundwe Mwanja Phiri, a Tutor in Law at University of Zambia, Kitwe.
Inspiring Readers:
Bringing a world of reading into the classroom

Late in 2015 we were delighted and excited to launch our brand new school library programme, Inspiring Readers. This ambitious programme will provide cupboard libraries for over 300 schools – giving each school over 1,200 brand new books, which will help children not only learn to read but learn to love reading. The scheme will be run from the local public libraries’ Children’s Corners (set up by Book Aid International) and will allow children not only to access reading books in their schools but to use and enjoy the services of the local library as well.

Children under 15 make up 40 per cent of Africa’s population and are key to the future of the continent. And yet, for many of them, the future isn’t nearly as bright as it should be due to a simple lack of books and resources. In the countries where we work in Southern and Eastern Africa, almost none of the primary schools have a library and sharing one old, out-of-date book between ten children is common.

**INSPIRING READERS: THE PROGRAMME IN NUMBERS.**

- **Countries:** 7
- **Hub Libraries:** 52
- **Schools:** 310
- **Book Boxes:** 3 per school
- **Books per School:** 1,250
- **Children Benefiting:** 2,500
We believe that every child should have the opportunity to read – both for pleasure and study. Reading offers children the chance to progress in their education and ultimately, to shape their own futures. That’s why we’ve launched our Inspiring Readers programme – to change the fortunes of thousands of children in Africa.

Without a decent supply of books, the issue is not only that children struggle to learn to read. They are also denied the opportunity to explore the world through books, to find the stories, information and knowledge that could change their lives. That’s why it’s so important that we provide reading books for these schools. Inspiring Readers will start in Kenya and Cameroon in 2016 and then we’ll be looking to expand it to other countries. The books for these cupboard libraries have already been sent and we will be running training for librarians in Kenya during April.

To find out more, go to www.bookaid.org/inspiringreaders
**Our supporters in action**

**Helen’s running for reading!**

Long-time friend of Book Aid International, Helen Youngs is taking on a mega challenge to raise money for us. In May, Helen will be running the Edinburgh Marathon and she’s already raising funds. We wish Helen all the best! If you fancy doing something similar, please let us know by emailing info@bookaid.org.

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**Could you be a Book Aid International Community Ambassador?**

We have a wonderful team of Community Ambassadors who spread the word about our work, organise fundraising activities and represent us at events. Many Ambassadors encourage schools to partake in World Book Day fundraising, and our wonderful Community Ambassador Jane is just about to hold a fundraising dinner for her local community. If you’re interested in getting involved, please email info@bookaid.org.
Help us write the next chapter...

Over the past 60 years we have had some extraordinary achievements and we are now at an exciting stage where we are sending up to one million books each year to sub-Saharan Africa. Just imagine the difference those books could be making to peoples’ lives for years to come.

So much of what we have achieved is thanks to wonderful individuals like you, who choose to support our work through individual donations, regular gifts and increasingly, gifts in their Wills.

By including a gift in your Will you could help write the next chapter in the Book Aid International story and help to change the lives of countless adults and children across sub-Saharan Africa, a gift that really will be felt for many future generations.

To find out more about how leaving a gift in your Will could make a lasting difference, please call David Lacey, Individual Giving Manager, on 020 7326 5802 or email david.lacey@bookaid.org.

Give the gift of reading!

Thanks to a specially designed National Book Token you can give the gift of reading twice over! 1% of all value added to these special cards is donated to support our work. Look out for them in your local bookshops!
Email: info@bookaid.org
Visit: www.bookaid.org
Call: 020 7733 3577
Donate: www.bookaid.org/donate