The books you help to send

**Gustav Klimt**
*Donated by Hachette UK.*
Books are not only vital tools for education but can be a spark to fire the imagination. This stunning book reproduces more than 100 of Klimt’s paintings, each accompanied by extensive notes. It will make a fine addition to a public library’s collection where art lovers and budding artists can pore over it.

**Carlo and the Really Nice Librarian**
*Donated by The Book People.*
This eye-catching book with its gentle story is the perfect way to introduce young readers to the library environment. It has been sent to our partner CODE Ethiopia who will use it for reading promotion in schools. We hope it will encourage children to visit their local library!

**Gender and Forests**
*Donated by Centre for International Forestry Research.*
Almost every partner we work with requests books on gender, the environment, climate change and forestry. This brand new volume of research covering all these subjects will be welcomed by the librarians of academic and development institutions throughout sub-Saharan Africa.

**Mosby’s Dictionary of Medicine, Nursing & Health Professions**
*Donated by Elsevier.*
This is a classic reference text for health practitioners and students. Up-to-date medical dictionaries are always requested by our partners for the hospitals and medical schools they support where online resources are often unavailable and the cost of medical books can be too high for the small budgets with which they operate.

**Wild About Books**
*Donated by Penguin Random House.*
This brightly illustrated story encourages children to read books, as the animals in it do, whilst also teaching them about those animals. We hope it will inspire a love of reading in the children at Tamer Institute of Community Education in the Occupied Palestinian Territories where it has been sent.

**Principles of Physics**
*Donated by Wiley.*
Copies of this textbook have been sent to our partners in Ethiopia where they will reach not only higher education institutions supplied by CODE Ethiopia, but also the regional public libraries run by the Ethiopian Knowledge and Technology Transfer Society whose libraries are used by university and college students as well as the general public.

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**The Books You Help To Send**

**My favourite books**

We always love to hear directly from the people we support about the books they enjoy. Meet some of the library users who have been enjoying the books you help us to send:

**“This is my favourite book. It is called the Dancing Princess. I like this book because it has nice pictures and colours. I think it has a good story.”**

Regeza Mwendo Primary School, Unguja Island, Zanzibar

**“The most useful books are the revision guides. We need these to help us pass our exams.”**

Alfred, 19, Inyathi Secondary School, Zimbabwe

**“When I was younger I read a book all about design. When I first started reading it I didn’t understand. But when I got to the page about the design process, things changed. I started to learn new techniques as an artist – that is when things started to change for me. I got so much from that book – it gave me courage to proceed.”**

Kenneth, artist, Zimbabwe

**“I like to read books about other cultures. I feel that I am in another wonderful world when reading cultural books (different people, dresses, foods, wildlife and children).”**

Zaynab, Somaliland

**“When I was younger I read a book all about design. When I first started reading it I didn’t understand. But when I got to the page about the design process, things changed. I started to learn new techniques as an artist – that is when things started to change for me. I got so much from that book – it gave me courage to proceed.”**

Kenneth, artist, Zimbabwe
Returning to Sierra Leone

Book Aid International is once again supporting libraries in Sierra Leone. We have already sent 38,000 brand new books to help the country to rebuild after the Ebola crisis.

Sierra Leone is emerging from the recent widely-reported and devastating Ebola crisis which resulted in nearly 4,000 deaths in 2014 and 2015. The crisis caused major disruptions in education and commerce as well as creating many thousands of orphans and displaced children.

Despite the recent challenges the country has a flourishing national library service, managed by the Sierra Leone Library Board (SLLB) with 20 branches across the country.

Many of these libraries are new and they all have lending, reference and even basic children’s sections. Much of the collection is old but well looked-after and clearly well-used.

SLLB has also done much to promote the service in imaginative ways. All libraries have motorbikes on which the librarians visit local schools, community groups and in some cases even housebound individual users.

We are delighted to be able to support Sierra Leone as it seeks to rebuild after the devastation of Ebola. Books, education and access to relevant information will play a crucial part in helping Sierra Leone to rebuild. By sending these new books, we hope to help to contribute to the country’s future success.

The first shipment of books arrives in Sierra Leone

Recent news

Inspiring Readers: bringing a world of reading into the classroom

In 2015 we launched our ambitious Inspiring Readers programme, with the aim of setting up more than 300 Book Box Libraries in primary schools across sub-Saharan Africa in four years. Less than a year into the programme we’re delighted that, with the help of our supporters, 25 primary schools are already enjoying their Book Box Libraries in Kenya and another 25 libraries will be getting underway in Cameroon shortly.

A book for a book: supporting libraries in refugee camps

We receive support from publishers in many different ways, from the vital book donations we receive to volunteering in our London warehouse and supporting projects with donations.

We were delighted that publisher Hachette has teamed up with one of their authors to support our work in refugee camp libraries. Australian Author Zana Fraillon’s new book *The Bone Sparrow* is a moving story of a refugee boy in a detention camp. For every copy of *The Bone Sparrow* sold until the end of the year, Hachette will generously donate a book which will be sent to libraries in Kakuma and Dadaab refugee camps in Kenya through our partner the Windle Trust.

To find out more, go to [www.bookaid.org/inspiringreaders](http://www.bookaid.org/inspiringreaders)

“*The Inspiring Readers programme is going to be transformational, because there are some areas where children have never seen a book.*”

Agnes Karegi, Head Librarian at Rumuruti Library in Kenya
Spotlight on Zimbabwe

We have been working to support libraries across a range of sectors in Zimbabwe since 1959. In 2015 we sent 205,621 books to our partners there.

Our first Children’s Corners in Zimbabwe

Library services in Zimbabwe often struggle for funds and many libraries have only a few old books for children. Continuing economic difficulties mean that many schools are also unable to provide new books for children. Families are more likely to prioritise food than buying books.

Together with our partners in Zimbabwe, we are opening five Children’s Corners in public libraries in Bulawayo and two in Harare – bright and colourful spaces where children can read, play and learn freely. The first of these to open was Nketa library in Zimbabwe’s second city, Bulawayo. The five libraries in Bulawayo are now all brightly painted and filled with reading mats, cushions and child-sized furniture. Children in the surrounding areas now have their own space in their libraries where they can begin their reading journeys. Their specially trained librarians make the children feel welcome and help them to discover books within their new collections which will inspire the next generation of Zimbabwe’s readers.

Books for better health

Last year we sent over 8,000 medical and healthcare books to Zimbabwe. These books, often unavailable or unaffordable for our partners, provide a vital resource for the country’s current and future medical workforce. One example of a library we support is Parirenyatwa School of Nursing which is based in the capital, Harare. The library in the School of Nursing is a vital resource for trainee and qualified nurses alike. Nursing students use the library on a daily basis to support their studies and those already qualified use the library to keep their knowledge current and up to date. These medical books can help tomorrow’s nurses better prepare for their professional futures and keep their knowledge up to date once qualified.

Supporting primary schools in Zimbabwe

Funding shortages in Zimbabwe mean many schools struggle to provide books for children and this presents a real challenge for their learning. We support the Rural Libraries and Resources Development Programme which works to provide books for rural schools. Through them, we provide phonics books to help children grasp the basics of English as well as non-fiction educational books and stories. These are often the only books available in schools and provide a vital resource to help Zimbabwe’s children progress in their education. When we visited Zimbabwe earlier this year, the children could not wait to get their hands on such bright, appealing books.
Our progress with Open Doors Children’s Corners

Books are scarce for many children in sub-Saharan Africa and having books at home is a luxury few families can afford. A local library is often the only place where children can access books and read for pleasure and study but many libraries have no dedicated space for children and insufficient funds to buy appealing children’s books.

In 2014 we launched our Open Doors Children’s Corners appeal to establish 60 Children’s Corners in African public libraries – vibrant, safe and child-friendly spaces where children can read, play and learn.

For each library we provide 2,500 brand new carefully selected books from the UK; a grant to refurbish the space and make it colourful and welcoming; funds to purchase locally published books and training for librarians to run a great Children’s Corner and inspire the next generation of readers.

We have now helped to establish 34 Children’s Corners in Tanzania, Cameroon, Uganda, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe and a further 15 are currently in progress. These Corners are welcoming children on a daily basis to their own space where they can explore the book collection, enjoy reading activities and begin their journeys of learning and literacy.

Number of Children’s Corners established: 34
Total number of books sent: 145,951
Number of librarians trained: 171

Case study: Zigoti Children’s Corner, Uganda

One of the new Open Doors Children’s Corners is in Zigoti, Uganda. Before the project started the library had 250 outdated children’s books and no dedicated space for children.

A Children’s Corner has now been created in a separate room from the main library. One of the children who comes to the library is 15 year old Mubiru. He has no books at home so he comes to the library several times a week and now brings his little sister Nankya. Nankya is too young to read but she enjoys playing with the toys and Mubiru reads to her to encourage her to love the library from a young age.

Before, the community had a perception that the library was only for older people. There was no way a kid could go and visit the library when there were older people there. Now they have a separate section, they feel free to read and enjoy, and this has helped their literacy skills.

Abdu Ssegane, Children’s Librarian, Zigoti
Our supporters in action

Bookmarks for books
Arabella is 12 and has been supporting Book Aid International since 2013. She recently sent in a donation which she had raised by selling beautiful handmade bookmarks to her friends at school. Arabella told us:

“I chose Book Aid International as my charity and to make bookmarks as my fundraiser because reading is my absolute passion. It makes me sad to think that there are people in the world who don’t have access to books, learning and a place they can be happy. For this reason I will continue to support Book Aid International for as long as I can.”

Biking for books
Friends and book lovers Agnes and Ferelith recently raised over £4,000 for our work by cycling from Scotland to the South of France! The pair covered 1,777km to reach their goal and raised an incredible amount of money to support our work.

“A 24 hour swim for Book Aid International
Kerry braved icy depths to support our work this summer – by taking part in a 24 hour open water swim. Kerry and her friend Tracey took it in turns to swim a mile each every other hour. Kerry said:

“As an author myself, who’s worked with disadvantaged communities, the power of literacy and education is something I feel very strongly about and have seen at first hand how access to literature can help to inspire people.”

Climbing Kilimanjaro
Kathryn took her fundraising to new heights by climbing Mt Kilimanjaro earlier this year. Kathryn climbed with a team of friends and family members and reached the summit in time for sunrise. The challenge is especially fitting as we work in this area of Tanzania – she might have even seen the local library from the peak!

Gifts in Wills: a thank you
Every gift in every Will, however big or small, can make a real and lasting difference to the lives of readers in sub-Saharan Africa. We understand that writing your Will is a personal decision, and one you may not always wish to discuss, but we would like to pass our thanks on to every individual who has chosen to support us in this way. Thanks to you, we are able to support more libraries and change more lives both now and for generations to come.

Brand new Christmas cards!
This year we are delighted to offer an exciting new range of Christmas cards to our supporters. You can view all the designs online at www.bookaid.org/christmas and this year you can complete your order through our website too!

If you would prefer to order offline then you can email us via info@bookaid.org to request an order form, or call us on 020 7733 3577 to complete your order over the phone. With all money raised benefitting our work, please do consider buying your cards from Book Aid International in 2016!