Books change lives

Book Aid International
Annual Review 2016
A note from our Chair

The Rt Hon The Lord Paul Boateng

At Book Aid International we envision a future of vibrant libraries, inspired readers and empowered communities. Every year, our team works to make our vision a reality by providing books to thousands of libraries across Africa and the Occupied Palestinian Territories and 2016 was no exception. Thanks to the generosity of our donors and the hard work of our staff and volunteers, in 2016 we sent more than one million books to thousands of libraries for a third consecutive year.

I know just how precious these books are because when I was a child I was a reader of the books that Book Aid International sent to my local library in Ghana (then called the Gold Coast). My memory of reading those books as a child makes the success of our Open Doors appeal all the more special to me.

The appeal aimed to raise the funds needed to create 60 vibrant, enriching spaces for children in African libraries. In 2016 the appeal surpassed its £600,000 target and I would like to extend a very warm thank you to everyone who supported the Open Doors appeal.

Our work supplying books to help Sierra Leone was also a highlight of this past year for me. The books we have sent to schools, libraries and hospitals across the country will help Sierra Leone recover from the devastating Ebola epidemic which killed thousands.

Book Aid International can only support readers around the world through the generosity of the book trade which donates brand new books and through the financial gifts we receive from thousands of individuals, trusts and many companies. I would like to thank you for your support and for helping us make 2016 an outstanding year.

A note from our Chief Executive

Alison Tweed

I am proud to present our Annual Review for 2016, which reflects on the key achievements and challenges of the year.

The context and need for our work was reaffirmed right at the start of 2016, with the launch of the Sustainable Development Goals identifying education as the key to achieving poverty reduction and a more equal society for all. We know the reality is that without ready access to books children will simply not learn to read and their chances of succeeding in education and reaching their potential are going to be very limited.

The work we do is practical and transformational. What could be simpler than the gift of a book to a school in a city slum; yet what could have more potential to transform lives?

We are privileged to share our vision of a better, book-rich world with many supporters: the publishers whose gifts send over a million books a year to readers across Africa and the Occupied Palestinian Territories and the trusts and corporate partners who help us create vibrant Children’s Corners in libraries and treasured book boxes for schools.

I will remember 2016 as the year that our flagship Inspiring Readers programme reached 30,000 pupils in Kenya and Cameroon and, like Paul, as the year that we began working in Sierra Leone once more. But above all I will remember the appreciation of the very many readers who tell us the difference a book has made to their lives. This Annual Review features just a few of these voices. I hope you enjoy reading it, and thank you for your support.

About our charity

Book Aid International is the UK’s leading international book donation and library development charity.

The need for our work

Books have the power to help people reach their full potential, but around the world millions do not have access to the books that might enrich, improve and change their lives.

Across Africa, many people cannot afford to purchase books for their own homes and schools often have only a few curriculum books which must be shared between many pupils.

In these circumstances a local library can offer the best, or only, chance for people to read. Yet libraries often lack funds to purchase books and are forced to make do with an insufficient number of out-of-date books.

The change books make possible

Access to books creates opportunities for everyone to build a more prosperous, sustainable future. Books are instrumental in helping pupils succeed in education, enabling adults to learn new skills and giving everyone the chance to experience the joy of reading throughout their lives.

Libraries also offer a resource for the entire community, helping people access information, supporting readers from all walks of life and creating a hub of community activities.

We envision a future of vibrant libraries, inspired readers and empowered communities. All of our work aims to make this vision a reality.

What we do

We create access to books for millions of people around the world by providing books, resources and training to support an environment in which reading for pleasure, study and life-long learning can flourish.

Every year we send around one million books to public and community libraries as well as libraries in prisons, refugee camps, hospitals, schools and universities. We also help libraries develop their services through our library support projects and programmes.
The books we sent in 2016

In 2016 the books we provided benefited an estimated 30 million people in 14 countries.

About the books we provide

The books we sent in 2016 included graded readers which support the youngest pupils, brand new medical texts, novels and other leisure reading, e-books, further and higher education texts and reference and secondary books. In total, we sent 1,032,610 books to 3,583 libraries.

All of the books we sent in 2016 were brand new thanks to the generosity of the book trade. The libraries we support value these books enormously as they often lack book purchase funds. In the countries where we work, English is the medium of instruction or is widely used in education, business or everyday life. This ensures that the new books in English we provide will be well-used.

Working in partnership to select books

In 2016, we worked closely with our library, NGO and government partners to ensure that the books we sent would meet the needs of each library and community. Every year our partners fill in detailed requirements forms so we know what books they need. Our librarian-led team here in the UK then selects the most appropriate books for each partner. In 2016 we also launched a new system which allowed selected partners to choose books directly from our stock.

Books sent by subject area in 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject Area</th>
<th>Number of Books</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Further and higher education</td>
<td>115,470</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leisure reading</td>
<td>83,665</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English as a foreign language</td>
<td>82,949</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children and primary</td>
<td>550,964</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicine and healthcare</td>
<td>47,687</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reference and secondary</td>
<td>151,875</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Books sent by country in 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Number of Books</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cameroon</td>
<td>112,511</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eritrea</td>
<td>42,085</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
<td>84,894</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>121,650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malawi</td>
<td>102,107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupied Palestinian Territories</td>
<td>14,150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sierra Leone</td>
<td>38,226</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somalia</td>
<td>64,218</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tanzania</td>
<td>103,072</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uganda</td>
<td>112,535</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zambia</td>
<td>97,096</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zimbabwe</td>
<td>138,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1,826</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,032,610</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To libraries

In 2016 we provided brand new, beautiful books for children and young people to libraries in all of the 14 countries where we work. These books reached public libraries as well as informal, community-run libraries, libraries in schools and refugee camps. By sending books to many types of libraries we can ensure that as many children as possible have the opportunity to read.

We provided a wide range of books for children in 2016 including picture books, pop-up books, early grade readers and leisure reading. These books help young readers develop a love of reading which will stay with them throughout their lives.

Creating spaces for children to discover books

Many African libraries do not have a dedicated space for children and librarians often do not receive training in supporting young readers. Our Children’s Corners programme creates vibrant, welcoming spaces for children in African public libraries by providing new children’s books, training for librarians in working with children, funds to purchase local children’s books, a grant to refurbish the library and, where appropriate, e-books on e-readers and tablets.

In 2016 we opened 20 Children’s Corners in five countries, all of which were funded by the Open Doors appeal. We also invested in established Children’s Corners by providing new digital technology and e-books. We look forward to opening more Children’s Corners in 2017 and beyond.

Case study: Children’s books at Lukhonge Community Library

The Lukhonge Community Library is located in a small village several hours from the eastern city of Mbuwe in Uganda. The area is rural and most people are subsistence farmers, so the library offers children’s only opportunity to access books. These books help children begin a life long journey of reading and learning.

“Our readers, first of all they learn how to read and after learning how to read, then they read to learn. Once they read to learn, they can read on their own and improve on their lives. We train our children, the youth, because these youth are the people who will make tomorrow. Through reading, you can learn how to tame this place where we live.”

Julius, founder of the Lukhonge Community Library

Left: A young reader at Lukhonge Community Library
Opening Doors for children in African public libraries

In 2014, we launched the Open Doors appeal with the aim of raising £600,000 to provide 60 Children’s Corners in libraries across sub-Saharan Africa. In 2016, we achieved our goal.

The success of the Open Doors appeal would not have been possible without the support of a wide range of trusts, companies and individuals, and we would like to thank them for their generosity.

The 60 Open Doors Children’s Corners are located in seven countries across sub-Saharan Africa where children have few books either in school or at home. In these circumstances, a library is often children’s best opportunity to read, but in the countries where we created Open Doors Children’s Corners, most children lacked a library which had the books and child-friendly space needed to welcome them into reading.

Now, thanks to Open Doors over 600,000 children have access to books that will enrich, improve and change their lives, a librarian who can support them and a space to call their own.

Open Doors in numbers:

- 167 Librarians trained
- 207,344 Books provided
- 619,326 Children benefiting

Cameroon

The ten Children’s Corners we opened across Cameroon are all in municipal libraries which are run by local government and boast enthusiastic involvement from their local communities. As a result, they have seen some of the most impressive transformations with wonderful local craftsmanship and artwork to create truly inspiring spaces.

Zambia

In Zambia, six out of ten provincial towns now have Children’s Corners, so children across the country are able to access a warm, inviting place to read. Librarians have told us that Children’s Corners are contributing to the government’s focus on literacy by reviving the libraries and enabling children to enjoy learning and reading in their own child-friendly spaces.

Zimbabwe

The seven Children’s Corners we opened in Zimbabwe are all in the high-density suburbs around the country’s two largest cities: Bulawayo and Harare. Zimbabwe has experienced high inflation and economic insecurity in recent years, so these Children’s Corners give children facing instability the opportunity to read brand new, beautiful books.

Uganda

In Uganda, we opened ten Children’s Corners in both municipal and community-run libraries. These included large libraries in towns and small, volunteer-led libraries serving more rural villages. The diversity of these libraries means that children from many different backgrounds will benefit from their local Children’s Corner.

Tanzania

In Tanzania the language of instruction is Kiswahili, but English is still the language of business in East Africa. This means that learning both English and Kiswahili is hugely beneficial. Many of the local books we have provided in the eleven Children’s Corners across the country are in Kiswahili and, alongside the English books we provide, they help children become confident in reading both Kiswahili and English.

Malawi

We opened eleven Children’s Corners in Malawi and five of them received e-readers pre-loaded with e-books. Children have embraced this digital technology and librarians report that these e-books are helping children engage with reading in a brand new way.

Kenya

The five Children’s Corners we opened in Kenya have laid the foundations for the launch of our flagship Inspiring Readers programme. The programme creates small libraries in schools and links Children’s Corners with local schools to increase support available for pupils. The schools which have taken part in Inspiring Readers in Kenya have reported excellent results and shown that linking schools with Children’s Corners helps pupils thrive.

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A librarian leading an early childhood reading session in Njube library, Zimbabwe

Reading a Kiswahili book in the Pemba Public Library in Tanzania

A packed children’s corner in Uganda
Providing e-books for young readers

The digital technology we provide in Children’s Corners gives young readers a new way to explore the written word.

Children who have not yet discovered the joy of reading print books are often excited about handling tablets and e-readers and as a result this digital technology can provide a new route into reading. Integrating e-books alongside print books has helped boost library attendance and provided librarians with a new way to engage younger readers.

In 2016, we provided e-readers pre-loaded with 200 e-books in 15 Children’s Corners and trained 24 librarians in how to use these valuable resources. The training we provide both ensures that children will get the most out of the e-readers and builds librarians’ skills and confidence.

Investing in Digital Futures

In Uganda, we partnered with Worldreader and National Library of Uganda (NLU) to supply e-readers in five Children’s Corners across the country. This new technology has dramatically increased young readers’ access to both engaging books in English and locally published books which reflect their own experiences and which are often in local languages.

We are committed to increasing our understanding of how the e-books we provide impact on children’s reading. Alongside our partners at NLU, we are now conducting in-depth research to study how e-books influence children’s reading behaviours. We look forward to publishing this research in 2018.

Creating Digital Connections

In 2016, we also began our Digital Connections project in partnership with BRCK Education in Tanzania and Kenya. The project aims to give thousands of children access to quality reading and learning support materials in English and in their local languages by providing a combination of print books and e-books on tablets. These tablets also come pre-loaded with educational software and learning resources.

The project launched in 2016 and librarian training in how to use these valuable resources will begin in early 2017.

Supporting education

Access to books is one of the most cost effective ways to improve the quality of education pupils receive.

In the countries where we work, few schools have books other than curriculum books. Without reading books in their classrooms, many pupils find it more difficult to develop their English language skills, become confident readers and succeed in education.

The books we provide in schools

In 2016, we worked with NGOs, national library services and local governments to provide books to 1,476 nursery and primary schools. The books we sent included picture books, children’s fiction, graded readers and non-fiction for younger readers. These brand new books help younger pupils engage with reading and improve their vocabularies.

We also supported 910 secondary schools by providing revision guides, non-fiction books which enhance pupils’ understanding of subjects such as science and teen fiction that encourages pleasure reading.

Reaching out to schools in Kenya

English is the language of instruction and business in Kenya, so it is vital that pupils develop strong English language skills early, but this is more difficult if pupils do not have English books in their classrooms. From 2014 to 2016, we partnered with Kenya National Library Service to provide phonics books to 200 schools and training for 200 teachers through our School Library Outreach Project. These books will help approximately 100,000 pupils improve their English and thrive in school.

Creating school libraries

In 2016, we ran a group of projects which created small libraries in schools. These libraries are now giving more than 11,000 pupils access to books in their classrooms, often for the first time.

In Zambia, we worked with local NGO Zambia Open Community Schools (ZOCS) to create Book Box Libraries in 15 non-governmental schools and train teachers in how to integrate reading into their classrooms. ZOCS works with children who are unable to attend government schools, so these books are supporting the educations of some of Zambia’s most vulnerable pupils.

We also partnered with Zanzibar Library Services to provide Book Box Libraries in 10 additional primary schools in the Zanzibar Archipelago and supported Storymoja, a Kenya-based NGO, to start 100 libraries in Kenyan primary schools.

Examples of the books we sent:

- Primary school books
- Secondary school books
- Education books
- Children’s stories
- Teacher’s resource books

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E-books provided: 40,100
Children’s Corners which received e-books: 15
E-readers and tablets: 240
Secondary school books sent: 148,453
Schools supported: 2,386
Examples of the books we sent:

- Primary school books
- Secondary school books
- Education books
- Children’s stories
- Teacher’s resource books
Bringing a world of reading into the classroom

In 2016, our Inspiring Readers programme brought books into the schools of over 30,000 pupils.

About Inspiring Readers

Every Inspiring Readers school receives a book box library with 1,250 books, including about 100 books that are purchased locally, as well as a small grant to create a library cupboard and boxes to move books between classrooms.

We also provide training for teachers on how to use the books to enrich curriculum lessons and link each school with a Children’s Corner in a local public library. Strengthening the relationship between the library and school provides teachers with support in maintaining their new school library, encourages children to read both in and out of school and builds the capacity of local teachers and librarians to support young readers.

In 2015, 50 schools in Kenya and Cameroon took part in Inspiring Readers. We aim to expand the programme to Malawi and Uganda in 2017 and reach 250,000 pupils by 2020.

Case study: Inspiring Readers in Laikipia, Kenya

Laikipia is a poor, semi-arid region in north-central Kenya which has been affected by conflict between local tribes. In the Laikipia town of Rumuruti, 40% of children are orphans.

Inspiring Readers is helping these vulnerable children receive a quality education and grow in confidence. The head teacher of one Rumuruti primary school described the change she has seen in her pupils.

“These books are of great help to these children. As they read some of them come across stories of people who used to be like them and they become inspired that tomorrow there is a future. They become optimistic. Their reading and writing is getting so much better, their vocabulary is growing and their composition is getting better. And even when they’re conversing with you, they’re confident because they know what to say.”

Lydia, Head-Teacher at OMC Primary School, Rumuruti, Kenya

Right: Engrossed in reading in a Rumuruti Primary School

Investing in librarians and teachers

The training we provide ensures that librarians and teachers have the confidence and skills to support readers.

Supporting children’s librarians

As part of each Children’s Corner project, we provide an intensive training programme that is designed to give librarians the skills and confidence they need to support young readers. This training is vital as most librarians do not receive training in working with children.

The training we provide covers topics such as creating a vibrant library space, ideas for running story-times and how to display books in a child-friendly way. In 2016, we trained 114 librarians from all of the 20 Children’s Corners we opened. When we provide e-books in Children’s Corners, we also provide specific training in how to use these resources.

Training in schools

Whenever we create libraries in schools through Inspiring Readers and our other projects, we also provide training for teachers in how to integrate books into the school curriculum.

This training includes information on key topics, such as ideas for reading activities, but is also tailored to meet the specific needs of schools. For example, in our Kenyan School Library Outreach Project, we supplied primarily phonics books to schools, so we also provided training in the use of phonics books to support English language learning. In 2016, we trained a total of 346 teachers.

Developing the skills of specialist librarians

We also provide training for librarians working in specialist libraries, such as medical libraries. These training courses build librarians’ capacities and enrich the services libraries can offer. In 2016 when we provided medical texts to three regional referral hospitals in Uganda, we also trained 12 members of staff in medical library management.

Librarians and teacher librarians trained: 150

Schools reached: 50

Pupils benefiting: 31,684

Librarians trained: 162

Teachers trained: 346

Digital training workshops held: 2

“...I have learnt a new way of using these books in class. I know now that my class will change thanks to these new books because learners will have time to see a variety of books and they will be very excited as they like new things.”

Bertha, teacher at Kamuzu Barracks Primary School, Lilongwe, Malawi

A confident librarian running a story-time in Zimbabwe

Inspiring Readers 2016:

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Books for health

Access to new books ensures that medical professionals can provide care based on current information and that medical students receive a quality education.

Recently published medical books are vital for both practising professionals and tomorrow’s healthcare providers. Yet in the countries where we work, these books are often too expensive for students and healthcare professionals to purchase. Even where funds are available, medical books can be difficult or impossible to find.

Books for healthcare and health education

In 2016 we sent 47,687 books on medicine, health and social care to 101 libraries, many of which are located in hospitals and medical schools. These books make an invaluable contribution to health education and to practising professionals’ work.

Improving medical libraries in Uganda

In 2016, we worked with health professionals in Uganda’s Soroti, Lira and Fort Portal Regional Referral Hospitals to improve access to medical books and resources with a particular focus on HIV/AIDS.

In total, we provided over 4,000 new medical books, including around 300 HIV/AIDS titles. We also trained staff from each library in medical library management to ensure that the books would be easily accessible to all hospital staff.

The project will improve the quality of care for an estimated 65,000 patients by providing vital information for doctors, medical students, nurses and all members of staff involved in patient care.

Students studying in Kyambogo University in Kampala, Uganda

“I don’t have any books at home and I always use books at this university library. If there were no books in the library, I would not make it through my studies. We do a lot of research using these books. For example, I always use ‘Principles of Chemistry’ to help me with my studies.”

Brenda, 22 year old student at Kyambogo University, Kampala, Uganda

The books we provided

In 2016 we supplied 115,470 higher and further education books to 513 universities, further education institutions and public libraries. These books included teacher training texts, vocational books and higher education books used by university students.

The books we provide are giving students the resources they need to complete degrees in places where earning a qualification can be particularly challenging. For example, we sent books to 37 university and further education institutions in the Occupied Palestinian Territories where the supply of books and educational materials is often disrupted by political instability.

“I have nothing at home and I always use the books at this university library. If there were no books in the library, I would not make it through my studies. We do a lot of research using these books. For example, I always use ‘Principles of Chemistry’ to help me with my studies.”

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Books for higher education and professional development

Up-to-date books are essential for university students and adults working towards professional qualifications.

These students and professionals have a key role to play in building better futures in their own countries but they need high-quality books to complete their degrees and qualifications. These books are often difficult for libraries and universities to source and too expensive for them to purchase.

Case study: Recovering from disaster

In December 2015 Mzuzu University Library in Malawi was destroyed in a fire. 45,000 books were consumed along with the building housing the library. As soon as the library was able to accept books, we began helping them restock. Over the course of 2016 we sent 5,553 books to help the university’s students get back to learning.

Students studying in Kyambogo University in Kampala, Uganda

Examples of the books we sent:

“Many a time I have come across a medical situation and wished I could get a book to read about it. Now this is an opportunity for us to get out of the wish list and get down to reading the books in the library. I want to share the burden of knowledge and forget about sharing the burden of ignorance.”

Dr. Dan Masereka, Soroti Regional Referral Hospital speaking about the books he received

Ugandan doctor Dan Masereka displays one of the books he finds useful

Medicine and health care books sent: 47,687

Medical libraries supported: 101

Examples of the books we sent:

Case study: Recovering from disaster

Higher and further education books sent: 115,470

Higher and further education libraries supported: 513

Examples of the books we sent:

I don’t have any books at home and I always use books at this university library. If there were no books in the library, I would not make it through my studies. We do a lot of research using these books. For example, I always use ‘Principles of Chemistry’ to help me with my studies.

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Students studying in Kyambogo University in Kampala, Uganda

Examples of the books we sent:
Investing in public and community libraries

These libraries create access to books for everyone in the community, whatever their circumstances.

Supporting national library services

In 2016, we supplied books to the national library services in nine countries, all of which support library networks across their nations. This means that the books we provide reach people living in a range of communities, from high-density urban populations to rural villages.

The libraries which receive our books act as hubs of community information. Many also offer outreach services, providing books to schools, running mobile libraries for the most isolated rural populations and advocating for the value of reading within local communities. The library services we partner with do not have large budgets, so without our support they would struggle to purchase books.

Investing in community libraries

We also support community libraries in several countries. These libraries are often volunteer-run and operate in places not served by national library services. For example, 2016 saw us continue our support of the Mathare Youth Sports Association (MYSA) in Nairobi, Kenya. MYSA is a local NGO which aims to empower young people in Mathare, one of Nairobi’s largest slums. Its four community libraries provide a vital resource for people working to improve their lives.

Advocating for the value of reading

In 2016, we ran a reading promotion campaign with our partners in Cameroon, Ethiopia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The campaign aimed to promote the value of reading at events marking International Literacy Day. We supported libraries to run these events by providing marketing materials, grants to run events and prizes for reading competitions. In all five countries, the events brought together community members, government officials and community leaders to encourage reading and the use of the library’s services. They were also covered in the local press, helping to broadcast the message further.

Case study: Learning in the community

Kitengesë Community Library is one of the rural community libraries we support in Uganda. Tony is a local farmer who was unable to complete education because his family could not afford school fees. Despite this, he was able to use the library’s books to learn how to increase his crop yield and raise livestock to sell. He is now a successful local farmer who also mentors youths in the community.

“...I learned about modern farming. It’s all about making the most of one acre. About how to plant the best seeds, be able to irrigate, how to add value to the crops by making them into sauces, how to preserve crops if you don’t have market – many things. The books are there on all these topics and they give you the resource to put your ideas into practise.”

Tony, reader at Kitengesë Community Library

Books for vulnerable communities

Books can help people facing hardship find new opportunities and overcome the challenges they face.

Helping displaced people

People who have been forced from their homes need books so that they can continue their education and find temporary refuge from their day to day reality. In 2016, we sent books to 13 libraries and schools in Kenya’s Kakuma and Dadaab refugee camps.

We also provided a small consignment of books to a camp in southern Greece serving displaced people, including Syrian refugees.

Books for fragile states

The books we provide are read by thousands of people facing conflict and recovering from crisis. For example, in 2016 we supplied books to Somalia and 14,150 books to the Occupied Palestinian Territories. We also sent 38,226 books to libraries, hospitals and schools across Sierra Leone to support the country’s recovery from the Ebola epidemic.

Supporting prison libraries

Books in prisons enable people awaiting trial or serving sentences to continue their education, learn new skills and prepare to re-enter society. Many prison libraries are also used by prison staff. In 2016, we supplied books to 38 prison libraries in nine countries. These books ranged from law books to help prisoners prepare appeals to low-level graded readers to help the illiterate learn to read.

In 2015, we continued our support for the African Prisons Project (APP). APP works to bring dignity and hope to people living and working in prisons across Africa. The books we sent reached 17 prison libraries run by APP, including a new library in the Langata Women’s Prison which serves 660 women in Nairobi, Kenya.

We received a donation of books from Book Aid International in June 2016. Those books have been so good for us. Children can come to the library, read the books and improve their reading skills. The children are learning about different places, people and communities, and that helps them to feel happy and lively. They are so eager -- you can see the excitement in them to read.

Yearie, Head teacher Bassa Town Primary School, Sierra Leone

Prison staff and an inmate’s child enjoy the opening day of the library at Langata Women’s Prison in Nairobi, Kenya

Children reading donated books in Bassa Town Primary school, Sierra Leone

Books to the Occupied Palestinian Territories: 14,150

Prison libraries supported: 38

Libraries and schools serving refugees supported: 13
Fundraising and Finance

In 2016, cash donations for the year totalled £2,133,588, an increase of £290,347 on 2015.

Book Aid International receives no UK government funding. Our income comes from a diverse range of funders: from Trusts and Foundations and corporate organisations, from the hundreds of schools who fundraise on World Book Day and from the thousands of individuals who offer their support, many of whom donate through a regular gift commitment.

In 2016, we continued our commitment to maintaining this diverse funding picture, investing in our fundraising team and in fundraising activities, particularly through our individual giving programme which in 2017 accounted for a significant portion of our overall income. Though we cannot name them all individually here, we would like to thank all of our supporters for their continued commitment to our work.

We would also like to thank those in the UK publishing and book trade who make such generous donations of new books, without which our work could not continue. In 2016, the estimated value of these books as gifts-in-kind rose to £13,291,621, an increase of £985,212 on 2015.

Maintaining financial stability

We maintain sufficient unrestricted cash reserves to ensure that we can deliver our planned commitments in the event of unforeseen financial challenge. The minimum levels of reserves we must hold are agreed by our Board of Trustees and monitored regularly.

More information on our finances, including our full audited accounts from 2016, can be found on our website at www.bookaid.org.

Income and Expenditure breakdown

**2016 Income**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>£</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash donations</td>
<td>2,133,588</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Income e.g. interest on investments</td>
<td>35,202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cash Income</strong></td>
<td>2,168,790</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value of donated books received</td>
<td>13,291,621</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL INCOME</strong></td>
<td>15,460,412</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**2016 Expenditure**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>£</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Raising funds</td>
<td>546,408</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charitable activities</td>
<td>1,262,475</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pension costs &amp; Governance</td>
<td>25,390</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash Expenditure</td>
<td>1,834,273</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value of donated books sent</td>
<td>10,660,433</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</strong></td>
<td>12,384,706</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 2016, our total income exceeded our total expenditure primarily due to the value of donated books which we received but did not send in the year. We hold those books as stock for use in future years.

How we spend every Pound

In 2016, 95p in every pound of our total expenditure (including the value of donated books) went to the costs of providing books and our charitable activities. We are proud of our efficiency and continue to seek ways of ensuring all the gifts we receive have the greatest possible impact on the people we serve.

- **85p** Use of donated books
- **10p** Training, projects and other charitable activities
- **4p** Raising funds
- **1p** Pension costs and governance

Our supporter promise

At a time when changes to fundraising regulations are ongoing, we continue to work hard to ensure we follow best practices and maintain our high standards in fundraising. We understand that when our supporters donate to us they expect us to use their gifts wisely, communicate with them in the way they wish and treat their personal details with respect.

- We appreciate all gifts of all values and promise to process donations promptly and acknowledge them in line with donors’ wishes.
- We will always treat our supporters’ personal details with respect and integrity and never sell or share them with other charities.
- We adhere to the Fundraising Regulator’s Code of Fundraising Practice and the Institute of Fundraising’s Treating Donors Fairly policy and ensure all fundraisers, volunteers, external agencies and contractors acting on our behalf do so too.
- All of our communications will be honest and truthful. We will share stories of how donations are helping and provide a true picture of need and impact.
- We will always respect our supporters’ communication preferences and promise to keep our records accurate and up to date.
- We will make our annual report and accounts available through our website each year so our supporters can clearly see how their donations are being invested.
- We love to hear from our supporters and will always respond to any enquiries promptly and professionally.
- Our vision is of a world where everyone has access to books that will enrich, improve and change their lives and this is behind every decision we make.
Below is the full list of all our overseas partners to whom we sent books directly in 2016. We could not do this without the continued support, creativity and passion of our partners and we thank them all for their hard work.

CAMEROON
- Malawi National Library Service
- College of Medicine, University of Malawi
- Kamuzu College of Nursing
- St John of God College of Medicine
- Mzuzu University

ETHIOPIA
- Vice President: Nigel Newton
- President: HRH The Duke of Edinburgh KG KT OM

Former partners include:
- British Council
- CODE Ethiopia
- Ethiopia Reads
- Ethiopia Knowledge and Technology Transfer Society
- Hope Enterprises
- International Development Partnerships

GHANA
- Rainbow Trust Foundation

GREECE
- Drop in the Ocean

KENYA
- Abosse Community Library
- Arenal of Health Africa
- African Prisons Project

MALAWI
- Malawi National Library Service
- College of Medicine, University of Malawi
- Kamuzu College of Nursing
- St John of God College of Medicine
- Mzuzu University
- Malawi College of Health Science

UK
- Overseas partners to whom we sent books directly in 2016.

With thanks to...

We would like to thank the following supporters in particular as well as those who wish to remain anonymous:

Patrons, trustees and officials

Board:
- Chair: Lord Paul Boateng
- Honorary Treasurer: Ed Bowers

Trustees:
- Fergus Cass
- Rosie Glazebrook
- Shoba Pannapa
- Robert Sulley
- Pam Dix
- Charity Nobbs
- Chief Executive and company secretary: Alison Tweed

We would also like to express our heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers who have supported our work throughout the year – in our warehouse, at our events, in our office and in their local communities – and to everyone who gave to our charity whether by donating books, money or other in-kind support.

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These books are of great help to these children. As they read some of them come across stories of people who used to be like them and they become inspired that tomorrow... there is a future. They become optimistic. Their reading and writing is getting so much better, their vocabulary is growing and their composition is getting better. And even when they’re conversing with you, they’re confident because they know what to say.

Lydia, Head-Teacher at OMC Primary School, Kenya