A year of books changing lives

ALISON TWEED, CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The power of partnerships

ALISON TWEED, CHIEF EXECUTIVE

In 2019 millions of people around the world had no access to books.

For so many, a public, community or school library offered the only opportunity to read. Yet most libraries and thousands of schools around the world could not buy a single new book in 2019.

Every year at Book Aid International we provide over one million brand new, carefully selected books, generously donated by UK publishers, to libraries, schools, hospitals, prisons and refugee camps in Africa and beyond.

In 2019 we helped an estimated 19.5 million people around the world gain access to books, sending over 1.2 million books to readers in 26 countries. We supported public library services across Africa. We partnered with dynamic NGOs to improve the quality of education in schools. We trained librarians, teachers and volunteers to create safe spaces where young people were supported to read, learn and grow.

This, our 2019 Annual Report, highlights the impact of our work over the past twelve months.

We would like to express our gratitude to everyone who generously supported our work in 2019 and who, along with all of us at Book Aid International, believes in the power of books to change lives.

Where books are needed most

THE RT HON LORD PAUL BOATENG, CHAIR

Looking back on 2019 I am acutely aware of a world where, all too often, the impact of the climate emergency on the developing world was overlaid by conflict and growing economic inequality.

This saw whole populations displaced: some, as in Cameroon, sheltering in the forest, many others confronted by the realities of forced migration or facing the wreckage of homes and treasured institutions by forces beyond their control.

In all these situations Book Aid International has, with its local partners, been there to offer what access to books can provide: hope and the prospect of transformed lives. Only your support and the generosity of our book donors has made this possible, and for that we are all enormously grateful.

The work we do is an investment for the future: in the next generation of doctors, schoolteachers, businessmen and women, environmentalists, social entrepreneurs, engineers and active and informed citizens.

2019 has been a year of real achievement. I feel privileged to work with an inspirational group of fellow trustees and staff at home and with our partners around the world.

2020 will bring fresh challenges. Meeting these challenges will require what books can offer; working together we can put these precious assets in the hands of those most in need. Whatever the world throws at them and whenever and wherever they find themselves Book Aid International will continue to be there for them.

Thank you so much for making our work possible through your continuing support and generosity.
The Trustees present their report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2019. Reference and administrative information set out on page 28 forms part of this report. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the Memorandum and Articles of Association and the Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting and Reporting by Charities: SORP applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102. This Trustees’ Annual Report includes a directors’ report as required by company law.

2019 in numbers

An estimated 19.5 million people have access to the books we sent in 2019

Where books are changing lives

- 635 public & community libraries
- 327 university libraries
- 38 prison libraries
- 227 refugee camps
- 1,567 primary & secondary schools
- 417 medical libraries

Building local capacity

- 398 teachers and librarians trained
- 12,063 local books purchased
- 24 libraries refurbished

In 2019 we sent 1,211,423 books to 26 countries around the world

The books we provided

- Children & primary: 493,209
- Higher education: 91,275
- Development: 47,475
- Medicine & healthcare: 141,270
- Leisure reading: 225,568
- Vocational, technical & business: 45,599
- English language skills: 20,190
- Reference & Secondary: 146,877
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Where we sent books

Solomon reads to his mum on the steps of their home in Accra, Ghana
Books changing lives in 2019

Our vision is of a world where everyone has access to the books that can enrich, improve and change their lives. We believe that if this vision were to be fully realised, we would witness transformational change for individuals and communities.

In 2019, we worked with a global network of over 120 library and NGO partners to give an estimated 19.5 million people the opportunity to access books, read and improve their life chances.

Here are just three stories from 2019 that demonstrate the change we want to see:

Books getting children reading for a better future

Crime, illiteracy and teenage pregnancy are all too common in slum communities like Jamestown, one of the poorest districts in Accra, Ghana. Many children end up working on the streets to help their families earn money, rather than attend school. The Street Children Empowerment Foundation (SCEF) works to give children like Mary (pictured left), access to books through their Jamestown Learning Hub.

Fourteen-year-old Mary is the first member of her family to learn to read.

Mary’s mother, Rita, was unable to go to school and barely makes ends meet selling toffee on the street. However, Mary is determined to have a brighter future and uses the books we sent in 2019 to pursue her ambitions of becoming a lawyer.

“Every day after school, Mary goes to the library run by Street Children Empowerment Foundation (SCEF). It’s really important for the children to have books. Since going to the library, Mary is more confident and can speak English really well. It makes me so happy. I really want her to be a prominent person when she grows up.”

- Rita, Mary’s mum, Ghana

“Reading is learning – if you read, you know more words and you can learn. And I want to know more because there is something I want to achieve in future – I want to become a lawyer. Books have the power to change my future because the more I read, the more I learn, the more I can be someone.”

- Mary, 14, Ghana

Mary reads a book about space with her sister outside their home in Jamestown

Book Aid International 2019 Trustees’ Annual Report
Books empowering adults in their communities

Many people living in the rural villages of Zimbabwe’s Gwanda region are subsistence farmers. Villagers often have little money to purchase even simple commodities for their families.

Trena and five others from her village worked with our partner, the Edward Ndlovu Memorial Library to establish a reading group. They started to read and discuss books on a range of different subjects, inspiring members to improve their lives through a community income-generation project.

“Culturally in Zimbabwe amongst village people, women do not keep animals [but] by reading books on rights, we discovered it is not wrong to go up against some of the traditions. So we started a goat project. And this is an example for other women; we can own animals without destroying our villages or our homes.

As well as books about goat-keeping and business, we also read and discuss books on different themes. Books on human rights, health, HIV, AIDS and gender issues.”

- Trena, Zimbabwe

Books improving work and career opportunities

In countries across the world, access to the right book at the right time can inspire individuals to realise their full potential through study and career development, making a positive difference to their life chances. Improving reading and literacy skills, as Tradwel Chilala has done in Zambia, can make a positive difference to personal livelihoods and local economies.

Tradwel began his career with Kitwe City Council as a cleaner but an opportunity to read and study enabled him to pursue his dream of a career in public administration.

“I grew up in a village between Lusaka and Livingstone. I left school when I was in the sixth grade of primary school, age 15. After that, I had a number of jobs and eventually I decided to start up my own business as a street vendor. It was during this spell that I realized the biggest gap in my life was my education level.

The turning point came when I attended a career exhibition in 2015 at the University of Zambia. They had displayed books in various disciplines from Book Aid International, including Public Administration. Having seen the books that were available in the university library, I enrolled for a two-year Diploma Programme in Public Administration.

I am the first person in my family to go to university and I am now a proud third-year student. I totally agree with Book Aid International’s statement that books change lives. They have changed my life.”

- Tradwel, Zambia
Growing our impact

In our Vision 2020: Where Books Change Lives strategy, we set out our ambition to grow our work and to focus our support on the communities most in need of the books we can provide. We also identified the importance of promoting reading and the power of books to improve and transform lives.

Increasing the number of books we send every year

We know from the number of requests we receive that the demand for books in libraries, in schools and in a wide range of higher educational institutions is growing exponentially worldwide. We know, too, that we are only ever able to meet a fraction of that need.

In 2019 we selected, packed and sent 1,211,423 brand new, UK publisher-donated books to 125 library and NGO partners around the world. While this was in fact slightly lower than our 2018 total (1,286,538) we welcomed 39 new partners to our book donation programme in 2019. These included CELIM in Zambia which supports prisoners with educational initiatives and NGO Drop in the Ocean in Greece, who work with vulnerable young people arriving in the transit camps in Greece.

“Increasing the number of books we send every year...”

“In order to be educated, if you are not a reader, it is hard. Because, whether you’re doing primary, secondary or high school, you need books. Now, when we come here on the weekend, it’s packed. There are so many kids! It showed me that their hearts are just boiling for reading.”

- Elizabeth Mujawamariya Johnson, Grace Rwanda/Ineza Foundation

Inmates selecting books from Mongu Library, Zambia

“Increasing the number of books we send every year...”

“The books are helping the inmates to realise the value of education. In fact, many of the inmates are coming from a poor social background, with high level of illiteracy.”

- Gianclaudio Bizzotto, CELIM, Zambia

Inmates selecting books from Mongu Library, Zambia

Innovating to reach more readers

Many communities in countries around the world lack a library or safe shared space where people can come together to access, read and enjoy books.

In September 2019, we launched our Voyager Container Library programme in Rwanda in partnership with NGO Grace Rwanda. We transformed a disused 40ft shipping container into a thriving community library in Gasave district, Kigali, refitting it with shelves, seating, lighting and filling it with over 4,500 books, from board books for babies and colourful picture books right through to young adult fiction. Today, over 300 children have access to beautiful, brand new books in their own local library and benefit from the many reading activities the librarians are running, such as reading aloud sessions, story time, quizzes and debates.

“In order to be educated, if you are not a reader, it is hard. Because, whether you’re doing primary, secondary or high school, you need books. Now, when we come here on the weekend, it’s packed. There are so many kids! It showed me that their hearts are just boiling for reading.”

- Elizabeth Mujawamariya Johnson, Grace Rwanda/Ineza Foundation

The new Voyager Container Library in Kigali, Rwanda

Book Aid International 2019 Trustees’ Annual Report
Promoting the love of reading

Promoting and supporting a culture of reading is vital in changing mindsets about the importance of books.

Reading promotion is a key component of our well-established Children’s Corners programme. To date, we have established 127 Children’s Corners in libraries across Africa. In 2019, we opened five Children’s Corners in community libraries in Rwanda and five in public libraries in Ghana, benefiting an estimated 4,200 children across both programmes. In addition, 50 librarians were trained in engaging children in reading and advocating for the value of books in their communities.

In Rwanda, a group of innovative librarians, at Vision Jeunesse Nouvelle’s library, have introduced child reading ambassadors who are issued with a bag containing ten library books to read with other children in their community; this has contributed to a reading culture beyond the library.

“The project is very good. Children like reading the new wonderful books. Nowadays I observe children, including the very young ones, visiting the library. I am also learning English so I like the fact that the young children are interacting with English books at a young age.”

- Brother Alexis Hagenimana, Director, Vision Jeunesse Nouvelle

Supporting those most in need of books

One of the key priorities in our Vision 2020: Books Change Lives strategy is supporting some of the communities around the world least able to access books: prison inmates and children growing up on the streets or in slum communities.

In 2019, we continued our support for prisoners across Africa, for whom a prison library offers one of the few opportunities for distraction and self-improvement. We donated 1,460 brand new books to 22 prisons across Zimbabwe and many more to support the education of prisoners across the continent with a view to increasing their employment prospects upon their release.

“I am studying second-year business management – when you are educated, you are educated for the whole nation, not just for yourself.”

- Inmate, Freetown Correctional Centre, Sierra Leone

We also increased our support for street children and children living in slum communities. We provided a total of 10,093 books to our partner Street Children Empowerment Foundation, which they distributed to 15 schools in Accra, Ghana, to help the children it supports to learn to read and succeed in education.
Creating school libraries

Very few schools in sub-Saharan Africa benefit from a well-stocked library. Providing books to create and develop school libraries and training teacher librarians to support students’ learning are key focuses for our book donation and project work.

In 2019, we donated 702,192 books for children across 26 countries, working with library services and NGOs who supply schools with books or run literacy projects or programmes in schools. The books we donated ranged from phonics and early readers for younger pupils to teen fiction and books to support secondary education: books to encourage pupils and students to develop a lifelong love of reading and to succeed in education.

In 2019, we also ran three programmes to support the creation of school library resources: Pioneer Book Boxes, Inspiring Readers and Explorer Libraries.

Pioneer Book Boxes

A Pioneer Book Box contains 200 carefully-selected books to enrich the classroom experience of children who would otherwise have no access to books. The sturdy and lockable book box can be easily transported and keeps the books protected.

The Pioneer Book Box is especially suitable for situations where education is being delivered outside a formal school building. In Cameroon, thousands of pupils in conflict-affected regions are living in the forest with their parents and cannot attend school. The 30 Pioneer Book Boxes distributed in 2019 offer a simple solution to providing books so that these children can continue their education.

“I will not be able to go back to my village and school which have been burnt down. The forest is now my home; though there are no schools and books here. I still have hopes to go to school and read books again.”

- Displaced child, Cameroon

In 2019, our Christmas and summer appeals raised funds to send 110 Pioneer Book Boxes to Kenya, The Gambia, Malawi and Zimbabwe. Forty eight of these were donated to Malawi and Zimbabwe, where many schools had been destroyed by Cyclone Idai.

“Our learners have been motivated to borrow books and read. They have developed an eagerness to finish a book and borrow another one. It’s helping learners to develop and improve their language skills.”

- Yewukayi F Makirimani, Head Teacher, Ntalale School, Zimbabwe

Pupils in Kenya enjoying books from their school’s Pioneer Book Box
A pupil in Sierra Leone reads a book in her school’s new Explorer Library

The Explorer Library programme transforms an unused classroom into a well-equipped school library, refurbishing the space, providing suitable furniture and supplying around 2,000 carefully-selected, age-appropriate, brand new books.

In 2019, the programme continued in Malawi and extended to Zimbabwe and Zanzibar, across 210 schools, reaching a further 99,099 children.

For many pupils, this was the first time that they had access to any books beyond text books. Pupils reported that reading books suddenly became fun. This new love for reading has led to a huge increase in book borrowing.

“The project is helping us promote reading in our school through the provision of quality reading books, textbooks and other information books. It’s also improved teaching through the use of textbooks and other books for instruction. Our teacher-librarians can now work with the students and teachers and encourage them to use the library more effectively.”

- D. Kabawala O. Mulba, Principal, EJ Yancy School, Liberia

A pupil in Malawi selects a book to read from her school’s Inspiring Readers cupboard library

Inspiring Readers

Our Inspiring Readers programme creates a cupboard library in a school and fills it with over 1,000 brand new books to be used in class and for reading for pleasure. Since 2016, the programme has reached 224,869 children.

In 2019, we set up 14 Explorer Libraries in Sierra Leone, Liberia and The Gambia. Through the programme, 9,596 primary school students in the 14 schools now have access to a school library and over 60 teachers have been trained in using the books to enhance the school curriculum in the classroom.

“For many pupils, this was the first time that they had access to any books beyond text books. Pupils reported that reading books suddenly became fun. This new love for reading has led to a huge increase in book borrowing.

“Reading makes us feel happy. Sometimes when I read my book at home, when I borrow a book from the library, my sister helps me know the words that I don’t know how to pronounce.”

- Fatmata, 11, Practising Primary School, Sierra Leone

A pupil in Sierra Leone reads a book in her school’s new Explorer Library

Explorer Libraries

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- D. Kabawala O. Mulba, Principal, EJ Yancy School, Liberia
Supporting tomorrow’s leaders

The opportunities students have at secondary school and in higher education can shape their lives, leading to employment that contributes to the growth of developing economies. Access to books for secondary and higher education is vital in ensuring quality education.

In 2019, we provided 144,690 books to 498 schools across Africa to support secondary education, with a strong emphasis on STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) subjects. We provided 84,857 books to support higher education that were distributed to 327 institutions including university libraries, teacher training colleges and vocational training institutions.

Creating STEM Study Hubs

STEM skills in the working population are fundamental to economic growth, yet there is a global skills gap in STEM-related areas.

Our STEM Study Hub project supports students preparing for national exams in STEM subjects by creating a dedicated area in a public library stocked with STEM-related texts, and satellite STEM-focused libraries in three local schools. In 2019, we established two STEM Study Hubs in Ghana. Two of the satellite schools involved in the project were girls-only schools, providing extra encouragement and support to girls to consider STEM careers.

“I am 17 years old and studying General Science with Chemistry, Physics, Biology and Elective Maths as my Electives. I am aspiring to be Paediatric Oncologist. My love to help children, especially those with cancer, is what is motivating me to pursue this program.”

- Pupil and Head Prefect, St. Mary’s Girls Senior High School, Ghana

Supporting higher education students when libraries are destroyed

The demand for higher-level academic texts is huge and yet the cost of these books can be prohibitive for many institutions. This means students are often unable to access the books they need to succeed in their studies. Tragically, when well-stocked university libraries are destroyed through conflict or natural disaster, institutions have little hope of replacing the books that have been lost.

When Hurricane Dorian struck the Caribbean in September 2019, the library of the University of The Bahamas-North’s campus on Grand Bahama was completely destroyed and all books lost. In December 2019, we sent 2,423 brand new higher education books to the university to start to replace much of what was lost and to enable students to begin their studies again.

“Though Hurricane Dorian caused massive disruption, our University of the Bahamas-North community is determined to rebound. We are so grateful for the support from Book Aid International and we look forward to building a stronger relationship for the benefit of our educational community.”

- Dr. Berthamae Walker, University of The Bahamas
Supporting medical training

In 2019 we supplied 138,887 brand new, up-to-date medical textbooks for healthcare students and professionals around the world, enabling them to continue their pre-service training, access the latest information and to further their professional development.

Our partner, the Malawi National Library Service distributed 7,850 medical books to 27 hospital libraries, medical school libraries and health centres. These books benefit the medical community in a number of ways.

“Honestly, some institutions like ours would find it hard to acquire books because books, especially those from the medical field, are very expensive. We would find it very tough to operate. The books from Book Aid International are playing a great role in ensuring that scholars find information they need.”

- Mr. Samuel Jere, Health Science Librarian, Malamulo College of Health Sciences, Malawi

We also supported partners working in highly specialised environments and sent 1,065 brand new medical books to Syria, which our partner Syria Relief, distributed to two organisations: Reyhanli Medical Training Centre and the Independent Doctors Association. The books have supported the professional development of medical personnel, enabling them to bring the best care to patients in an extremely challenging environment.

“A nursing student in Uganda displays a book she finds particularly helpful in her training hospital’s medical library.

“After nine years of war in Syria, continuous medical education is hard to reach ... The donated books were very important for medical personnel to self-improve their knowledge in compensation of war-related shutdown of medical education.”

- Syria Relief
In 2019 87 million people across the world were displaced through conflict, violence or disaster. Young people forced to flee their homes struggled to access any form of education. In these circumstances books can give hope, support, learning and improve people’s chances of a better future.

We expanded our work with refugees in Southern Europe and East Africa, providing books and training to create school and community libraries alongside donations of beautiful, relevant books that will help refugees succeed in education.

Of the 33,900 books that were sent to refugees in 2019, 7,233 books went to support refugees in Southern Europe and 26,167 books were sent to refugees in Africa.

Supporting refugees in Greece

In 2019 we continued our work donating books to support NGOs providing education services for the growing refugee population in Greece. Refugees arriving in Greece and living in transit camps are supported by a network of NGOs, many of which lack the funds to purchase the books needed by teachers and students to support their informal lessons and studies.

We worked with 17 organisations in mainland Greece and on Lesvos, sending a total of 7,017 carefully-selected books to support their varied programmes.

Supporting refugees in Lesvos

In 2019 we supported NGO Drop in the Ocean with a donation of 1,911 books. Of these, 530 went to their centre in Athens, and 1,381 went to their centre in Lesvos. Drop in the Ocean use the books we sent in their community centre to support English and Greek language learning as well as for recreational activities, such as arts and crafts.

“The aim of our operations is to provide camp residents with an opportunity to develop skills, get away from their hard realities and enjoy some time with friends learning English or reading a book. The book donations [have allowed] us to create a lending library, where residents can borrow a book to read and a safe study space for residents to come and use the books.”

- Mr. Christos Nikolaidis, Drop in the Ocean Site Coordinator, Lesvos

A Drop in the Ocean volunteer reads a book with a displaced child in Greece.
Supporting refugees in East Africa

In 2019 we sent 26,167 books to support the growing refugee populations living in permanent camps in the East African region. Our work was focused on the settlement camps of Kakuma and Dadaab in Kenya and Adjumani and Bidi Bidi in Uganda. A total of 8,231 books were donated to community and school libraries in the camps and 17,936 were donated as part of our project work. Alongside the Reading for All and Child Friendly Spaces projects (see below), we continued our Solar Homework Club project. Six secondary schools participated in this project, which provided 864 solar lamps to borrow alongside 5,000 books, enabling 12,494 secondary school children to read and study at home.

Bringing reading to all children

In 2019 we established the Reading for All project which offers support for early childhood and primary education in ten schools in Kakuma Refugee Camp in partnership with Lutheran World Federation, alongside support for six secondary schools in partnership with Windle International Kenya.

The project has given 7,842 early childhood learners, 15,626 primary school children and 12,494 secondary school students access to books that will support their entire school education. Teachers are already reporting improvements across reading, speaking, listening and writing skills for all age groups.

“Children like books and food! The books play a big role because all other subjects are taught in English. The books give a good foundation to learn English which is used in all the other subjects except Kiswahili.”

- Benedict, Head Teacher, Lokitaung Primary School (R4A primary, Kakuma)

Creating space to read

In 2019 we supported local NGO Transcultural Psychosocial Organisation (TPO) Uganda’s work with displaced children in their eight Child Friendly Spaces in Adjumani and Bidi Bidi refugee settlements. These spaces provide children with a safe space to play and learn and are led by ‘animators’ who deliver a wide programme of lively activities.

The project supplied 15,915 books and trained the animators in engaging children in reading the books in their new collections. The spaces have to date been accessed by 3,496 children.

“After the training I know how to do a workplan and arrange books. If I can go to Secondary School, I could be a librarian. The children know how to read and their performance is good. I use the books with the children to identify birds and animals, I use English and local language.”

- Saviour John, Animator, Amazing Child Friendly Space, Bidi Bidi

Children read new donated books at a Child Friendly Space in Adjumani settlement in Uganda
All Book Aid International’s income is from voluntary donations; we receive no government grants or support. We are supported by individuals who donate through regular and one-off gifts, trusts and corporates that make single and multi-year grants, and schools and community groups that fundraise to support our work.

In 2019, our total income was £20,839,213 of which £2,280,258 was cash income; the in-kind value of the books donated to us by UK publishers was £18,558,955.

Total expenditure was £20,433,566, of which £2,204,100 was cash expenditure and £18,229,466 the in-kind value of the books we donated to partners around the world.

Cash income and expenditure
In 2019 we received cash income of £2,280,258 (above the 2018 level of £2,029,903).

We received unrestricted income of £1,323,434, which funded our core activity of providing books around the world. Income in 2019 was boosted by the high value of legacy gifts (£252,538) as well as very generous support from players of People’s Postcode Lottery in the amount of £500,000.

We received restricted income of £956,824, which funded projects including Children’s Corners, Pioneer Book Boxes and Inspiring Readers.

Cash expenditure in 2019 was £2,204,100, higher than the 2018 figure of £2,028,899, invested in sending more books, implementing more projects, running our organisation and raising funds to support our work.

Maintaining reserves
We maintain sufficient unrestricted cash reserves to ensure that we can deliver our planned commitments in the event of unforeseen financial challenges.

The minimum level of reserves we must hold is agreed by our Board of Trustees and monitored regularly. In 2018, the minimum level was set at a range between £500,000 and £550,000. We ended 2019 with £682,058 in free reserves.

For more information on our finances, including our full audited accounts, see pages 34 to 54.
COVID-19
In response to the COVID pandemic and its likely impact the Finance and Audit Committee conducted an exercise to arrive at an opinion on the funds of the organisation up to and beyond the end of 2021. Based on the information supplied and the modelling performed, the FAC reported to the board that in their opinion the organisation was sufficiently resourced to operate on a going concern basis.

The value of donated books
In 2019, we received donations of books valued at £18,558,955, higher than in 2018, when the total value of the books we received was £17,386,704. This higher figure in 2019 was due to higher levels of donations in general combined with the large volume of medical and higher education textbooks received in the year.

Many of these high-value books were passed on to our partners during the year. As a result, the value of the books we sent in 2019 was also markedly higher, at £18,229,466, against £16,047,872 in 2018.

How our income and expenditure have changed

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<td>£18,558,955</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>£18,229,466</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>£17,386,704</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>£16,047,872</td>
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</tbody>
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If we remove the value of donated books, we spent 73p of every pound on charitable activities. We spent a total of £15,476 on governance.

Making the best use of donated money and books
In 2019, 97p in every pound supported the cost of providing books and supporting readers.

89p Use of donated books
8p Training, projects & other charitable activities
3p Raising funds

If we remove the value of donated books, we spent 73p of every pound on charitable activities. We spent a total of £15,476 on governance.
Our supporter community

We are supported by thousands of individuals and organisations who donate books, funds and time so that we can reach readers around the world.

Trusts and corporate partners

Our trusts and corporate partners are vital to our work. In 2019, 32 trusts supported our charity, giving grants totalling £733,788. These generous donations helped us send thousands of books and supported the following projects: Explorer School Libraries, Children’s Corners, STEM Study Hubs and Inspiring Readers.

We continued to develop our long-standing relationships with players of People’s Postcode Lottery (PPL), the Beatrice Laing Trust, the Peacock Charitable Trust and the Beit Trust and welcomed new trusts, the Chalk Cliff Trust and The Economist Charitable Trust.

We also worked with a range of corporate partners who generously gave £111,824 in 2019. Aggreko plc supported our STEM Study Hub programme in Ghana and RELX Group supported the opening of new Children’s Corners in Ghana. Blackwell’s retained us as their charity of the year and donated £18,472 from the sale of plastic bags.

Support from individuals

We rely on the generous and continued support of our individual donors. In 2019, more than 5,000 supporters gave monthly through the Reverse Book Club (our regular giving programme), providing income that enables us to fund our book provision work.

This year our generous donors gave more than ever to our two fundraising appeals. The 2019 summer appeal focused on how our medical books help save lives in Sierra Leone and our Christmas appeal featured our work with street children in Ghana.

In total, individuals gave £1,276,395 – which is more than half of our cash income in 2019.

We also received a number of higher value gifts of over £500 from individuals, totalling £115,662 and significantly contributing to the number of books and projects we were able to deliver.

Community fundraising

Every year hundreds of inspirational individuals fundraise for us in creative ways: from book sales to running events to read-a-thons to dinner parties. In 2019, these supporters raised £126,927 to support our work.

We are also an official World Book Day UK supported charity, and every year schools across the UK mark World Book Day by celebrating books and fundraising for us. In 2019, we launched our Big Booky Breakfast fundraising pack for schools which included classroom resources and activities, fundraising ideas and case studies to show how books change lives. A total of 788 schools fundraised and together raised an outstanding £98,580 – enough to send more than 49,000 books to children around the world.

In 2019, we received growing support from universities holding Library Fines Donation days in support of our work with the University of Mosul’s Central Library. Three universities raised over £1,600 for our future shipments to Mosul to help students and staff get back to learning.
**Legacies**

Gifts in wills make a lasting impact and we are always very moved by donors who remember the charity this way. In 2019, we received £275,038 in legacy gifts which made a significant contribution to the work we could deliver.

**Our online shop**

In 2019, we launched an online shop to sell our unique cards and gifts to our supporters and to offer the opportunity to give in a different way. We sold our exclusive Christmas cards, tote bags and Reverse Book Tokens on the online shop. Over 600 supporters purchased our Christmas cards and nearly 300 bought Reverse Book Tokens for loved ones, raising over £20,000 in total.

**Support from celebrities**

In 2019, we were delighted that a number of high-profile authors and broadcasters supported our work. Renowned broadcaster and journalist John Simpson spoke at our event in June launching our fundraising campaign to University of Mosul’s Central Library and then went on to visit the library in Mosul, securing high-profile national press coverage of our work. In addition, current Children’s Laureate Cressida Cowell lent her support to our Big Booky Breakfast fundraising campaign around World Book Day; leading author and historian Andrew Roberts spoke at a ticketed event to benefit our cause and British space scientist and science educator Dr. Maggie Aderin-Pocock spoke at our STEM event about how books have changed her life.

**Support from publishing partners**

Our UK publishing partners generously donate all the brand-new books we send. In 2019, 84 publishers donated books, enabling us to send 1,211,423 books worth £18,229,466 to public and community libraries, schools, universities, prisons, refugee camps and hospitals.

All donations of books are valued, even the smallest; however, we would particularly like to recognise the contribution of Penguin Random House, Elsevier, Oxford University Press, Coordination Group Publications, Pan Macmillan Books and Bloomsbury Publishing, each of whom donated over 50,000 books in 2019.

**Volunteers**

In 2019, our South London warehouse welcomed 157 dedicated volunteers who donated over 3,335 hours of their time to support our work, making a measurable contribution to the number of books we were able to select, pack and send.

We would like to thank all who supported our work in 2019.

*Dr. Maggie Aderin-Pocock speaking at our STEM event in 2019*

*Two volunteers from Islington Refugee Centre help stamp books destined for Syrian refugees in Jordan*
As a new decade dawns, we are facing unprecedented challenges: maximising the potential of our rapidly-growing young populations, slowing the pace of climate change, managing the needs of a growing number of displaced people, protecting the health of our global citizens and of our natural environment, creating the technicians for a modern world and the leaders of tomorrow. The inevitable economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic will make the need for books and reading even more important as the world begins to recover.

The key to meeting so many of the challenges that lie ahead is an educated workforce and an informed public. Books have a vital role to play in shaping future generations and should be available to all.

With the help of all our supporters we will continue our work of sending a wide range of relevant and up-to-date books to our many library and education partners around the world. Capacity development is also vital as librarians become information professionals, serving and supporting their communities of readers. Our projects will train key workers in the information and education sectors in a range of diverse environments: in schools, in community libraries, in container libraries even, in refugee camps and wherever there is a need for books and information.

We cannot do this alone, however. Our strength is working in partnership: with the publishers who generously provide the books we donate and the supporters who provide the funds we use to send them, and with our library and project partners who make change happen on the ground.

We are just one part of a very wide community of people who believe in the power of books to enhance and change lives. We are proud to be involved and to contribute to effective and transformational change.

One of our most inspiring partners is the new Siilaanyo National Library in Hargeisa, Somaliland, a nation devastated by the long war with neighbouring Somalia.

“

The future of Somaliland is very bright and there is a lot of development going on. So, we say NOW it’s time for Africa. Everybody who supports Book Aid International – the books and the money which you are donating are helping so many. Please continue to support this organisation, which is making a big difference for our country and other countries in Africa.

”

– Ahmed, Founder, Siilaanyo National Library, Somaliland
Below is a full list of all our overseas partners to whom we sent books directly in 2019. Through our partners, we were able to reach more than 3,000 libraries, schools, hospitals and refugee camps around the world. We could not do this without the continued support, creativity and passion of our partners and we thank them all for their hard work.

Antigua and Barbuda
High Commission Antigua and Barbuda

Bahamas
University of Bahamas

Bhutan
Khesar Gyalpo University
READ Bhutan
Royal University of Bhutan

Dominica
Dominica Library and Information Service

Cameroon
Community Agriculture and Environmental Protection Association
EISERVI Education Information Services International
Hope for Children

Eritrea
Ministry of Education

Ethiopia
British Council
CODE Ethiopia
Ethiopia Knowledge and Technology Transfer Society
Ethiopia Reads
Voluntary Services Overseas Ethiopia Academy of Science

Gambia
Gambia National Library Service
InTouch Foundation
Switched on Gambia
Steve Sinnott Foundation

Ghana
Afrikids
Biblionef
Breaking the Myth
EduSpots
Ghana Library Authority
Humanitas
IDEA Africa
Rainbow Trust
Sabre
Samira Empowerment and Humanitarian Projects

Street Children Empowerment Foundation
Teach2Teach International
The Rebecca Foundation

Greece
Action for Education
Drop in the Ocean
Gekko Kids
Greek Council for Refugees
Iliaktida
Intersos
Metadrafi
Mosaik
Multifunctional Centre for Refugees
Open Cultural Center
Project Elea
Starfish Foundation
The Hope Project
We Are Here

India
Rochun

Iraq
Mosul University
Iraqi State Board for the Conservation of Antiquities and Heritage

Italy
Siproimi Center Ischitella

Jordan
We Love reading

Kenya
African Prisons Project
Amref Health Africa
Association for Aid and Relief, Japan
Emley African Education Project
FAFA Medical Training College
Generation for Change and Development
Kenya Medical Training College
Kenya National Library Service
Lewa Wildlife Conservancy
Rahul Kotak Foundation
Storymoja
Windle Trust

Liberia
WE-CARE Foundation

Malawi
African Parks
Malawi National Library Service
Manthove Foundation
St John of God College of Medicine
University of Malawi College of Medicine

Nepal
Future Faces

Rwanda
Grace Rwanda
Kigali Public Library
Mad 4 Africa
University of Rwanda
VSO Rwanda

Sierra Leone
Sierra Leone Library Board
Save The Needy
USL Institute of Public Administration & Management
Street Child Sierra Leone
African Hospital Libraries
EducAid

Somaliland
Silaaanyo National Library

Syria
Syria Relief

Tanzania
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania
Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences
New Chapter Development for Youth
State University of Zanzibar
Sumait University
Tanzania Library Services Board
Tanzanian Training Centre for International Health
Zanzibar Library Services

Uganda
Africa Educational Trust
African Prisons Project
All Saints University Lango
Fort Portal International Nursing School
Gulu Regional Referral Hospital
Jango International
Kyambogo University
National Library of Uganda
SOS Children’s Villages
Tusome Africa
Transcultural Psychosocial Organisation
Uganda Community Libraries Association
Uganda Protestant Medical Bureau
Uganda Prisons Service
Volunteer Services Overseas
Masaka Regional Referral Hospital
Windle Trust

Zambia
CELIM
Copperbelt University
Lions Club of Mukuba
Mukuba University
Senanga School of Nursing
Smart Girls Empowerment Network
University of Zambia
Zambia Episcopal Conference Health Institutions
Zambia Library Service
Zambia Open Community Schools

Zimbabwe
Edward Ndlovu Memorial Trust
Harare Distribution Committee
World Vision
Zambezi Schoolbook Project
With thanks to...

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

**Our book donors and corporate partners**
- Adam Matthew Digital
- Agency for Legal Deposit Libraries
- Aggreko plc
- ALCS
- Amazon.co.uk
- Andersen Press
- Andrew Nurnberg Associates
- Austin Macauley Publishers
- Backlist Books
- Barrington Stoke
- BlackRock
- Blackwell’s
- Bloomsbury Publishing
- BMJ
- Books Beyond Words
- Book Harvest
- Book Island
- BookBrunch
- Books Express
- Booksellers Association
- BookTrust
- Bounce Sales and Marketing
- Brilliant Publications
- British Library
- British Museum
- Buckman Agency
- Cambridge University Press
- Charities Trust
- Charles Tripp
- Class Professional Publishing
- Clifford Chance
- Comparative Research Programme on poverty
- Coordination Group Publications
- Crooks Creative
- Daunt Books
- David’s Bookshop
- Eland Publishing Ltd
- Elsevier
- Everyclick
- Everyman’s Library
- Forbes Books
- Green Bean Books
- Guidant Financial
- Hachette UK
- HarperCollins Publishers
- Heath Educational Books
- Hebe Foundation
- ICE Publishing
- Illuminate Publishing
- International African Institute, SOAS
- IOP Publishing
- Ituri Publications
- Kube Publishing
- Legal & General Group
- Letterbox Library
- Lonely Planet
- Macmillan Education
- Magna Large Print Books
- Make Believe Ideas
- Marylebone Books
- Miles Kelly Publishing
- National Book Tokens
- National Library of Wales
- Norwegian Centre for Conflict
- Nosy Crow
- Outland AS
- Owlet Press
- Oxford University Press
- Pan Macmillan UK
- Pearson Education
- Penguin Random House
- Persephone Books
- Portland Press
- Practical Action Publishing
- Profile Books
- ProQuest
- Qualcomm - Churchill House
- Reed Business Information Ltd
- RELX Group plc
- Revival Books
- Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB)
- Sage Publications
- Saraband
- Scholastic UK
- Search Press
- Shared Services Connected
- Small Building Services
- Springer Nature
- Square and Circus
- Sue Hill Recruitment
- Tales on Moon Lane
- Taylor & Francis
- Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA)
- Teeth Relief
- Teleperformance
- The Society of Authors
- The Willoughby Book Club
- UK Government Legal Department
- Ulverscroft
- Viking Cruises
- Walker Books
- Watkins Publishing
- Westons Booksellers
- Wiley
- Yseop
- Zed Books

**Our trust supporters**
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- Beatrice Laing Trust
- Chalk Cliff Trust
- Eva Reckitt Trust Fund
- Fresh Leaf Charitable Foundation
- Heathgate Trust
- Hodge Foundation
- Montier Charitable Trust
- Network for Social Change Charitable Trust
- Peacock Charitable Trust
- The 29th May 1961 Charitable Trust
- The Alchemy Foundation
- The Allan and Nesta Ferguson Charitable Trust
- The Ardwick Trust
- The Beil Trust
- The Bernard Sunley Charitable Foundation
- The Bhutan Society Trust
- The Bryan Guinness Charitable Trust
- The E Alec Colman Charitable Fund Limited
- The Economist Charitable Trust
- The Fulmer Charitable Trust
- The Law Society Charity
- The Michael and Anna Wix Charitable Trust
- The MuchLoved Charitable Trust
- People’s Postcode Lottery
- The Rest-Harrow Trust
- The Rhododendron Trust
- The Rickfield Trust
- The Tony and Audrey Watson Charitable Trust
- Westcroft Trust
- Unwin Charitable Trust

*Book Aid International 2019 Trustees’ Annual Report*
Our volunteers, ambassadors and individual supporters
Alice Konig
Amanda Knight
Andrea Carr and Richard Cooper
Andrew Hewitt
Ann Matthews
Barings
Blanche Brewer
Books at the Barn
Bruno Paulson and Charlotte Warner
Caroline Burton
Christopher and Gilda Haskins
Christine Lindop
Claire Shortt
Claire Vinycomb
Clive Butler
Eleanor and David Holloway
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Felicity and Michael Shoesmith
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McGraw Hill
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Peter Goodwin
Peter Waller and Erica Zimmer
Rosanna Alabasian
Saida Kasumov
Sarada Baker
Sir Mark and Lady Judy Moody-Stuart
Thomas Elmes

And also thanks to
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Andrew Roberts
Battenhall
Ben Okri
Centre for Literacy in Primary Education
Cheltenham Festivals
Chris Wormell
Cliveden Literary Festival
Cressida Cowell
Dr. Maggie Aderin-Pocock
Edmund de Waal
Gideon Commy
Hargeisa International Book Fair
Hay Festival
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Latitude
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Louisa Symington
Neil Pearson
Onjali Rauf
Publishing Perspectives
Reni Eddo-Lodge
Sita Brahmacari
Stuart Turton
Tade Thompson
The Ivy Club
The Queen’s Commonwealth Essay Competition
Tor Freeman
University of Mosul
World Book Day
Writers’ & Artists’ Yearbook

In addition to all those named above, we would like to thank all of those who supported us anonymously in 2019.

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Carine chooses books from the Voyager Container Library, Kigali, Rwanda

At school we have books but limited days when we were supposed to read. Now we have this library, I come every day after school. Now I can read so often I will know how to read better and I will now start approaching English books and be able to read English better. This library is allowing us to read. It helps also the kids who don’t know how to read – they can learn to read now.

Carine, 12, P6 student at GS Gisozi School I, Kigali, Rwanda