BookMark

Your Book Aid International newsletter

Spring 2017
The books you help to send

Achieving Excellence in High Performance Sport
Donated by Bloomsbury.
Sports studies are becoming increasingly popular in many of Africa’s colleges and universities. Copies of this book have been sent to Uganda and Ethiopia.

Ebola: How a People’s Science Helped End an Epidemic
Donated by International African Institute.
This book considers the factors that brought the Ebola epidemic to an end and argues that the disease was battled most effectively when the medical services worked in line with local customs. Copies are on their way to medical institutions across Africa.

Crossroads: Women Coming of Age in Today’s Uganda
Anonymous donor.
This collection of stories and essays explores the crossroads at which Ugandan women find themselves: Between tradition and the edge of change. This insightful book has been sent to our partner African Prisons Project for a prison library in Uganda.

Lulu Loves Stories
Donated by Book Trust.
This delightful picture book depicts Lulu’s adventures as she acts out storybooks borrowed from her library. We hope it will inspire children in Kenya, Tanzania, Somalia, Eritrea and Uganda where copies have been sent.

We’re in the wrong book!
Anonymous donor.
This funny picture book introduces children to the different types of books they can find in a library, encouraging them to explore them all. It will be a school prize during Sierra Leone’s International Literacy Day celebrations.

My favourite books

We always love to hear from people about the books they enjoy. Here are a few favourites as told by the readers you support:

My favourite book is Frankie’s Magic Football. It is about a team of players, children, who go for adventures using a magic ball. They go to New York City and find themselves in the statue of liberty!

My favourite book is about a 15 year old boy named Michael who goes on adventures. He sees dolphins and waves. I like it because it teaches us to have hope. Also the pictures are awesome!

The economics books that I am reading in this library for my study are my favourites. They give me a wide knowledge of my country.

My favourite book is ‘The Princess and the Pea’.

Before Book Aid International made a Children’s Corner at the library, there was nothing and no one here. Now it’s great! My favourite book is ‘The Princess and the Pea’.

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£600,000 to open doors for young readers

In 2014, we launched the Open Doors appeal to mark our 60th Anniversary. The appeal had an ambitious goal of raising £600,000 to open 60 Children’s Corners.

We are delighted to announce that we have now exceeded that target. Trusts, corporate organisations, community groups and individuals have given over £615,000.

Each Children’s Corner includes a refurbished, welcoming space for children to read, brand new children’s books and training for librarians in how to support young readers. Together, these elements transform children’s experiences of reading and give them the opportunity to develop a habit of reading from an early age.

This habit will give children a better chance of succeeding in school and reaching their full potential as well as opening doors to a lifetime of reading for pleasure.

We would like to thank each and every one of the supporters who donated to our Open Doors appeal. We look forward to opening many more Children’s Corners!

We are pleased that the books we sent are now being read in Lang’ata Women’s Prison in Kenya. Our partners, the African Prison Project, opened a library in the prison which serves the 600 women incarcerated there. The library will give the women new educational opportunities.

This Children’s Corner is very beautiful. I have never seen anything like this before. I wish I could come here every day to read and play.

Young reader Kelly in Cameroon

Recent news

One million books for the third year running

In 2016, we shipped 1,032,610 books to 14 countries. That makes 2016 the third consecutive year that we have shipped more than one million books!

Reaching this mark yet again would not have been possible without the support of donors like you. These books will give millions of people the opportunity to read for pleasure, study and lifelong learning.

Find out what else 2016 held in our highlights video.

Watch now www.bookaid.org/2016/12/20/thank-fantastic-2016

Read more at www.bookaid.org/2016/09/01/new-library-langata-womens-prison

A new library at Lang’ata Women’s Prison

We are committed to ensuring that the books we send reach the people who need books most. That is why we are so pleased that the books we sent are now being read in Lang’ata Women’s Prison in Kenya.

Our partners, the African Prison Project, opened a library in the prison which serves the 600 women incarcerated there. The library will give the women new educational opportunities.

Read more at www.bookaid.org/2016/09/01/new-library-langata-womens-prison
Spotlight on Ethiopia

The need for books in Ethiopia is acute, particularly to support education, as the country is one of just 11 in the world in which more than half of adults are illiterate.

Our library partners in Ethiopia are working hard to support literacy. In 2016, we sent 84,894 books to libraries across the country and provided practical support, like funding for events. Here are a few of the highlights.

Promoting the value of reading

On International Literacy Day we provided funding so that local libraries could hold reading promotion events. In the small rural town of Sheno, 80km from Ethiopia’s capital city Addis Ababa, one such event saw a library packed with local families, community elders, children and teachers.

“Now I will bring my younger children to use the Children’s Corner. My older children have already benefitted, now I want the others to start using the library from a younger age.”

A mother from Sheno describing how she will use her library

Books for people with disabilities

We believe that everyone should be able to access books, so we partner with Finote Rehabilitation for Women with Disabilities Association to supply braille books for its resource centre. The centre serves secondary school age girls who have visual impairments like 14 year old Rosa. Thanks to you, she has access to the books she needs to make the most of her education.

“I come here as often as possible. I read the books in Braille. Sometimes the staff read to me from the books. I want to go to university and be a lawyer.”

Visually impaired library user Rosa

Spaces that inspire children to read

We were proud to provide books to support public libraries of two of the country’s major cities: Dire Dawa and Harar.

In Dire Dawa, children packed the library to read the new children’s books as soon as it opened, enthusiastically pulling books off the shelves to read. Nine-year-old Daquim liked the Muppets Christmas Story best, because of the noises he could make by pressing the buttons. He said he would be coming to the library as often as possible to read the books.

Nine year old Daquim enjoys his favourite book in the Dire Dawa Children’s Corner

Reading promotion activities in Sheno, Ethiopia

Rosa and her friends at the resource centre in Ethiopia
31,343 Inspired Readers

Our flagship Inspiring Readers programme has already reached thousands of primary school pupils in Kenya and Cameroon.

Children make up 40% of sub-Saharan Africa’s population and their education is key to Africa’s future, but pupils’ learning is hindered by a lack of books. Many classrooms in the communities where we work only have a few textbooks and almost none of them have a library.

Inspiring Readers aims to change this reality for 250,000 children over the next four years. The programme gives schools where books are scarce book box libraries full of 1,250 new books, training for teachers in how to use those books and a link with a local Children’s Corner to increase children’s access to reading materials.

The programme launched in November 2016 and is underway in both Kenya and Cameroon. 37,343 students now have access to books in their classrooms.

Case study: Inspiring rural readers – and librarians!

Inspiring Readers is having a particularly big impact in rural areas like Laikipia County in Kenya. Agnes, a librarian who works in Laikipia, explained how the programme is expanding students’ horizons:

“In this area, the main problems are poverty and the community is mostly nomads. Illiteracy levels are very high because the majority have not gone to school. There are some areas where they have never seen a book, so when a child touches a book it’s like touching a foreign thing.

These children say that the books make them feel like they have gone out into the world, even though they are still in their village.

The children are so happy and they so appreciate that we are taking books to them. This really inspired me. This programme is aimed at Inspiring Readers, but me? I am inspired as a librarian.”

Learn more: www.bookaid.org/aboutus/our-work/programmes/inspiring-readers
Supporters in action

Baking for books
Supporter Jess shared why she chooses to raise funds for our work:

“I’m really moved by the thought that some people simply don’t have the opportunity to read for pleasure or education. When I heard about the great work Book Aid International does, I decided to use my position inside a publishing house to help this great charity.”

Donating late fines
We would like to thank the University of St Andrews Library and all who paid their library fines on 11 November for raising a whopping £696.20! That’s enough to send 350 brand new books to libraries in Africa.

Selling paintings
Talented supporter Shirley Pinder Art painted a new piece of artwork each day in November and offered them for sale in return for a donation to us. She raised an outstanding £290 with her beautiful paintings!

Sierra Leone Update

A huge thank you to all of the brilliant supporters who donated so generously to our Christmas Appeal and raised an incredible £42,082 to provide more books for communities recovering from Ebola in Sierra Leone.

On 2nd February 2017, we sent 58,945 more brand new books to Sierra Leone. 10,000 books went directly to schools and more than 600 went to hospitals. These books are reaching thousands of readers and will help children and adults in Sierra Leone to achieve their full potential and support their country’s recovery. Thank you.

If you are interested in fundraising to support our work please email info@bookaid.org. We would love to hear from you!
Help us to write the next chapter

“...

I am getting on well with my Out Island Library which is now quite substantial... It is so important that I make a success of this. It’s the most important thing I am doing.

”

Diary entry dated 25th April 1954, Lady Ranfurly, founder of Book Aid International. Taken from her book ‘Hermione’

Lady Ranfurly founded the charity that would become Book Aid International in 1954. Over 60 years later, we are still continuing the work she began.

By remembering Book Aid International in your Will you can help countless children and adults access the books they need to write the next chapter in their own lives.

To find out more about how leaving a gift in your Will can make a lasting difference, please contact:

Emma Frost
Individual Giving Manager
Email: emma.frost@bookaid.org
Call: 0207 326 5802
Visit: www.bookaid.org/donate/leave-a-gift-in-your-will/