More readers than ever before

ALISON TWEED, CHIEF EXECUTIVE

This year’s Annual Report marks an extraordinary milestone: In 2018, we sent 1.28 million books – more than ever before. An estimated 21.4 million people have access to the books we sent in 2018 – and behind them is a wealth of wonderful stories of how books change lives.

In Mosul, Iraq, the arrival of 3,700 books at the library IS destroyed was cause for university staff to dance in the streets. In Ghana, the books we sent are breathing new life into a neglected national library service – offering the opportunity to read beautiful, brand new books to people from all walks of life across the country.

In this review of our work in 2018 you will read just a few of these stories. They represent the many millions of people who read the books you help to send in libraries, schools, refugee camps, hospitals, universities and prisons around the world.

Wherever they go, the books we provide are highly valued – but we could not send a single book if not for the generosity of our publishing partners, donors and volunteers. On behalf of our team at Book Aid International and readers around the world I extend our warmest thanks and I hope you enjoy reading our 2018 Annual Report.

Where books change lives

THE RT HON LORD PAUL BOATENG, CHAIR

Beautiful, new books are at their most precious where the reality that people face offers little to celebrate.

A book can offer the opportunity to keep learning, a window into a new possibility or shelter from the storm. Conflict-affected people must have access to books now – they cannot afford to wait for peace.

In 2018, we responded to this growing need. In Cameroon, we sent 5,000 books in weatherproofed and reinforced boxes designed to reach children who have lost their homes to ongoing violence.

Now, thanks to supporters like you, they are able access these books in the forests where they have taken shelter.

In Syria, we sent more than 16,000 Arabic children’s books to primary schools across Idlib province and 9,000 books to Idlib University.

In Jordan, where over 600,000 Syrian refugees face an uncertain future, the books we provided now stock the shelves of the first library in the country’s largest refugee camp.

Every minute of every day, 20 more people are displaced – so the need will keep growing.

We at Book Aid International stand ready to answer the call for more books as we did in 2018.

I would like to thank everyone who supported us in 2018 and invite you to join us as we work towards a future where no one is without the books which might help them change their lives for the better.
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2018 in numbers

An estimated **21.4 million** people have access to the books we sent in 2018

Where books are changing lives

- **848** public & community libraries
- **54** prison libraries
- **1,949** primary & secondary schools

Building local capacity

- **429** teachers and librarians trained
- **28,324** local books purchased
- **16** refugee camps
- **406** medical libraries
- **16** libraries refurbished

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*Book Aid International 2018 Trustees’ Annual Report*
This year we sent **1,286,538** books to people in 25 countries around the world

### The books we provided

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children &amp; primary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leisure reading</td>
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<tr>
<td>Development</td>
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<td>English language skills</td>
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<td>Higher education</td>
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<td>Vocational, technical &amp; business</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medicine &amp; healthcare</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reference &amp; Secondary</td>
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### Where we sent books

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Country</th>
<th>Books Sent</th>
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<td></td>
<td>Eritrea</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
<td>111,726</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ghana</td>
<td>66,287</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>130,400</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Liberia</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Malawi</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Rwanda</td>
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<td>Sierra Leone</td>
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<td></td>
<td>South Sudan</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Tanzania</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The Gambia</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Syria</td>
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</table>

![Girls walking to school in Za’atari Refugee Camp, Jordan. Photo Credit: Mercy Corps](image-url)
Around the world, poverty, displacement and discrimination mean that millions of people have never even held a new book.

People increasingly find themselves without books because conflict has closed their places of learning or forced them to flee.

Today, 87 million people around the world are displaced. Among them are 12.5 million young refugees. They cannot take books with them yet they urgently need to read so that they can continue their education.

Discrimination also has a role to play in preventing reading. In some communities, just being a girl is enough to prevent access to a classroom or library.

Even where people live in peaceful, settled communities access to books often remains a challenge.

One in ten people globally lives on less than $1.90 a day and simply cannot afford to buy books.

Even public libraries, schools, universities and hospitals often lack the funds to purchase books.

The impact on children is especially devastating. Around the world there are more children enrolled in school than ever before, but many have no books at all except a tattered textbook that they must share.

This lack of books is contributing to an education crisis. A 2017 UN report found that 600 million school-age children do not have basic skills in maths and reading. Without literacy skills, these young people will struggle to break the cycle of poverty and build a prosperous future.

Quality education is key to creating sustainable change – and access to books has an important role to play.

A single book can help dozens of people succeed in school, prepare for further education, learn the skills needed for a new job or find new inspiration. The global barriers to reading prevent people of all ages from reaching their full potential.

**Books are seeds of change**

In Zimbabwe’s impoverished Gwanda region, a group of women are using books to take control of their futures. They joined a study circle set up by Edward Ndlovu Memorial Library and read widely – about how to make a living, about their rights and about health.

Together, they decided to set up a community garden that would enable them to sell vegetables and fight the poverty that has held their communities back. Today, for the first time, they feel in control of their families’ futures.

“We are now able to sell what we are growing and we have money with which we pay school fees. We are able to run our households with the income.”

- Torifo, women’s group member, Gwanda, Zimbabwe

One of the women picking vegetables grown in the community garden
At Book Aid International, we work to ensure that everyone has access to the books that can enrich, improve and change their lives, whatever their circumstances.

Our mission is to provide books, resources and training to support an environment in which reading for pleasure, study and lifelong learning can flourish.

Creating a book-rich world

Every year, we send around one million brand new books to people around the world who would otherwise have few books, or even no books at all. Those books are read by people from all walks of life in thousands of libraries, schools, universities, hospitals, prisons and refugee camps.

To make books available to all, we work with a diverse global network of partners ranging from national library services to international NGOs to grassroots organisations. Each partner requests the books its community needs and our team selects books in response to their requests. Our partners then distribute those books within their own communities and networks.

All of the books we send are donated by UK-based publishers, so they are all brand new, recent editions in a variety of subjects for all ages.

“Books are very expensive and the Malawi National Library Service’s (MNLS) small budget is not sufficient to purchase books for its branches. The books from Book Aid International go a long way in meeting the needs of diverse users.”
- Mr. Gray Nyali, Director MNLS

Building capacity and promoting reading

In addition to wonderful books, children need inspirational librarians, empowered teachers and a welcoming space if they are to begin a lifetime of reading. Our projects and programmes aim to give children this vital support.

We work with our partners to create spaces where reading can flourish and to train teachers and librarians in how to support reading.

Some of our projects – such as our Pioneer Book Box project – are a single intervention meeting one community’s needs. A Pioneer Book Box is simply a small book collection in a sturdy, lockable box with a ‘how-to guide’ designed to offer the opportunity to read wherever children might be.

Others, such as our long-running Children’s Corners programme, are more holistic. Every Children’s Corner creates an inspiring space for children in a public library through a combination of library refurbishment, donated books, local book purchase and librarian training.

Whatever their size or scope, our projects always seek to invest in our partners’ capacity – giving teachers, volunteers and librarians the skills, space and confidence to inspire young readers.
Realising our vision

In 2017, we launched our Vision 2020: Where Books Change Lives strategy and set four key aims that would be crucial to meeting the global need for books.

Those aims are: increasing our capacity to donate books, promoting reading, innovating to support readers and reaching the people who need books most. In 2018, we worked to achieve our aims in all four of these areas.

**Increasing our capacity to donate books**

By 2020, we aim to be providing 1.5 million books every year.

In 2018, we hired five new members of staff and extended our warehouse hours. This additional capacity allowed us to increase the number of books we sent from 938,330 in 2017 to 1,286,538 in 2018.

Increasing the number of books we provided enabled us to reach more readers around the world particularly in West Africa.

In Ghana, we began working with the Ghana Library Authority, sending 66,287 books to readers in 60 public libraries across the country and 4,100 books to education NGO Afrkids in support of its work improving primary school education.

We also sent books to The Gambia, providing 39,514 books to The Gambia National Library Service Authority for its public libraries as they recover from years of neglect and more than 7,000 books to NGO Switched-On Gambia to support reading in primary schools.

**Promoting reading**

Supporting teachers and librarians in their work advocating for the value of the book and encouraging reading is one of our key priorities.

In 2018 we trained 429 teachers and librarians, giving them the skills and confidence to promote reading in their own schools and libraries.

Since 2016, we have also worked with our library partners to run Reading Promotion events on International Literacy Day. In the first year, only five countries took part – but in 2018 that number grew to 13 and participation increased dramatically.

In 2016, 523 adults and 717 children took part. In 2018, these numbers increased to 1,541 adults and 8,515 children. Reading Promotion events are a crucial opportunity to introduce new sections of the population to the value of books, reading and all that a library can offer.
Innovating to support readers

We have made it a key priority to grow our innovative projects and programmes, offering more children the opportunity to discover books and begin a lifetime of reading.

As we continue to expand our long-running Children’s Corners and Inspiring Readers programmes we are also developing new projects which support those who need books most.

In Kakuma Refugee Camp, most students do not have electricity at home so they often struggle to study after school. In 2018, we worked with the NGO that provides secondary education in the camp, Windle International Kenya, to develop the Solar Homework Club project.

The project will provide solar lamps that secondary school pupils can borrow alongside books from their school libraries so that reading and learning don’t end at sunset. Six schools will take part, with an estimated 1,700 pupils benefiting.

Reaching the people who need books most

By 2020, we aim to be sending at least 500,000 books a year to people who face special barriers to reading.

In 2018, we made 534,037 books available to those who need books most through a range of dynamic new partnerships.

In Nepal, poverty, rural isolation and a shortage of medical professionals mean that many people cannot access the healthcare they need. NGO Future Faces is providing life-changing surgery for people suffering from facial deformities and cleft palate. In 2018, we provided 205 much-needed medical texts to support the vital work they do.

When Hurricane Irma destroyed hundreds of homes on the Caribbean island of Barbuda, all of the island’s children were forced to flee to the neighbouring island of Antigua, straining the local school system. In 2018, we responded to requests for extra resources, sending 2,342 books to Antigua to support displaced children’s learning.

In Liberia, too many children live a dangerous life on the streets with few opportunities to learn or simply enjoy childhood. Street Child Liberia is fighting to ensure that every child receives a quality education, supporting street children in school, at home and in the community. We sent them 14,277 children’s books in 2018, giving some of Liberia’s most vulnerable children access to beautiful storybooks, phonics books and non-fiction books to help them learn.

With thanks to the Intouch Global Foundation for funding the Solar Homework Club
It is vital that children have access to books so that they can learn to read, succeed in education and imagine new possibilities.

We make it a priority to provide the books that children need wherever they might be. In 2018, we worked with our global network of partners to send 875,000 books to young readers in thousands of schools, libraries and refugee camps.

These books included picture books, phonics books, graded readers, young adult fiction and non-fiction and children’s English as a Second Language texts. The diversity of the books we provide for young readers ensures that children have the books they need at every stage of learning.

Supporting children’s reading

When beginning to read, children need inspiring books, an adult to help them and a welcoming space. That is why in addition to providing books we also run projects and programmes that support children’s reading.

In 2018, we created nine new Children’s Corners in Kenya and Tanzania. Each Children’s Corner creates a dedicated space in a public library where children’s reading can flourish.

We also provided e-readers loaded with African-developed e-books to five additional Children’s Corners in Zimbabwe, giving children access to stories that reflect their own experiences.

In addition, we expanded our Book Havens project, creating welcoming spaces in community libraries where children can discover books and training non-librarian staff in how to support reading.

In 2018, we worked with CODE Ethiopia to open five Book Havens in disadvantaged Ethiopian communities and with the Mathare Youth Sports Association to open two more Book Havens in the NGO’s libraries in Nairobi’s slum communities.

By helping children develop a love of reading early, we can spark a positive change which will stay with young readers throughout their lives.

In Malawi, many girls are taught that science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) are subjects for boys.

In 2018, we worked with the Malawi National Library Service to establish two STEM Study Hubs in public libraries designed to help girls in secondary school explore STEM subjects and prepare for exams – providing brand new STEM books, training and a specially designed revision guide.

So far, 3,300 students have accessed their local STEM Study Hub and teachers have noted a change in the girls’ confidence in STEM subjects:

"Sciences brings out the inner me. Chemistry and biology are my favourites. I come to the library mostly for the science books. They really work with the new curriculum and the information is very clear. I want to be a biomedical engineer or a neurosurgeon."

- Wakisa, 14 year old STEM Study Hub user, Malawi
Inspiring primary school pupils in Uganda

Our Inspiring Readers programme aims to transform 250,000 African primary school pupils’ experience of reading by creating libraries in their schools, training teachers in how to use books in the classroom and connecting the school with a local library.

Since launching in 2016, the programme has reached more than 182,000 children in 175 schools across four countries. Many of those schools are now reporting improving reading scores.

In 2018 we extended Inspiring Readers to 25 schools in Uganda. Pupils are already reporting a new confidence that is translating into improved academic performance:

“Before, we used to fear and shiver when teachers asked us to read in front of the class. Nowadays everyone can read easily and we no longer fear.”
- Pupil, Mbale Police Wanyera Primary School, Mbale, Uganda

Helping children say yes to reading in Kenya

Education offers a route out of poverty, but in Kenya’s deprived Laikipia county, literacy levels are low and schools lack the resources pupils need to learn to read.

Africa Educational Trust supports schools in the region and in 2018 we partnered with the NGO on its Yes to Reading project.

Together, we created 14 school libraries full of UK-donated and locally purchased books and trained teachers in how to support pupils’ reading. The impact has been immediate:

“The UK-donated books are simple and clear. I use them to teach grade who are having challenges with reading. I was not taught phonetics in the teachers training college. I’m learning how to use sounds in teaching through the UK-donated books which make it very easy to teach the pupils”.
- Charles Karuri, teacher–librarian, Oljogi Primary School, Kenya

With thanks to the Stavros Niarchos Foundation for funding the Children’s Corners project and Aggreko for funding STEM Study Hubs and the British and Foreign School Society for funding Yes to Reading
Our impact when conflict strikes

Twenty million young people around the world who are living with conflict are out of school – and today more people are displaced by conflict than at any time since the Second World War.

Where conflict has robbed entire communities of their homes, books offer the opportunity to continue an interrupted education, to escape into a story and to find new hope for a brighter future. In 2018, we made it a priority to provide books to those who live with or have fled conflict.

Today I have borrowed two books – one for my son who is five years old. It is about Poppy Cat. The story is good for my son. The other book I have borrowed is for me. It is a book of poetry – it’s a great book for my heart. Books are good for relaxation. When I lived in Afghanistan I had so many cook books. You should send some cook books! I would like to learn to cook new things.

- Habiba, Afghan refugee, Greece

Reaching people who have fled violence

Greece

In Greece, refugees seeking safety from wars at home continue to arrive every week. When they reach Greece, they are supported by a network of small NGOs, many of which operate on a shoestring and in difficult conditions.

These inspiring organisations provide the opportunity for refugees to return to education, to begin to learn English and to find a safe space that offers refuge from the day-to-day realities of camp life.

In 2018, we worked with seven of these grassroots organisations to support refugees, providing 5,669 books for all ages to community libraries, classrooms and mobile libraries to help displaced people begin to write the next chapter.

Kenya

382,000 refugees live in Kenya’s two largest refugee camps, Kakuma and Dadaab. Most have fled decades of war in the Horn of Africa and many will spend a lifetime in the camps.

Windle International Kenya and Lutheran World Federation face the huge task of educating all of the young refugees in both camps. They work in the face of scarce resources for schools and hugely over-crowded classrooms.

In 2018, we partnered with both of these NGOs, providing books to the schools they run so that refugee children have access to books that will support their learning, sending 5,217 books to Kakuma and 5,614 to Dadaab.

In Kakuma, we also partnered with Lutheran World Federation to create new classroom libraries in ten primary schools and early childhood development centres through one of our newest programmes, Reading for All: Kakuma. This work has put an additional 15,812 books directly into the hands of some of the camp’s youngest learners and trained 27 teachers and head teachers in how to use books to encourage early literacy.
When I returned to Mosul in end of 2017, I was shocked from the severe damage. It can’t be described. Reconstruction is not only in infrastructure, but also the culture and the human need to be reconstructed. Those books are very valuable and will make a big difference.

- Dr. Alaa Hamdon, Mosul Book Bridge Founder and University of Mosul lecturer

The chance to read while war rages

Syria

As Syria’s devastating civil war enters its eighth year, the education of an entire generation is at risk. International NGO Syria Relief is working to keep Syrian children in school and in 2018 we provided them with 16,000 Arabic readers to support pupils’ learning. These books are a lifeline for young readers, many of whom have known nothing but war.

We also sent more than 9,000 higher-education texts to Idlib University, giving students access to vital information.

Cameroon

Thousands of children have lost their homes since 2017 in Cameroon’s escalating violence. In 2018, we worked with our long-standing partner to provide a total of 5,000 books in damp-proof, lockable boxes to children who have lost their homes and schools and are sheltering in the forests.

These books offer children who are facing hardship the opportunity to read, learn and escape into a story.

Helping communities rebuild for the future

Iraq

In 2015, IS fighters destroyed the University of Mosul library, burning more than one million books.

The Mosul Book Bridge campaign was founded by lecturer Alaa Hamdon when he returned to the city and saw the damage. It has one goal: to restore the library. In 2018 we sent 3,791 brand new, higher-education texts to the library, helping begin the process of restoring what IS destroyed and supporting students returning to their university.

South Sudan

In South Sudan, a fragile peace is holding following years of civil war and students are returning to classrooms. In 2018 we significantly increased the number of books we provided to universities and schools across the country – from just over 3,000 in 2017 to 18,684. These books are a vital resource, giving students in some of the world’s most poorly resourced schools the chance to read and learn.
Around the world, the shortage of healthcare professionals is acute. To meet minimum standards for healthcare provision in sub-Saharan Africa, 2.4 million more doctors and nurses must enter the workforce.

Yet many medical colleges, universities and hospitals around the world cannot afford to buy up-to-date medical texts. Some students must resort to YouTube to learn medical techniques.

In 2018, through the generosity of our publishing partners, particularly Elsevier and Elsevier USA, we sent 154,299 brand new medical books to hospitals, clinics, colleges and universities around the world.

The books we provided cover a range of subjects, including gynaecology, paediatrics, dentistry, social work and psychiatry.

Our medical partners select the books they require, ensuring that each community receives the books that meet local needs.

In medical colleges and universities, these up-to-date books allow students to learn the latest techniques and grow into tomorrow’s doctors, nurses, midwives, surgeons and dentists – addressing the shortage of healthcare workers in the long term.

Practising professionals also rely on the books we send for the up-to-date information they need to provide the best possible care – and access to that information can save lives.

“Our port is closed and we have three hours of electricity a day. Our doctors can’t go out so these books keep them updated. Without the books from Book Aid International, all the books in the library would be more than fifteen years old.”
- Mahmoud, Coordinator, Gaza Health Sciences Library

Improving healthcare in Uganda

In rural Uganda there is only one doctor for every 22,000 people and many people cannot access healthcare. The Uganda Protestant Medical Bureau (UPMB) is working to improve rural healthcare by running a network of non-profit hospitals and training facilities across the country.

In 2018, we supported UPMB’s work by setting up seven medical libraries, providing brand new books and training staff in how to run their new libraries. Professionals and teachers can now access up-to-date medical information and the impact has been immediate.

"The donations have benefited us as teachers as we are getting updated information which we are passing on to our students. In turn the patients in our hospitals are benefiting from latest practices and good quality of care from us."
- Amos Aine, instructor, Bwindi School of Nursing and Midwifery, Uganda

2,031 Medical students benefitting

A nursing student borrows a brand new book at her school’s medical library
In 2018 we carried out an in-depth impact assessment in Kenya to understand the long-term impact of access to books.

Working in partnership with the Kenya National Library Service (knls), we asked a range of beneficiaries – from public library and prison inmates to people with disabilities and healthcare providers – how do books change lives?

Through a series of interviews and focus groups we were able to gain insights into the value that people place on books. We found that books enable changes in three main areas: quality of life, performance and attitude.

**Changes to quality of life**

Systematic quality of life changes as a result of reading are difficult to prove, but many individuals told us that their lives have been transformed by reading the right books at the right time.

Three readers in a single public library provide an illustrative example: Zipporah read a book on entrepreneurship that led to her starting her own tailoring business; Tabitha taught herself how to maintain her own computer and now earns a living from maintaining others; Josephat finds reading novels help him relax:

"At night you can be thinking, thinking, thinking and get stressed. The stories tell of bad situations and I think, ‘they are in a worse situation than me – I’m ok’...and I’m happy!"

- Josephat, leisure reader, Kenya

**Changes in performance**

46% of the people we spoke to told us that books helped them perform better in education or at work. Medical students and practitioners in particular attribute their performance to the quality of books they have received from our charity over the years:

"The British National Formulary (BNF) is like a bible. During my attachment, I was treating a patient and I couldn’t place the right prescription. I referred to BNF and was able to make a proper diagnosis and prescription. The patient was cured."

- Dr. James Gatune, tutor and practising doctor, Kenya

**Changes to attitudes**

Of the people we spoke to, 51% told us that reading improved their attitude or outlook.

The effect seemed particularly pronounced when readers faced significant challenges. Inmates at Naivasha Maximum Security Prison who use the books we provided in their learning centre said books helped them remain hopeful:

"Knowledge, inspiration, motivation came from the books. Reading... opened up my heart."

- Dan, an inmate serving a life sentence in Naivasha Maximum Security Prison, Kenya

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With thanks to Gilead Sciences for funding our work with UPMB and players of People’s Postcode Lottery for funding our impact assessment in 2018
At Book Aid International all the income we receive is from voluntary donations – we receive no government grants. In 2018 our total income was £19,416,607 and our total expenditure was £18,076,771.

£2,029,903 of our income was cash, while £17,386,704 was the value of donated books.

Our cash expenditure was £2,028,899. The remaining £16,047,872 of expenditure was the value of the books we sent to those who need them around the world.

### Cash income and expenditure

In 2018 our cash income was slightly below the 2017 level of £2,036,333.

55.4% of our income was unrestricted funds which we invested in our core activity of providing books around the world. The remaining 44.6% was restricted to projects and programmes.

Cash expenditure in 2018 increased on 2017’s level of £1,699,095. This increase reflects an increase in our staff team, from 21 to 26, which enabled us to increase the number of books we sent from 938,330 in 2017 to 1.28 million in 2018.

### Maintaining reserves

We maintain 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 agreed level was between £500,000 and £550,000.

We ended the year with £618,506 in free reserves – slightly higher than anticipated due to a generous unrestricted Gift in Will.

For more information on our finances, including our full audited accounts, see pages 34 to 54.
The value of donated books

In 2018, the value of books donated by publishers to our charity increased by 107% from £8,411,442 to £17,386,704. This reflects a significant rise in the number of high-value medical texts we received as well as a general increase in the stock donated to our charity.

We expect fluctuations in the value of the books we receive to continue in the coming years, as the books publishers donate changes year on year. However, these fluctuations are not impacting cash income and expenditure, which remains largely stable.

How our income and expenditure have changed

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Income BOOKS IN</th>
<th>Income CASH INCOME</th>
<th>Expenditure BOOKS OUT</th>
<th>Expenditure CASH EXPENDITURE</th>
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<td>£2,029,903</td>
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<td>2017</td>
<td>£13,291,621</td>
<td>£10,300,049</td>
<td>£2,036,333</td>
<td>£1,699,095</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Making the best use of donated money and books

In 2018 97p in every pound of expenditure represented the cost of providing books and supporting readers.

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

If you remove the value of donated books we spent 74p of every pound on charitable activities. We spent a total of £12,237 on governance.
We are supported by thousands of individuals and organisations who donate books, funds and time so that we can reach readers around the world.

Support from trusts and companies

Our trust and corporate partners are vital to our work. In 2018, 27 trusts supported our charity, giving grants totaling £726,904 and supporting Book Havens, Children’s Corners and Inspiring Readers.

We continued to develop our long-standing relationships with players of People’s Postcode Lottery (PPL), Dulverton Trust, Beatrice Laing Trust and Beit Trust, and we welcomed new funders Network for Social Change and InTouch Global Foundation.

We also continued our partnership with National Book Tokens, which provide a donation from every sale of its special Book Aid International gift card.

Our publishing partners

Publishers donate all of the brand new books we provide. These books are the foundation of our work, and without publishers’ generosity we simply could not provide the books that millions of people rely on to change their lives for the better.

In 2018, 90 publishers donated books worth £17,386,704 – an extraordinary gift to readers around the world.

"Book Aid International has been one of Elsevier’s core access partners, helping distribute over 148,000 STEM books to African hospitals, universities and non profits. Our focus has been on bridging the digital divide, and Book Aid International’s staunch advocacy of the compounding access issues faced by the world’s least developed countries is unrivaled."

- Ylann Schemm, Director, Elsevier Foundation

Growing support from individuals

More than 5,000 people gave monthly through our Reverse Book Club in 2018, providing regular income that allows us to deliver long-term programmes.

We also received thousands of generous one-off donations, many in response to our 2018 Christmas appeal. The appeal was our most successful to date – 900 donors gave over £45,000.

In total, individuals gave more than half of our cash income in 2018: £1,079,966. This vital unrestricted income is the backbone of our work.

A number of our individual donors were able to make one-off gifts of more than £250, and they gave a total of £100,357. These funds are crucial to helping us increase the number of books we provide and expanding our work supporting children’s reading.
Legacy income

Legacy gifts, whether large or small, are a wonderful way to leave a lasting impact and we are always humbled by supporters who choose to remember our work in this way. Legacies continue to be an important part of our income and in 2018, we received £158,600 in legacy income.

School and community fundraising

Every year, hundreds of people fundraise for us in their communities. From book sales to running marathons, fundraisers all help us expand our work. In 2018, these inspiring individuals raised a fantastic £27,617.

We are also an official World Book Day UK supported charity. Schools across the country mark World Book Day every year by dressing up as a favourite book character and donating £1 so that everyone can have the books they need.

In 2018, the ‘Beast from the East’ swept in, closing schools with snow and freezing temperatures on World Book Day.

Despite the weather, hundreds of pupils braved the cold and together raised an outstanding £92,744 – enough to send more than 45,000 books to the people who need them most.

Inspiring volunteers

The contributions of the volunteers who join us every day in our South London warehouse are invaluable. Volunteers stamp and pack hundreds of thousands of books every year and in 2018 they donated 2,600 hours to our work.

Raising our profile

In 2018 we worked to raise our public profile and attract new supporters, holding events and operating stands at literary festivals across the country, such as the Hay Festival, the Edinburgh International Book Festival and Cliveden Literary Festival.

We also secured more press coverage than ever before, including national coverage of our work helping University of Mosul library rebuild. Finally, many high-profile authors lent their support to our cause in 2018, including Dame Jacqueline Wilson, Julian Clary, David Nicholls and Dame Judi Dench.
The global need for books has never been greater. A growing young population is straining schools and people are on the move.

Chronic funding shortages for schools and particularly libraries are leaving millions without access to the books that might help them realise their ambitions.

The need for the brand new books we can provide is as strong as ever.

The next generation cannot afford to wait, and that is why by 2020, we will increase the number of books we send to 1.5 million, put books in the classrooms of at least 250,000 African primary school pupils and ensure that at least 500,000 of the books we provide reach those who would be least able to access books without our support.

As we look to 2020, we see a future of thriving partnerships – with library services and NGOs who make books available to their communities, with publishers who donate books and with donors who provide the funds required to send books to all those who need books around the world.

We know that a future rich in books is possible, and we warmly thank all those who have supported us so far.

Together, we can reach more people who urgently need access to the books we provide and take the next step towards a world where no one is without the books that might enrich, improve and change their lives.

The Ghana Library Authority is one of our newest partners. We asked the service’s new director, Hayford Siaw, about the future.

"Only 2% of Ghanaian children in grade two can read fluently. The national library service is in a position to support these readers – however we must invest more in appropriate resources, particularly for children.

Our partnership with Book Aid International has come at the right time in the history of our service. We operate sixty libraries around all the ten regions of Ghana, with additional libraries opening in 2019.

Within the next five years, we look forward to establishing libraries across all the 254 districts and municipalities of Ghana.

We can maximise our contribution to the development of Ghana by connecting Ghanaians to knowledge. Our ability to be successful is deeply connected to partnerships.

With our rebirth process and the new partnership with Book Aid International we have no doubt that Ghanaians will be trooping into our libraries to access the new books. And with those books, we can live up to the vision of connecting Ghanaians to knowledge resources.”

Our ability to be successful is deeply connected to our partnership with Book Aid International.
Below is a full list of all our overseas partners to whom we sent books directly in 2018. Through our partners, we were able to reach more than 3,600 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Partners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Antigua and Barbuda</td>
<td>McChesney George Secondary School, National Library of Antigua and Barbuda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bhutan</td>
<td>READ Bhutan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>British Virgin Islands</td>
<td>British Virgin Islands Government – Division of Archives, Libraries and Museums</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cameroon</td>
<td>Education Information Services International, Hope for Children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dominica</td>
<td>Dominica Library and Information Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eritrea</td>
<td>Library &amp; Information Association of Eritrea, Ministry of Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
<td>British Council, CODE Ethiopia, Ethiopia Knowledge and Technology Transfer Society, Ethiopia Reads, Hawassa University, International Development Partnerships, Link Ethiopia, Voluntary Services Overseas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>Action For Education, Elea Project, Metadrai, Mosaik Project, Soup &amp; Socks, The Book Collective, The Echo Mobile Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>University of Mosul</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan</td>
<td>Mercy Corps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malawi</td>
<td>Chikwawa District Hospital, College of Medicine, University of Malawi, Gumbi Education Fund, Malawi College of Health Science, Malawi National Library Service, St John of God College of Medicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nepal</td>
<td>Future Faces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupied Palestinian Territories</td>
<td>British Council, Gaza Health Science Library, Tamer Institute of Community Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rwanda</td>
<td>Grace Rwanda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Sudan</td>
<td>Africa Educational Trust, South University of Medicine Science, St Mary’s College University of Juba, Windle International</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syria</td>
<td>Syria Relief</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tanzania</td>
<td>Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania, Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences, State University of Zanzibar, Sumait University, Tanzania Library Services Board, Zanzibar Library Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Gambia</td>
<td>Gambia National Library Service Authority, Sunrise School, Switched-On Gambia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zambia</td>
<td>Copperbelt University, Lusaka Apex Medical University, Senanga School of Nursing, University of Zambia, Zambia Library Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zimbabwe</td>
<td>Bulawayo Book Distribution Committee, Harare Distribution Committee</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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**
- Aggreko Plc
- Andersen Press
- Andrew Nurnberg Associates
- Baker Books
- Barings
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- Blackwell’s
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- Books Express
- BookTrust
- BPP Learning Media Ltd
- Cambridge University Press
- Cengage
- Coordination Group Publishers
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- Early Years Alliance
- Elsevier
- Elsevier USA
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- Guidant Financial
- Hachette UK
- Heath Educational Books
- Hodder Education
- Ibidem Press
- I-Movo
- International African Institute
- Kube Publishing
- Letterbox Library
- Little Book for Big Changes
- Macmillan Education
- Magna Large Print Books
- Mantra Lingua
- Minerva Fiduciary Services (UK) Ltd
- National Book Tokens
- Nosy Crow
- Oxford University Press
- Pan Macmillan UK
- Pastest
- Pearson Plc
- Penelope Lively
- Penguin Random House
- Peter Lang AG
- Peters
- Practical Action Publishing
- Ragged Bears
- RELX Group Plc
- Royal National Insitute of Blind People (RNIB)
- Sage Publications
- Saraband
- Scholastic UK
- Search Press
- Stemettes
- Taylor & Francis
- Technical Centre for Agricultural & Rural Cooperation (CTA)
- The Society of Authors
- The Wilbur and Niso Smith Foundation
- The Willoughby Book Club
- Ulverscroft
- Walker Books
- Watkins Publishing
- Wiley
- Zed Books
- Network for Social Change
- Peacock Charitable Trust
- People’s Postcode Lottery
- Schroder Charity Trust
- Stavros Niarchos Foundation
- The 29th May 1961 Charitable Trust
- The Beit Trust
- The Bernard Sunley Charitable Foundation
- The Cotton Trust
- The Dischma Charitable Trust
- The Dulverton Trust
- The Fulmer Charitable Trust
- The Hilden Charitable Trust
- Unwin Charitable Trust
- Zochonis Charitable Trust

**Our trust supporters**
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- CB and HH Taylor 1984 Trust
- Ernest Ingham Charitable Trust
- Guernsey Overseas Aid and Development Commission
- InChape Foundation
- Intouch Global Foundation
- John S Cohen Foundation
- Kilpatrick Fraser Charitable Trust
- Network for Social Change
- Peacock Charitable Trust
- People’s Postcode Lottery
- Schroder Charity Trust
- Stavros Niarchos Foundation
- The 29th May 1961 Charitable Trust
- The Beit Trust
- The Bernard Sunley Charitable Foundation
- The Cotton Trust
- The Dischma Charitable Trust
- The Dulverton Trust
- The Fulmer Charitable Trust
- The Hilden Charitable Trust
- Unwin Charitable Trust
- Zochonis Charitable Trust

**Our volunteers, ambassadors and individual supporters**
- Alice Corrigan
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- Clive Butler
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- Graham Defries
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- Helen Harradine
- Jane Jewell
- Jane Penson
- Jane Tappuni

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Writers’ & Artists’ Yearbook
Yaba Badoe
Zeinab Badawi

In addition to all those named above, we would like to thank all of those who supported us anonymously in 2018.
When we were children, we used to dream – I knew I wanted to be a teacher. But now our children are not living their childhoods. They don’t know if they will be coming back to school the next day or if they will be recruited by armed groups. These books have the power to change our children’s lives because, through reading, they will learn new skills and become more creative. The books will give hope once more to the children.

Fatmeh*, teacher in Idlib, Syria

* name changed to protect anonymity