Books change lives

Book Aid International
Annual Review 2015
A note from our Chair

The Rt Hon The Lord Paul Boateng

In September 2015 I visited some of the libraries in Zimbabwe supported by Book Aid International. I was inspired by the passion of the readers and librarians that I met who were continuously striving to develop a reading culture. Most memorable was the moment I donated new medical books to a group of hospital librarians on Book Aid International’s behalf. They were delighted and could hardly wait to get back to their libraries and proudly display the new books on their shelves. It was a moment when the value of the book is plain to see.

It brought back memories of my own early boyhood in the Gold Coast (now Ghana) when I first opened *Orlando the Marmalade Cat* - a reading experience only made possible by Book Aid International and its donors. I never looked back and neither will the beneficiaries of our work today. Thank you on their behalf.

A note from our Director

Alison Tweed

At Book Aid International we believe that everyone should have the opportunity to derive pleasure from books and to improve their own lives through reading.

This Annual Review looks at the work we did in 2015 to support readers and would-be readers from all walks of life.

Our work aims to make books available to all, at all stages of life and in all situations: whether young or old, city dweller or rural farmer, university student or out-of-work youth, lawyer or prisoner, doctor or patient, politician or displaced person.

We do this by working through a wide and diverse network of libraries across the continent, sending books generously donated by publishers to where they are needed most.

In 2015 we surpassed all our targets and sent over 1.12 million books to our library partners, reaching an estimated 24 million readers in Africa with wonderful, brand new books, all individually selected for the libraries by our expert team here in Camberwell, South East London.

We are a small charity but with a large reach and strong support from many quarters. In addition to our thousands of loyal individual supporters we were delighted in 2015 to have Jonathan Dimbleby present our Radio 4 appeal, and Mariella Frostrup, John Simpson and Ken Follett support key fundraising initiatives and events. We believe our appeal is broad because our message is simple: books change lives.

Thank you to everyone who supported our work in 2015 and who worked in partnership with us to move toward our vision of a better and book-rich future for Africa.
About Book Aid International

The need for our work

Millions of people in sub-Saharan Africa are unable to reach their full potential because of a basic lack of books. Literacy, education and access to information are instrumental in the fight against poverty but for too many people these goals are out of reach. Rates of illiteracy in sub-Saharan Africa have dropped significantly in recent years but one child in five still misses out on primary school and one adult in three still can’t read.

Books are scarce in many of the communities where we work. Schools, colleges and universities often have insufficient books to support education effectively and many families have no books at home.

Libraries offer people a chance to develop their reading skills and increase their knowledge. They represent the best chance for many people in Africa to develop a love of reading and to find the information they need to change their own lives for the better.

The change we want to see

Our vision is of vibrant libraries, inspired readers and empowered communities.

When people have access to the books they need they are better able to contribute to their communities and shape their own futures. We look forward to a time when all libraries in Africa are helping their communities develop, through the provision of a varied, relevant and up-to-date book collection, by being a hub of community activity and resources and by providing people with access to information in a variety of ways – through books, online information and educational activities.

In 2015 the UN set the Sustainable Development Goals, aiming to dramatically improve the lives of the world’s poorest people over the next 15 years. We see our work contributing to Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning. This goal is in the forefront of our minds when we design new programmes, seek new partners and assess the breadth and impact of our work.

The work we do

We work in partnership with libraries in sub-Saharan Africa providing books, resources and training to support an environment in which reading for pleasure, study and lifelong learning can flourish. We provide brand new, carefully selected books to libraries which might otherwise have empty shelves and we support libraries to run projects which benefit their local communities. Through our training programmes we help to develop inspirational children’s librarians who bring books to life for young children and set them on a path of lifelong learning.
The books we send

In 2015 we sent 1,120,915 carefully-selected books to our library partners in sub-Saharan Africa and the Occupied Palestinian Territories

Selecting books that can change lives

We partner with local library services who play a vital role in our work. We work through library or NGO partners in each country who ensure our books get to a wide network of libraries. Each year our partners fill in detailed book requirement forms so we know the type of books they need and the quantities they require. We then match our selections to these requests as closely as we can. In 2015 two thirds of the books we sent were for children – both to support education and to encourage a love of reading. We also sent books to support secondary and higher education as well as technical and vocational books to support lifelong learning.

The libraries we support

The books are sent to our partners, who distribute them to public and community libraries, libraries in schools, universities, hospitals, prisons and refugee camps. This wide range of libraries means we can get new books to readers at all ages and stages of their lives. A large proportion of the libraries we support are in schools, providing children with the opportunity to supplement their curriculum learning with relevant, age appropriate reading materials. Book Aid International books make up a high proportion of the collection in many of these libraries.

Supporting local publishing

We aim to support local publishing as part of our project work by providing grants for our partners to buy locally published books, often in local languages. This provides books, particularly for children, which reflect their own world and environment. One of the ways we did this in 2015 was through our project funding for the Open Doors programme which establishes Children’s Corners in public libraries. Each library receives funding to purchase around 350 locally published books.

Total number of books sent in 2015: 1,120,915

Number of libraries benefiting in 2015: 2,624
The books we sent in 2015

The story and picture books we sent for young children are designed to instil a love of reading from an early age. Educational books support their studies through primary and secondary school and include phonics readers to help develop English language skills, dictionaries, atlases and revision guides.

Books which support higher education institutions form an important part of our programme and include books on medicine and health care, law, engineering, teaching and accounting.

We provide leisure reading for all ages so that people who use the libraries we support can enjoy reading throughout their lives.

We also provided 275 e-readers and tablets for use in children’s libraries and purchased over 200,000 e-books.

The countries we supported in 2015

In 2015 we supported libraries in 11 countries in sub-Saharan Africa as well as providing books for libraries in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. The books we send are in English so we support countries where English is widely used in education, business and everyday life.

Books sent by subject area in 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject Area</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children and primary</td>
<td>696,264</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development</td>
<td>14,602</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English language skills</td>
<td>52,808</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiction (adult)</td>
<td>38,362</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher education</td>
<td>50,479</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law</td>
<td>4,238</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leisure reading</td>
<td>27,883</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicine and health care</td>
<td>35,250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional (business and finance)</td>
<td>19,046</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reference</td>
<td>6,259</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary</td>
<td>123,478</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher training</td>
<td>20,278</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teenage fiction</td>
<td>24,776</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vocational/technical</td>
<td>7,192</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>1,120,915</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Books sent by country in 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cameroon</td>
<td>56,713</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eritrea</td>
<td>41,256</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
<td>79,357</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>205,938</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malawi</td>
<td>110,222</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupied Palestinian Territories</td>
<td>16,130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somalia</td>
<td>36,312</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Sudan</td>
<td>22,010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tanzania</td>
<td>129,649</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uganda</td>
<td>114,414</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zambia</td>
<td>103,293</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zimbabwe</td>
<td>205,621</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>1,120,915</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Number of book donors in 2015: 116

Estimated number of beneficiaries in 2015: 24 million
Encouraging reading from an early age

Two thirds of the books we sent to libraries in 2015 were for children. We also ran projects to encourage children to develop an early love of reading.

Our progress with Open Doors Children’s Corners

The Open Doors programme aims to create 60 vibrant, safe and child-friendly spaces in public libraries and to provide an environment where children can read, play and learn freely.

By the end of 2015 we had raised £433,201 and helped our library partners to establish a total of 24 Children’s Corners in Tanzania, Uganda, Malawi, Cameroon and Zambia. 16 of these new Corners opened in 2015.

As well as continuing our work to support new Corners in Tanzania, Uganda and Cameroon, 2015 also saw the opening of the very first Children’s Corners in Zambia.

This year our team ran training sessions in becoming an inspiring children’s librarian in Cameroon, Malawi and Zambia as well as running a ‘train the trainers’ session in Kenya to enable expert trainers to pass on their knowledge to their colleagues.

Now that these Children’s Corners are open, more children are using their libraries – more than fourfold in some locations. We have also seen increasing numbers of children becoming library members and benefiting from taking books home where they can be shared with parents, siblings and friends.

The programme continues in 2016 and we hope to have established 60 Children’s Corners by the end of 2017.

Examples of the books we send to Children’s Corners

Number of Children’s Corners established in 2015: 16

Number of librarians trained through Open Doors in 2015: 73

The library has improved my reading and knowledge. I am always happy when I come to the library to read and write.

Moguem, 11, Cameroon

The Children’s Corner is very important because it’s like a foundation to their futures. When you have a friendly Children’s Corner, that means you are developing a world.

Brenda, Librarian, Malawi
Using digital technology in children’s libraries

We believe in the power of the written word in all its forms and in 2015 we ran two digital projects in children’s libraries. In partnership with Kenya National Library Service, we provided tablets and e-readers alongside brand new books to five Children’s Corners (Kisumu, Meru, Isiolo, Wajir and Thika) and ran training for librarians in using the new technology. Children responded well to the technology and library usage increased in all libraries. This pilot project helped us to shape our digital projects in other children’s libraries and we used it to compare various technologies including tablets, e-readers and locally developed Kio Kits.

In Uganda, in partnership with National Library of Uganda and Worldreader (an NGO which provides digital reading material to the developing world), we provided e-readers with pre-loaded content to five existing Children’s Corners alongside printed books. Children who were not actively using the library previously are now more engaged with reading and librarians report that the in-built dictionaries make it easier for children to develop their vocabularies.

“The number of children who are visiting the library has shot up from the usual regular users of 30 per day to almost 80 children each day. The children say that the e-readers have nice stories which are very easy to understand and they are able to use the dictionary to find the meaning of new words. Because of this we have started seeing children visiting the library over the weekend, unlike in the past.”

Peter Balaba, Librarian, Nakaseke, Uganda
Supporting education in primary schools

We work through library services such as Tanzania Library Services Board and Malawi National Library Service who distribute books to schools, and also through local NGOs which focus on education, such as Africa Educational Trust in South Sudan and Somalia and Ethiopia Reads – often reaching schools in rural areas or in communities where children are vulnerable.

We encourage librarians in public libraries to run outreach projects to local schools including running a book box library scheme for rural schools such as the one in Gwanda, Zimbabwe or a mobile service such as the bicycle library run by Nambi Sseppuuya Resource Centre in Uganda. These projects not only widen the reach of our books but also encourage children to use the local library.

School outreach in Kenya

In 2015 we provided Book Box Libraries to 200 primary and pre-primary schools in Kibera slum and Murang’a in Kenya. Schools were provided with around 1,000 brand new phonics books and teachers were given training in using these books in the classroom. Around 17,000 children are now learning basic sounds and spellings in English through these simple reading books.

Examples of the books we send to primary schools

| Number of primary schools supported in 2015: | 1,055 |
| Number of primary level books sent in 2015: | 696,264 |
Supporting community schools in Zambia

Rosa Mystica Open Community School, near Lusaka in Zambia, provides free education for vulnerable children who cannot attend a government school. The school received a collection of phonics books from us in 2015 – simple books designed to help children grasp the basics of reading and spelling in English. The teachers help the children spell out and practise new vocabulary, which builds confidence and a reading habit in children from an early age.

“
The books are like money, there can never be enough! We need more because we reach a point where some children have read every book.
”

Naluca, teacher at Rosa Mystica Open Community School

Helping children in remote schools

Children in the Maasai community in Kenya often struggle to make the transition from their local language Maa to English, which is used in school. This year we worked with Africa Educational Trust (AET) in Laikipia County on a project that aims to help 3,900 children improve their reading in English through the use of phonics books. Book Aid International has provided 10,000 brand new books and helped to develop a training package for teacher librarians. 14 new school libraries have now been established by AET and are helping to nurture a culture of reading in schools.

“
The library is very important. I’m really happy. By bringing many books here you’ve really helped this school. I want to say thank you and hope that you continue to help with this school, it has really helped us. Without you there’s nowhere we can go, we just need your help to continue.
”

Victor, student at Rosa Mystica School
Supporting secondary education

We help young people in Africa realise their full potential by providing relevant, up-to-date books for secondary schools.

Books for secondary schools

We supply a large number of secondary schools with new books to support education. The schools we provide with new books must have a designated library space (however small) and a teacher-librarian. Schools receive an average of around 150 books each, depending on the number of students. These books will include study guides, dictionaries and thesauri as well as fiction and non-fiction books to support education.

In 2015 we sent brand new educational books books to 604 secondary schools, providing relevant reading material to support young people’s studies.

Supporting secondary education in Zambia

One example of the way we support secondary schools is through our partner Forum for the Advancement of Women’s Education in Zambia (FAWEZA) which delivers books to a network of secondary schools via a mobile library service. In 2015 we provided 760 brand new secondary level books to FAWEZA for four secondary schools including study guides, dictionaries, atlases and thesauri.

Helping rebuild an education system

In 2015 we supplied books to 42 secondary schools in Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan and Uganda through Africa Educational Trust, which supports schools in remote areas or where formal education has broken down. The books we send help to provide much-needed resources and reading materials in these newly established schools.

Supporting rural schools in Zimbabwe

Some of the schools we support with new books are in rural areas where there is no other access to a library. We work with Rural Libraries and Resources Development Programme (RLRDP), through which we supply brand new books to a network of rural schools in Zimbabwe. RLRDP uses bicycles and donkey carts to distribute books to the most rural schools which cannot be reached by car. RLRDP helps to set up libraries in schools that the whole community can use, enabling adults to continue their education. RLRDP also provides training for teachers so they can ensure children can make the most of the books in the classroom.

Examples of the books we send to secondary schools
Supporting public libraries with educational books

In many places where we work secondary level education is neither compulsory nor free and often there are not enough secondary school places. We supply secondary level books as well as academic or technical and vocational books to public and community libraries so people can continue to improve their knowledge and skills throughout life.

In Ethiopia we supported our partner Ethiopian Knowledge and Technology Transfer Society (EKTTS) to establish new public libraries in six regional locations including Jimma and Assosa. We sent each of these libraries 5,000 new books, many of which are secondary and higher education level texts to support education outside of formal institutions.

“If it wasn’t for you, where would we be? It’s impossible to put into words what the library has done for our performance.”

Mrs Ndlovu, English Teacher at Inyathi Secondary School, Zimbabwe

“I would like to thank you all as the books have helped us by improving our vocabularies, enhancing our imaginative skills and opening our eyes to a new world!”

Yasmin, Grade 9, Zambia

Case study: Owen’s story

Owen is 16 and he attends Gwanda High School in Zimbabwe. When he was 12 he learned to read properly in the Edward Ndlovu Memorial Library in Gwanda. Although Owen had been taught to read in school, he wasn’t confident in his reading and it was slowing him down in class.

The library ran a reading club where a group of young people would read a book per week. They would take a book home on Fridays and read it and on Tuesdays they would come back together and discuss what they’d read to ensure they had understood it.

“Things got easier for me in school once I could read better, especially writing compositions and answering questions in English.”

After his membership of the reading club, Owen went from 23rd in his class at school to 7th. “Even now I’m in secondary school I am still one of the best students in my class.”
Helping young adults to shape their own futures

We help students and young professionals to excel in their studies by providing brand new educational books for higher education institutions. The books we supply are often unavailable to buy or unaffordable for many institutions.

Books for higher education

The higher education sector in sub-Saharan Africa is expanding rapidly, driven by higher enrolments at primary and secondary school and increasing competition for skilled employment. But this expansion is often not matched by an adequate budget for book purchase.

To help meet this need we supplied 94,041 up-to-date, high-quality books to support higher education in universities in 2015. These books go to a diverse range of institutions offering a variety of qualifications such as the University of Addis Ababa in Ethiopia and Kyambogo University in Uganda and colleges and training institutions such as the Higher Institute of Hospitality and Hotel Management in Bamenda, Cameroon, Dowa Teacher’s Training College in Malawi and the College of Business Education in Mwanza, Tanzania.

These books include core texts on law, teaching training materials, IT manuals and textbooks on engineering, business and accounting.

322 libraries in higher education institutions (excluding medical and healthcare institutions) received books from us in 2015.

Case study: Bindura University

In January 2015, flash floods hit the Astra Campus of the Bindura University of Science Education in Zimbabwe. They destroyed the science and computer laboratories, lecture halls and staff offices along with the campus library and over 3,000 books – nearly one fifth of its collection.

When Elsevier (part of RELX Group) expanded its support to include donations from its publishing arm in the United States – with exactly the kind of books Bindura University needed – we decided the first shipment should go to Zimbabwe. Students and lecturers welcomed the donation and are now rebuilding a bigger and better library to house the new books.

“It would be challenging for the University to finance the replacement of all the books we lost, so when we heard about the donation from Elsevier, we were very excited. The titles are relevant to the curriculum and they are current.”

Audrey Mhlanga, Librarian, Bindura University of Science Education

Examples of the books we send for higher education

Number of higher education institutions supported in 2015: 322
Books for public and community libraries

Supporting African public libraries

Public libraries are an important resource for the whole community. They are often the only places where children and adults alike have access to books. We partner with large national library services, such as Kenya National Library Service, Malawi National Library Service and Tanzania Library Service Board so that we can reach the millions of people who use public libraries with relevant and useful books. These books range from board books for babies right through to adult fiction, technical and vocational books and books on healthcare in the community. We also work with these national library services to run projects in public libraries such as Children’s Corners and Health Information Hubs.

Supporting communities where books are scarce

Book Aid International also supports a large number of community libraries across Africa. These libraries are often dynamic, vibrant places run by volunteers and are driven by a local vision to improve the lives of their communities by providing a space for reading and study. The books we send to these libraries vary from children’s early readers and adult fiction to books on agriculture to help local farmers improve their practices.

Uganda Community Libraries Association

Uganda Community Libraries Association (UgCLA) was set up in 2007 and now supports a network of around 100 libraries across the country. UgCLA not only provides access to books and a safe space in which people can read and learn, but also runs projects that respond to specific local needs, such as youth-focused projects on sexual health and literacy projects for parents in rural areas. In 2015 we provided over 14,000 books to UgCLA’s libraries.
Community libraries in Mathare slum, Kenya

The Mathare Youth Sports Association (MYSA) is a community development organisation seeking to improve the quality of life within the slums of Mathare, Nairobi. MYSA runs four libraries which were set up to respond to the needs of the community in Mathare, who not only had little or no access to books, but also needed safe spaces for children to read, play and learn when not in school. The libraries are the only ones in the slum communities and provide the only access to books for many of Mathare’s inhabitants. In 2015 we sent MYSA over 8,000 books.

Case study: Florence’s story

Nakaseke is a rural community in Uganda, around 100km from the capital Kampala. Its library is the heart of the community, supplying books, online access and information via radio for the whole community. We supply the library with books for children through to agricultural guides for the local farmers.

“I am a bee farmer in Nakaseke town in Uganda. I am part of the Nakaseke Bee Keeping Project. We started with 10 hives in 2012 and now we have 75. The library has helped us so much, they have many books and information about keeping bees. We’ve been able to improve our knowledge about farming techniques and grow because of the library – we’re able to sell our honey and also products like candles and beeswax. I’ve also found information in the library about organisations who will fund us – last year we sponsored one of our members to go to university to upgrade to a technician level. His expertise is benefiting us all. I come here to help myself, to build up my knowledge. We wouldn’t have taken the step up at the farm without the library.”

Number of public/community libraries supported in 2015: 373

Examples of the books we send to community libraries

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Giving prisoners a second chance through reading

Books can be a vital resource for prisoners. They can provide opportunities for education and skills development which can equip prisoners for life after release. Books also offer prisoners the chance to read for pleasure and to escape their day-to-day life behind bars. Many of our library partners support prisons and in 2015 we supported 35 prison libraries in Ethiopia, Malawi, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe with new books.

We also provide books to African Prisons Project (APP) which works to improve the conditions of prisoners in Uganda. We supply APP with legal books and this helps prisoners to understand their own cases better and at times to seek justice for themselves. Prison staff are also catered for with books on counselling, social work, adult education and law.

Case study: Pascal’s story

Pascal, a prisoner at Luzira Upper Prison in Uganda tells us his story of using the prison library to help with his legal studies. “Despite the lack of online information available to me, studying law behind the prison walls has been made possible by a partnership between African Prisons Project and Book Aid International. Book Aid International sees that the libraries established in our prisons (by APP) are furnished with useful and relevant books. The books which we have received as a donation from Book Aid International include summaries of the different modules we study to help us in our revision. We have also received case books, which are important to every legal student in analysing legal concepts. Besides legal books, we have had access to inspirational books such as Long Walk to Freedom by Nelson Mandela. I have learned from this book never to give up.”

Supporting refugee camps

For the estimated half a million people in two of Kenya’s largest refugee camps, books provide an opportunity for education, skills development and an important escapism from the daily life of the camp. Book Aid International currently provides books to these camps in Kenya through a partnership with Windle Trust which provides education facilities, including libraries, to the camps.

In 2015 we supplied 5,790 books to the libraries in Kakuma and Dadaab camps. These books, ranging from picture books for children to university level textbooks for students and fiction for adults, are often the only way to continue reading and learning within the confines of the camps. Without them, children and young people could grow up without any books at all. For students these books represent a real opportunity for a better life as one of the only options for leaving the camps safely is to acquire a scholarship for a foreign university, something which would be out of reach without a well-stocked library.

Examples of the books we send to prisons

- Earth Democ, Justice, Sustainability and Peace
- Vandana Shiva
- Criminal Law

Number of prison libraries supported in 2015: 35

Number of books to refugee camp libraries in 2015: 5,790
Books for better health

Access to accurate, reliable information is critical in order to deliver medical care and health education. We supply health and medical care books to our library partners in Africa which is made possible through our strong relationships with medical publishers. For many of the libraries we support, these books are an essential resource for health practitioners – from doctors and nurses to community health workers and traditional healers.

The health institutions we support

We provide health and medical care books to a wide variety of institutions from nursing colleges and universities to referral hospitals and small rural clinics. We also provide medical books for public and community libraries so that people outside of the medical professions can access information on health in the community.

Supporting better health education in Somaliland

The semi-autonomous province of Somaliland is now relatively stable following years of civil war in Somalia. A key part of its redevelopment is in health education. In 2015 we were able to arrange a special delivery of 682 medical textbooks for the Edna Adan University Hospital in Somaliland which specialises in maternal health and antenatal care.

Stocking a regional referral hospital library

In 2014 we supported Gulu Regional Referral Hospital to refurbish its library and train library and medical staff in getting the most from the library. In 2015 we supplied over 1,000 brand new medical and healthcare books to Gulu Hospital library to help keep medical knowledge up to date.

“The book donations from Book Aid International have always helped to solve problems regarding acquisition of books because books are very expensive and the shortage is acute.”

Prof Tandi Lwoga, Director of Library Services, Muhimbili University of Health and Applied Sciences, Tanzania.

“I have learned lots from these books and I have been able to perform very well in my studies since I started using the library in 2014. I am very optimistic that in future I will be one of the good doctors.”

Liberatus Paul Rwegchungura, medical student, Tanzania.

Examples of the medical books we send

Number of medical books sent in 2015: 35,250

Number of medical libraries supported in 2015: 91
Developing librarians’ skills

We provide training for our library partners to support our programmes for children and develop local capacity and skills. This is creating a network of librarians across Africa who are highly skilled in working with children and can pass on their expertise to colleagues, thus building local capacity and developing library services for the future.

The training for our Open Doors Children’s Corners programme consists of two three-day courses for librarians and includes modules on creating vibrant library spaces, running reading promotion activities, running outreach programmes and managing the library collection to make it easy for children to explore the books. 73 librarians attended training as part of our Open Doors programme in 2015.

In 2015 we also facilitated an expert training session for librarians from across Africa to build local capacity and expertise. 15 librarians from seven countries gathered in July in Kisumu, Kenya for a five day course to share ideas and learn from one another about being an inspiring children’s librarian. These expert trainers are now passing on their knowledge to their colleagues and this is building a network of expertise which will benefit library users for years to come.

Local training sessions, delivered by librarians who attended the ‘train the trainers’ session in Kisumu have already been delivered in Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

As a result of the training element in the Open Doors programme, reading and library activities are now attracting young readers in Cameroon, Kenya, Malawi, Uganda, Tanzania and Zambia. These activities include storytime, reading competitions, outreach to local schools and familiarisation visits to the library to help children find the books they want independently.

We also provide training to support specific projects, such as training for librarians upgrading libraries in medical institutions, training for teachers in the use of phonics books in the classroom and training for teacher librarians establishing school-based libraries.

Our teacher training in 2015 was to support our School Library in a Box project in rural Tanzania and Zanzibar. Teachers are helped to run and manage their Book Box Library as well as to use the books to maximum effect in the classroom.

Case study: Khumbo’s story

Khumbo Ng’ong’ola, Librarian and Project Manager at Malawi National Library Service, was one of the librarians who attended the ‘train the trainers’ session in Kisumu in July 2015. Since then she and her colleague Laura have run training sessions in inspiring young readers for their colleagues in Malawi.

“Before the project started, they were unsure how to work with children and now they know what to do when children use the library. They know how to support them in their reading, using games and activities, and how to handle challenging behaviour and special needs.

“As a project manager I feel a real sense of achievement in my abilities to manage a demanding but ultimately very rewarding project, and I’m sure I will be able to use the new skills I have learned in my work in the future.”

Number of librarians trained in 2015: 128
Number of teachers trained in 2015: 436
Number of expert trainers: 15
Our fundraising in 2015

We receive no government funding for our work. We rely on the generosity of trusts, foundations, businesses, community organisations, schools and thousands of individuals who support us every year and ensure our work can continue.

In 2015 we continued to receive generous donations from some of our long-term supporters, including the Beit Trust, the Beatrice Laing Trust, the Bernard Sunley Charitable Foundation, the Dulverton Trust, Aggreko, Pearson, the RELX Group and the Clifford Chance Foundation. People’s Postcode Lottery continued their major support of our work in 2015, with donations throughout the year totalling £250,000.

We were also very happy to welcome new supporters, including the British and Foreign School Society. We were delighted to be chosen to take part in the ICAP Annual Charity Day in 2015. ICAP will be supporting Open Doors Children’s Corners in Malawi in 2016.

Individual donors continued to be a vital source of support in 2015, with thousands of people making donations and fundraising on our behalf. Members of our ‘Reverse Book Club’ gave regular gifts totalling more than £445,000 during the year, and major donors made donations to support our project work. Our small group of Community Ambassadors who generously give their time to promote Book Aid International continued their hard work in 2015, supporting community activities and raising our profile in their local areas.

We continued our long-running partnership with World Book Day, with nearly 900 primary, secondary and nursery schools fundraising for Book Aid International on 3rd March. We would like to thank the thousands of teachers, parents and pupils who came together to raise over £115,000 for our work in 2015, and to Pearson, who continued their generous support of our World Book Day activities.

Although we cannot name all of them individually, we would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of the donors who supported us in 2015.

Income breakdown

- Charitable trusts and NGOs: £668,004
- Companies (corporates): £247,819
- Community sources: £136,202
- Individuals: £791,216
- Total voluntary income: £1,843,241
- Activities for generating funds: £11,985
- Investment income: £2,809
- Total cash income: £1,856,035
- Value of donated books: £12,306,409
- Total income (‘Including legacies and Gift Aid’): £14,164,444

Expenditure breakdown

- Total cost of generating funds: £601,695
- Charitable activities:
  - Access to information: £782,973
  - Use of donated books: £9,819,816
  - Training and learning: £147,792
  - Advocacy: £66,353
  - Total cost of charitable activities: £11,418,629
- Governance cost (Pension costs): £90,000
- TOTAL EXPENDITURE: £11,508,629

The books sent were valued at £9,819,816 using our custom-built inventory management system and based on Nielsen Bookscan prices and applying an overall 30% discount from the full RRP to allow for the estimated market discount for 3rd party commercial buyers.
Our partners

Below is a full list of all our overseas partners to whom we sent books directly in 2015. Through our partners, we were able to reach 2,624 libraries in 2015. We couldn’t do this without the continued support, creativity and passion of our partners, and we thank them all for their hard work.

CAMEROON
Education Information Services International

ERITREA
Library & Information Association of Eritrea
Ministry of Education

ETHIOPIA
British Council
CODE Ethiopia
Ethiopian Knowledge and Technology Transfer Society

KENYA
Africa Educational Trust
Kenya Medical Training College
Kenya National Library Service
Maktaba Library of the Year Award
Mathare Youth Sports Association
Windle Trust Dadaab Refugee Camp
Windle Trust Kakuma Refugee Camp

MALAWI
College of Medicine, University of Malawi
Kamuzu College of Nursing
Malawi National Library Service
St John of God College of Medicine

OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES
British Council
Tamer Institute of Community Education

SOMALIA
Africa Educational Trust

SOUTH SUDAN
Africa Educational Trust

TANZANIA
Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences
READ International
State University of Zanzibar
Sumait University
Tanzania Library Services Board
Tanzanian Training Centre for International Health
Voluntary Service Overseas
Zanzibar Library Services

UGANDA
Africa Educational Trust
African Prisons Project
Fortportal International Nursing School
Gulu Regional Referral Hospital
Kyambogo University
National Library of Uganda
Uganda Community Libraries Association

ZAMBIA
Copperbelt University
Educore Services
Forum for African Women Educationalists of Zambia
Lions Club of Mukuuba
University of Zambia. Kitwe Campus
University of Zambia. Lusaka Campus
Zambia Library Service
Zambia Open Community Schools

ZIMBABWE
Bindura University of Science Education
British Council
Bulawayo Book Distribution Committee
Edward Ndlovu Memorial Library
Harare Distribution Committee
National University of Science and Technology
Rural Libraries and Resources Development Programme

Our partners

Patrons, trustees and officials

Patron: HRH The Duke of Edinburgh KG KT OM
President: Nigel Newton
Vice President: Professor Kingo Mchombu

Board:
Chair: Lord Paul Boateng
Honorary Treasurer:
Fergus Cass (retired 22 June 2015)
Ed Bowers (from 22 June 2015)
Trustees:
Fergus Cass (from 22 June 2015)
Julie Brittain (retired 22 June 2015)
Ed Bowers
Rosie Glazebrook
Kate Phillips OBE (retired 22 June 2015)
Shoba Ponnappa
Robert Sulley (appointed 26 March 2015)
Pam Dix (appointed 21 September 2015)
Charly Nobbs (appointed 14 December 2015)

Director and Company Secretary: Alison Tweed
With thanks to…

We are very grateful for all the support we receive, both financial and non-financial. We would like to thank the following supporters in particular as well as those who wish to remain anonymous:

Agency for the Legal Deposit Libraries
Aggreyeko Pic
Amazon
Andersen Press Ltd
Anne Dorst
Anson Charitable Trust
Athaem Press
Alwood Tate
AxeCap
Axel Scheffler
Baker Books
Ballam Rotary Club
Baroness Cathie Ashton
Bates Wells Brabahwale
Bazar International AGBL
Beatrice Lang Trust
Belmond British Pullman
Better World Books
Bloomsbury Publishing
BM TRADA
Book Sellers Association
Brilliant Publications
Centre for Agriculture and Biodiversity International (CABI)
Cambridge Assessment
Cambridge University Press
Celia Mitchell
Coordination Group Publishing (CGP)
Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals
Chartered Institute of Procurement & Supply
Christiania Ierou
Christine Lindop
Clare McGowan
Clifford Chance Foundation
Clive Newton
John S Cohen Foundation
Comparative Research Programme on Poverty
Cressida Cowell
Critical Publishing
Daff Publishers
David and Eleanor Holloway
David Greaves
David Nichols
David White
De La Rue Charitable Trust
Desert Winds Publishing
Dischma Charitable Trust
Doggett's Coat and Badge
Donald Main
Dr Peter Cooke
Dulwich and Sydenham Hill Golf Club
Eclipse
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Elvествer
Encyclopaedia Britannica
Emil Fookes
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Experience Days
F C Burgess Sunday Appeal Fund
Facet Publishing
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Goat Restaurant, Chelsea
Golden Guides Press
Goodwood Festival of Speed
Hachette Children’s Books
Hachette Partworks
Hachette UK
Hallcyon International School
Harper Collins Publishers
Helen Esmonde, Immediate Past Master of the Stationers’ Company
Hodder Education
Hope Road Publishing
HRH The Duke of Edinburgh KG KT OM
ICAP
Imperial Tobacco
Indreyst Kaur
Insinkwaks
Inspired Selection
International African Institute
International Monetary Fund
Islamic International Publications
J P Medical
James Mayhew
Joanna Lumley OBE FRGS
JGW Partnership Ltd
John Simpson CBE
Jonathan Dimbleby
Judith Kay
Ken Fodell
Kerry Hudson
Kimberley Moon
Kindred Books
Kirsten Grant and the World Book Day Committee
Learning & Work Institute (formerly NACE)
Letterbox Library
Lettermen books
London Book Fair
Lonely Planet
Lorna Liverpool
M Adam
Macmillan Publishers
Mariefa Treegroth
Martin Woodcock
Mercury Phoenix Trust
Michael O’Mara Books
Michael Palin CBE FRGS
Mike Blake
Miles Kelly Publishing
Miles Morland Foundation
Mills & Boom
Moonlites Print & Publishing
Murdoch London
Mutuma Marangu and the J.P. & L.T. Marangu Family
Myriad Editions
National Book Tokens
National Library of Wales
New Africa Books
Nicolete Jones
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Oxford University Press
P F Charitable Trust
Patrick George Publishers
Paul Latham
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Pearson UK
Penelope Lively
Penguin Random House
People’s Postcode Lottery
Peter Goodman
Peter McKay
Peter Waller
Peters Books & Furniture
Phaidon
Pharmaceutical Press
Phil Allan Magazines
Philip Walters MBE
Phonic Books Ltd
Policy Press
Polly Courtney
Portman Press
Practical Preschool Books
Profile Books
Ragged Bears Ltd
Random House Library Archive
RELX Group
Richard Lloyd Jones
Rising Starr
Robert Farrer-Brown
Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists
Royal Institute of British Architects
RS Donley
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Sally Gardiner
Sally Green
Sandlaker UK
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School of Oriental and African Studies
Schroder Charity Trust
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Shraz Durrani
Sibell Foundation
Souter Charitable Trust
Stavros Niarchos Foundation
Steam Dreams
Susanna Peake Charitable Trust
Sven Erik Jorgensen
Taylor & Francis Group
Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Co-operation (CTA)
Ted’s Grooming Room
The 29th May 1936 Charitable Trust
The Bell Trust
The Bernard Sunley Charitable Foundation
The Book Trade Charity
The Brian Mitchell Charitable Settlement
The British and Foreign School Society
The British Library
The Bryan Guinness Charitable Trust
The Dulverton Trust
The Equitable Charitable Trust
The Family of Martin Gilbert
The Folio Society
The Fulmer Charitable Trust
The Henry and Rebecca Tinsley Charitable Trust
The Inchcape Foundation
The Law Society Charity
The London Golf Show
The O’Brien Press Ltd
The Office of Gordon and Sarah Brown
The Psychologist
The Publishers Association
The Reading Agency
The Rhododendron Trust
The Royal Opera House
The Royal Society
The Sanderson Family
The Trollope Society
The Willoughby Book Club
The World Bank
Treasury Books
Toubador Publishing Ltd
Unwin Charitable Trust
Usborne Children’s Books
Wacky Bee
Walker Books Ltd
Wiley
Wolters Kluwer
Worshipful Company of Stationers and Newspaper Makers
Worshipful Company of Tylers and Bricklayers
Writers & Artists
Zed Books
Zurich Community Trust IUK Ltd

We would also like to express our heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers who have supported our work throughout the year – in our warehouse, at our events, in our office and in their local communities.

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