Welcome to our new-look Annual Report which reflects on the successes and challenges of 2017.

At Book Aid International we know that books change lives. Our vision is a world where everyone, whatever their circumstances, has access to the books they need. We believe that if this vision of a book-rich world were fully realised we would see transformational change: for individuals, for communities and for nations.

In 2017 the 938,330 brand new books we sent reached public, school and community libraries. They reached prisons, hospitals and refugee camps in even the remotest and most disadvantaged communities: places where people would otherwise have very little opportunity to read.

But we recognise that this is a small contribution to a much greater need. In 2017 we developed our Vision 2020: Where Books Change Lives strategy, setting ourselves the target of sending 1.5 million books a year by 2020 and reaching even more people around the world who currently have little or no access to books. In this strategy, we are committing in particular to ensuring that the books we send reach the people who face the greatest barriers to reading and learning.

When we talk to our beneficiaries they tell us how much they value the high-quality, relevant books we send. For these books we have British publishers to thank: their generous donations of wonderful new books are appreciated around the world.

Our work is all about partnership: with publishers, with our inspiring library and NGO partners, and with all of those who support our work. Without these partnerships, millions of people around the world would not have access to the new books they need.

So to all of you who support us I say: thank you very much and do please keep supporting us as we continue our much-needed work.
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[www.bookaid.org](http://www.bookaid.org)
The need for books

Millions of people live in a world without books. They cannot afford to buy books for their homes and in schools many pupils must share tattered textbooks.

Libraries often have only a few out-of-date books and cannot afford to buy the new books that will inspire people to read. Even universities and hospitals often lack the funding to purchase reference and text books that their students need to learn.

Without easy access to books children cannot learn to read, pupils are less able to succeed in education, adults cannot find the information to help them build a more prosperous future and everyone is denied the simple pleasure of reading.

Improved levels of literacy and easier access to information could transform the lives of millions. UNESCO’s 2016 Education for All Global Monitoring Report estimates that if all pupils worldwide left school with basic reading skills 171 million people could be lifted out of poverty.

Books are a key part of making this positive change possible.

"There is a hunger"

Many of the people who read the books we send are quick to tell us that people in their communities want to read and value the new books we provide.

“We have a problem in Malawi. People want to read but they cannot afford to get books.

But there is a hunger, especially in the rural areas, for materials to read. If you go to the rural areas, most of the time you are greeted, ‘have you brought anything for us to read?’

They don’t have any literature in that area – the disposable income is not available.

It is not fair to judge reading culture by saying ‘people are not buying books’ – it is actually that they cannot afford them. The potential is right here – there is that hunger to read a book.”

Alfred, President of the Book Publishers’ Association of Malawi
At Book Aid International, our vision is a world where everyone has access to books that will enrich, improve and change their lives.

To make our vision a reality, we provide books, resources and training to support an environment in which reading for pleasure, study and lifelong learning can flourish.

Providing books: access for all

Every year we send around one million carefully selected books to thousands of public and community libraries, schools, refugee camps, hospitals, universities and prisons. All the books we send are brand new, recent editions donated by the UK publishing industry. By supporting libraries, we make books available to all without discrimination, ensuring that each book impacts as many people as possible.

Our network of partners includes libraries, schools, NGOs and community-based organisations. We send only books that our partners need and our team here in the UK selects the most appropriate books on a request basis. Our partners then distribute the books we send to a wide range of organisations, reaching people of all ages and backgrounds.

Running projects: investing in readers

As well as providing books, we offer innovative projects and programmes that create inspirational spaces for children in public and community libraries, provide much-needed Book Box Libraries in schools and train librarians and teachers in how to support young readers and run effective libraries.

Many of our projects focus on pupils and students. For example, Inspiring Readers increases children’s access to books in primary schools and Study Hubs ensures that secondary school students have the resources they need when approaching exams. We also run programmes which focus on creating welcoming spaces for children in public libraries, including the integration of e-books wherever possible, such as our Children’s Corners and Book Havens programmes.

Whatever its size or scope, each project aims to create sustainable impact through building local capacity, thus enabling long-term change.

A vision for the future

In 2017, we launched our Vision 2020: Where Books Change Lives strategy and committed to sending books to the people who face the greatest barriers to accessing the books they need throughout and beyond Africa.

We are focusing on providing books for displaced people and those living in fragile states, children learning in poorly resourced schools, learners in the community, healthcare providers, educators and students and those excluded through imprisonment, discrimination or marginalisation.

Our values

In all we do, we are guided by our core values:

• **Equality.** Everyone deserves the opportunity to read, whatever their circumstances.

• **Quality.** No one should have to make do with old, out-of-date books.

• **Sustainability.** Change must be sustainable in the long term.

• **Collaboration.** Partnership is vital to ensuring that books are available to all and meet communities’ real needs.
2017 in numbers

An estimated **32 million** people have access to the books we sent in 2017

We reached readers in

- **801** public and community libraries
- **1,911** primary and secondary schools
- **287** university libraries
- **25** refugee camps
- **184** medical libraries
- **22** prison libraries

The books we provided

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children and primary</td>
<td>443,656</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development</td>
<td>51,895</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English language skills</td>
<td>80,586</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher education</td>
<td>42,632</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leisure reading</td>
<td>112,507</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicine and health care</td>
<td>53,462</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reference and secondary</td>
<td>109,920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vocational, technical and business</td>
<td>43,672</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Where we sent books in 2017

- **938,330** books provided
- **39,186** local books purchased
- **75** Book Box school libraries established
- **607** librarians and teachers trained
- **25** libraries refurbished
- **86** library, NGO, school and government partners

2,119 books went to other countries
Easy access to books creates opportunities for people from all walks of life to enrich and improve their lives and we are committed to ensuring that as many people as possible have the books they need.

Books in public and community libraries are available to all, but we recognise that some people need additional support to access books.

That is why in 2017 we launched our Vision 2020 and committed to reaching out to people who face huge barriers to reading, whether through displacement, discrimination, poverty or imprisonment.

Over the course of the year, we provided books to seven new countries and 30 new partners serving refugees, marginalised communities and some of the world’s most poorly resourced schools.

The rest of this section describes our work reaching out to displaced people and those affected by conflict, to poorly resourced schools, to healthcare providers and educators, to people learning in their communities and to people facing discrimination and isolation.

Reaching displaced people and those living in fragile states

Books offer refugees and people affected by conflict the chance to continue learning and to escape the challenges of day-to-day life.

Last year, we worked with NGOs supporting refugees in transit camps in southern Europe, many fleeing Syria’s devastating war. We sent more than 6,000 books for informal libraries in camps, for their schools and even for mobile libraries moving between camps.

We also continued to support the long-term residents of Kenya’s two largest refugee camps, Kakuma and Dadaab, providing thousands of books for Kakuma’s community library and for secondary school libraries in both camps.

People who are living with the consequences of conflict also need access to books, and in 2017 we sent a shipment of 3,608 higher education, English language and teacher training books to South Sudan, which has experienced years of conflict and instability since independence in 2011. We also provided higher education books for students in Mogadishu, Somalia, where violence continues to be a daily reality.
Enriching children’s education

Books in schools are essential as they put vital information at students’ fingertips, helping them learn to read and succeed in school.

In 2017, the books we sent reached 1,911 primary and secondary school libraries where pupils would otherwise have no reading books at all and only a few textbooks. These books ranged from beautiful picture books selected to encourage reluctant young readers to children’s non-fiction on topics such as science. They will all help pupils improve their reading and get excited about learning.

2017 also saw the expansion of our school library programme, Inspiring Readers. The programme aims to bring reading into the classrooms of 250,000 African primary school pupils by creating small Book Box Libraries and training teachers in how to bring books to life in their classrooms.

Over the course of the year, we worked closely with schools in Kenya, Malawi and Uganda to set up 75 school libraries, bringing the total number of school libraries created to date through the programme to 175. In total, 71,560 children have books in their classrooms and 224 teachers have been trained in how to use books to enrich their teaching.

The books from Book Aid International have been distributed all over the country and children in the most marginalised and remote areas now have access to books. Pass rates at schools have improved.

Jackson Ndlovu, Edward Ndlovu Memorial Library, Zimbabwe

Reaching learners in the community

For people who did not have the chance to complete their education, books provide an essential opportunity to read and learn.

We work with many volunteer groups, local NGOs and community organisations that provide vital opportunities for people to continue learning, gain new skills or simply to discover the joy of reading by running community libraries. These libraries often serve people who cannot easily access a public library or mainstream education.

In Ethiopia, we sent 19,879 books to a network of 21 community libraries run by local NGO CODE Ethiopia. These books included vocational books and English language books that will contribute to life-long learning for the entire community.

In 2017 we also sent our first shipment of books to Rwanda. Many of the 31,000 books we provided now stock the shelves of Rwanda’s thriving network of community libraries.

These libraries are run by NGOs and many are located in youth and sport centres where young people gather. The inspiring local people who run these community libraries are using the books we provide to help young people learn English and develop a love of reading.

Enjoying reading donated books at CODE’s Sheno Community Library, Ethiopia

A teacher using donated books in his lessons in a Zambian Community School
Providing information for healthcare professionals, educators and students

Books ensure that practising professionals can make decisions with current research and medical students can learn the most up-to-date techniques.

Medical books are often difficult or impossible to find in the countries where we work as there are few bookshops and those that are there often do not stock current books. Where they are available, medical texts are often simply too expensive for local universities and hospitals to purchase.

In 2017, we provided brand new medical texts to 184 hospitals and medical colleges in 15 countries. These books are particularly valuable in places such as the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Somalia and Eritrea where there are very few books available.

These books will help to ensure that patients receive the best possible care as their doctors, nurses, midwives and dentists will all be able to use the most up-to-date information when making critical decisions.

Supporting excluded or disadvantaged people

Books have a special role to play for those who have been excluded from opportunities to learn because of disability, imprisonment or discrimination.

For people facing exclusion, books offer a window into new opportunities and hope for the future. Many libraries, schools and NGOs around the world use the brand new books we provide in their work supporting readers with special needs.

In 2017 we made special donations of Braille books in Kenya. We also donated Braille books to the Dorothy Duncan Library for the Blind in Zimbabwe.

We also continued our commitment to providing books for prison libraries. These books will enable prisoners to continue their education and prepare for release while helping them cope with the experience of incarceration. We supplied general fiction, study guides and legal texts to 22 prison libraries in six countries, including Zambia.

“Having a library in the correctional facilities has given the inmates the possibility of increasing their level of knowledge or just starting to receive an education for the first time in their life.”

Gianclaudio Bizzotto, Country Representative, Zambian NGO CELIM
The impact of our work

Through our work we aim to give as many people as possible access to the transformational change books make possible. Our Theory of Change summarises the impact that our work has and how we help children succeed in education, give adults new opportunities and help create tomorrow’s leaders.

**Theory of Change summary**

**WHAT WE DO**
- Support and train librarians and teachers
- Source and send books
- Provide grants for library refurbishment and local book purchase

**RESULTING IN**
- Teachers teach more effectively and use books to enhance learning
- Libraries are well stocked and managed in schools, universities, public and community libraries, refugee camps and other locations
- Libraries are safe and attractive spaces for reading, learning and community activities
- Librarians are confident, promote reading and support readers
- Community members use local libraries for reading and learning
- Everyone – including refugees and marginalised people – can access information

**LEADING TO**
- Children learn to value and enjoy reading, improving their levels of education
- Adults can improve their knowledge and skills, earning more and managing that income
- Higher level students and professionals can access wider opportunities for self-improvement

**The impact of children’s books**

In 2017, we worked with library partners in five countries to open 22 Children’s Corners: vibrant, child-friendly spaces full of brand-new books where young readers will be inspired to read. Six of these were funded by the Stavros Niarchos Foundation. The project also provided 200 tablets full of e-books to five Children’s Corners.

28,520 children have access to the 22 Children’s Corners we opened in 2017.

“In Sierra Leone there is a book famine for many of our children. Few families have the means to purchase books. The need is even greater now because Sierra Leone is still in the recovery period after Ebola. In the long term, we hope to see a growing reading culture as librarians use their new expertise to do outreach activities with schools in their areas. This in turn will improve literacy and support efforts to rebuild after the Ebola crisis.”

Sallieu Turay, Chief Librarian, Sierra Leone Library Board
Our impact on children

Children who develop a love of reading early are more likely to succeed in education and throughout their lives. By supporting children, our work can have the maximum possible impact in the long-term.

In 2017, the books we provided had a clear impact on children in primary schools, secondary schools and on those reading in libraries located in slum communities.

We found that access to books encouraged children to read more, improved their academic performance and increased young readers’ confidence.

Increasing reading in slum communities

Children in Nairobi’s Mathare and Kibera slum communities have few opportunities to discover books and improve their life chances. They live in crowded communities with few public services and crime, gangs and drug use are daily realities.

In 2017, we worked with the Kenya National Library Service and local NGO The Mathare Youth Sports Association to create Book Havens in three slum libraries, producing beautiful children’s books, local books, murals, child-sized furniture and inviting book displays. We also trained librarians in how to support young readers. After the Book Havens opened we saw several key changes:

More children are visiting all three libraries. The refurbishment has made the libraries more inviting for children and more children are drawn in to see the colourful murals on the wall and read the new books.

Children are reading more. Newly trained librarians are more able to help children discover books and begin to read. All three libraries have reported that children are reading more in the library and borrowing more books.

A librarian puts her new skills to work introducing children to reading in a slum library in Nairobi, Kenya

276% increase in the average number of books read every month

The staff offer direction. They helped me prepare for my interview for my new school by giving me all the books to revise and refer to as I prepared. It was because of them that I got 431 marks out of 500 in the exam I was given in the new school.”

Kelly, 13 year old Book Haven user
Enriching primary schools

In 2017, we looked at the impact of the first 25 Inspiring Readers Book Box Libraries which opened in Kenya in 2015.

We found that having books in classrooms combined with teachers who had the skills to bring those books to life had resulted in two key outcomes:

**Improved academic performance.** Across the board, teachers noted an improvement in children’s reading fluency and confidence, and this has improved performance in other subjects.

Results from Muringato Primary School, shown below, are typical of the changes in pass rates:

- **7% increase in science exam pass rate after just one year**

**New-found confidence.** Perhaps even more significantly, children report feeling more confident, more able to take steps towards a brighter future and a new love of books.

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Reaching secondary school pupils

Passing exams is critical for young people’s futures and many students use their libraries to revise. But all too often those libraries lack the books students need and librarians do not have the skills to support exam takers.

In 2017, we created 16 Study Hubs in Zambian public libraries and schools where pupils would find revision books, textbooks, a study guide and librarians who had received training in how to guide them. As a result:

- **Pupils are using their libraries more.** Visits to the 16 Study Hubs to utilise the materials have increased from 4,512 to 18,485 a month.
- **310% increase in the average monthly visits to the Study Hubs**

**Pupils are approaching exams confidently.** Across the board, students reported being able to find what they needed in the donated books and feeling more prepared for their exams.

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“At the beginning, I was given two lower primary books and from then on I have never stopped reading. I was able to convince pupils to give me votes to be the Head Boy because I can now communicate well in English.”

Joseph, Class 7 School Head Boy, Getembe Primary School, Kenya

“The book AQA Maths really helped for the exam. Calculus was not done in class but was in the exam. Because I read it from the book in the Study Hub, I was able to answer the question on the exam.”

Orance, Year 12 Study Hub user, Zambia
All adults should have easy access to information that can help them learn new skills and create new opportunities for the future.

Last year, we sent thousands of vocational books, English language learning books, technical guides and how-to guides to all of the 20 countries we supported. Each of these books will have a direct impact on the people who read them by helping them gain new language and practical skills.

In Kenya a group of adults also made use of some of the books we sent with younger readers in mind, with unexpected results.

**Learning to read at 60**

Chesengoch is a tiny, remote village in Kenya’s vast Great Rift Valley. The area is rugged with steep cliffs and poor roads and most people lead a simple pastoral lifestyle. Poverty and illiteracy levels are high.

Chesengoch is part of our *Inspiring Readers* programme, so the local schools are fortunate to have brand new books in their classrooms.

When parents and grandparents saw children coming home reading, they also saw an opportunity to improve their own reading. So they demanded support from government to fund an adult education teacher and began improving their own literacy using the *Inspiring Readers* books.

Some, like 60-year-old Florence, below, even learned to read for the first time. Florence left school when she was seven to help out on her family’s farm. Before the class began, she could not even write her name. Now she is literate, and being able to read has transformed her life.

“I joined the class so I could learn to read and write. Now I can read prices, so I get a fair price when shopping and I can use a mobile phone!”

Florence, 60-year-old adult learner, Lagam, Kenya
Our impact on professionals

No student or professional should be forced to learn from out-of-date information, yet that is the reality for millions around the world.

In 2017, we continued our work providing the books lawyers, teachers, professionals in all fields, higher education students and healthcare providers require.

The impact of new medical texts

The medical books we send improve the care that individual healthcare providers can offer and contribute directly to the education of the next generation of healthcare professionals.

In Sierra Leone, the Nixon Memorial Hospital trains over 75% of nurses for Sierra Leone’s Eastern region, yet it had so few books and teaching materials that it was threatened with closure because it did not offer sufficient resources for trainee nurses.

Today, the hospital remains open thanks in large part to the 1,000 brand new medical books we provided in 2017. These books are providing the up-to-date information that trainee nurses require to earn their qualifications.

Educating the next generation of teachers

Teachers have a direct impact on every nation’s young people, but all too often their skills are out of date.

The 21,882 brand new teacher training books we provided in 2017 will help to create the next generation of highly skilled and qualified teachers, ensuring the pupils of the future receive a high standard of education.

The books will also support practising teachers who rely on them to find new ideas, enrich their teaching and keep their skills up to date.

Many elementary and junior school teachers in Eritrea are not qualified and thus lack knowledge in how to handle a classroom. The new books are therefore helpful in order to fill the gap.

Gebrenegus Berhane Engda, National School Library Coordinator, Eritrea

One midwife’s story

Malawian midwife Fikanayo has used books we provided at every stage of her education, from primary school right through to the books she uses today while studying for her PhD in community healthcare. She explained how books help her provide care.

“Working as a midwife in Malawi – especially in the remote area where I work – it is like you are the obstetrician, the gynaecologist, the anaesthetist, the paediatrician. You have to manage the baby, the mother and the pregnant women at the same time. You are manning the antenatal clinic, you are in charge in the labour ward and the nursery. There are times that you are not sure what to do! For instance, you might have a lady in labour who has a condition you have never come across.

A book does wonders because you can look and see how you can go about something. If the books were not here it would have been very hard. The Internet might tell you something but books are better. They give you more information.”

Fikanayo studying from donated books in the Blantyre College of Medicine Library in Malawi
2017 financial overview

We receive no government grants; all the income we receive is from voluntary donations. In 2017 our total income was £9,960,744, of which £2,036,333 was cash income and £7,924,411 the value of the books donated to us by UK publishers.

Total expenditure was £11,999,144, of which £1,699,095 was cash expenditure and £10,300,049 the value of the donated books we sent to partners around the world.

Cash income and expenditure

We are supported by a wide range of funders: individuals who donate through regular and one-off gifts, trusts that make single and multi-year grants, schools that fundraise on World Book Day and corporate partners who help fund our projects.

In 2017 we received cash income of £2,036,333 (just below the 2016 level of £2,168,791). Of this total, 56.5% was unrestricted income that we used to fund our core activity of providing books around the world and 43.5% was income restricted to projects including Children’s Corners and Inspiring Readers.

Our total cash income in 2017 fell compared to 2016, which was boosted by two unusually high legacy gifts. However, 2017’s income was boosted by generous support from players of People’s Postcode Lottery, by legacies and by schools across the UK who gave more on World Book Day than ever before.

Cash expenditure in 2017 was £1,699,095, which was invested in the cost of sending books, implementing projects, running our organisation and raising funds to support our work.

Reserves policy

We maintain sufficient unrestricted cash reserves to ensure that we can deliver our planned commitments in the event of unforeseen financial challenges. The minimum level of reserves we must hold are agreed by our Board of Trustees and monitored regularly. In 2017 that level was £450,000 and we ended the year with £528,020 in free reserves thanks to a generous unrestricted legacy.

For more information on our finances, including our full audited accounts, visit www.bookaid.org.
In-kind donations

In 2017 we received donations of books valued at £7,924,411, significantly lower than in 2016, when the total value of the books we received was just over £13 million. This higher figure in 2016 was due to the large number of medical and higher education textbooks we received. Many of these high-value books were retained for use in 2017.

As a result, while the total value of the books received in 2017 was lower than in 2016, the value of the books we sent in 2017 remained stable, at £10,300,049, against £10,550,433 in 2016.

The following table demonstrates our total income and expenditure in the past three years, including books, showing how cash income has remained relatively stable since 2015 while the value of the books we received has fluctuated.

How our income and expenditure have changed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>INCOME</th>
<th>EXPENDITURE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BOOKS IN</td>
<td>CASH INCOME</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>£7,924,411</td>
<td>£10,300,049</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>£13,291,621</td>
<td>£10,550,433</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>£12,306,409</td>
<td>£9,819,816</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How we spend every pound

In 2017, 95p in every pound of our total expenditure (including the value of donated books) supported the costs of providing books and other charitable activities. We are proud of our efficiency and continue to seek ways of ensuring all the gifts we receive have the greatest possible impact on the people who benefit from our work.

86p
Use of donated books

9p
Training, projects and other charitable activities

5p
Raising funds

If you remove the value of donated books used, in every pound of cash expenditure we spent 33p on raising funds, 66p on training, projects and other charitable activities and 1p on governance.

In 2017, we spent a total of £9,828 on governance – less than 1p in every pound of expenditure
Our supporter community

We are proud to be supported by a wide range of individuals, companies, trusts, foundations, publishers, book sellers and authors.

Growing support from individuals

In 2017, more than 5,000 individuals supported us through monthly donations, and many more made a one-off gift to support our work. We also received several larger gifts from individuals to support specific projects as well as £131,789 in legacy income. In total, our generous individual donors gave £989,914, almost half of our total income.

Building trust and corporate partnerships

Our long-standing relationships with our trust and corporate partners are vital to funding our projects and programmes, particularly Inspiring Readers and Children’s Corners. In 2017, 39 trusts provided £784,686 and corporate partners gave £101,982.

We were pleased to continue our ongoing relationships with companies such as Aggreko while forging new partnerships, becoming Blackwell’s Charity of the Year.

In 2017 new trust funders, including the Thomas Cook Children’s Charity, joined our long-term trust supporters which included players of People’s Postcode Lottery, the Stavros Niarchos Foundation, The Dulverton Trust, The Beatrice Laing Trust and The Beit Trust.

Our book donors

Our work is only possible thanks to the generosity of British publishers, authors and booksellers who donate the brand new books that we send. In 2017, a total of 89 publishers donated the books we sent to our partners.

“
We’ve supported Book Aid International for many years now and are always impressed by how tirelessly they work to help people access books and educational resources, even in some of the hardest-to-reach parts of the world.

Rachel Goode, Group Communications Director, Oxford University Press

The people who support us in their communities

Every year on World Book Day, schools, families and individuals fundraise to help us send books around the world.

2017 was our most successful World Book Day fundraising campaign ever, with more than £140,000 raised. From penny collections in nursery schools to dressing up as a favourite book character in primary school to book sales in university libraries, more than 1,000 schools, nurseries, libraries, community groups and individuals across the UK took part.

Their generosity has enabled us to send thousands of books to those who need them most.

Our supporter promise

We hold ourselves to the highest standards when it comes to our supporters. We believe that fundraising should be a positive experience for all potential and existing donors.

Our Supporter Promise commits us to treating our supporters with respect, communicating with them honestly and by their preferred method and always respecting their privacy.

Read our full supporter promise: www.bookaid.org/aboutus/our-supporters/our-supporter-promise/
Our inspiring volunteers

Our work is supported by our team of dedicated volunteers in our warehouse.

Over the course of 2017 we had on average 13 volunteers at any one time working on a rota basis preparing books in our warehouse for shipping. Many of our volunteers have been with us for many years.

In 2017 we marked the retirement of our longest-serving volunteer, Jean, who volunteered with us for more than 20 years. Over the course of her time as a volunteer she has packed many thousands of books and has made an extraordinary contribution to our work. We would like to extend a very warm thank you to Jean for all her work and we wish her well in her retirement.

“Choosing to dedicate at least one day a week contributing what I can to support Book Aid International was a quick and easy decision to reach. I found myself inspired by the work done by the organisation to support and equip libraries and librarians in Africa. I also share Book Aid International’s belief that books have the power to change lives.

Portia, Book Aid International volunteer

One teacher’s perspective

Bay House School is one of the schools which fundraised for us on World Book Day 2017.

The school’s learning resource assistant, Karen, spoke about what including Book Aid International in their celebrations means to them:

“We fundraise for Book Aid International as part of our World Book Day celebrations because we believe every person should have access to books.

In the run-up to World Book Day we show our pupils Book Aid International videos to highlight the disparity between our library and other libraries around the world and every year pupils are stunned at how lucky they are.

This then spurs them on to help make sure every person is as lucky as them!”

Photo right: A bake sale at Canon Slade School, one of over 1,000 schools to join in the World Book Day fundraising activities

A few of our long-term volunteers with Jean, second from the left, on her last day of volunteering

Portia, Book Aid International volunteer

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Photo right: A bake sale at Canon Slade School, one of over 1,000 schools to join in the World Book Day fundraising activities

A few of our long-term volunteers with Jean, second from the left, on her last day of volunteering

Portia, Book Aid International volunteer

One teacher’s perspective

Bay House School is one of the schools which fundraised for us on World Book Day 2017.

The school’s learning resource assistant, Karen, spoke about what including Book Aid International in their celebrations means to them:

“We fundraise for Book Aid International as part of our World Book Day celebrations because we believe every person should have access to books.

In the run-up to World Book Day we show our pupils Book Aid International videos to highlight the disparity between our library and other libraries around the world and every year pupils are stunned at how lucky they are.

This then spurs them on to help make sure every person is as lucky as them!”

Photo right: A bake sale at Canon Slade School, one of over 1,000 schools to join in the World Book Day fundraising activities

A few of our long-term volunteers with Jean, second from the left, on her last day of volunteering

Portia, Book Aid International volunteer
Towards a better future

In 2018 and beyond we will work to ensure that we give as many people as possible the opportunity to access the transformational change that books can bring.

As part of our Vision 2020 strategy we have set ourselves clear targets against which we will measure our achievements and performance.

Throughout the period we will continue to develop the monitoring and evaluation processes which measure the impact of our work, so that we can better understand and improve the contribution our work makes to developing more literate, book-rich communities.

**By 2020, we plan to be sending over 1.5 million books every year to those who need them most.** In 2018 we will invest in and scale up our operational base in London to meet this higher target.

We will assess need in new countries and will establish a range of dynamic new partnerships that enable us to reach and support communities with no books. And we will aim to donate at least 35% of the books we send to the people around the world who face the greatest barriers to reading and learning.

*We want to see everyone able to access books for pleasure, for study and for lifelong learning.*

By 2020, we aim to be supporting more than 250,000 primary pupils through our schools outreach programme *Inspiring Readers*. We also aim to reach out to more of the world’s most poorly resourced schools, providing books in the classrooms of students who would otherwise have only a few tattered textbooks.

*We want to see these children reading confidently and doing better in school.*

**We will also continue to promote and advocate for the value and importance of reading.** We will continue to support libraries however small, train librarians and fund activities to promote reading.

*We want libraries to be vibrant places that are well-resourced, well-used by their communities and able to offer everyone the opportunity to discover books and begin to read.*

In all that we do our strategic principles will guide our work. We will work in places where there is strong demand for books in English, with dynamic partners who can articulate what their communities need and develop innovative projects. And we will work toward a future where everyone, whatever their circumstances, has the books they need.

**Books where they’re needed most**

We know that books have the greatest power to change lives when they reach marginalised and vulnerable people.

The words of one nine-year-old Syrian refugee who reads the books we provided remind us of the power of books:

“I like it when the teacher takes us to the library to read. I forget about the war and that I live in a tent.”

Moving forward, we will seek to increase the books we provide to refugees who would otherwise have few or no chances to read.

Together, we can reach those who need books most in 2018 and beyond.

Syrian refugee children enjoy story time with donated books in Lebanon
Below is a full list of all our overseas partners to whom we sent books directly in 2017. Through our partners, we were able to reach more than 3,200 libraries. We could not do this without the continued support, creativity and passion of our partners and we thank them all for their hard work.

**Antigua**
- Ministry of Education
- National Public Library of Antigua and Barbuda

**Cameroon**
- Education Information Services International

**Eritrea**
- Ministry of Education
- Library & Information Association

**Ethiopia**
- British Council
- CODE Ethiopia
- Ethiopia Reads
- Ethiopia Knowledge and Technology Transfer Society
- Arbagona Primary School
- Jesuit Refugee Service

**Gambia**
- Switched On-Gambia

**Ghana**
- Rainbow Trust Foundation
- Principal’s College

**Greece**
- Drop in the Ocean
- Hero Centre
- Echo Centre
- Metadrasi
- InterVolve

**Kenya**
- AMREF Health Africa
- Kenya Medical Training College
- Kenya National Library Service
- Lewa Wildlife Conservancy
- Library of the Year Award
- Mathare Youth Sports Association
- Thika Community Library
- Windle Trust Dadaab Refugee Camp
- Windle Trust Kakuma Refugee Camp
- Kenya Medical Training College
- Generation for Change and Development
- Lutheran World Services Dadaab
- Lutheran World Services Kakuma
- St Paul’s University

**Lebanon**
- Jusoor Syria

**Liberia**
- We-Care Foundation
- University of Liberia
- Plan International Liberia

**Malawi**
- Malawi National Library Service
- St John of God College of Medicine
- Malawi College of Health Science
- Gumbi Education Fund
- Chikwawa District Hospital

**The Occupied Palestinian Territories**
- British Council
- Tamer Institute for Community Education
- Gaza Health Sciences Library

**Rwanda**
- Kigali Public Library
- University of Rwanda
- VSO Rwanda
- Reaching Rwanda

**Sierra Leone**
- Sierra Leone Library Board
- Plan International Sierra Leone
- Institute of Public Administration and Management-Sierra Leone-Freetown
- Practical Tools Initiative
- African Hospital Libraries

**Somalia**
- Africa Educational Trust
- Benadir University
- Somaliland National Library
- Somalia National University

**South Sudan**
- University of Juba
- Windle Trust
- Ibbia School for Girls
- St Mary’s College

**Tanzania**
- Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania
- Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences

- Tanzania Library Services Board
- Tanzanian Training Centre for International Health
- State University of Zanzibar
- Sumait University
- Zanzibar Library Services

**Uganda**
- Gulu Regional Referral Hospital
- Kyambogo University
- National Library of Uganda
- Uganda Community Libraries Association

**Zambia**
- Copperbelt University
- Lions Club of Mukuba
- University of Zambia, Kitwe campus
- Zambia Library Service
- Zambia Open Community Schools
- University of Zambia, Lusaka Campus
- CELIM
- Senanga School of Nursing
- Lusaka Apex Medical University
- Zambia Episcopal Conference Health Institutions

**Zimbabwe**
- Bulawayo Book Distribution Committee
- Harare Distribution Committee
- Zambezi Schoolbook Project
We would like to thank the following supporters in particular as well as those who wish to remain anonymous:

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In addition to all those named above, we would like to thank all of those who supported us in 2017.

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I walk all the way from my house to school and from school to the library. It’s a tiring distance, but I like to come to the library to read books. When I am older, I want to be an architect because I like drawing. Books will help me become an architect because they help me to think in different ways and give me ideas about drawings.

8-year-old Yosef, West Bank