Books to save lives

In June, we asked you to help us provide the life-saving books that healthcare providers around the world desperately need.

So far, you’ve given a fantastic £20,000 – that’s enough to send 10,000 books to doctors, nurses and midwives around the world who are working against the odds to provide quality healthcare in some of the world’s poorest communities.

These books are vital to healthcare providers and they are hugely grateful to you. Thank you for all you have given!

“Your donations are invaluable - they will impact positively on the lives of those who use the books and we promise that we will make good use of them.”

Dr. Joan Shepherd, Principal, National School of Midwifery, Freetown, Sierra Leone

In this issue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Books building Esther’s future</td>
<td>4–5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Books, goats and… toilets?</td>
<td>6–7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How books change lives</td>
<td>8–9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The books you help to send</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>News and updates</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Help us write the next chapter</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cover image: Reading books you helped to send in Sierra Leone. Photo © EducAid Sierra Leone

Left: Midwife Fatamah and a newborn in Princess Christian Maternity Hospital, Freetown, Sierra Leone, one of the hospitals which has received the books you help to send thanks to our partner, Practical Tools Initiative.
Books building Esther's future

Last year, you helped to send 2,000 brand new books to 13-year-old Esther’s school, Arlington Junior School, in Uganda.

We asked Esther to tell us more about those books:

“My sister is at university studying for a degree in Economic Development and Social Justice. I am determined to reach her level.

Before, our school library had books, but not enough. Now we have enough books to practise our vocabulary all at once. This helps us to support and guide each other.

The books have enabled us to travel to different places without going there – now we know about places like America, Oceania, Antarctica, Europe and have learned about different religions, cultures, and people’s opinions without meeting them.

We have also read about mysterious things and are determined to solve them!

The books have had a profound impact on me. My goals have been boosted and at times confused because I read about different people and what they do. At this moment, I really fail to choose what I should do!

Without the books from Book Aid International, where would the nice stories be? Where would the information about different countries be found? Where would historical information come from?

Choosing what to be in the future is out of what you see and read. So I have to read and admire someone and that is what I should choose. So without books, how could I know what to choose?”

“Without the books from Book Aid International, where would the nice stories be? Where would the information about different countries be found?”

Right: Esther, far right, with her two friends and a sign they made just for you!
In rural Zimbabwe, communities are using the books you send to change their lives for the better. For readers in the province of Gwanda, that change means they now have goats and new loos!

We asked one of the readers, Trena, to tell us more.

Tell us how this all got started

“All of us care for orphans. By reading books we came to appreciate that we could start a project to help ourselves.

Here people like keeping animals, but culturally in Zimbabwe women do not keep animals. By reading books on rights, we discovered it is not wrong to go up against some of the traditions. So we started a goat project.

Each one of us contributed a goat to the group so we had five to start with. It’s been nine years and now we have 27 goats. The goats provide the group with security in hard times, as well as milk.

So what happened next?

After reading books on health we agreed as a group that each one of us must build a bathroom with a toilet next door. We didn’t have bathrooms before. Now, outside each of our homes is a toilet. This is a big change in terms of health here.

And what is your hope for the future?

We are looking forward to having more goats so that we are not only selling one, but could go out and sell 20 and bring in more money. We also hope to set a precedent for how to care for orphans even if not formally employed.

Thank you for sending the books that Gwanda readers need to change their futures!
How books change lives

In 2018 we worked in partnership with the Kenya National Library Service (KNLS) to ask readers from all walks of life how have books changed their lives. They told us about three ways that books have helped them:

1. Books improve people’s quality of life
Many people told us that their lives have been transformed by reading the right books at the right time.

“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

2. Books help people succeed at school and in work
46% of the people we spoke to told us that books helped them perform better in education or at work – particularly when it came to healthcare.

“The British National Formulary (BNF) is like a bible. Once, 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 clinician, Kenya

3. Books help people stay positive
Of the people we spoke to, 51% told us that reading improved their attitude or outlook – even when the challenges they faced seemed overwhelming.

“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

Players of People’s Postcode Lottery supported our impact assessment trip to Kenya. We would like to thank them for their generosity!
The books you help to send

Making Friends at Work: Learning to Make Positive Choices in Social Situations for People with Autism

This guide is written to help people with autism prepare for social interactions in the work place and to make friends. In many countries where we work, there is little understanding of autism and books like this are invaluable in raising awareness and giving people with autism the tools they need to live full and happy lives.

Ancient African Town

Based on the 17th century town of Benin located in present-day Nigeria, this book takes the reader on a tour of the ancient town and includes one of the most popular stories from Benin. Captivating non-fiction books like this can spark a love of discovery and reading in young children and we hope that this one will go on to do just that.

Women in Science: 50 Fearless Pioneers who Changed the World

This beautifully presented book includes famous figures like Marie Curie as well as lesser-known pioneers such as African American chemist Alice Ball who cured leprosy. Women in Science is incredibly motivating for women and girls with a passion for science, inspiring them to chase their dreams.

News and updates

Reaching child refugees in Uganda

1.45m refugees live in Uganda, including over one million people from South Sudan. Many children who arrive are deeply traumatised and have missed out on years of education, so we are working with local NGO the Transcultural Psychosocial Organisation (TPO) to create reading spaces in eight of their Child Friendly Spaces for young refugees.

We have so far stocked all eight spaces with beautiful, brand new books, provided books for 24 surrounding schools and trained 26 teachers, social workers and staff in how to support young readers. An estimated 8,000 children will benefit from these new reading spaces.

The latest from Mosul

Last year, we updated you in this newsletter about our work with local Iraqi campaign Mosul Book Bridge to restore the library which Islamic State (IS) burned to the ground, destroying over one million books. We’re very pleased to report that our second shipment of over 5,000 books has now arrived!

The UN has agreed to rebuild the library’s building, but they will not replace the books. With your support, we have now committed to sending 50,000 books to the University of Mosul’s library by 2020. We can only reach this ambitious target through your generosity.

If you would like to help send the books that Mosul needs to return to learning, visit www.bookaid.org/support-mosul or get in touch: info@bookaid.org, 020 7733 3577
Help us to write the next chapter

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

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

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

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

To find out more about leaving a gift in your Will please:

Email: charlotte.hall@bookaid.org
Call: 020 7326 5802
Visit: www.bookaid.org/donate/leave-a-gift-in-your-will/