Books change lives

BookMark
Your Book Aid International newsletter

Spring 2020
Let’s keep in touch
Stay up to date with how the books you help to send are changing lives:

@Book_Aid
facebook.com/bookaid
Subscribe to email updates: bookaid.org/stay-in-touch

Books are helping children reach for the stars!

Last Christmas, we asked you to help us send books to street children in Ghana and around the world.

You gave an incredible £40,000 – enough to send more than 20,000 brand new books!

Thanks to you, more vulnerable children will have the chance to discover the joy of reading and build brighter futures. Thank you so much!

“Books have the power to change my future because the more I read, the more I learn, the more I can be someone. Thank you for my books!”

14-year-old Mary (left), Jamestown, Accra

In this issue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Helping displaced children discover books</td>
<td>4–5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile libraries bringing books to schools</td>
<td>6–7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Books helping Christine become a lawyer</td>
<td>8–9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The books you have helped 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: Solomon, Renita and Solomon outside their classroom in Accra

Left: 14-year-old Mary, her two brothers and her mother Rita outside their home in Accra reading a book you helped to send.
Helping displaced children discover books

Thirteen-year-old Stephen fled civil war in South Sudan with his family and now lives in Adjumani Refugee Settlement in Uganda.

The arrival of inspiring children’s books in the child-friendly space Stephen visits after school has helped him discover how fun reading can be! Here, Stephen tells us more.

I am from South Sudan and now I live in a settlement. I am in Primary Four. My two big brothers stopped going to school and went back to South Sudan. I just wanted to go with them because here we do not get enough things to do.

I came to the centre to play with the football with my friends. Then the teacher at the centre started giving us books to read before giving me the balls. I never liked it but the teachers helped me read the stories and understand them.

Now I am happy and I like reading the stories in the books with my friends. I also ask for books to read from home and the teacher allows me. Now I know new things.

The books that are at the centre have nice stories. I told my mother about the story of a baker. I am reading more books and I will be telling them to my brothers who went back to South Sudan. I will be performing better at school because I am reading more. I want to be the best reader in my school and in my community.

How we work

The child-friendly space Stephen visits is run by Transcultural Psychosocial Organisation (TPO). Alongside the books we send, we’re working with TPO to train staff in running reading activities, and introducing children to books.

This project is generously funded by players of People’s Postcode Lottery.
Why does the mobile library visit your school?

The kids here love reading. Literacy is one of our strengths. Although we have a library, it’s small and the books in it are not enough. It was becoming a challenge. So when we heard about the mobile library, we thought it was a wonderful opportunity because it meant the kids could have many other titles to read.

How does it work?

The van comes once a month. When the kids know the van is visiting, they all come to school excited and carrying their book boxes (to put the books they borrow in). The fact they can climb into the van and pick their own books adds to the excitement. It’s very interactive and the staff are very helpful.

How has the mobile library changed things for your pupils?

It’s been amazing for our kids. I’ve had parents actually say that since their kids got their book boxes, they haven’t turned on the television at home and siblings are competing to see who finishes their books first!

Why is it important for children to read?

Books open their eyes to the world. Once they read, they ask questions, they want to find out more. Reading also makes them confident. Everywhere we take our kids, people are impressed. They are very expressive, they have good vocabulary and it’s because they read. I think reading is the best thing that can happen to a child.

Thank you for sending books which help fill these mobile libraries!
Books helping Christine become a lawyer

22-year-old Christine in Zimbabwe is in the last year of her A-levels. She wants to study law at university and is using books you help to send to her school library to support her studies.

Christine believes books will help her reach university – and also her future work as a lawyer. Here, she tells us more.

“I have passion about law. I realised some people are victimised for something they maybe haven’t done and I have passion about rescuing people’s lives. I’ll want to stand for their rights, especially for the rights of women. That’s why I want to be a lawyer.

I believe that literature books help me improve my English day by day. As a lawyer, with good English, I can check a person’s case, study it, then analyse and see how true it is.

So through those books I’m able to get information that I can use and I am able to practise my English structure. As a law student and lawyer, books on law will also be important! For example, books that tell me about the history of my country and other countries.

Through books I have passed all levels of school and got to A-levels. There are books which can help me to get to university level. In every phase of my schooling I have used books and my English is improving.

One day I hope to be a good lawyer owning a law firm.”

Thank you for sending law books to students like Christine!

“I want to stand for their rights, especially for the rights of women. That’s why I want to be a lawyer.”
The books you help to send

**African Animals ABC**
This beautiful board book takes the reader on an alphabetical journey to meet 26 African animals from Antbear to Zebra. This ABC book will be very popular with all children and will be especially loved by those in African countries to whom many of these animals will be familiar.

**Africa United**
This book is a fascinating read and not just for football fans. Absorbing non-fiction books like this are a great way to change reluctant readers’ perceptions about books and help them discover the joy of reading.

**A Woman of Firsts**
This is a memoir by a truly inspiring woman, Edna Adan Ismail, Somaliland’s first midwife who later went on to become the country’s First Lady and first female cabinet minister. This moving story will be particularly poignant for women in Africa who will relate to many of the challenges Edna has faced.

News and updates

**Our first Voyager Container Library opens in Rwanda!**
Getting access to books in Rwanda is difficult. There is no national library network and many schools have only curriculum books. Our partner Inea Foundation is working hard to make books more easily accessible and together we decided to try something new – create a new community library in a disused shipping container. The transformation from container to library included building shelves, filling it with over 5,000 brand new books, painting murals and adding outdoor seating. It now sits in a park in Kigali and is very popular with local people, especially children who come after school to read, socialise and study.

We are planning to establish more Voyager Container Libraries in communities that lack libraries and desperately need access to books.

**Our e-shop is now open!**
Due to popular demand, our Reverse Book Tokens can now be purchased online! It’s the perfect gift for book lovers: make a donation on behalf of a loved one and help us send books to people who need them most.
Visit: [www.bookaid.org/rbt](http://www.bookaid.org/rbt)
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/