



Books For Africa has shipped more than 30 million books to 49 African countries in the past 25 years.

#### Where do all of the books come from?

Books are collected at the BFA warehouses in St. Paul, Minnesota, and Atlanta, Georgia, from donors across the United States. Individuals, book companies, publishers, schools, and libraries donate all sorts of books from children's storybooks to post-secondary textbooks and everything in between.

Books are sorted and packed by trained volunteer groups. Then, 20 tons of books are carefully loaded into each 40-foot sea container and shipped across the Atlantic Ocean to African NGOs, universities, and foundations that distribute them to local schools and community libraries.

Volunteers come to our warehouse in droves to help us pack and sort books: BFA is the largest volunteer organization in Atlanta. This year, we had a number of large groups volunteer with us including a group from the NFL's Atlanta Falcons as a part of the Atlanta Hometown Huddle project; an AARP group; and numerous school, corporate, and civic groups.

#### Celebrating 25 Years of Books For Africa

Books For Africa hosted a Jubilee Gala in St. Paul, Minnesota, to celebrate all the people and projects that have helped in our mission to end the African book famine.

We were joined by VIPs including St. Paul Mayor Chris Coleman, the Ethiopian Ambassador to the U.S., the Tanzanian Ambassador to the U.S., former Tanzanian First Lady, Anna Mkpapa, and Ghanaian film star Majid Michel. 500 guests joined us for a formal dinner featuring an address from U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN); a special song written just for the anniversary event; a live auction; and a keynote address from Nayaradzayi Gumbonzvanda, World Y.W.C.A. General Secretary. We are happy to have spent the past 25 years shipping books to students that need them, and we are determined to continue our work to end the book famine.



#### Burundi

Books For Africa shipped books to Burundi for the very first time in April 2013 in partnership with Burundi Friends International (BFI). Kirundi, Swahili, and French are the three main languages of Burundi. However, English is quickly becoming an important language of education, politics, and business since Burundi officially joined the East-African Community. 22,000 English books were distributed to English learning centers in Bujumbura, the capital of the small East African country. Both students and community members use these books to improve their English language skills. Many adult learners have formed English Clubs to practice their new language skills. The books will be an invaluable resource for years to come for students of all ages in Burundi.



#### Sierra Leone

Thanks to the Sir Emeka Offor Foundation of Nigeria, students like those pictured here in Sierra Leone will receive books over the next year. The Foundation is funding a pan-African initiative to ship one million books to students across the continent. In Sierra Leone, books went to the Healey Foundation. Primary and secondary students will benefit from 22,000 books sent on behalf of the Sir Emeka Offor Foundation. More and more will be sent over the next year to students who need them.



#### South Africa

When a Peace Corps South Africa Volunteer asked a grade seven learner, Spheamandla, why there should be a library at school, he wrote: "I haven't learned that much so I want to be in the library all the time so I can learn many things and achieve my dreams." To help make Spheamandla's dream come true, Books For Africa shipped books to 29 schools in South Africa where U.S. Peace Corps volunteers work. These books will address a real need: only 7.5 percent of schools in South Africa own library books. Thanks to this shipment, more than 16,000 students will benefit from well stocked libraries over the coming years.

#### BFA Shipments in FY 2013

July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2013

Country	Containers	Country	Containers
Nigeria	39	Kenya	5
The Gambia	18	Rwanda	4
Ethiopia	12	Botswana	3
Tanzania	10	Burundi	2
Somalia	7	Madagascar	2
Cameroon	6	Mali	2
Ghana	6	Namibia	2
Liberia	6	Swaziland	2
Sierra Leone	6	Zambia	2
South Africa	6	Gabon	1
Uganda	6		

**TOTALS:** 147 container units, 775 computers, 3 WestCore law libraries; 1.5 million books to 21 countries  
**TOTAL VALUE:** \$22.8 million

Number of container shipments sent since 1988

Our mission is to end the book famine in Africa. [www.BooksForAfrica.org](http://www.BooksForAfrica.org)