

# BOOKS FOR AFRICA

# **Books Broaden Horizons**

**BOOKS FOR AFRICA 2021 ANNUAL REPORT** 

# Dear Friends,

2021 has been another big year here at Books For Africa! Your generous support in 2021 has allowed us to make great strides in fighting the African book famine. Despite this progress the need is still great, and millions more books are needed. We are pleased to share with you some of what we achieved in 2021:

- We shipped books by the millions (yet again): BFA continues to be the world's largest shipper of donated books to the African continent, shipping over 53 million books and serving every single African country in our 33-year history. In 2021 alone, we shipped over 3.1 million books, and 224 computers and e-readers containing 885,000 digital books, carrying a total value of over \$26.2 million. We served 28 countries this year. Thanks to supporters like you, over \$3.1 million in cash donations was raised in 2021 to ship these materials.
- We were recognized as one of the elite: BFA received top rankings from the premier charity recognition organizations in 2021. We garnered our tenth consecutive top 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, putting BFA in the top 3% of all U.S. charities for fiscal responsibility and transparency. We also secured the 2021 Guidestar Platinum Seal of Transparency.
- We shipped through the Covid-19 pandemic: The Covid pandemic has caused global dislocation, school closures and social distancing requirements, and dramatically reduced economic activity. This has resulted in continuing severe disruption for our partners in Africa as sea ports, offices, schools, universities and libraries have been closed or seen reduced operations and ongoing supply chain disruptions. Despite these challenges, BFA and our partners across Africa pressed on, continuing to sort, pack, and ship books from our warehouse facilities. We all hope for better things to come in 2022, and we will continue to do our best to meet the needs of our partners across Africa regardless of what comes next!
- We connected with key partners: 2021 featured a number of high-level collaborations with the African Union. We were honored to host Ambassador Hilda Suka-Mafudze, the African Union's Ambassador to the United States, as our keynote speaker for the grand opening of our new Atlanta warehouse in June. And in October, we hosted Ambassador Suka-Mafudze in Minnesota to kick off our fall fundraising effort. Finally, we were honored to be joined by Ambassador Suka-Mafudze, members of the African diplomatic corps, and Ambassador Alima Mahama from Ghana for a special reception honoring our top donors at the Embassy of Ghana in Washington, DC. In our warehouses in Atlanta and St. Paul, we were happy to host volunteer groups in 2021 from Coca Cola, UPS, Zep, the National 4-H Conference, KPMG, Voya, AmeriCorps, Delta Air Lines, Vector Global Logistics, Kennesaw State University, the Metro Deaf School of St. Paul, and many others! These volunteers sorted the millions of books we shipped in 2021. We could not have done it without them!
- We brought books from far and wide: BFA continues to work to put quality, relevant materials in the hands of African learners. To accomplish this, we have cast a wide net for the best materials available. In addition to the millions of books shipped out of our Atlanta warehouse, we also shipped books from London, Paris, Montreal, Annapolis, Los Angeles, Geneva, New York, Houston, Utah, York (PA), and Lexington (KY) in collaboration with our many partner organizations. Large

quantities of books were supplied by our strategic partners Better World Books, Thomson Reuters, Elsevier, Capstone Publishing, Follett Education Services, Lerner Publishing, Norton Publishing, Wiley Publishing, and Walker Bookstore. We are also grateful to the thousands of individuals as well as the schools, universities, and libraries that contributed books on a regular basis!

- We did some things we had never done before: Books For Africa continues to press ahead, seeking new partners and initiatives. In May, we were honored to ship the personal library of the late Kofi Annan, former Secretary-General of the United Nations, to his alma mater school (Mfantsipim School) in Cape Coast, Ghana. In June, we were pleased to partner with William Kamkwamba, "The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind," to ship a container of books to be distributed by his organization in Malawi. We welcome original ideas, and new ways of doing things to get more books to Africa! Our unique work has been recognized in the media, including by the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Global Atlanta, the Minneapolis Star Tribune, the St. Paul Pioneer Press, Insight News, Mshale, Publishers Weekly, Minnesota Public Radio, MINNpost, and Ghana News Agency.
- We listened to our African partners: For the sixth consecutive year, we surveyed our book recipients to assess impacts of our activities. As with previous surveys, we are pleased to know that recipients overwhelmingly rate BFA books as high quality, and agree that the books will be very useful in promoting literacy in local communities. In 2021, we heard from 36 recipients in 17 different African countries. Since we began this systematic survey process in 2016, we have received valuable feedback from 212 recipients in 35 different countries!

In 2021, we engaged our partners on all levels in order to deliver millions of books. This year marked our 33rd year of working towards our vision of getting children reading in every African country. This was the dream of the late Kofi Annan, who stated, "Literacy is quite simply the bridge from misery to hope." We are honored to have the opportunity to help bridge this gap, and we appreciate your help in making this happen. Best wishes for a happy and productive 2022.

Sincerely,



mi Suss Ioni Sussman President



Patrick J. Plonski, PhD Executive Director



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Pictured: (from left) Her Excellency Hilda Suka-Mafudze,

Ambassador of the African Union to the U.S., BFA Board President Joni Sussman, and Sharon Sayles Belton, VP Government Affairs and Community Relations at Thomson Reuters. Photo Credit: Jasmine Webber

## Jack Mason Law & Democracy Initiative Co-Chairs

## In memoriam

Kofi Annan, Former U.N. Secretary-General, Founding Co-Chair Walter Mondale, Former U.S. Vice President, Founding Co-Chair



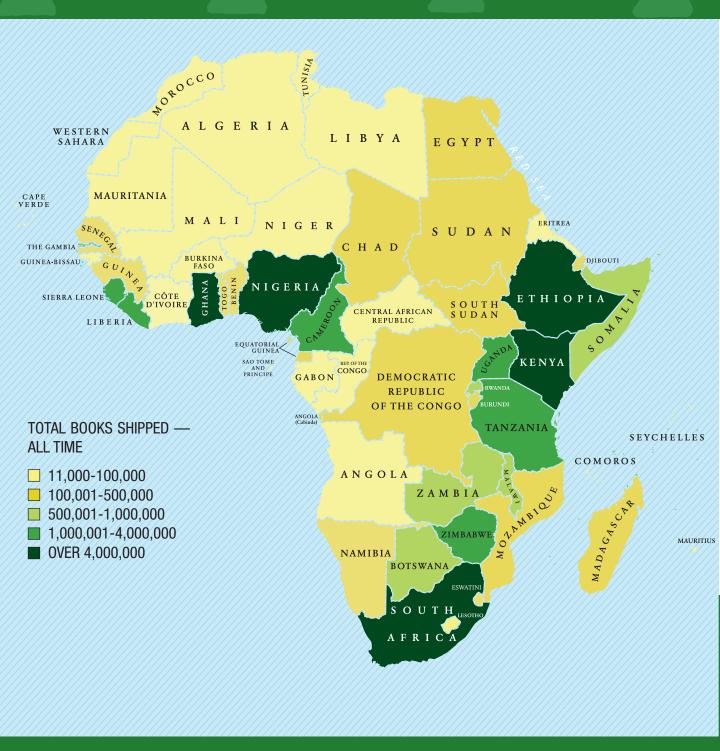
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Pictured: (from left) BFA Board Member Isaac Owens, His Excellency Frédéric Edem Hégbé, Ambassador of Togo to the U.S., and BFA Board Past-President Rosemond Owens at BFA's Summit Society event in Washington, D.C. Books For Africa has shipped over 53 million books and 5 million digital books, serving all 55 countries on the African continent since 1988



Our mission is to end the book famine in Africa.

# **TOP 10 COUNTRIES ALL TIME**

COUNTRY	<b>BOOKS SHIPPED</b>
Ethiopia	5,373,889
Kenya	4,574,310
Ghana	4,519,089
Nigeria	4,393,344
Uganda	3,360,049
Tanzania	3,001,235
South Africa	2,674,042
Zimbabwe	2,199,235
Liberia	2,123,240
Sierra Leone	1,124,633







Books For Africa collects, sorts, and ships books, computers, tablets, and library enhancement materials to every country in Africa. In collaboration with worldwide donors, publishers, and African partners, we provide the tools of empowerment to children and students across Africa. Our vision is an Africa rich in readers — in classrooms, during leisure time in libraries, and throughout university and prosperous careers. We supply varied, relevant books in English, French, and national languages, computers and tablets with digital content, specialty post-secondary materials, and supplies to create vibrant learning spaces.

# **BFA SHIPMENTS IN FY 2021**

# July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021

Kenya	668,758	Democratic Republic of The Congo	25,117
South Africa	453,044	South Sudan	23,390
Ethiopia	422,495		
Uganda	393,736	Equatorial Guinea	18,710
Ghana	256,103	Libya	15,000
Zimbabwe	226,440	Cote d'Ivoire	2,584
Tanzania	154,992	Niger	2,500
Nigeria	94,003	Mali	1,910
Sierra Leone	75,400	Senegal*	60
Malawi	67,621	Mauritania*	58
Somalia	58,417	Benin*	50
The Gambia	44,645	Egypt*	50
Tunisia	39,760	Rwanda*	50
Burundi	29,422	Zambia*	50
Liberia	28,282		

# **BOOKS:** 3.1 million books, COUNTRIES: 28, Container Units: 171, Computers: 224, Law Libraries: 8, Digital Books: 885,000 **TOTAL VALUE: \$26.2 million**

\*Six countries recieved books and e-readers from Books For Africa outside a dedicated conventional container unit shipment

# **SNAPSHOTS OF 2021**

Tasank

Peachtree Church -

Malawi Partnership

Friends United Meeting, Kenya

Molo Mhlaba

JUST Here

The Story of Miss Freedo

Montessori School, South Africa

Sierra Leone Book Trust

BFA Founder Tom Warth leads a book drive in Stout, WI

**Books For Africa Georgia** 

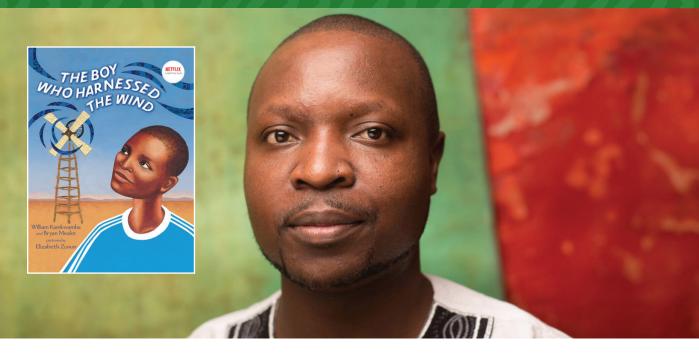
FOR AFRICA

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Warehouse Staff

# **REGIONAL FOCUS**



## HARNESSING THE POWER OF LITERACY

In June, a container bound for the Moving Windmills Project in Malawi left Books For Africa's Georgia Warehouse. The Moving Windmills Project is a non-profit that inspires innovative solutions to African problems, by providing agriculture and STEM books for community libraries. BFA provided five Agriculture Libraries, along with digital content and solar lamps, to stock libraries in the Kasungu District of Malawi.

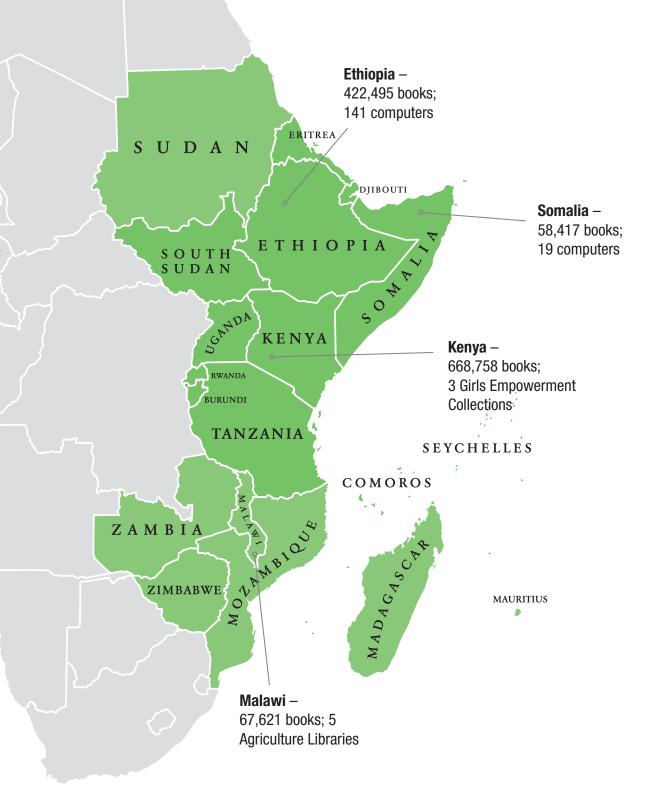
The Moving Windmills Project was inspired by the work of William Kamkwamba. When William was 14 and Malawi was suffering a severe famine, he was forced to drop out of high school. But William remained curious and inventive, and worked with the village librarian to stay engaged with his studies, especially science. William used a photo in a junior high school textbook called "Using Energy" that he found in his rural library to build an electricity-producing windmill from spare parts. William's story was told in the book "The Boy Who Harnessed The Wind," and later adapted into a movie for Netflix.

Because a book in a rural library changed William's life and inspired him to help others, Moving Windmills has launched an initiative to stock community libraries in Malawi with agriculturespecific content and STEM learning materials. BFA's specialty Agriculture Libraries made for an ideal partnership on this project. The Agricultural Library initiative is aimed at providing high-school level agricultural education information and resources to rural populations in Africa, and includes books from sources as wide-ranging as the FAO and major universities to small publishers and equipment manufacturers.

William's story speaks to the heart of BFA's work, and we are proud to partner with the Moving Windmills Project to inspire a new generation of students in Malawi!

# **EASTERN AFRICA**

## **2021 SHIPPING HIGHLIGHTS**



## **REGIONAL FOCUS**



## OVERCOMING UNIQUE CHALLENGES IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

It's not every day that BFA Container Captains and book recipients have to face volcanic eruptions, but that was exactly the case during the 2021 distribution of the Books for Congo container project. Shannon O'Rourke Kasali, the Container Captain, reported on the disruption caused by the eruption of the Nyiragongo volcano in late May: "The volcano is at the edge of the city of Goma, and many of the librarians we work with had to flee the city on foot. Fortunately, the lava spared much of the city, but earthquakes persisted for weeks afterwards, causing stress and exhaustion for the local population, as well as power cuts and problems accessing potable water."

In addition to this eruption, the distribution efforts also faced violence in some areas and teacher strikes, among other challenges. The libraries served as safe places for students to go when schools were closed, and our partner librarians rose to this challenge with resolve. Staying connected on their phones, they worked to gather donations for those most affected, and coordinate relief efforts. After recovery from the eruption, and despite the many challenges, the full container was distributed! Joseph Lubunga, the Library Manager at the Panzi Peace Library in Bukavu, reports that "Thanks to the books we received, we were able to create a reading club, organize drawing workshops, slam poetry sessions and other activities."

Our partner librarians in the DRC showed extraordinary resiliency and solidarity in 2021, and we look forward to partnering with them again, hopefully with fewer volcanic eruptions!



Pictured: Children enjoying the books in Empilweni, Ekurhuleni North. Photo courtesy of FHI 360

## BOOKS TO SUPPORT ORPHANS AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN

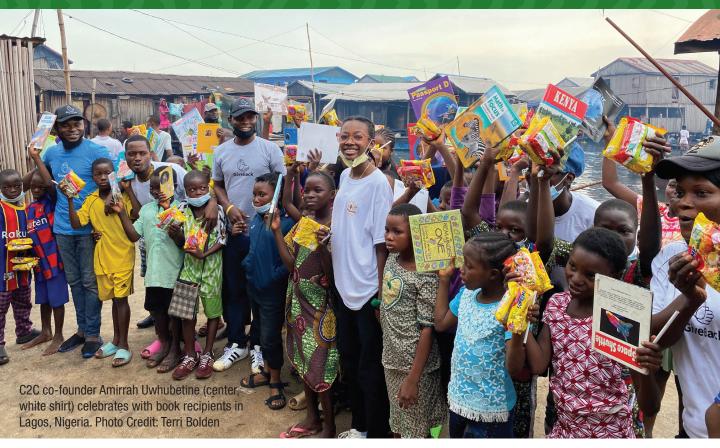
Books For Africa supported FHI 360 South Africa's Capacity Development and Support (CDS) Program by donating a shipment of over 40,000 books to the project in 2021. The books were used to establish libraries, play centers and resource centers, and to improve school resources for orphans and vulnerable children ages 0-17.

The children served by this project and these books come from households at risk or affected by HIV, with over 20% HIV-positive themselves and more than half single or double orphans. Some of the ultimate goals of the project are to stimulate children's language development and understanding by enabling caregivers to read to them; boost language, listening and reading skills; reinforce child-caregiver bonds and children's relationship with schools; and provide more resources to complement school work.

## **SOUTHERN & MIDDLE AFRICA**



# **REGIONAL FOCUS**



## CHILDHOOD FRIENDS STOCK SHELVES IN NIGERIA

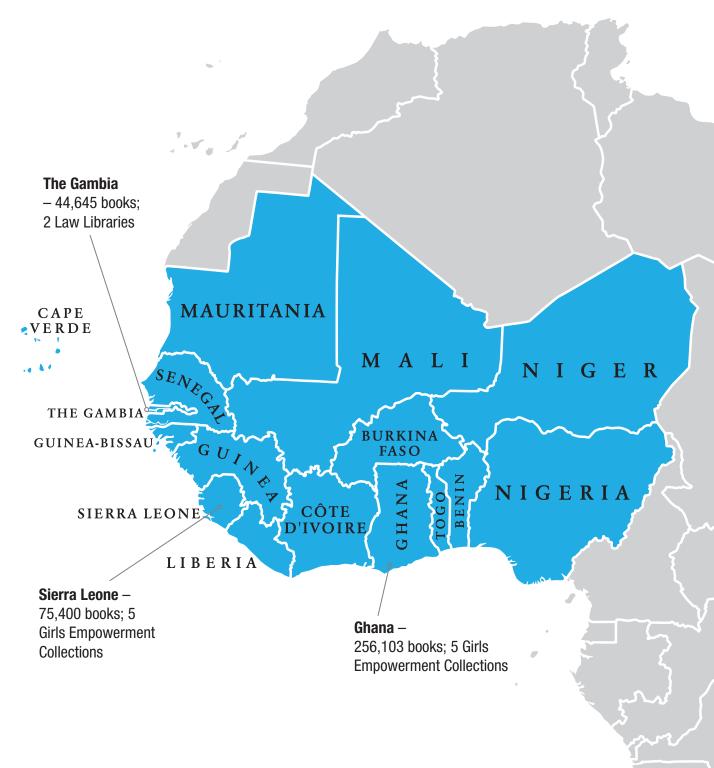
A group of Ghanaian and Nigerian teenage friends had a wish to give back to their community. After a visit to their grandmother in California, where they also attended a series of business meetings, they got to work creating a non-profit organization registered in the U.S. as Child2Child Book Foundation (C2C). As young girls in Lagos, they loved to read but did not have easy access to books. That's why C2C has made it the bedrock of their mission to share the gift of reading with underprivileged children by providing access to good quality, diverse books. They started their work with Books For Africa in late 2020, volunteering at the warehouse and taking part in our fall virtual celebration. At the same time, they worked to raise awareness of the cause, participating in radio interviews, news channel interviews and trips to visit schools.

C2C were the youngest Container Captains to participate in our fall 2020 virtual global celebration, and we were pleased to provide them with about 30,000 books to their order specifications. Despite shipping delays during the pandemic, two of the co-founders were able to be present in Lagos for the first book reading and distribution on June 21, 2021. They worked to distribute the full container over the following weeks, visiting schools, meeting with enthusiastic children, and giving out pencils, t-shirts and tote bags. The girls were proud to have touched lives, leaving children excited to own books.

Child2Child Book Foundation's momentum is still going strong – they are currently fundraising for another container to Ghana, where they are partnering with Cocoa360 and the Tarkwa Breman Girls' School.

# WESTERN AFRICA

### **2021 SHIPPING HIGHLIGHTS**



## **REGIONAL FOCUS**



Pictured: His Excellency Nejmeddine Lakhal, Ambassador of Tunisia to the U.S. (right) with Books For Africa Executive Director Patrick Plonski



The Tunisian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Othman Jerandi, tweeted in recognition of the Tunisian government's collaboration with Books For Africa.

# WASHINGTON CONNECTION DELIVERS STEM, LAW, AND AGRICULTURE RESOURCES FOR TUNISIA

BFA Executive Director Patrick Plonski was in Washington, DC, in May to meet with African dignitaries. While there, he visited with ambassadors and diplomatic staff from Zambia, South Africa, Egypt, the African Union and Tunisia. His Excellency Nejmeddine Lakhal, Ambassador of Tunisia to the United States, received a specialty e-reader featuring two applications – the Merck Manual Professional Edition and the Merck Manual Consumer Edition. The applications boast content from the Merck Medical Manuals pre-loaded, and can also be accessed offline.

Ambassador Lakhal was also instrumental in arranging a shipment of Elsevier science books and Merck Medical Manuals to Tunisia. The shipment also included a Thomson Reuters Law Library. It had been 12 years since the last BFA container was delivered to Tunisia!

### **2021 SHIPPING HIGHLIGHTS**



# Your Support Makes a Difference

50¢ provides a student in Africa with a book
\$100 sponsors 200 books for a classroom
\$300 sponsors a Girls Empowerment Collection
\$1,000 stocks an entire school library – join our Kilimanjaro Society!
\$11,000 provides 22,000 books – a full 40-foot sea container!

Please visit **www.booksforafrica.org** to donate or learn more about the many ways you can help support Books For Africa. Books For Africa is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit, all gifts are tax deductible as specified by law. Our EIN is 41-1627391.

Statement of Activity	2020	2021
SUPPORT AND REVENUES		
Contributions	2,977,892	2,861,286
Interest Earned	58,282	62,137
Books Contributed	34,134,511	22,208,349
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUES	37,170,685	25,131,772
EXPENDITURES		
Program Operating Expenses - Overseas	40,646,169	28,797,259
General and Administrative Expenses	113,777	107,841
Fundraising Expenses	229,006	223,981
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	40,988,952	29,129,081
Change in Net Monetary Assets	\$117,272	\$329,122
Change in Book Inventory	\$(3,476,408)	\$(4,439,750)

# 2021 CONTRIBUTORS

Barbara Astuno

Fiscal Year 2021 donor listings represent contributions received July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021

# Individuals

#### **SUMMIT SOCIETY \$50,000-\$80,000** Anonymous (2)

**\$15,000-\$25,000** Frank Babka Richard & Vivikka DeLoach Tolla Gada

### \$10,000-\$14,999

Emmanuel Thomas Abraham Anonymous (2) Mercy Ansah Neil Arora Vincent Barton Tewodros Belay Frank Gunter Habte Mesfin Perry Mitchell & Pam Woodley Dick Simpson Thomas Warth & Zantha LaFon Warth Yinges Yigzaw

#### \$5,000-\$9,999

Ramadan Adem William Ankobiah Anonymous Ari Bearinger Resnick Terri Bolden Miftah Dadi

Samuel Fereja Matt Gilbreth Ethel Gill Wang Hua Jim Hughes Rebecca Marr David Martin Catherine Mayer **Richard Murphy** Jesse Okie & Mary Harrington Dennis & Barbara Senneseth Alero Tetevi Pamela Weathersby-Williams

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 Image: Sector sector

Michael Fordinal Alethia Futtrell Vince Gabor Marcus Ganser Xin Gao Bruce Geller Negatu Gezahegn Ryan Giannetti Barry Gibbs Bruce & Robin Gordon Steve & Meg Griffith Sarah Grossenbacher George Gvan James Hall Salahuddin Haque Kim Harms Kara Hartzler Michael Henley & Randi Yoder Barbara Holm Ruth Houah Tahir Hussein Andrew & Jennifer Ice Stella Ilieva Jill Cordes & Phil Inhuston John & Patricia Johnston Mava Jordan Michael Joseph Michelle Kalsi Raqui Kamel Yekunoamlak Kassa Tom Kivlahan & Liz 0'Kellv Stuart & Mary Ellen Knappmiller Kenneth Knudson Julie Kopp Steve Kranz

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Amy Albus

Fausa Aliu

**Enrique Alvarez** 

Marvin Anderson

Pamela Andrada

Anonymous (10)

Janice Arkatov

Mehret Assefa

Maureen Annunziata

Jeanne Andre

Nazli Ali

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Primary student in Makuti, Zimbabwe. Photo Credit: Claude & Barbara Mayfield

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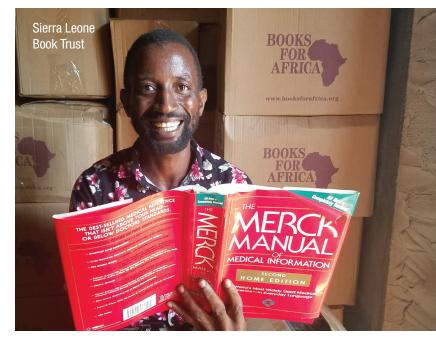
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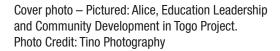
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