

BOOKS FOR AFRICA

Africa's Next Generation

BOOKS FOR AFRICA 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Dear Friend,

2022 has been another successful year here at Books For Africa! Your generous support this year has allowed us to make great strides in fighting the African book famine. We are pleased to share with you some of what we achieved in 2022:

We shipped books by the millions (yet again): BFA continues as the world's largest shipper of donated books to the African continent, shipping over 57 million books and serving every single African country in our 34-year history. In 2022 alone, we shipped over 3.2 million books, and 355 computers and e-readers containing over one million digital books, carrying a total value of over \$26.7 million. We served 27 countries this year. Thanks to supporters like you, over \$2.3 million in cash donations was raised in 2022 to ship these materials.

We were recognized as one of the best non-profits in the U.S.: BFA received top recognition from the premier charity recognition organizations in 2022. We garnered our 11th consecutive top 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, putting BFA in the top three percent of all U.S. charities for fiscal responsibility and transparency. We also once again secured the 2022 Guidestar Platinum Seal of Transparency.

We shipped through unprecedented supply chain disruptions: The Covid pandemic has caused global dislocation, school closures and social distancing requirements, and dramatically reduced economic activity. This has resulted in continuing severe supply chain disruptions and dramatically increased costs across the world, with sea ports, offices, schools, universities and libraries closed or with reduced operations and/or delays. 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 2023, 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: 2022 featured a number of high-level collaborations with the African diplomatic corps. We were honored to host H.E. Ambassador Alima Mahama from Ghana as our keynote speaker for our annual spring luncheon in June. Approximately 300 people were in attendance at this event, which also featured remarks from Minnesota Governor Tim Walz. We were also honored later in June to be hosted in Washington, D.C. at the private residence of H.E. Frédéric Edem Hegbe, Togo's Ambassador to the United States. Ambassador Hegbe served as the BFA Summit Society Honorary Chair for 2022, representing our top donors and supporters. Ambassador Hegbe also visited our Atlanta warehouse in July in preparation for a shipment of books planned for Togo. In our warehouses in Atlanta and St. Paul, we were happy to host volunteer groups in 2022 from the Minnesota Vikings, Coca Cola, UPS, Zep, KPMG, Voya, AmeriCorps, Delta Air Lines, Vector Global Logistics, Kennesaw State University, the Metro Deaf School of St. Paul, Home Depot, Salesforce, Merck, Passion City Church, Kuehne & Nagel, and many others! These volunteers sorted millions of books that we shipped in 2022. We could not have done it without them!

We brought books from far and wide: BFA continues to work to put high-quality, relevant materials in the hands of African learners. To accomplish this, we 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, San Francisco, New York, Houston, 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!

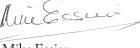
We undertook some unique projects: Books For Africa continues to press ahead, seeking new partners and initiatives. This year, we printed and distributed 25,000 books in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in Amharic and Oromo in partnership with Open Hearts Big Dreams. We are also moving forward with a special project to print 70,000 children's books in Malagasy for shipment to Madagascar. BFA was also named a Preferred Partner of the U.S. Department of Defense Humanitarian Assistance Program in 2022. This collaboration will result in the shipment of 30 containers holding a total of 600,000 books in 2022-2023. In August we hosted H.E. Ambassador Lazarus Amayo of Kenya and Congresswoman Betty McCollum at a special luncheon in St. Paul to celebrate this new partnership and the shipment of five containers of books to Kenya. Our unique work has been recognized in the media, including by the Minneapolis Star Tribune, the St. Paul Pioneer Press, KSTP TV, KARE 11 TV, the Atlanta Daily World, the Chicago Parent, the Austin Daily Herald, the Marietta Daily Journal, the Lacrosse Tribune, Mshale, WCCO Radio, the St. Paul Monitor, Finance Strategists, the Northfield News, Insight News, Minnesota Lawyer, American Bar Association Journal, and Sun Sailor newspapers.

We listened to our African partners: For the seventh 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 2022, we heard from 36 recipients in 13 different African countries. Since we began this systematic survey process in 2016, we have received valuable feedback from 249 recipients in 35 different countries! We were also pleased to host once again our friends at the Mandela Fellows Program to gain insights into needs in their countries. Twenty-four Mandela Fellows from 15 African countries volunteered in our BFA warehouse at a special event in July.

In 2022, we engaged our partners on all levels in order to deliver millions of books. This year marked our 34th year of working towards our vision of helping children to read 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. As we approach our 35th anniversary year next year, allow us to offer our best wishes for a happy and productive 2023.

Sincerely,





Mike Essien Board President



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Patrick J. Plonski, PhD Executive Director



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Pictured: (from left) Bob Butterfield; Kim Uetz; Her Excellency Hajia Alima Mahama; Ambassador of Ghana to the U.S.; and BFA Board President Mike Essien, at Books For Africa Kilimanjaro Society Awards event. Photo Credit: Tailana Blaylark

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Pictured: (from left) BFA Board Members Fatima Lawson and Tammie Follett at BFA warehouse. Photo Credit: Frin Moran

Books For Africa has shipped over 57 million books and eight 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	BOOKS SHIPPED
Ethiopia	5,653,566
Kenya	5,562,368
Ghana	4,939,557
Nigeria	4,537,673
Uganda	3,506,397
South Africa	3,286,917
Tanzania	3,056,049
Zimbabwe	2,405,243
Liberia	2,183,516
Sierra Leone	1,304,649

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 postsecondary materials, and supplies to create vibrant learning spaces.



A student at Haile-Manas Academy in Ethiopia. Photo Credit: Mopix Film Production



Students in Botswana, Photo Credit: Shelly Rotondo

BFA SHIPMENTS IN FY 2022

July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022

COUNTRY	BOOKS	COUNTRY	BOOKS
Kenya	808,673	Nigeria	104,477
South Africa	338,207	Rwanda	90,952
Ghana	309,564	Sierra Leone	83,253
Ethiopia	270,075	Liberia	60,276
The Gambia	171,344	Tanzania	54,814
Zambia	153,739	Mali	39,973
Somalia	151,088	DRC	32,878
Uganda	129,774	Libya	22,000
Botswana	124,724	Benin	19,600
Malawi	116,859	Mauritania	16,058
Zimbabwe	107,129	iviauritailia	10,030

Books: 3.2 million, Countries: 27,* Container Units: 183, Computers/

Tablets: 355, Law Libraries: Five, Digital Books: 1,065,000

TOTAL VALUE: \$26.7 million

^{*}Six countries (Algeria, Central African Republic, Lesotho, Madagascar, Republic of the Congo, and Togo) received books or tablets from Books For Africa outside of a dedicated conventional container unit shipment

SNAPSHOTS OF 2022





Student at Molo Mhlaba School in South Africa, Photo Credit: Rethabile Sonibare







REGIONAL FOCUS



OVER 40,000 BOOKS SENT TO SUPPORT ORPHANS IN MALAWI

In January 2022, BFA partnered with the Jacaranda Foundation to send a container of over 40,000 books to the Jacaranda School in Malawi, which provides free education to orphans and vulnerable children affected by the HIV/AIDS crisis. Through the Jacaranda network, over 50,000 children now have access to books though community and school libraries. With the help of BFA, the Foundation was able to open their 24th community library in Malawi! Jacaranda Foundation Executive Director Luc Deschamps was impressed by the BFA books, writing: "We were surprised by the quality and variety of books received most are new or almost new — and also



the sheer number of books. This is an amazing service to the children of Malawi."

In 2022, 395 children were enrolled at the Jacaranda School, and 97.5% passed the Primary School National Exams. Jacaranda School also works to ensure older children and adults are prepared for employment by providing vocational and life skills training.

This shipment to Malawi is one in a long line of BFA projects supporting orphans and vulnerable children. We have sent books to schools and libraries supporting orphans in Uganda, South Africa, and Mozambique in the last three years.

2022 SHIPPING HIGHLIGHTS





OVER 34 YEARS OF ROTARY PARTNERSHIPS

From our earliest shipments in 1988, Books For Africa has worked closely with Rotary International, via partnerships with local clubs, on over 160 shipments carrying over 3.5 million books. This year, we partnered with the Rotary Club of Bend, Oregon, and the Rotary Club of Gaborone, Botswana, to ship over 65,000 children's books to two school districts in rural western Botswana. These books played an integral role in a teacher training program carried out by Rotary in collaboration with the Botswana Ministry of Basic Education. After being put on hold for two years after the start of the pandemic, these books are finally in the hands of primary school students in Botswana, and their teachers are learning new methods to use the books to enhance reading instruction.



Students in Botswana. Photo Credit: Shelly Rotondo

SOUTHERN & MIDDLE AFRICA



BFA SENDS OVER ONE MILLION BOOKS TO THE GAMBIA

In 2008, BFA Board Member Lamin "Lang" Dibba undertook a major project with a huge goal — to ship one million books to his home country of The Gambia. Million Books for The Gambia began in 2008, when Sulayman Junkung General Hospital CEO Kebba Badgie wanted to establish the Sulayman Junkung Medical Library, as part of efforts to make the institution a state-of-the-art teaching hospital. Fundraising was completed and the first shipment arrived in August of 2010.

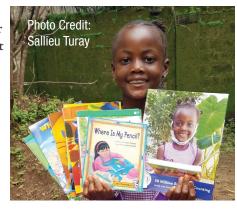


BFA founder Tom Warth personally visited The Gambia in 2012, alongside Lang Dibba, to complete an African Book Walk to raise awareness of the importance of books and literacy in Africa and The Gambia. In addition to walking the 20-mile Trans-Gambian highway and distributing a full container of books, the delegation met with Gambian officials and U.S. and foreign ambassadors.

Ten years after the Book Walk, Lang's goal is finally complete—for now. Following the delivery of the millionth book to The Gambia, Lang has expanded his goal to two million books.

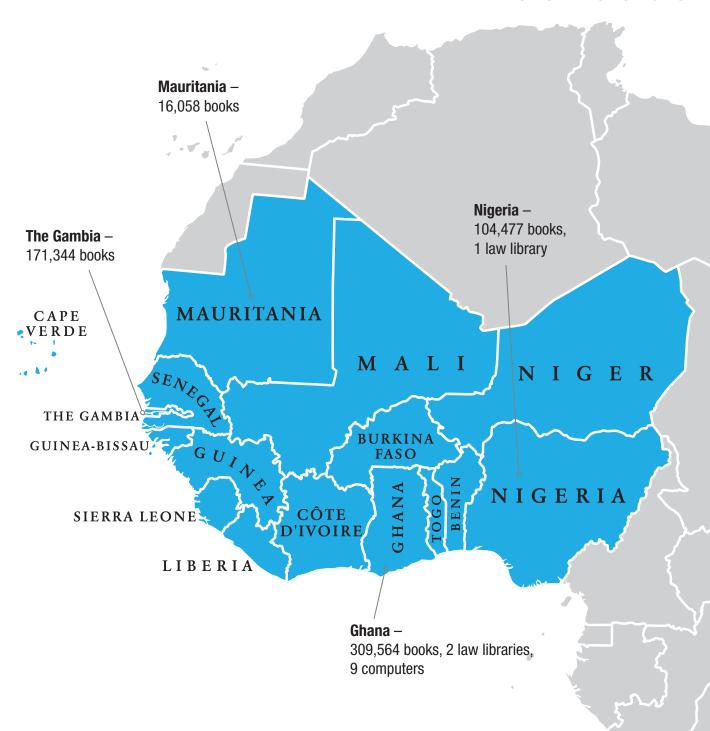
BFA KEEPS UP WITH FORMER ANNUAL REPORT COVER STAR

Aminata Kargbo was five years old and just beginning her education at Mount Zion Primary School in Wellington, Sierra Leone when her school received a donation of books from the Sierra Leone Book Trust and Books For Africa. Aminata was excited—both for the books and to be photographed during the donation ceremony. To Aminata's surprise, her photo was chosen for the cover of Books For Africa's 2020 Annual Report. Upon seeing the report, she said, "I am lucky to see my photo on the front page of an international organization publication, I will keep this publication for life." In 2022, Aminata's school received a new donation of books, and Aminata personally selected 600 new titles to be added to her school's library. We were able to catch up with Aminata and her family this year to talk about



how her life has changed since 2020. Aminata's class performance and reading ability have increased significantly—she is seventh in her class of 40 students! She loves taking books home with her on the weekends and holidays. Her favorite books are *The Box* by Martha Lightfoot and *Meet Miss Shine* by Irma Singer. Aminata amazed her parents and teachers this year when she announced that after she finishes her schooling, she intends to go on to law school and become a lawyer!

2022 SHIPPING HIGHLIGHTS



REGIONAL FOCUS



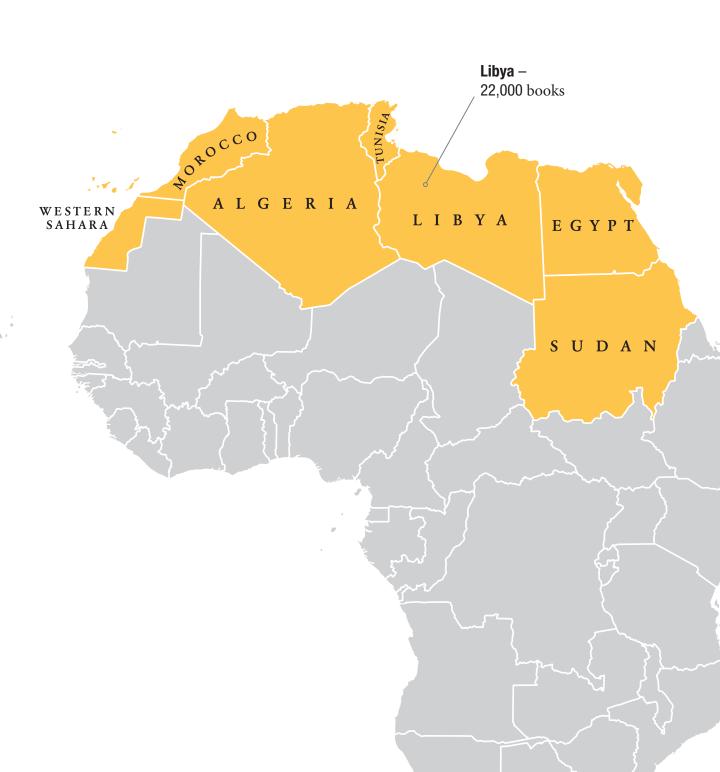
BOOKS FOR AFRICA SUPPORTS MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS IN NORTH AFRICA

Through Books For Africa's partnership with MSD, we have been able to distribute 3,000-book elibraries and access to the application version of the MSD Manual, the world's best-selling medical textbook, all preloaded and available offline on brand-new Samsung tablets. These tablets have been distributed to medical professionals in North Africa and across the continent.

In five years, we have distributed 750 devices to 39 countries in Africa, including Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, and Egypt. The devices are portable and work completely offline, meaning that doctors in areas with limited internet access can travel into remote areas and treat patients right where they live.

MSD has long been a major BFA supporter, improving medical care in Africa by donating hard-copy MSD Medical Manuals, and sponsoring their shipment and distribution across the continent. We are grateful to MSD for their ongoing support and are excited by the opportunities that will come as digital content continues to open doors for medical practitioners in Africa. We are proud to be working with MSD to implement this important initiative!

2022 SHIPPING HIGHLIGHTS



Your Support Makes a Difference

50¢ provides a student in Africa with a book

\$100 sponsors 200 books for a classroom

\$500 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!



Statement of Activity	2021	2022
SUPPORT AND REVENUES		
Contributions	\$2,861,286	\$2,383,046
Interest Earned	\$62,137	\$87,769
Value of Books Contributed	\$22,208,349	\$28,997,749
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUES	\$25,131,772	\$31,468,564
EXPENDITURES		
Program Operating Expenses — Overseas	\$28,797,259	\$28,997,749
General and Administrative Expenses	\$107,841	\$79,165
Fundraising Expenses	\$223,981	\$212,400
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$29,129,081	\$29,289,314
Change in Net Monetary Assets	\$329,122	\$(270,230)*
Change in Book Inventory	\$(4,439,750)	\$2,712,176

^{*}Includes reduction in stock portfolio.

2022 CONTRIBUTORS

Bradley & Lam

Susan Begelman

Celesta Berga

Bauman

Fiscal Year 2022 donor listings represent contributions received July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

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\$20,000-\$50,000

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