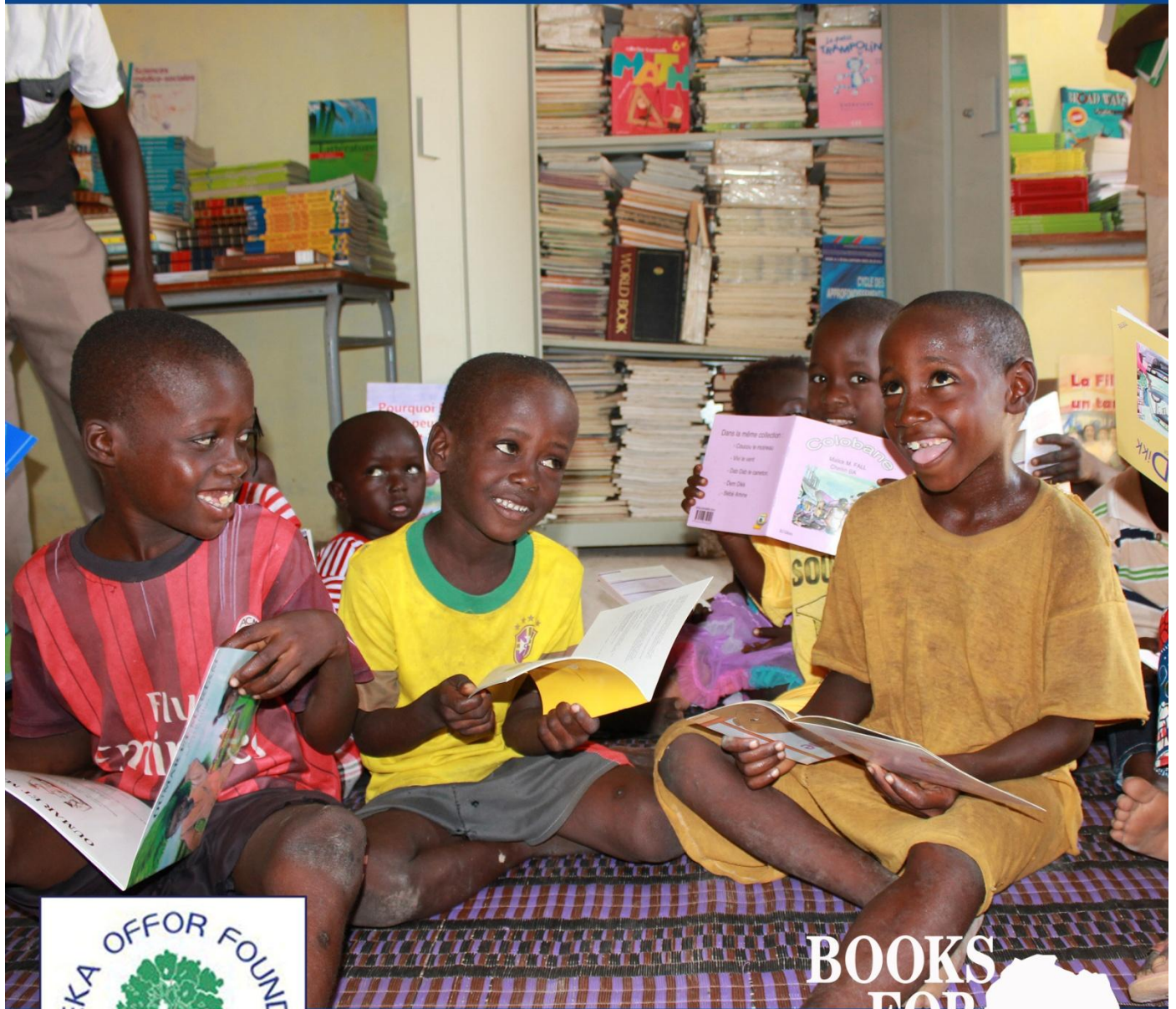


Revitalizing African Education Initiative: 2013-2014

Books For Africa's report to the Sir Emeka Offor Foundation



BOOKS
FOR
AFRICA 

Revitalizing African Education Initiative 2013-2014:

Books For Africa's Final Report to the Sir Emeka Offor Foundation



INTRODUCTION

This report summarizes the 2013-2014 activities of Books For Africa in shipping containers of books across Africa through the generous financial sponsorship of the Sir Emeka Offor Foundation. These activities were sponsored by a \$600,000 grant from the Sir Emeka Offor Foundation, received in May, 2013. This gift, the largest single donation ever received by Books For Africa since its founding in 1988, facilitated the shipment of over 1,027,000 books and computers valued at over \$13 million to 19 countries across the African continent.

What was unique about this gift, beyond the size of the donation, was that it helped people in so many different countries: large and small; Muslim and Christian; geographically diverse (land-locked and coastal). The needy were assisted thousands of miles from Nigeria, where the Sir Emeka Offor Foundation is based and where the funds originated. In addition to the grant activities showcased in this report, it should be noted that the Sir Emeka Offor Foundation provided a total of four separate donations to Books For Africa on September 15, 2011 (\$200,000), April 23, 2012 (\$50,000), May 16, 2013 (\$600,000), and September 10, 2014 (\$264,275). Thus, the sum total of support from the Sir Emeka Offor Foundation since 2011 is \$1,114,000 to fund the delivery of approximately 2,052,000 books and large quantities of computers and schools supplies valued at over \$22 million.

The generosity of the Sir Emeka Offor Foundation has benefitted the following 19 countries: Nigeria, Botswana, Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Namibia, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda. Partners in these countries have included US Embassies, the US Peace Corps, the Nelson Mandela Foundation, as well as key donors such as Merck and Company.

Books For Africa is pleased to provide this report outlining some of the activities across Africa funded by the Sir Emeka Offor Foundation and salutes the philanthropic spirit of Sir Emeka Offor in making this partnership, and the advancement of education across the African continent, possible.

Signed:



Patrick Plonski, PhD.
Executive Director
March 2015



Pictured: Patrick & Sir Emeka Offor sign MOU for the project in 2013.

Books For Africa Receives \$600,000 Donation

by Claire Kirch, June 18 2013

Publisher's Weekly

Books for Africa, the St. Paul, Minn.-based organization that collects donated books and ships them to schools and libraries in 49 African countries, has announced that the Nigerian-based Sir Emeka Offor Foundation has donated \$600,000 to BFA. It is the largest cash donation BFA has received in its 25-year history. The money will be used to ship 1.1 million books to Nigeria, as well as to The Gambia, Somalia, Liberia, Tanzania, Namibia, Senegal, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Botswana, South Africa, Sierra Leone, Egypt, and Malawi.

The Sir Emeka Offor Foundation was founded by a Nigerian business entrepreneur in the mid-1990s to “positively render assistance” to those in need, “irrespective of tribe, creed, religion and nation.” The foundation, which emphasizes health and education programs in Nigeria and beyond, began partnering with BFA in 2010 to ship books to Nigeria and The Gambia. To date, the foundation has sponsored the shipment of 640,000 books to those two countries through BFA, including 110,000 books in 2012 as part of BFA’s “Million Books to The Gambia” campaign.

Since 1988, BFA has shipped 28 million books to Africa from the United States.



Inno Anoliefo, representing the Sir Emeka Offor Foundation, visits BFA's warehouse facility in Atlanta, Georgia on July 30, 2013 to inspect materials for shipment to Africa.

Books For Africa gets \$600,000 to ship one million books

by Mary Ann Grossmann

Pioneer Press

Books for Africa, based in St. Paul, has received a \$600,000 donation from the Nigeria-based Sir Emeka Offor Foundation to support shipment of more than 1 million books to the children of Nigeria and other African nations.

Patrick Plonski, BFA executive director, says this is the largest donation received by the organization.

BFA and the Sir Emeka Offor Foundation are in a 3-year-old partnership that sponsors major shipments of books to Nigeria and the Gambia. In 2010 and 2011, the foundation sponsored shipment of about 530,000 books. Last year, the foundation sponsored shipment of 110,000 books for school children as part of BFA's "Million Books to the Gambia" campaign.

The Sir Emeka Offor Foundation is a non-governmental philanthropic organization whose founder, Sir Emeka C. Offor, began in the 1990s to help the needy regardless of tribe, creed, religion and nation.

BFA is the world's largest shipper of donated text and library books to the African continent. It has shipped more than 28 million books to 49 African countries during the past 25 years.



BFA Founder Tom Warth visits with Sir Emeka Offor at a books & computers distribution ceremony in October of 2012 to celebrate the delivery of educational materials in Nigeria.

Sir Emeka Offor Foundation of Nigeria donates \$600,000 to St. Paul-based Books for Africa; Largest donation ever

Insightnews.com

June 27 2013



The Nigeria-based Sir Emeka Offor Foundation has donated \$600,000 to Books For Africa (BFA), which will support the shipment of more than a million books to the children of Nigeria and across Africa.

"This donation represents the largest single donation we have ever received at Books For Africa, so naturally we are quite excited," said Patrick Plonski, executive director of BFA. "The generosity of Sir Emeka Offor in advancing education across the African continent is an outstanding example for others to follow."

Tom Warth, who founded BFA in 1988, said that the "benefits that will accrue to the young people of Africa through this generous donation are immeasurable. We at Books For Africa struggle every day to convince folks of the wisdom of education in the advancement of African nations. Over our 25 years many have agreed with us but to have your generous donation as an example in the future will make our task easier."

In a unique partnership with BFA that began in 2010, the Sir Emeka Offor Foundation has agreed to sponsor major shipments of books to Nigeria and The Gambia. In 2010, the Foundation sponsored eight containers to students in Nigeria and in 2011, another 16 containers, a total of about 530,000 books.

In 2012, the foundation sponsored the shipment 110,000 books for school children as part of Books For Africa's "Million Books to The Gambia" campaign.

The \$600,000 donation will support the shipment of an additional one million books to the children of Africa. With funding provided by this grant, planning is currently under way to distribute an additional 1.1 million books to Nigeria, the Gambia, Somalia, Liberia, Tanzania, Namibia, Senegal, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Botswana, South Africa, sierra Leone, Malawi and Egypt.

The Sir Emeka Offor Foundation is a non-governmental philanthropic organization whose founder, Sir Emeka C. Offor, began in the 1990s to positively render assistance to the needy in society in various ramifications irrespective of tribe, creed, religion and nation.

Books For Africa is the world's largest shipper of donated text and library books to the African continent. It has shipped over 28 million books to 49 African countries over the past 25 years.

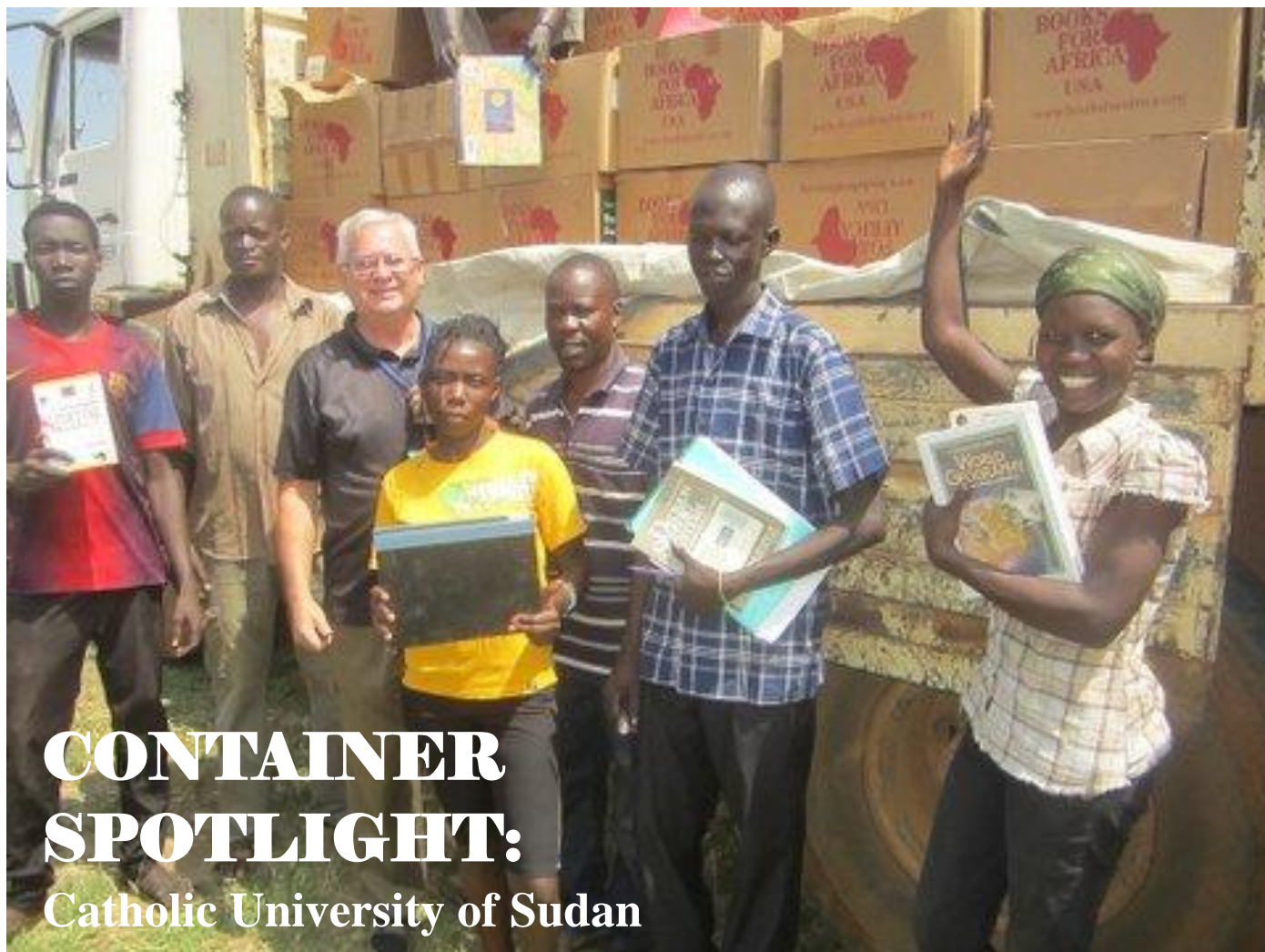
SUMMARY OF SHIPMENTS

As of March 2015, 49 containers have shipped to 19 countries. Each Books For Africa container holds approximately 20 tons of books (approximately 22,000 text, reading, reference and specialty books, packed to order per the recipients' needs).

A summary of the shipments and their recipients is as follows:

	Country	Date Shipped	# of Books	Recipient
1	Sierra Leone (Freetown)	8/29/2013	22,000	Healey International Relief Foundation
2	Sierra Leone (Freetown)	8/29/2013	22,000	Healey International Relief Foundation
3	Somaliland (Berbera)	8/29/2013	18,000	Manhal Charitable Organization
4	Liberia (Monrovia)	9/9/2013	22,000	Visions in Action
5	Liberia (Monrovia)	9/10/2013	22,000	Visions in Action
6	Chad (N'Djamena)	9/16/2013	22,000	Journey to Forgiveness & Peace
7	South Africa (East London)	9/27/2013	22,000	Opera South Africa/Mandela Museum
8	Libera (Monrovia)	10/21/2013	22,000	HELLO Liberia
9	Kenya (Mombasa)	11/4/2013	18,000	Pwani University
10	Tanzania (Dar es Salaam)	11/4/2013	22,000	PEN Trust
11	Tanzania (Dar es Salaam)	11/4/2013	22,000	EOTF/Anna Mkapa
12	Kenya (Mombasa)	11/18/2013	18,000	Diocese of Kisii
13	Rwanda (Kigali)	11/22/2013	22,000	Harms Memorial Libraries
14	Kenya (Mombasa)	11/26/2013	18,000	Moi University
15	South Sudan (Juba)	11/27/2013	18,000	Catholic University of S. Sudan
16	Rwanda (Kigali)	11/12/2013	22,000	ISARO Foundation
17	Uganda (Mbale)	11/13/2013	18,000	Uganda Christian University
18	South Africa (Durban)	11/16/2013	22,000	Peace Corps/Dept. of Education
19	The Gambia (Banjul)	1/10/2014	18,000	Million Books for The Gambia
20	The Gambia (Banjul)	1/10/2014	18,000	Million Books for The Gambia
21	The Gambia (Banjul)	1/10/2014	18,000	Million Books for The Gambia
22	The Gambia (Banjul)	1/10/2014	22,000	Ministry of Basic Education/ Buchanan
23	Puntland (Bossasso)	1/20/2014	18,000	Ministry of Education/Nabad Centre
24	Botswana (Gaborone)	3/13/2014	22,000	Botswana Book Project
25	Botswana (Gaborone)	3/13/2014	22,000	Botswana Book Project
26	Ethiopia (Addis Ababa)	4/25/2014	22,000	Partnership for Literacy
27	Senegal (Dakar)	4/7/2014	22,000	Peace Corps Senegal
28	Malawi (Lilongwe)	4/29/2014	22,000	Ministry of Education
29	Somaliland (Berbera)	5/5/2014	18,000	Admas College
30	Egypt (Alexandria)	5/6/2014	15,000	Alexandrina Library
31	Niger	4/17/2014	22,000	ONG EPAD
32	Niger	4/17/2014	22,000	ONG EPAD
33	Namibia (Walvis Bay)	5/29/2014	22,000	Peace Corps Namibia
34	Senegal (Dakar)	6/20/2014	22,664	Peace Corps Senegal
35	South Africa (Cape Town)	6/27/2014	22,000	Breadline Africa
36	Uganda (Kampala)	6/30/2014	22,000	St. Jude School Palissa

37	Tanzania (Dar)	7/16/2014	22,000	PEN Trust
38	Liberia (Monrovia)	7/22/2014	22,000	HELLO Liberia
39	Uganda (Kampala)	8/27/2014	22,000	US Embassy
40	Uganda (Kampala)	8/27/2014	22,000	US Embassy
41	Kenya (Mombasa)	10/9/2014	22,000	Sikizana Trust
42	Sierra Leone (Freetown)	10/28/2014	22,000	Kimbia District Council
43	Tanzania (Dar es Salaam)	11/12/2014	22,000	Nianjema Secondary School
44	Kenya (Mombasa)	11/17/2014	22,000	Ujamaa Center
45	Tanzania (Dar es Salaam)	11/21/2014	22,000	EOTF
46	Namibia (Walvis Bay)	March	22,000	First Lady to Namibia's choice
47	Ethiopia (Addis Ababa)	March	22,000	Revocup Foundation
48	South Africa (Durban)	March	22,000	Peace Corps South Africa
49	Somalia (Puntland/Bosaso)	March	22,000	Puntland State Ministry of Education
	TOTALS		1,027,664	
	49 Containers Sent			



CONTAINER SPOTLIGHT: Catholic University of Sudan

In early 2014, two BFA containers of books were recently delivered to the Catholic University of South Sudan thanks to the generous support of The Sir Emeka Ofori Foundation, Harriet McGuire, and Catholic Relief Services of South Sudan. One container has been put into circulation at Catholic University to enhance the educational experience of students there, while the other container has been distributed to 23 public and private learning institutions across the country.



These books will benefit more than the students at the recipient schools; each institution receiving books has a library or reading center that is open to both students and the general public! The supplies delivered by this collaboration range from law books for the Law School at Juba University, to educational materials for teacher's training centers, to high school texts and literature for schools and public libraries. This project will promote literacy and learning for students and communities across South Sudan.

Sir Emeka Offor Foundation Commended

October 2014, Spyghana.com

Raheem Oluwafunminiye

One of the major obligations of parents is to see their wards excel educationally, and that demands a lot of financial resources to achieve this feat. Giving a child education is vital to enhancing his knowledge that inevitably provides a smooth path for him or her for the future. Education however is a complex phenomenon and, as a result, doesn't seem to end in the classroom. The culture of book reading is very important both at school and essentially at home because studies show it leads to high academic attainment.

Books are very important. They play an important role in the complete development of children during the early years of life. The more books children read; the quicker their vocabulary develops. Books aid children in learning new words and ways of using words that they already know.

Today, the culture of book reading appears to be waning. Such educational decline is blamed on poorly equipped libraries and in some cases, little direct access to books. It is, therefore, critical that an effective methodology is employed to tackle the downward trend. The reason for this appeal is not far-fetched. According to a survey, children who grew up in homes without books averaged about seven years of education, while those with books averaged about 14 years worth of education that is twice the number of years. It is why a number of organizations and individuals have taken up the initiative to correct this educational deficit.

Interestingly, one of the few individuals in Africa who has taken up this challenge is Sir Emeka Offor. He is making giant strides in the "book reading culture" by facilitating the delivery of books to interior regions of the continent. Buoyed by his passion for education and belief that every child must develop and improve their reading habits, the Sir Emeka Offor Foundation (SEOF) went into partnership with Books For Africa (BFA). As an organization which collect, sort, ship, and distribute books, BFA has donated over 31 million text and library books to 49 different African countries since 1988. BFA has over the past 12 months provided 2.6 million books running at \$35 million to 27 African countries with additional 223 computers.

As a corollary to the above, BFA received not long ago a \$600,000 donation from the SEOF to ship over 1 million books to Nigerian children and others in African countries. The donation, according to BFA, remains till date the single largest donation ever received by the organisation. Happily, both organisations are into a 3-year partnership to provide shipments of books to Nigeria and Gambia. In 2010 and 2011, SEOF as part of BFA's book to the Gambia, sponsored the shipment and donation of 110,000 books for school children.

Not resting on its oars, just a couple of months back, the SEOF through the BFA donated books to the Catholic University of South Sudan. These books, from mid-March until June 2014, were distributed. A fascinating aspect of the book donation is the remarkable distribution network. This has seen a significant number of schools and religious institutions receiving hundreds of books to equip their libraries and aid in the educational development of their wards and members as a whole. For example, apart from the Catholic University of South Sudan, the Catholic Diocese of Rumbek was also one of the many institutions that received books through the SEOF and BFA partnership.

It is, hence, not a surprise that the book donation initiative by the SEOF has witnessed monumental and positive effects on those it touches directly. The foundation's aim, among others, is to provide quality education and educational materials to African students of all ages. This humanitarian gesture could only be done through the heart that understands the challenges African student face on the continent. The initiative has seen more than half of the countries on the African continent receiving books that are rich in educational content and viable for research and study. Libraries could once again be equipped and students able to access materials or books that hitherto were unavailable over a long period.

Accordingly, the news and success story of the book donation and distribution has reached a number of other institutions and schools in South Sudan and have therefore, come out to show interest by requesting for their own book donation. These requests are indications that a significant number of people are hugely interested in the initiative. The benefits that come with this initiative are numerous and with the continuous provision of scholarly educational books for children in all of South Sudan, the SEOF has become a shining light for the country's education advancement.

Container Spotlight: Islamic University, Uganda

From: Mpeza [mailto:drmpeza@yahoo.com]

Sent: Thursday, November 13, 2014 12:07 AM

To: Rector-IUIU; Rachel; Agnes A Aloba; Sam Jones; Lisa C Larson; ASLAM KAFEERO; Patrick

Subject: Photos of book arrivals at the Islamic university in Uganda

I am pleased to inform you that the book consignment arrived safely at the university. Here attached are a few photos taken when the container arrived and offloaded. The university is in a graduation week and so hopefully next week we will unpack and catalogue the entire consignment and remit to you the details. We will also go ahead with the submission of a detailed plan of use as guided by the offer terms.

Regards,

Mouhamad Mpezamihigo, PhD

Vice Rector (Academic Affairs)

Chairman Research and Quality Assurance Committees

Islamic University in Uganda



The container is offloaded at the University's campus.

Container Spotlight: Africa Development Corps, Liberia

Foundation donates 48,000 books to Liberia

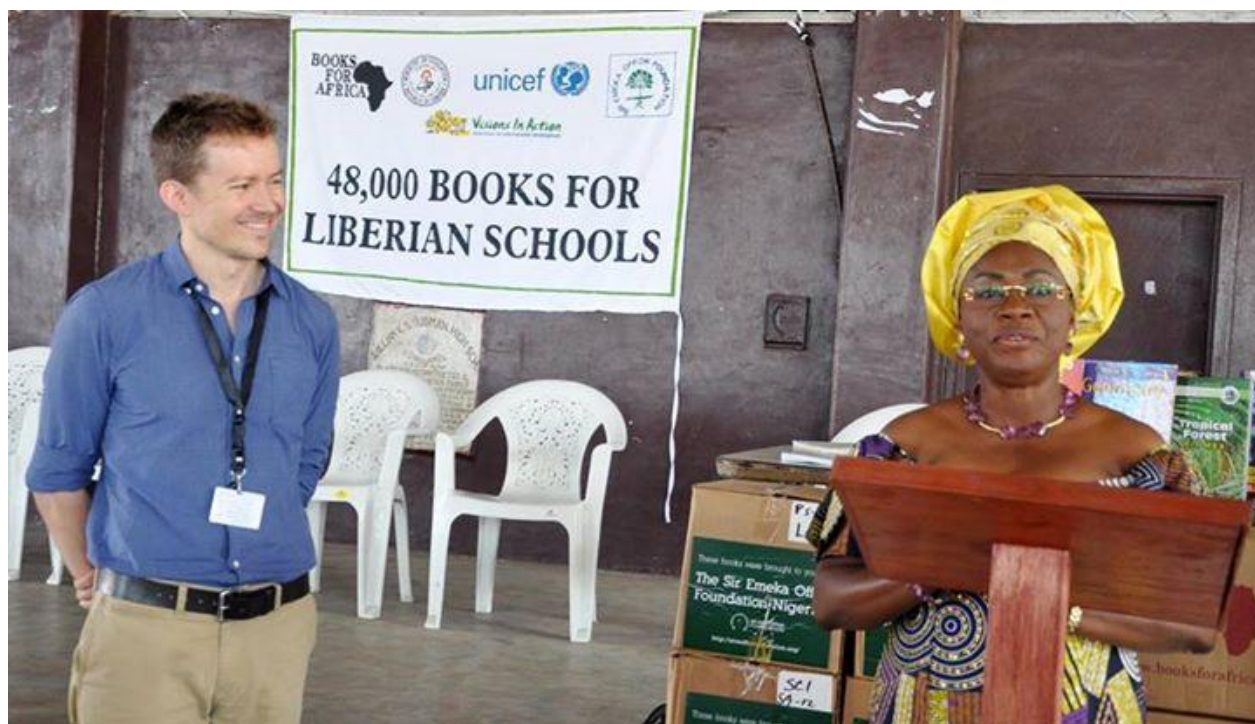
UNICEF Liberia

Monrovia, 6 December 2013: The Sir Emeka Offor Foundation of Nigeria through the US based charity, Books for Africa, donated 48,000 books to 150 schools in all the 15 counties in Liberia.

Facilitated and coordinated by NGO Visions in Action (VIA), the text and library books were officially handed over to Assistant Minister Lawrence Toknubah, Ministry of Education, Government of Liberia in the presence of the Nigerian Ambassador to Liberia, Her Excellency Chigozie F. Obi-Nnadozie. The launch event was conducted at the William VS Tubman High School, Monrovia on 6 December 2013 and was attended by county education officials, NGO partners, UNICEF and the media.

UNICEF, UNHCR and UNMIL and NGO partners – Danish Refugee Council (DRC), International Rescue Committee (IRC), IBIS, Save the Children and Right to Play will support the education ministry to distribute the books in all the 15 counties.

The Books for Africa (BFA) charity was founded in 1988 in St. Paul, Minnesota, USA. BFA collects, sorts, ships, and distributes high-quality books to children in Africa. Books donated by publishers, schools, libraries, individuals and organizations are sorted and packed by volunteers who carefully choose books that are age and subject appropriate. In the last 20 years, BFA has shipped more than 20 million books to 42 African countries.



Assistant Education Minister, Madam Lawrence Toknubah with county education officials and officials from ADC and UNICEF.

Container Spotlight: Mandela Libraries, South Africa

SEOF sponsored shipments were received in late 2013 and early 2014 in South Africa. In Cape Town, South Africa, Breadline Africa, the books became part of the Mandela Day Libraries project. This project, run in conjunction with the Nelson Mandela Foundation, aims to fulfill Nelson Mandela's wish that all children have the opportunity to read and grow. As Breadline Africa Director Tim Smith notes, this initiative has already reached approximately 40,000 children who otherwise would not have access to books, and the generosity of the Sir Emeka Offor Foundation will contribute to the continued success of this wonderful project. As Mandela said, "education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."



BREADLINE AFRICA, Salesian Institute, 2 Somerset Road, Green Point, Cape Town 8001
Tel: 0027 21 418 0322 Fax: 0027 21 418 6406 E-mail: director@breadlineafrica.org.za

Sir Emeka Offor
Sir Emeka Offor Foundation
22 Lobito Crescent,
Wuse II - Abuja.

28th August 2014

Dear Sir Emeka Offor

GRATITUDE FOR GIFT OF BOOKS VIA BOOKS FOR AFRICA

We wish to express our heartfelt gratitude to you for the gift of 22,000 books which arrived in Cape Town recently from Books for Africa in the United States.

We understand that the shipment of these books was paid for by the Sir Emeka Offor Foundation. We therefore wish to thank you for this great gift, and for the work which you are doing throughout Africa in the fields of Education and Health.

The books which you have enabled us to receive will become part of the Mandela Day Libraries project. This project is run in conjunction with the Nelson Mandela Foundation, and aims to install container libraries in primary schools in South Africa. So far 47 of these libraries have been installed, reaching approximately 40,000 children who otherwise would not have access to books. Our aim is to continue to expand this project in the name of Nelson Mandela who wished that all children should have the opportunity to read and grow.

We would like to invite you to be present at an occasion when we open such a library at a Primary school, to be organised at your convenience during 2015.

Yours sincerely

Tim Smith
Director

Pictured: Nelson Mandela's school that now functions as a community library.



Another container arrived in South Africa in November 2013 in East London, South Africa and was received by HRH Unathi Phathuxolo Mtirara, Chairman and CEO of Opera South Africa and the grandchild of Nelson Mandela. He has been busy distributing the books to schools who need them in honor of Mandela.



HRH Unathi Phathuxolo Mtirara delivers books to students and teachers at a school in eastern South Africa.



Container Spotlight: Naleme-Niani, Senegal

From: Lauren Thomas

Sent: Monday, October 27, 2014 12:42 PM

Subject: Books for Africa- Maleme Niani, Senegal

Thank you again for working with Peace Corps to bring books to rural villages in Senegal. The gift of knowledge is immeasurable and my community gives you many blessings!

The villagers of Maleme Niani were eager to learn and grow through education, but they lacked the proper resources. Peace Corps and local community group AJSDN partnered to construct a full-functioning library in the joint middle school/high school. The local school not only serves the 3000-person village, but also students from rural villages within a 50km radius. Students and villagers alike are welcome to come and gain knowledge and empowerment through the simple act of checking out a book. The first of its kind in the area, Bibliothèque Maleme Niani will have profound effects on community and youth development.

Many thanks to Books for Africa and The Sir Emeka Offor Foundation for donating English and French books, ranging from young learners picture books to higher level math and science textbooks. The teachers and administrators at the school are ecstatic to have new resources to push towards the goal of all children receiving an education.

Best Wishes,

Lauren Thomas, Agroforestry Extension Agent
United States Peace Corps in Senegal

**PEACE CORPS
SENEGAL**



**Almadies Lot N/1 TF 23231
Dakar Yoff
BP 2534
DAKAR, SENEGAL**

June 30th, 2014

Inno Anoliefo

Liaison Officer

Sir Emeka Offor Foundation

Dakar, Senegal

Excellency Inno Anoliefo,

My name is Edens Duphresne and I am a Peace Corps Volunteer in Senegal. In working with the NGOs ASDEN, and Books for Africa, and with the assistance of the Sir Emeka Offor Foundation, and the Nichols Foundation, two containers of books were shipped to Senegal. The books will be distributed to many local middle schools, high schools, and Universities as well.

To celebrate the reception of the books that will benefit the children in Senegal, I wish to invite you, and two invitees from the US Embassy, to rejoice with other members in the school establishments, local NGOs, as well as other government officials.

The event will take place at the SODIC printing company next to HOGGY the Grand Yoff hospital on **July 8th 2014, at 10:00A.M.** We would like you to chair this ceremony at which will be invited Senegalese government officials such as the minister of education, important civil society representative and the media.

Thank you for your time.

Cordially,

Edens Duphresne





Pictures taken at the distribution ceremony with the President of ASDEN and the U.S. Embassy acting director Sandra E Clark.



High school students congregate in front of the new library admiring the science textbooks from BFA.



Peace Corps volunteer Lauren Thomas shakes hands with administrator El Hadj Sall at the library's Opening Ceremony.



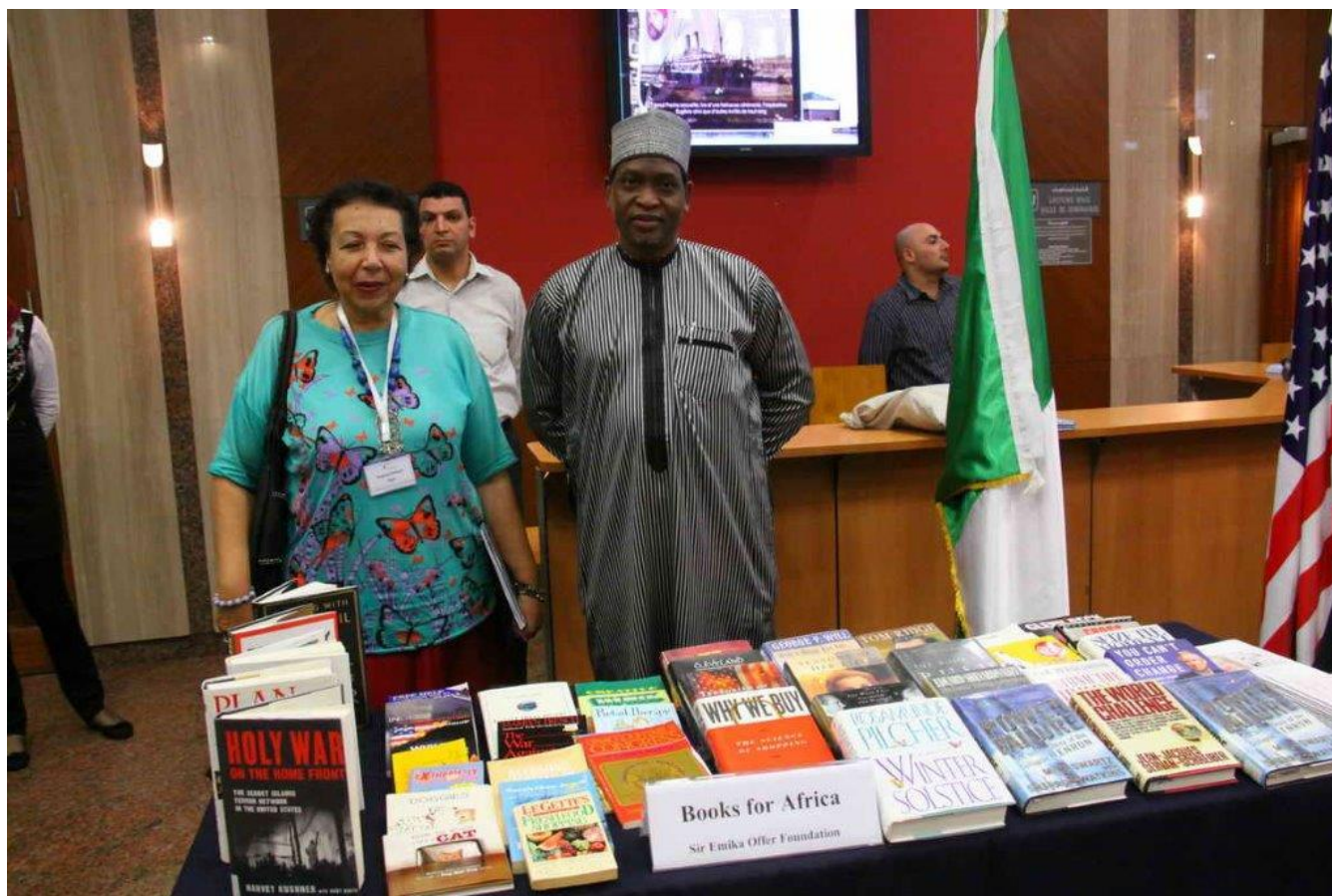
"This library is a great resource as I work to finish troisième and move on to lycée." Khady Gueye, Age 16



"I continue my education because I know we students are the future of Senegal." Awa Ba, Age 15

Container Spotlight: Alexandrina Library, Egypt

On Sunday, October 19th, 2014, there was a special ceremony celebrating the shipment of books to the Alexandria Library in Egypt, funded by the Sir Emeka Offor Foundation. This event was the annual meeting of the Friends of the Alexandria Library, with supporters of the Alexandria Library from around the world in attendance, including Books For Africa supporter, Dr. Aida Khalafalla, who coordinated the delivery of this container of books to Egypt. This photo shows the Books For Africa booth at the event, with the Nigerian Ambassador to Egypt celebrating the shipment of these books.



The Nigerian Ambassador to Egypt visiting the Books For Africa table at the Friends of the Alexandria Law Library annual meeting in October 2014.

Container Spotlight: The Botswana Book Project



Botswana receives over 60 000 books

May 2014

Botswana Book Project in collaboration with Books For Africa and Sir Emeka Offor Foundation have donated over 60 000 books.

Speaking at the handover ceremony at Baobab Primary School in Gaborone, the founder and director of Botswana Book Project, Ms Pam Shelton said since the inception of Botswana Book Project over 17 years ago, the project had donated over 700 000 books to children.

Ms Shelton thanked the Sir Emeka Offor Foundation for their generosity in covering the shipping cost of 750 boxes that contained the books from America to Botswana.

Baobab Primary School, which is part of the project, would be used as the distribution point for the books to schools, tertiary institutions and community libraries. The books were donated by individual Americans.

Narrating the history of the project, Ms Shelton said the project began in Maun in 1997. "Having been a school librarian in the USA for over 24 years, I was excited to share my energy and enthusiasm with the schools in Botswana," she said.

Ms Shelton said she partnered with Ms Olga Seretse, the director of Maun Education Centre and brainstormed on ways to bring the books to the country. Ms Shelton said through surfing the Internet, she discovered Books for Africa, an American charity that sent containers of books to Africa and anyone who would cover the shipping costs. She said the first container arrived in 1998, paid for by her late father.

She said they formed a library committee composed of school heads and school board members with the aim of encouraging literacy in the country. "We toured the district encouraging primary schools to dedicate their staff rooms to becoming a library space," she said.

In her welcome remarks, the head teacher of Baobab, who is also the second director of the Botswana Book Project, Ms Christine Loabile said when she was introduced to the project, it was a match made in heaven.

She thanked Books for Africa and Sir Emeka Offor Foundation for their efforts. "I can assure that the love of reading will be spread throughout Botswana," she said.

The Botswana Book Project's primary function to date has been to supply donated books and literacy materials to the people through schools and other educational institutions. The resources are fundamental for the realisation of an educated and informed nation's Vision 2016 pillar.

Source : BOPA

Author : Obuilwe Nkokonyane

Container Spotlight: The Gambia



Better Communities Association in Banjul, The Gambia, received a container of 22,000 books thanks to the Sir Emeka Offor Foundation in March 2014. A ceremony was held to celebrate the book delivery. These books will be distributed to 16 different schools in the greater Banjul area, including the University of Gambia.



Joy Buchanan, president of the BCA, has worked with Books For Africa in the past on similar book distribution projects. She knows that books are an important part of learning and growing as a student. “If you have a book you are not alone,” says Buchanan, “If it is a text book you will be sitting and listening to the author as he imparts the knowledge and experience that he has gained over many years and written down to help you.”

\$250,000 worth of books donated to schools

March 12, 2014--Books for Africa, a non-governmental organization based in the United States of America, in collaboration with the Banjul City Council, recently distributed 22,000 books to 16 schools, ranging from nursery to University of The Gambia within the Greater Banjul Area.

The Banjul City Council, over the years, has been collaborating with representatives of Books for Africa (BFA), and serving as the custodian of the donated books from the United States meant for distribution to schools in the Greater Banjul Area. The presentation ceremony was held at the Garba Jahumpa Upper School in Banjul.

The Deputy Mayor of Banjul, Awa Sallah Njie, expressed joy at the handing over of the books by the BFA to Mrs Joy Buchanan, who is the official representative of the project in The Gambia.

She stated that the BCC had over the years been collaborating with the representative of BFA and serving as the custodians of the donated books from the USA meant for distribution to schools in Banjul. She noted that the BCC was pleased to be given this opportunity to serve the education fraternity and to contribute effectively to the development of education, adding that books are important source of knowledge and of nurturing reading culture, which is vital to the socio-economic development of any country. The president of Better Community, Joy Buchanan, said the presentation was made possible through the collaboration of several organizations.

The BCC has played a major role and it would not have been possible without the support of Mayor Abdoulie Bah and his team, including those at the seaport. She added that the donation was funded by Sir Emeka Offor Foundation of Nigeria and Books for Africa, further pointing out that the mission of Books for Africa is to improve literacy and reading culture.

“The overall aim is to empower the next generation and break the endless cycle of poverty, and ultimately improving the quality of life,” she said, noting that Books for Africa had shipped more than 28 million educational books to 49 African countries since its founding in 1988.

She revealed that over the past 12 months alone BFA had shipped 2.2 million books valued at \$28.3 million to 22 African countries with an additional 616 computers and 15 brand new law libraries. She further asserted that Books for Africa had been shipping to The Gambia for several years and her organization was honoured to receive and distribute a shipment in November 2012, adding that the donation was received by Better Community Association for distribution to schools and community institutions.

Container Spotlight: Poverty Eradication Network-Tanzania

Poverty Eradication Network Trust (PEN-Trust) in Dodoma, Tanzania received 44,000 books in January and September 2014 courtesy of the SEOF project to support their project in the Singida Region of Tanzania. The project delivered quality books, especially books focused on science and math, to every secondary school in the region.



The headmaster of a secondary school in the Singida region receives his school's allotment of books from Mungwe ABC Athman of PEN-Trust Tanzania



Newly-stocked shelves at a secondary school library in the Singida region.