



50 Million Books and Counting

BOOKS FOR AFRICA 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Books For Africa has shipped more than 50 million books, serving all 55 African countries in the past 32 years.

Photo courtesy of
Sierra Leone Book Trust

Dear Friends,

2020 has been another record-setting year here at Books For Africa! Your generous support in 2020 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 2020:



- **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 50 million books and serving every single African country in our 32-year history. This has garnered us a ninth consecutive top 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, putting BFA in the top 4% of all U.S. charities for fiscal responsibility and transparency. In 2020 alone we shipped over 3.7 million books, and 304 computers and e-readers containing almost 300,000 digital books, carrying a total value of \$38 million. Twenty countries were served this year. Thanks to supporters like you, almost \$3.2 million in cash donations was raised in 2020 to ship these materials.
- **We shipped our 50 millionth book to Africa:** We are pleased to report that we have shipped our 50 millionth book, "Kofi Loves Music," to Ghana. We worked with Ghana's Ambassador to the U.S., His Excellency Dr. Barfuor Adjei-Barwuah, to facilitate this book shipment. After 32 years of collective hard work, the 50 millionth book is cause for celebration, and we welcome your help as we get to work on the next 50 million!
- **We shipped through the Covid-19 pandemic:** The Covid pandemic has caused global dislocation, school closures, social distancing requirements, and dramatically reduced economic activity. This has resulted in severe disruption for our partners in Africa as sea ports, offices, schools, universities and libraries have been closed or seen reduced operations. 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 2021 – 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:** In 2020 we participated in a large-scale USAID-funded project in Ethiopia, delivering hundreds of thousands of new children's books across Ethiopia. We also continued our partnership with the Ethiopian Knowledge and Technology Transfer Society to develop a librarian training program, helping to ensure that library patrons are being well-served and a culture of reading is being fostered. In our warehouse, we were happy to host volunteer groups in 2020 from Amazon, the Atlanta Falcons, AT&T, Coca Cola, Delta, Ernst & Young, Google, McDonald's, Walmart, Bank of America, Caterpillar, CNN, Home Depot, Starbuck's, US Bank, UPS, and many other organizations. These volunteers sorted the millions of books we shipped in 2020. 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 Paris, Montreal, Toronto,

Savannah, Annapolis, Los Angeles, and Lexington in collaboration with our partner organizations. Large quantities of books were supplied by our strategic partners Better World Books, Capstone Publishing, EDS, Follett Educational Services, Franklin Media, Lerner Publishing, Norton Publishing, Walker Bookstore, and Wiley Publishing.

- **We did some things we had never done before:** Books For Africa is always pushing the envelope and seeking new and better ways to meet the needs of our friends across Africa. In 2020, under the new “Books For Africa Publishing” label, we printed a custom run of 44,000 Somali language children’s books. This initiative, in partnership with Lerner Publishing and the Minnesota Humanities Center, will deliver books to locations across Somalia. We sent a record-breaking shipment of 250,000 books to the Zambezi Schoolbook Project in Zimbabwe in April of 2020, in partnership with the United States Department of Defense Humanitarian Relief Program. Finally, we partnered with the UPS Foundation to ship nine containers of books across Africa. The UPS Foundation provided donated freight for this effort as we emptied a donated warehouse full of books in North Carolina.
- **We listened to our African partners:** For the fifth 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 2020, we heard from 38 recipients in 16 different African countries.



In 2020, we engaged our partners on all levels in order to deliver millions of books. This year marked our 32nd year of working towards our vision of getting children reading in every African country. This was the dream of 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. With best wishes for a happy and productive 2021,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Joni Sussman'.

Joni Sussman
President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Patrick J. Plonski, PhD'.

Patrick J. Plonski, PhD
Executive Director





2020 Board of Directors

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In Memorial

Kofi Annan, *Former U.N. Secretary-General,*

Founding Co-Chair

Summit Society Chair

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Abdirahman Kahin, *Afro Deli*

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Catherine Mayer, *BFA Kilimanjaro Society*

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Jeffrey Sturchio, *Corporate Council on Africa*

Asratie Teferra, *Friend of BFA*

Chris Tolbert, *City Council of St. Paul, MN*

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.



DONATE NOW

In order to enhance our efficiency and logistical capacity, we have consolidated our office and warehouse in Minnesota, and have moved to a new warehouse and office in Georgia!

MN Warehouse & Office
717 Prior Avenue N, Ste. B
Saint Paul, MN 55104 USA

GA Warehouse & Office
1491 Cobb Industrial Drive, Bldg. B
Marietta, GA 30066 USA

Books For Africa Financial Information



Statement of Activity

2019

2020

SUPPORT AND REVENUES

Contributions	2,737,607	2,977,892
Interest Earned	66,831	58,282
Books Contributed	36,146,214	34,134,511

TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUES

38,950,652 37,170,685

EXPENDITURES

Program Operating Expenses - Overseas	33,619,743	40,646,169
General and Administrative Expenses	101,837	113,777
Fundraising Expenses	192,482	229,006

TOTAL EXPENDITURES 33,914,062 40,988,952

Change in Net Monetary Assets

\$82,979 \$117,272

Change in Book Inventory

\$5,252,882 \$(3,476,408)



Books For Africa has shipped more than 50 million books, serving all 55 African countries in the past 32 years.



50 Millionth Book Shipped to Africa

BFA hit a milestone in 2020: we shipped our 50 millionth book, “Kofi Loves Music,” to Ghana. We were honored to work with the Ambassador of Ghana to the U.S., His Excellency Dr. Barfuor Adjei-Barwuah, to facilitate this shipment. To mark such a momentous year, we held a Virtual Global Celebration in September that was keynoted by Ambassador Adjei-Barwuah and attended by BFA supporters from around the world.



Response to the Covid-19 Pandemic

The Covid pandemic has caused global disruption, impacting BFA and our partners in Africa. We have responded to this challenge by providing resources to our partners. With a \$150,000 grant from the Merck Foundation, BFA provided thousands of digital and hard copy medical resource books to doctors, nurses and medical students across the continent. We also provided shipments of books that supported schools under quarantine. According to a Rwandan science teacher, “Because of the books received from BFA, each child went home with a book to continue learning while they were in quarantine.” Normal distributions and operations also continued, as we observed safety precautions to keep our staff, partners, and volunteers healthy!

Our mission is to end the book famine in Africa.
www.BooksForAfrica.org

BFA Shipments in FY 2020

July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020

Country	Containers	Country	Containers
Botswana	6	Nigeria	34
Burkina Faso	2	Rwanda	4
Ethiopia	45	Sierra Leone	2
The Gambia	8	South Africa	9
Ghana	15	South Sudan	1
Kenya	33	Tanzania	8
Liberia	2	Togo	4
Malawi	8	Uganda	5
Mozambique	8	Zambia	6
Niger	2	Zimbabwe	9
		TOTAL	211

TOTALS: 211 container units, 304 computers and e-readers,
6 WestCore law libraries, 3.7 million hard copy books and
299,421 digital books to 20 countries

TOTAL VALUE: \$38 million





Niger

African Development University in Niger reported back on the success of its new library, a collection of 20,000+ books that was built from the container shipment provided by BFA. According to Kader Kaneye, “The African Development University [now] has one of the top well-stocked libraries in Niger, and perhaps in the entire Sahel region.” The University’s latest newsletter spoke to how these resources will support research, and expressed a hope that they will continue to grow and add to their collection.

9
container
shipments
sent since
1988

NIGER

Agadez

Zinder

N'Djam



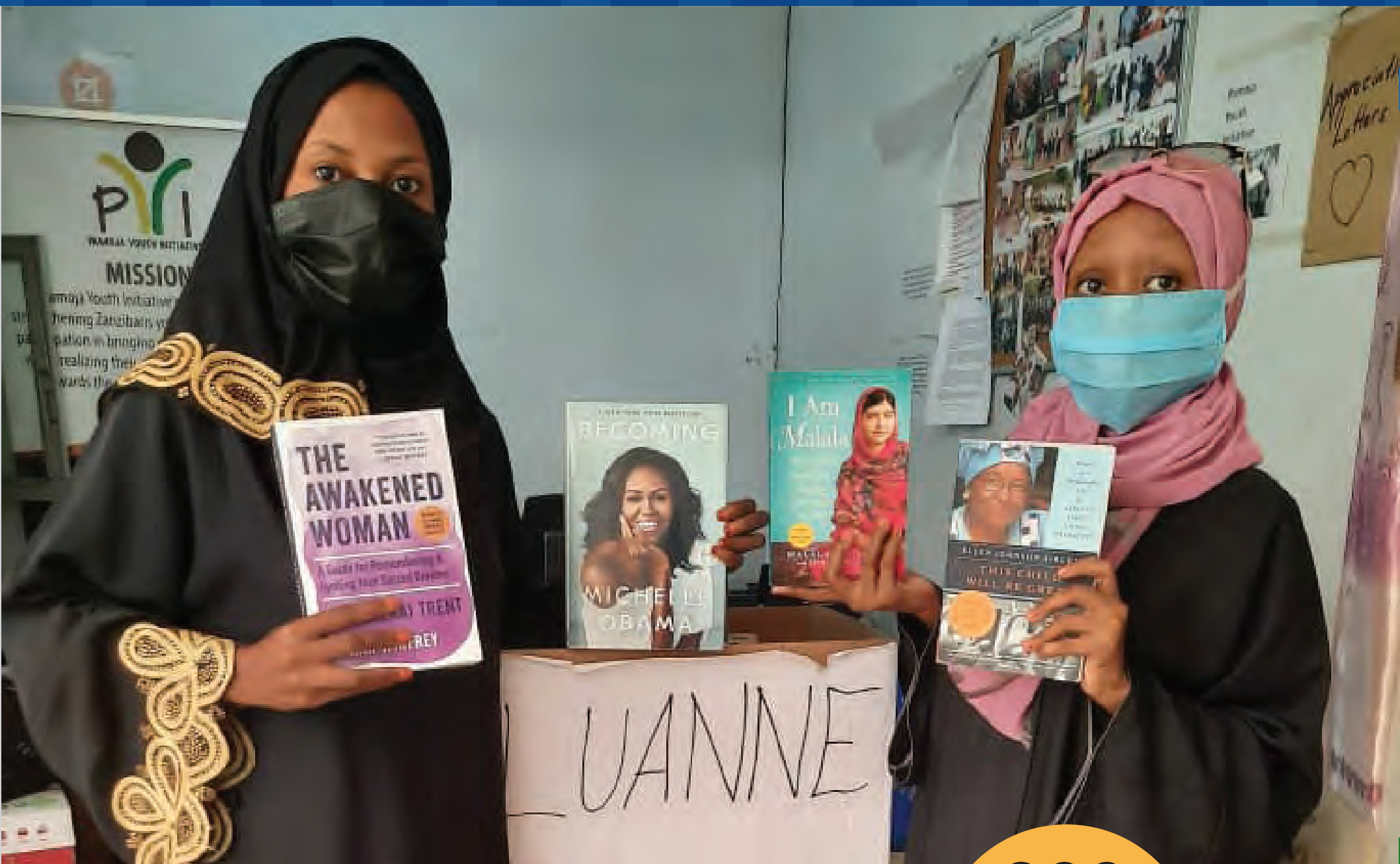
Togo

A shipment of nearly 27,000 books arrived in Togo for distribution in northern Togo, a harder to reach area. Stops included Kara, where books were distributed to fourteen libraries and two orphanages, and Dapaong, in the far north of Togo. The books will equip libraries so that people will have access to high-quality books locally, without having to travel far. The shipment included both English-language and French-language books, as well as 20 solar reading lamps and 5 e-readers. This project had connections with Minnesota, where BFA's administrative headquarters is located! Container Captain Akebim Moise Hezoue was a Mandela Scholar at the University of Minnesota's Humphrey School, while another sponsor of the project, Charlie Cogan, is a BFA board member and long time supporter. BFA Founder Tom Warth also helped organize this effort.

12
container
shipments
sent since
1988

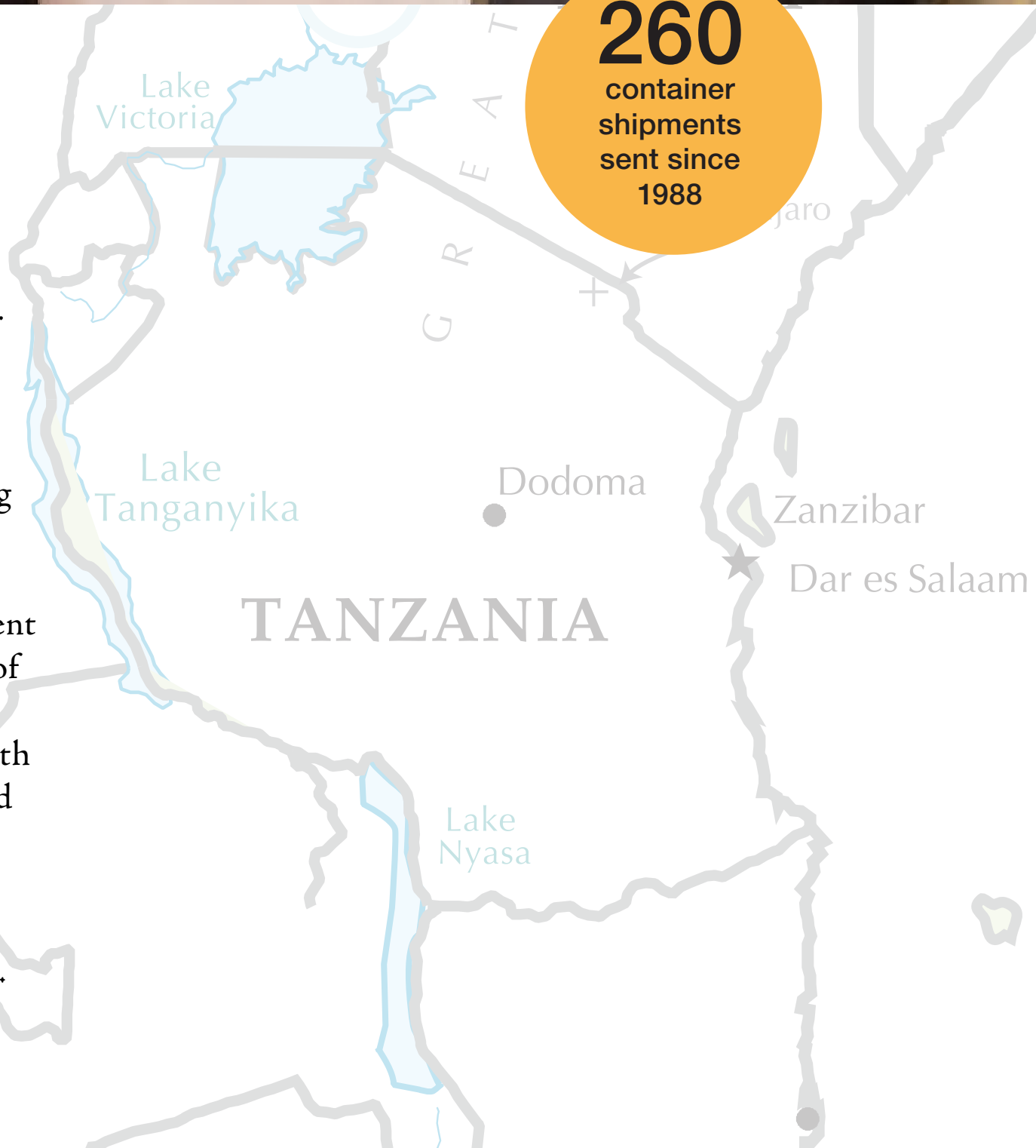
TOGO

Lomé



Zanzibar

A Girls Empowerment Collection, sponsored by the late Luanne Nyberg (former BFA Board President) and her friend Julie Andberg, arrived in Zanzibar in summer 2020. Luanne and Julie originally visited the organization during BFA's Walk Across Zanzibar event in 2016. The collection was part of a container shipment through the State University of Zanzibar, with the collection itself going to the Pamoja Youth Initiative (PYI). PYI entrusted the Girls Empowerment Collection to its "Champion's Girls," who are undertaking leadership training with them.



2020 CONTRIBUTORS

Fiscal Year 2020 donor listings represent contributions received July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020

Individuals

SUMMIT SOCIETY

\$25,000-\$55,000

Anonymous
Richard & Vivikka DeLoach

\$10,000-\$24,999

Anonymous (2)
Frank Babka
Martin Bradshaw
James Coughlin
Lisa Cressman
Hilary Nikolajsen
Carol O'Rourke
Thomas Warth & Zantha
LaFon Warth

\$5,000-\$9,999

Anonymous
Neil Arora
Vincent Barton in memory
of Susan Barton
Joseph Gharthey
Keith Levy
Rebecca Marr
Afolake Mobolaji
Brenda Moore
Richard Murphy
Jesse Okie & Mary
Harrington
Sarah Ratner Goldstein
John Rupp & Stephanie
Laitala-Rupp
Dick Simpson
Mike Spurlino

KILIMANJARO SOCIETY

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Teferi Abere
Patricia Adams
Adeeyola & Oluade Ajayi
Douglas & Mary Albin
Frank Allocca
Ron Aminzade & Mary Jo
Maynes
Richard & Sarah Amos
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Donald Anderson
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Lane Ayres & Marion
McNurlen
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Sundeep Desai

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Rosalie Durkota
Zac Duvall
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Allen Ginsburg
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Habermann
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Abdikadir Hassien
Michael Henley & Randi
Yoder
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Adam Hulbig
Cecilia Ibru
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Jill Cordes & Phil Johnston
Michael Joseph
Ragui Kamel
Abebe Kebede
Tom Kivlahan & Liz O'Kelly
Stuart & Mary Ellen
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June Kronholz & Edward
Lanpher
Susan Levesque
Robyn Liese
Daniel & Corie Loes
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Arthur Matas
Catherine Mayer
Ms. Maynard & Mr. Dirksen
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McCrae
David McLaughlin
Ellen Miller
Perry Mitchell & Pam
Woodley
Christi Murray in memory
of William Wallace
Paul & Shartsi Musherure
Sally Muspratt
Mutune Mutisya
Kalpana Nathan
Eliahu & Joanne Niewood
Lavanya & Arshad Noor
Abdur Nur
Luanne Nyberg
George & Martha Oetzel
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Sarah Olson
Harold & Melanie Oyster
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Steven Pfeiffer & Kristin
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Hawkinson
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Joyce & Ronald Rabens
Carol Raviola
Michael Resnick & Linda
Bearinger
David Sandels
Laura & David Sangree



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Senneseth
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Sarah Sheehan
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in memory of Bob
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Joni & Peter Sussman
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Leslie Williams
Robert Wilson
Colleen Wire
Dave & Becky Wood
Karen Wood
Penny & Alan Wortman
Peishi Wu
Lily Yen
Gretchen Young
Marsha & Oliver Zafiriou

MEMBERS

\$500-\$999

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Abiola Adisa-Obayan
Gayle Amos
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Aden Batar
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Joyce Borra

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Campbell
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Paddy McNamara
Erin Meyer
Tom & Rose Mary Meyer

Charlotte & Craig Reineck
Cynthia Rikhye in memory
of Kofi Annan
Patricia Riley
Steven Rolston
Gareth Rosenau

2020 CONTRIBUTORS

Fiscal Year 2020 donor listings represent contributions received July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020

Larry Rosenberg
Donald Rubin & Olympia
Martyn
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Sabine Crozier
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memory of Luanne Nyberg
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Kikue Kono
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Raymond Kroll
Sandra Langston
Aurora Larson
Cynthia Last
Robert & Jana Laughlin
Katherine Lehmann
Nolan Leung
Melissa Lewis
Steven Luxenberg
Beverly Lyman
Tanya Manno
Jennifer Martinez & William
McArthur
Raimond Jose Mathias



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Michael Menzel & Kathryn
Iverson
Curtis Moe & Kathy Harker
Harun Mohamed
Habiba Mohamud
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Ruth Moore
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Marybeth Nelson
Colby Nordberg
Liam OBrien
Amy Oden
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George & Margaret Ortenzo
Eric & Karen Pacht
Doris Pagelkopf in memory
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Philip & Catharine Pailey
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Jaikrishna Patel
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Chareese & Michael Peters
Arron Piit
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Mark Ritchie
Frank & Andrea Roediger
Jeff & Debby Rogart
John & Beverly Rollwagen
Cheryl Rose
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Catherine Ryan
Gleeson Ryan
Dave Schafer & Anne Pflugli
Andrew Scheineson
Andre & Claudia Schipper
Lorna Schlichtmann
Elizabeth Schroeder
Pallavi Sebastian
Sathiyavageeswaran
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Pamela & Jeffrey Simyon
Patrick Skelly
Chris Snodgrass
Sanjoy Som
Walter & Enoyse Sommer
Patrick Spence
Richard & MaryAnn
Spigarelli
Alice May Spitzer
Dennis Spors

Jason Staab
Janet Stanley
Stephen & Susan Stedman
Sean Stevens
Jim & Leslie Studenski
Amy Tsuey-Lan Tang
Kate Thweatt
Sonia Toson
Leon Van Steen
Jay & Mary VanHook
Eleanor Vaughan
Yolanda Walker
Diantha & Howard Waymire
Gary & Maryann Weinstein
Rose Whipple
Michael Wittorp
Janet Wright
Terry Wrobel
Susan Wu
Sean von Zwehl

Organizations

SUMMIT SOCIETY

\$200,000-\$300,000

Creative Associates International
FHI 360

\$100,000-\$150,000

Anonymous
Merck & Co.
Out of Print
Sir Emeka Offor Foundation,
Nigeria

\$45,000-\$99,999

Canada Inc *
Education Development Center
Room to Read
The Wasily Family Foundation

\$15,000-\$35,000

Aid for Africa*
Better World Books
Catholic Relief Services
Christian Relief Services
Compassion International
Togo
Dodge & Cox
Esmash College P.L.C.,
Ethiopia
Friends of Rwandan Education Inc.
GAGE College, Ethiopia
Leadstar University,
Ethiopia
Peachtree Presbyterian Church
The Estate of Joan Ellen Viener
The Estate of William Paul Wallace via Tom Suydam
Thomson Reuters

\$10,000-\$14,999

Causely
Ghana Book Trust
Mann Family Foundation
Partners With Ethiopia
Silicone Valley Developments LLC
The Culp Family Foundation in memory of Luanne Nyberg
Wide Open Plain LLC

\$5,000-\$9,999

Bilbino s.r.o.
Books For Africa Nigeria Initiative
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Warm Summer Nights LLC
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\$1,000-\$4,999

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Allbeon Media
Alloy Personal Training Solutions
Blowing Willow LLC
Bright Funds Foundation
Capitalism and Freedom LLC
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All Saints Lutheran Church
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Minnesota Warehouse & Office
717 Prior Avenue N, Ste. B
Saint Paul, MN 55104 USA

Georgia Warehouse & Office 1491
Cobb Industrial Drive, Bldg. B
Marietta, GA 30066 USA

www.BooksForAfrica.org
bfa@booksforafrica.org

