

BOOK AID INTERNATIONAL

England & Wales · Charity number 313869

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Charitable company

Company number [00880754](#)

Registered 1966-07-04

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

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Activities

Objects: THE CHARITY'S OBJECTS ("OBJECTS") ARE TO ADVANCE EDUCATION AND LITERACY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES BY CHARITABLE MEANS:(A) BY ESTABLISHING, PROVIDING AND CARRYING ON THE SERVICE OF PROCURING AND DISTRIBUTING READING AND INFORMATION MATERIAL REGARDLESS OF MEDIUM TO DEVELOPING AND OTHER COUNTRIES IN NEED FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES;(B) BY DISTRIBUTING CONSIGNMENTS OF SUCH MATERIAL TO PUBLIC AND COMMUNITY LIBRARIES, UNIVERSITIES, COLLEGES, SCHOOLS, HOSPITALS, YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S CENTRES AND OTHER CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS ACCORDING TO THE LOCAL NEEDS AND PRIORITIES; AND(C) BY PROMOTING OR SUPPORTING ANY TRAINING OR OTHER ACTIVITY WHICH IS DESIGNED TO ENHANCE THE USE OF BOOKS, READING AND OTHER INFORMATION MATERIAL IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

Activities: Book Aid International is the UK's leading international book donation and library development charity. Book Aid International's vision is a world where everyone has access to the books that will enrich, improve and change their lives.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Education/training, Overseas Aid/famine Relief
- **Who:** Children/young People, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, Other Defined Groups, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** OVERSEAS
- Bhutan
- Cameroon
- Eritrea
- Ethiopia
- Ghana
- Greece
- Iraq
- Kenya
- Lebanon
- Liberia
- Malawi
- Namibia
- Nepal
- Nigeria
- Occupied Palestinian Territories
- Rwanda
- Saint Vincent
- Sierra Leone
- Somalia
- Sudan
- Syria
- Tanzania
- The Gambia
- Uganda
- Ukraine
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£22,104,261	£20,875,744	£13,012,335	28
2023-12-31	£22,561,637	£19,991,642	£11,588,918	29
2022-12-31	£17,700,588	£17,420,968	£8,620,203	31
2021-12-31	£12,567,896	£15,587,726	£8,341,883	31
2020-12-31	£14,807,452	£12,969,224	£10,565,763	26

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Dr ALICE MARJORIE SHEILA PROCHASKA	Chair	2022-02-01
Alan James David Hurcombe		2024-06-27
Alexandra Emma Jones		2024-03-21
Chioma Michelle Okwudiafor		2023-03-28
Paula Lee Clarke		2024-06-27
Susan Hutton		2023-03-28
Zainab Umar		2020-10-08

Accounts

2024 Annual Report

Including Trustees' Report and
Accounts for the year ended
31st December 2024



Book Aid
International



Children reading at home thanks
to the Books to Go projects
© National Library of Uganda



Dr Alice Prochaska
Chair, Book Aid
International

“
By sharing the
power of books
with communities
around the world,
we can provide
life-changing
information,
inspire hope and
help millions of
people realise
their ambitions.”

Welcome

Throughout 2024 we have seen so many examples of how with books, people can begin to build a more equal future.

Despite the many obstacles and crises that challenged them, our partners around the world found countless ways to share the power of books with their communities, and we were there to support them.

In total, we provided 194 partners with a record-breaking 1,371,021 books and created 194 new reading spaces in 2024. 19,291,648 people had the opportunity to read the books we sent last year.

In Cameroon, we collaborated with teachers and NGOs to get families who are fleeing conflict reading together. In Somalia, we expanded our partnership network to reach more schools recovering from decades of war.

We worked with refugees and helped restock devastated libraries in countries ranging from Ukraine to Lebanon to Uganda. And through our *Generation Reader* campaign, we provided 141,601 brand-new books to 426,288 young people across Africa, helping them achieve their dreams.

None of our work would be possible without the thousands of people, companies, trusts and authors who give generously to our charity. Last year, we were delighted to see many of our most long-standing supporters and friends at a reception held for us by our Patron, Her Majesty The Queen, to mark our 70th year. It was a very special moment and we would like to thank Her Majesty for hosting the event.

As I reflect on our 70th year and look to the future, I know that the books we can provide are essential to so many people. By sharing the power of books with communities around the world, we can provide life-changing information, inspire hope and help millions of people realise their ambitions.

This Annual Report shows how we worked in 2024 towards a world where everyone has the opportunity to read and why that work matters so much. I would like to extend my warmest thanks to everyone who was a part of our successes last year, and I invite you to join us in 2025 and beyond.

26th June 2025

The Trustees present their report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2024.

Reference and administrative information set out on page 38 forms part of this report. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the Memorandum and Articles of Association and the Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting and Reporting by Charities: SORP applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102. This Trustees' Annual Report includes a Directors' Report as required by company law.

Book Aid International is a charity and limited company registered in England and Wales. Charity no: 313869. Company no: 880754. Registered office: 39–41 Coldharbour Lane, London SE5 9NR. www.bookaid.org

What we do

We share the transformational power of books.

A book might seem like a small thing in the battle against inequality. But we see every day how a book can spark a transformation. Books help learning thrive. They create opportunities. They restore hope. They inspire confidence.

So, every year, we send over one million brand-new books to communities around the world. These books reach readers in thousands of libraries, schools, universities, refugee camps, hospitals and prisons.

The majority of the readers we support live in Africa and we also provide smaller numbers of books to partners in the Middle East and other regions where there is specific need.

The books we provide from the UK are generously donated by publishers, and each book we send is carefully selected for the readers it will reach. Our partners tell us what types of books their communities need and we select books for them based on their requests.

We also support projects and programmes run by our partners to create vibrant reading spaces in schools, libraries and communities, to spark a love of reading and to advocate for books.

These projects and programmes include book donations, grants to refurbish spaces and purchase nationally published books and training support for teachers and librarians to encourage children's reading.

We are now three years into our *Power of Books* strategy. This report reflects our progress towards our vision of a world where everyone has access to the books they need to enrich, improve and change their lives.

Our vision is a world where everyone has access to books that enrich, improve and change their lives.

Our mission is to give people around the world who lack access to books the opportunity to read for pleasure, study and lifelong learning.



Rwandan partner the Ineza Foundation using a donated book in a classroom lesson.
© Ineza Foundation

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2024 in numbers

In total



1,371,021
books provided*



19.3 million
readers reached



194
partners supported

Where we reached readers



2,065
Schools**



771
Public and
community libraries**



323
Higher and further
education libraries



37
Refugee settings



33
Prisons



475
Medical settings

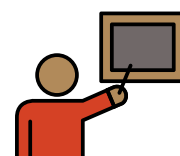
How we supported our partners



£94,432
grants to purchase
nationally published books



38
partner facilitators
upskilled



647
people trained to
support reading

* Includes 26,962 nationally published books

** Includes reading spaces supported and established

Where the books we provided went***

Bhutan	8,785
Cameroon	85,465
Eritrea	24,721
Ethiopia	59,867
The Gambia	42,548
Ghana	230,050
Greece	4,405
India	10,807
Iraq	22,753
Kenya	76,398
Lebanon	34,223
Liberia	48,520
Malawi	86,420
Nigeria	49,165
Rwanda	46,361
Sierra Leone	58,238
Somalia	24,517
South Sudan	33,559
Tanzania (inc. Zanzibar)	77,248
Uganda	111,027
Ukraine	29,545
Zambia	82,120
Zimbabwe	97,317

*** Excludes 26,962 nationally published books

The types of books we provided***

Children and primary	648,117
Adult fiction and leisure reading	178,389
Secondary and teenage fiction	161,706
Higher education, law and teacher training	132,596
Medicine and healthcare	101,932
English language teaching and learning	86,564
Vocational, technical and business	26,078
Reference	5,084
Development	3,593

Strategic report

Our strategic report details our work in 2024, how we delivered a public benefit and how we funded our activities.

A girl in Malawi on her way home with a few favourite books.
© ThokoChikondi / Malawi National Library Service



Access for all

In 2024, we worked with a wide range of partners to take the next step towards a world where everyone has the opportunity to read.

In 2024, we collaborated with 194 partners and supplied 1,371,021 books, helping to support or establish 3,704 reading spaces across schools, universities, refugee camps, prisons, hospitals and medical centres.

By working with a diverse range of organisations we aim to ensure that our books reach the broadest possible audience – offering people the opportunity to read for enjoyment, education and lifelong learning.

Books for all readers

National library services play a critical role in increasing access to books and create an invaluable repository of knowledge. In 2024 we supported national library services in 10 countries, including Uganda, Tanzania and Zambia. The books we provided to our national library partners ranged from picture books for the youngest readers to advanced medical and legal texts, ensuring these libraries can serve the entire community.

As many readers are unable to access public libraries we also worked with many grassroots organisations and NGOs who focus on reaching people who would otherwise have few opportunities to read.

For example, in 2024 we provided books to 33 prison libraries, supported mobile library services that bring books to under-served communities and supplied books to help establish libraries in rural areas. One such library is the Nemashakwe Community Library in Gutu District, Zimbabwe, founded by renowned poet Chirikure Chirikure, which he described as a 'fountain that will water a broad range of futures'.

Creating a generation of readers

Access to books is particularly important to young people so that they can succeed in education and reach their full potential.

So in 2023 we launched the *Generation Reader* campaign with the aim of providing books for 10 million children and young people across Africa by 2030.

In the campaign's second year, we exceeded our targets by providing 141,601 books and opening 71 new reading spaces to serve younger readers. In total, 426,288 young people have benefitted from *Generation Reader* in 2024.

Delivering our five year strategy

Our *Power of Books* strategy will guide our work until 2025. It commits us to working to support readers facing the greatest barriers to reading and learning and is built around four goals: ensuring equitable access, engaging readers, investing in partnership and advocating for books. The rest of this report details our progress towards achieving these key aims.

As we have progressed through the strategy period, we recognised that much of our work takes place in countries classified as low-middle income. However, across all locations, our primary focus remains the same: reaching communities with the least access to books. To better reflect this consistent priority, we now report our work in low and low-middle income countries as a single achievement, rather than separately.

Generation Reader

Books for 10 million young people across Africa by 2030.

Progress in 2024

141,601

books provided



426,288

young people reached



Creating equitable access to books

Throughout 2024, we worked to reach more communities where the barriers to reading and learning are at their highest.

By providing books to people who have been marginalised, affected by conflict or displaced by crisis we help ensure that learning can continue even in the most difficult circumstances. Expanding access to books in communities impacted by poverty also plays a vital role in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals – especially SDG 3: Good health and well being and SDG4: Quality education.

Enriching education

Access to high-quality, carefully selected books in schools enhances classroom learning, supports reading development and helps students grow into confident, independent learners.

Last year we supported some of the world's least resourced schools. For example, we provided 24,721 books for the Ministry of Education in Eritrea to support school libraries across the country and 14,812 books to education NGOs in South Sudan including Save the Children, Windle International and The Excellent Foundation for South Sudan.

We also expanded our work in Somalia, distributing 25,000 books to partners delivering learning opportunities across the country, including SOS Children's Villages, Kaalmo Relief & Development and Finn Church Aid.

In Liberia, Malawi and Sierra Leone, we established four *Explorer Libraries*, giving 7,609 children access to brand-new libraries.

Each *Explorer Library* includes a collection of new books, a grant to refurbish a library space, training for teachers and librarians on how to support reading and funding to purchase nationally published books.

We also distributed 16 *Discovery Book Boxes* to partners in Cameroon, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Zambia. These portable, durable boxes – each containing 200 carefully chosen books and a practical guide to promoting reading – enable reading and learning to flourish even in the absence of a formal library.



Children reading donated books in an *Explorer Library* in Sierra Leone.
© SALBOT

Supporting quality healthcare

In many places where we work medical schools and institutions lack the funding to purchase up-to-date medical titles leaving students and practising professionals with limited access to the latest knowledge. So in 2024 we provided 101,932 medical texts to 475 medical institutions in 14 countries.

Our equity goal

We will prioritise reaching more of the people who face the greatest barriers to reading and learning.

Achievements in 2024

94%

of books provided to low and low-middle income* countries



33%

of books reached fragile and conflict-affected countries



This included supporting medical partners in Cameroon, South Sudan, Sierra Leone and Malawi – countries where healthcare providers are facing enormous challenges. We also donated 1,039 books to support Action Child Cancer Africa in Ghana, helping them establish a new library at Tamale Hospital for children undergoing cancer treatment.

Responding to crisis

People living with or fleeing conflict and crisis face tremendous barriers to reading and learning, so in 2024 we provided 438,339 books to 54 partners in fragile and conflict-affected countries.

This included supporting new partners, such as Rescue Generation Ethiopia, as well as continuing our support for existing partners. We donated 1,221 books to the Sinjar Academy in Iraq, which was set up to support the Yazidis community in the wake of the 2014 genocide and 25,545 brand-new books to PEN Ukraine to help restock libraries damaged in Russia's full-scale war.



A Ukrainian librarian searching for a book during a power outage.
© SKozliuk2024 / PEN Ukraine



A Discovery Book Box arriving at a school in Malawi.
© The Malawi National Library Service.

As part of our commitment to reaching people fleeing conflict and crisis we supported 32 partners who focus on supporting people who have been displaced, providing a total of 104,027 books.

In Uganda, we worked with our partner the Windle Trust to create seven secondary school libraries, 23 primary school libraries and 21 early years libraries in the Palyorinya and Kyangwali refugee camps. Many of these libraries offer the chance to borrow solar lights alongside books.

We also supplied 20 *Discovery Book Boxes* to ten schools whose libraries and book collections were lost or damaged when Cyclone Freddy struck Malawi in 2023, offering students the chance to reconnect with reading and resume their learning journeys.

Increasing displaced girls' confidence in Uganda

Displaced families living in Palyorinya and Kyangwali refugee camps often have unreliable electricity, and the camps offer few spaces for reading and learning outside the home. Girls are often expected to take on household chores instead of focusing on their studies after school, with limited time to study before night falls.

This means that the libraries we created with The Windle Trust where students can borrow both books and solar lamps are especially important for girls, as they enable reading and studying to continue in the evening. In many schools the libraries have been a catalyst for new activities – including reading clubs.

Teachers now report that young women are finding new confidence:

“I no longer fear speaking because I know more words.

I can talk in front of people and talk confidently in English. I used to fear and felt ashamed because I had nothing to say. I am now more active in the reading clubs and able to speak in debates.”

Displaced girl who uses one of the new libraries

Our work in focus:

Our impact in Lebanon

In 2024, we grew our work in Lebanon supporting people who are coping with multiple crises.

The 2020 Beirut port explosion, the pandemic, a struggling economy and the conflict in southern Lebanon have had a devastating impact on learning and left many readers without access to books. Lebanon is also home to at least 1.5 million Syrians and Palestinians who have fled war and hosts the largest number of refugees per capita in the world.

As English is widely used alongside Arabic and French the books we can offer are important both for education and leisure. So we work with our partners in Lebanon to create reading opportunities.

Reaching readers across Lebanon

Last year, we provided a total of 34,223 books to public, community and mobile libraries as well as schools across Lebanon, giving thousands of people the opportunity to read. 25,651 of those books went to The Lebanese Board on Books for Young People (LBBY) to support the charity's work engaging children in reading. Last year LBBY distributed books to a range of communities, including schools in the Bekaa region hosting displaced children and juvenile detention centres.

We also provided 3,660 books to ASSABIL, an NGO which works to establish and promote public libraries and open cultural spaces. These books are now available to readers in refugee camps, universities and schools.

Supporting people displaced by conflict

In addition to providing books which support LBBY and ASSABIL's work with people who have been displaced, we have also developed partnerships with NGOs that focus on refugee communities.

Last year the 1,200 children's books we donated to international NGO Room to Read helped equip libraries in the Bekaa region, supporting children who have fled conflict.

We also provided 3,152 books to Tuyoor Al Amal, an NGO established by Syrians living in Lebanon which works to support schools in communities that have been marginalised.

They establish classrooms in whatever spaces they can find, including inside empty shops and garages, and the books we provide create the opportunity for children who are facing huge challenges to read.

Developing projects

In 2024, we built on our work with LBBY to launch the *Books for Bekaa* project. Together, we created three school libraries stocked with 1,000 English language and 500 Arabic books which served both displaced and Lebanese children. We aim to develop more projects together in the years to come.

2024 in numbers

34,223

books provided



5

partners supported





Supporting Children in Crisis

When the conflict broke out in October 2024, many families in southern Lebanon were forced to flee. LBBY responded with the Children in Crisis project, which used bibliotherapy to help children cope with the trauma of displacement. We joined other donors, including the International Board of Books for Young People, in supporting their work.

The books we donated were used alongside Arabic books and art activities by Lebanese volunteers to help children process their experiences during the conflict. We asked LBBY President Shereen Kriedieh to tell us more:

“Books have always been a source of knowledge, inspiration and solace.

During times of conflict, they take on an even greater role, serving as a form of psychological refuge and a means of healing. Bibliotherapy, the use of books as a therapeutic tool, was an essential component in helping children understand and process their experiences during the war. Books provided children with an escape from their immediate surroundings.

Through literature, they could travel to new worlds, immerse themselves in different realities, and temporarily distance themselves from the stresses of conflict. This imaginative journey was not mere entertainment; it offered a powerful coping mechanism.”

Image: LBBY President Shereen with one of the books used in the Children in Crisis project. © LBBY

Engaging communities with reading

Throughout 2024, we worked with our partners to help more people discover the transformational power of books.

To foster meaningful engagement with books and reading, people need access to rich, diverse and relevant collections. In 2024, we supplied carefully selected, inspiring books to school libraries, community reading spaces and library outreach services across Africa and beyond.

We also provided grants to our partners, enabling them to purchase nationally published books which strengthen their collections. These grants supported the acquisition of 26,962 books in 2024.



Reading books borrowed from a Books to Go library in Zimbabwe. © ENML

Enriching school and public libraries

School libraries full of well chosen books help pupils to engage with reading and become confident readers, curious learners and school leavers with the ambition to succeed. So in 2024 we supported or created 2,065 school libraries.

Last year, our *Books to Go* programme established lending libraries in 21 primary schools across Ghana, Kenya, Uganda and Zimbabwe. Each school received book bags alongside donated books so students could take books home to enjoy reading with friends and relatives. Many participating teachers have noticed a new excitement about reading amongst their pupils and report that classroom learning has been enriched by the new books.

“

The Books to Go bags are useful. They motivate learners to borrow books from the school library.

We have noticed how learners proudly carry the bags home, which ultimately increases the self-esteem of the child.”

Emma Mutero, Teacher, Warazo Jet school, Kenya

In 2024, we continued our *Inspiring Readers* programme, creating libraries designed to support children's learning in 20 primary schools in Malawi and Zimbabwe. Each school was connected to a

Our engagement goal

We will engage more people with reading, especially in under-served, rural and marginalised communities.

Achievements in 2024

2,065

school libraries established or supported



16

partners supported outside Africa



nearby *Children's Corner* – a welcoming space in a public library enhanced through new books, librarian training and a grant for refurbishment. These school-library links give children new opportunities to engage with books. We also opened two new *Children's Corners* in Ghana, helping more young readers engage with books.

At the same time, we expanded the *African Story Box* programme in Uganda and Malawi, distributing 20 boxes to reach 25,547 young readers. Each box offered a rich mix of 100 nationally published books alongside 100 carefully chosen UK storybooks, giving children the chance to explore both familiar and faraway worlds through reading.

We also concluded a special collaboration with World Vision Zimbabwe, supporting the creation of reading clubs in 16 primary and five secondary schools. Through this initiative, 28,991 books reached children in rural areas. A review of the project found that students were reading for pleasure more often, while teachers were using books to spark curiosity and support new approaches to learning.

Supporting community and mobile libraries

Community and mobile libraries are a vital resource for readers who are unable to access public or school libraries, so we support community libraries in many of the countries where we work.

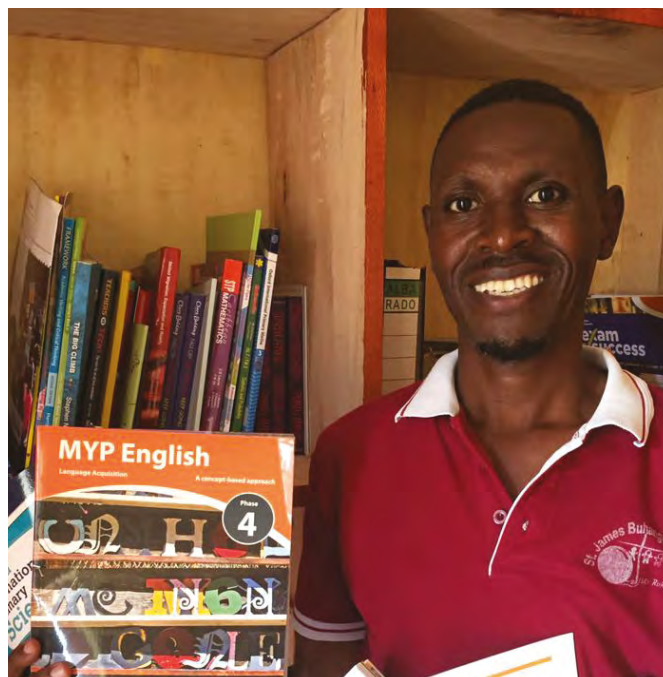
In Rwanda we provided 1,369 books to iDebate Rwanda in support of the organisation's mission to encourage young people to think critically and become active, engaged citizens.

In Uganda, we provided 8,722 books to the Community Libraries Association, while in Zambia we provided 5,101 books that are now on the shelves of Book Bus Zambia's mobile library.

Funding community reading projects

2024 marked the third year of our *Community Reading Awards*, which support grassroots projects that bring books into the heart of communities and make reading more accessible to all. We gave 11 grants of £1,700 each, and winners included:

- › **Books to the Boys in Ghana**, which has created a library and literacy programme at an institution for young offenders
- › **Jahunda Reading Club in Zimbabwe**, which has set up a mini library for elderly people who care for their grandchildren
- › **Children's Ward Mini Library in Tanzania**, which is helping children read to relax and learn at Mnazi Moja hospital



Books being shelved by Community Libraries Association of Uganda staff. © Community Libraries Association of Uganda

Engaging the youngest readers in Rwanda

In Rwanda, libraries are few and far between – and many families can't afford books. This leaves children with little or no access to reading before they start school.

Our partner, the Ineza Foundation, is working to change that. They have helped establish over 800 Early Childhood Development Centres and in 2024 we supported their work with book donations specially selected for young readers. Elizabeth Johnson, the foundation's founder and director,

shared how this work is making a difference:

"Donated books play a crucial role in helping children develop an early enjoyment of reading by giving them access to diverse and engaging materials. Colourful picture books, interactive stories and well-written children's books spark curiosity and encourage young readers to explore new ideas, emotions and cultures."



Developing thriving partnerships

Last year we supported a wide range of partners to expand and enrich their work sharing the power of books.

Our partners are ideally positioned to encourage and support people in engaging with books for enjoyment, education and lifelong learning. By enabling our partners to expand their work, we can drive lasting, sustainable change for those who need books most.

In 2024, we provided books, funding and capacity-strengthening support to help our partners promote reading within their communities. We also grew our network by welcoming 40 new partners and supporting 16 partners from outside Africa.



A partner-led training in Sierra Leone. © Salbot

Providing training for sustainable change

Whenever we refurbish or establish a library or reading space, we accompany it with training on key topics such as library management, setting up lending systems, promoting reading in schools and engaging communities with books. In 2024, we directly trained 137 individuals in these areas.

Increasing partner capacity

Our approach is increasingly focused on building long-term sustainability by upskilling facilitators within partner organisations. This model enables our partners to enhance the support they provide to schools and libraries. Last year, we trained 38 partner facilitators who, in turn, trained 510 teachers, librarians, and carers – extending our reach and multiplying impact.

In The Gambia, we worked with the Unique Foundation to equip facilitators who then trained teachers in how to make classroom libraries tools for literacy development and reading enjoyment.

In Cameroon, we co-developed the *Read Together* programme with Street Child Cameroon, establishing school-based lending libraries for children displaced by conflict. As part of this work, we also trained facilitators to engage parents and caregivers in supporting children's reading at home. This collaborative approach ensured that training was responsive to the unique challenges families face.

Our partnership goal

We will develop dynamic partnerships with organisations that share our vision of creating more equitable access to books.

Achievements in 2024

38

partner facilitators
upskilled



40

new partnerships



Supporting book provision partners

Managing and organising large book donations can be a learning curve, particularly for newer partners or those without dedicated information professionals.

We already provide print and video resources to support book provision partners, and in 2024 we took our support further by launching online reader support workshops which offered partners practical guidance and boosted their confidence.

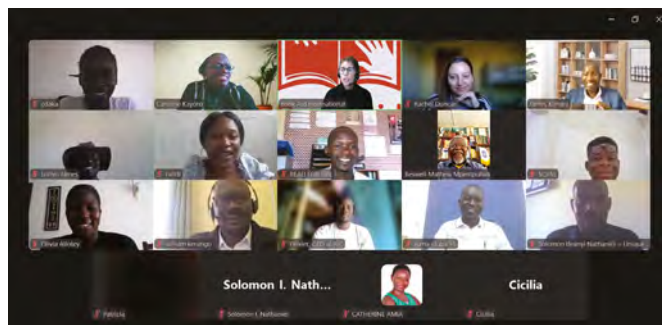
The workshops included discussions, videos and group tasks covering subjects such as how to catalogue donations and building balanced book collections. We welcomed 14 participants from 11 organisations and six countries for the first session, and four more workshops are planned for 2025.

“

The concept of bespoke shelves, designed to showcase books in an engaging way, was particularly impactful.

I realized that thoughtful design can significantly increase user interest and encourage exploration. I learnt that the library should be a place that people want to be.”

Workshop participant Cyril from Kenya



A busy reader support workshop

Fostering peer learning and collaboration

In 2022, we launched our *Partner Development Programme* to strengthen our partners' skills and encourage mutual support. As part of this initiative, partners came together to establish a Community of Practice (CoP) – a space to share experiences, exchange ideas and collaborate on solutions.

In 2024, nine partners from Cameroon, Ghana, Liberia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Uganda and Zimbabwe participated in the CoP.

With our support, they organised six shared learning sessions focused on topics including project management, report writing, building organisational resilience and knowledge management. These sessions helped partners develop their work and created a sense of connection with others who believe in the power of books.

Building capacity with AfriKids Ghana

AfriKids, a Ghanaian NGO, supports children in the country's Upper East region – an area where the majority of communities are affected by poverty, schools are under-resourced and services for families are limited. In this context, the books we provide serve as vital tools to enrich classroom learning.

In 2024, we partnered with AfriKids to co-develop a training course aimed at equipping teachers and head teachers with the skills to manage book donations effectively and integrate books into their teaching.

135 teachers, head teachers and AfriKids staff took part in the course, which covered key topics such as using books to teach reading comprehension and how storybooks can enhance the school curriculum.

The workshops also served as a 'Training of Trainers' opportunity for the AfriKids team.

Pre-workshop coaching was provided to AfriKids trainers who then co-facilitated the workshop alongside our staff to strengthen their skills before taking over delivery of the course themselves.

Following the workshop, AfriKids staff reported increased confidence in delivering training independently, while teachers felt more assured in their ability to incorporate books into classroom learning.

An AfriKids teacher during the training course. ©AfriKids



Our work in focus:

The power of partnership

We asked three of our partners to tell us how our work together in 2024 is playing a role in creating long-term change.

Mulugeta Woldestadik, Outreach Librarian, Hawassa University, Ethiopia

Since 2020, we have supported Hawassa University's work enhancing education, research and community outreach. Last year, we provided 2,802 books to support their work, bringing the total number of books provided so far to 9,000. 30% of these books have strengthened the university's libraries, while 70% have reached public schools, prison libraries, health colleges and technical and vocational education and training institutions. Mulugeta told us more about the impact of this work:

"Through our collaboration, particularly through our outreach programmes, we are bridging educational gaps, fostering lifelong learning and cultivating a more literate and informed society. The partnership also promotes sustainability, as donated books continue to serve multiple generations of readers.

Seeing students, educators, community members and prisoners gain access to books they wouldn't have otherwise is incredibly rewarding.

It is clear that print books remain essential and important, even as online resources are increasingly utilised as their use is limited by infrastructure challenges. Many students still depend on physical books for their studies. What's truly encouraging is the community's strong thirst for knowledge and deep cultural value for education, which makes the impact of book donations even more profound and meaningful."

“
Together, we are not just building libraries – we are building lives.

Stephen Aminehi, Senior Librarian, Zaccheus Onumba Dibiaezue Memorial Libraries (ZODML), Nigeria

ZODML establishes libraries that support individuals and communities to reach their full potential. In 2024, we supported ZODML for the first time, providing 2,510 books to support their community, school and prison libraries. The charity's senior librarian, Stephen, talked about how this young partnership is helping ZODML achieve its aims:

"Book Aid International has so far supported ZODML by donating new books and contributing funds to our annual International Literacy Day celebration.

These contributions enable us to enrich our libraries with books that are often hard to come by, ultimately supporting us in our mission to promote literacy. The titles selected meet the specific needs of our readers and have made a significant difference in promoting literacy, supporting learning and inspiring a genuine love for reading within our community.

We have received a diverse collection of fiction and non-fiction titles spanning various genres specifically tailored for children and young adults – the primary demographic our libraries serve. The Braille books included in the shipment were specifically donated to a school for blind and partially sighted children.

By enhancing our book collection, the partnership has freed up resources to allocate to other vital activities. Also, the contribution to our annual International Literacy Day celebration has enabled us to expand our commemoration of this important global event, amplifying the event's impact and reach."

“
We look forward to continuing the partnership in the years ahead.



Michael Moyo in the ENMT library. © ENMT

Michael Moyo, Director, Edward Ndlovu Memorial Trust (ENMT) Zimbabwe

ENMT runs a range of programmes to support rural communities in Zimbabwe's Matabeleland South Province, including the provision of a public library and books for schools. We've supported the charity's work for many years, and in 2024 we provided them a total of 11,635 books. Michael was also involved with our *Partner Development Programme* (PDP) in 2022 and 2023 and the *Community of Practice*. We asked him for his reflections on how being a part of the PDP is helping ENMT thrive.

“ We learnt a lot from the PDP.

One of the key programmes which I pursued as part of the PDP was project management for development practitioners. That on its own assisted me to look at how programmes are implemented.

Then there was the issue of monitoring and evaluation. After learning about that I straight away incorporated it into our strategic plan. We now have

a component of monitoring and evaluation which was not there before.

We also learned about resource mobilisation. Now we have managed to strike a deal with a local mine to cover fuel costs. That fuel helped us to increase our visits to schools. All of these things we have gotten through PDP learnings.

I have a lot of ideas around the library, which I'm going to implement. One of them is that they should provide free Internet service. I also noted that there's need for the library to provide a meeting space for the youthful population, maybe a cafe space.

Also, I would like to see each and every rural school in Matabeleland South Province receive books from Book Aid International.”

“ Ongoing collaboration is how we will reach these goals.

Speaking up for reading

Throughout 2024, we supported partners' work promoting reading and raised awareness of the urgent need for books worldwide.

Millions of people are held back by a lack of books and too often the impact of being without books goes unrecognised. So in 2024 our advocacy activities helped shine a light on the importance of access to books in communities around the world.

Supporting reading promotion

Through our *Reading Promotion* campaign, we supported library partners in 13 countries to run and publicise reading events on International Literacy Day with a grant to fund activities and marketing support.

Many partners used the funds provided to run innovative events which brought books to life. For example in Nigeria, the Zaccheus Onumba Dibiaezue Memorial Libraries (ZODML) invited children from four nearby communities to hear Ndidi Chiazor-Enenmor read from his book 'A Father's Pride,' which was nominated for the Nigeria Prize for Literature.

In total, these events directly engaged a total of 3,393 children and 2,222 adults and raised awareness amongst thousands more about the importance of libraries through 30 pieces of press coverage.



A Reading Promotion event in Zimbabwe. © Edward Ndlovu Memorial Trust



One of our events at the London Book Fair

Raising awareness at London Book Fair

We were honoured in 2024 to be The London Book Fair's joint Charity of the Year, alongside the National Literacy Trust. This opportunity gave us a platform to raise awareness of the need for books within the book trade. Our stories featured in leading publications including *BookBrunch*, *The Bookseller*, *Publishing Perspectives* and *Publishers Weekly* and our social media activities around the fair achieved 18,000 views.

At the fair itself, we organised two seminars. Speakers included our President, Bloomsbury CEO and Founder Nigel Newton CBE; our Vice Patron, Lord Paul Boateng; Head of Community Engagement at Cambridge University Press & Assessment, Heidi Mulvey; PEN Ukraine's Dr Olha Mukha; and Senior Vice President of Elsevier, Dr Michiel Kolman.

We discussed the power of books and how book donations help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. We also hosted a reception at the Bloomsbury stand where key industry figures came together to help drive support for future book donations.

Our advocacy goal

We will be advocates for the transformational power of books.

Achievements in 2024

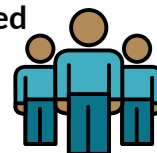
11

reader stories published



5,615

people attended Reading Promotion events



Highlighting readers' voices

Sharing readers' stories on our website, on social media and in the press both raises awareness of the importance of books and motivates UK audiences to support readers worldwide.

So in 2024 we published 11 new reader stories on our website which were viewed 3,194 times and shared those stories with our more than 26,000 social media followers.

We also generated 366 pieces of press coverage on the importance of books. This included widespread coverage of our royal reception, which brought together over 100 of our partners, friends and supporters at St James's Palace with our Patron Her Majesty The Queen to mark our 70th year.

Taking part in Hay Global

In 2024 we deepened our connection with Hay Global through our involvement with the Hay Festival in Hay-on-Wye and with NBO Litfest in Nairobi. These festivals provide us with key opportunities to raise awareness of the vital importance of increasing access to books worldwide.

In Hay-on-Wye, we welcomed an audience of 600 people at our event 'Beyond Conflict: The Role of Libraries in Rebuilding Societies' with authors Elif Shafak and Priscilla Morris and our Vice Patron Lord Boateng.

“The loss of libraries deprives people of so much.

Priscilla Morris, speaking at the Hay-on-Wye festival in Wales at our 'Beyond Conflict' event

NBO Litfest is a leading literary festival in Nairobi which is co-hosted by our partners, Book Bunk, and the Hay Global team.

We welcomed young readers to an *African Story Box* event at the festival's new Children's Corner where teacher Orpah Agunda ran a series of sessions to explore the joy of literature through storytelling.

“The 2024 NBO Litfest was a testament to the power of literature and the arts to foster dialogue, inspire creativity, and bring communities together.

Marion Anvango from Book Bunk



A reading at Hay Festival's NBO Litfest's children's corner. ©NBO Litfest

The impact of Reading Promotion in Cameroon

In 2024, our longstanding partner EISERVI in Cameroon ran a *Reading Promotion* event that brought the community together. EISERVI's Executive Director Andrew Nyenty told us what the event meant:

“Many parents have challenges acquiring books for their children. The EISERVI library and other libraries supported by Book Aid International come in to provide the necessary books so that the children can do their assignments after school. But many people do not know about our library.

This event in the community brought awareness to the teachers, pupils and the community at large about the importance of reading and the use of libraries.

Since the event, we have had an increase in the number of people and parents coming to our library to enrol their children and even wanting the librarian to work with their children.”



Our book donors

The vast majority of the books we sent from the UK in 2024 were donated to us by publishers and the wider book trade.

Publishers donate all kinds of books to us – from children's books to support early literacy and encourage reading for pleasure right through to advanced specialist texts for practising professionals.

This incredibly generous support means that we can offer the books that will support a wide range of partners and share the power of books with millions of readers who would otherwise struggle to access the books they need.

“**Donating and volunteering with Book Aid International is our privilege, gifting the transformative impact of reading to those who need it the most.**

Our valued and ongoing partnership with Book Aid International is a vital way for Hachette UK to reach all readers across the globe and deliver on our mission to make it easy for everyone to discover new worlds of ideas, learning, entertainment, and opportunity.”

Maura Wilding, Group Communications Director Hachette UK

Our publisher partners

83 publishers donated 1,352,001 books to us in 2024. Our book donors included many of the world's largest and most prominent publishers, some of whom donated more than 50,000 books.

We are also supported by a range of independent publishers who donate smaller volumes of more specialist texts which are highly valued by readers around the world.

We were delighted to welcome 25 new book donors last year, and to deepen our relationships with many of our long-standing supporters.

We are especially grateful for the substantial support we received from Bloomsbury Publishing PLC, Bonnier Books, Cambridge University Press & Assessment, CGP Coordination Group, Elsevier USA, Gale – A Cengage Company, Hachette UK, Macmillan, Oxford University Press and Walker Books Ltd.

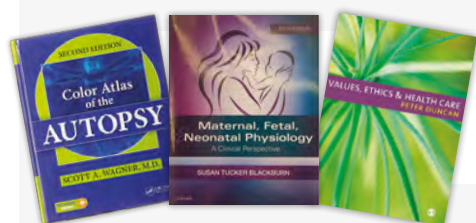
The books publishers donate

The brand-new books we receive from publishers are the backbone of our work. Here are just a few examples of the titles donated to us:

Children's



Health and social care



Further and higher education



Reference



Leisure reading



The value of direct book donations

In 2024, 169,885 of the books we provided were sent directly from our generous publisher supporters to our partners in Africa.

This enabled us to donate higher volumes of books to partners with the librarian skills and networks to select and distribute them, often in specific genres such as children’s or medical books.

Publishers who supported us in this way included Bloomsbury Publishing PLC, Elsevier USA, Macmillan and Bonnier. The books they provided reached readers in Ghana through the Ghana National Library Service and medical services in Cameroon, Kenya, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe through our leading medical partners.

“**Bloomsbury are delighted to have donated a substantial number of books in our continued support of Book Aid International and the vital work they are doing to enrich the lives of others across the globe.**

We are particularly proud of the collaboration to send direct shipments and get books to those in need as quickly as possible.”

Simon Robson, Global Operations Director, Bloomsbury Publishing PLC

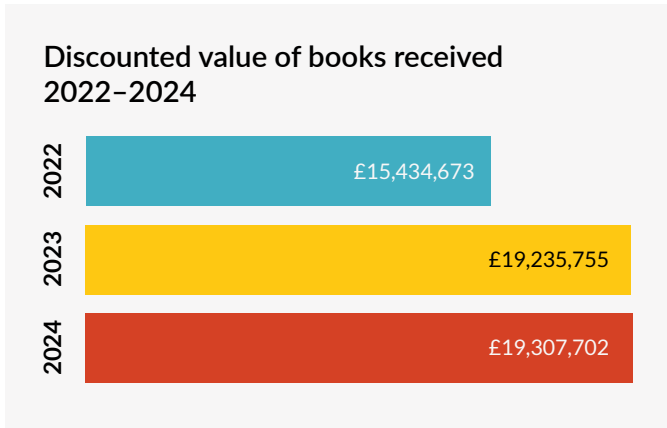
Financial support from the book industry

In 2024, publishers and other members of the book trade gave a total of £118,870 through donations, a percentage of sales, employee fundraising and grants. We’re especially grateful to Bloomsbury Publishing Plc, who donated £75,000 and for our ongoing Charity of the Year partnership with Cambridge University Press & Assessment.

Additional support came from RELX and Outland Bookshop, who both funded *Explorer Libraries*, and Oxford University Press, who contributed funds to help us send books to support refugees in Ukraine and Lebanon.

The value of the books we receive

In 2024, the books that publishers donated to us had a discounted value of £19,307,702, which was similar to last year’s values.



We value the books we receive in our accounts based on Nielsen BookScan prices, and we apply an overall 30% discount from the full recommended retail price to allow for the estimated market discount for third-party commercial buyers.

Publishers donate books to us free of charge, and it costs us around £2 to receive, store, select and send a book worth an average of £13.38. That average is calculated using the value of books received over the past five years, as in the table below.

Year	Books sent (no.)	Value books sent	Discounted cost per book*
2024	1,344,059	£18,223,321	£13.56
2023	1,235,958	£17,533,706	£14.19
2022	1,140,435	£14,791,242	£12.97
2021	1,007,449	£13,279,151	£13.18
2020	867,567	£11,066,372	£12.76
Total	5,595,468	£74,893,792	
Running average			£13.38

*Rounded to nearest pound

Our supporters

We are supported by a wide range of individuals and companies who believe in the power of books. We are immensely grateful for their generosity.

“

I was honoured to have been invited to speak.

Whether sharing content on social media, joining us on stage or providing quotes to the press, our high-profile friends are essential to raising our profile and encouraging support for our cause.

“As an admirer of Book Aid International’s vital work and Elif’s inspiring fiction and human rights activism, I was honoured to have been invited to speak at Book Aid International’s event at the Hay Festival.

My heartfelt thanks to Lord Boateng, Elif Shafak, the passionate library-loving audience, Hay Festival and Book Aid International for providing and enabling such an illuminating, thought-provoking discussion.”

Priscilla Morris
Author



“

Our school has fundraised for Book Aid International for years.

We are incredibly grateful to our many supporters who fundraise for us. From bake sales, to sponsored walks to readathons, these events make a vital contribution and help us share the power of books worldwide.

“Our school has fundraised for Book Aid International for years as I know it is a good cause. I taught for a year in Turkana, Kenya and the school library there was two boxes of very dusty, old books. Promoting our annual book sale provides a good opportunity to remind our pupils how fortunate they are to have the resources we do.”

Mrs Karen Hans MA FCLIP
School librarian and community supporter



“

I am delighted to support the amazing work that is done through Book Aid International.

In 2024, close to 9,000 individuals chose to support our work, with each £2 donated helping to send another book.

We are sincerely thankful for their generosity, as well as for those who have made major personal contributions or remembered us in their Wills.

“I was able to visit the Book Aid International warehouse to meet the staff and volunteers and have a tour before I made my decision. This helps to make my donation seem more personal.

Education, particularly the ability to read and enjoy books of all types, is vital and I am delighted to support the amazing work that is done through Book Aid International.”

Jennifer Pearson
Book Aid International supporter

“

Books change lives, and we are proud to play a part in making that possible.

In 2024, 20 companies who share our belief in the power of books chose to support our work through financial donations. Their generosity helps make it possible for us to reach readers around the world.

“Reading provides a foundation for education, employability and empowerment. Books change lives, and we are proud to play a part in making that possible. Through our Responsible Business initiatives, we have supported Book Aid International projects aligned with our global campaigns on youth and food security. In 2024, we donated 6,500 books to partners in Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan and Ukraine. We look forward to continuing this meaningful partnership and supporting the vision of a world where everyone has access to books and the opportunities they create.”

• Rob Bennett

Partner and Community Investment Team Leader, White & Case LLP



“

Our Board has been especially impressed with Book Aid International's focus on partnership.

The long-term relationships we build with trusts like The Beit Trust, the People's Postcode Lottery Education Trust, The Be Global Foundation and many others help us provide books and fund projects that transform reading for millions worldwide.

Last year, 45 trusts supported our charity.

“We evaluate all potential grant recipients in three categories: sustainability, transparency and impact.

Book Aid International scores at, or near, the top in all three areas, which is why we love to support its projects. Our Board has been especially impressed with Book Aid International's focus on partnerships in each country. Thanks for connecting us to readers in such a meaningful way!”

• Cheryl Butler

CEO Talem Foundation



“

Book Aid International's fantastic work to promote reading for everyone is a goal we share.

Last year, volunteer teams from many of our corporate partners played a crucial role in helping us provide thousands of books around the world. Their efforts not only advanced our mission but also strengthened their connection with us, and we deeply appreciate their vital support.

“Our ambition at Cambridge is to help people reach their potential through education and research, and Book Aid International's fantastic work to enable the training of teachers and librarians and promote reading for everyone is a goal we share. Volunteering at Book Aid International, picking and packing books, creates wonderful teambuilding opportunities. It's also given us insight into how they operate, helping us appreciate the care that goes into book selections that make such a positive impact on people's lives.”

• Heidi Mulvey,

Head of Community Engagement, Cambridge University Press & Assessment



Financial review 2024

At Book Aid International all of our income is voluntary – we receive no government grants.

Total income

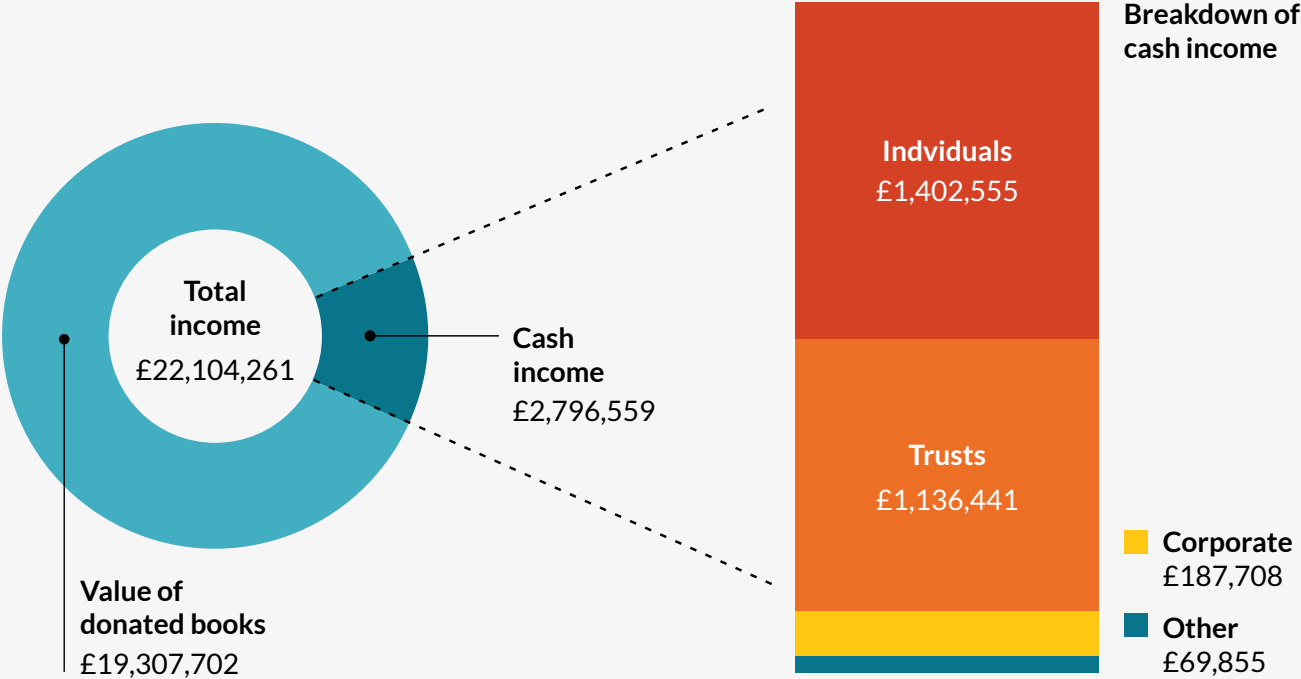
In 2024, our total income was £22,104,261. This included £2,796,559 in cash and £19,307,702 in the value of books donated by publishers.

Cash income in 2024 was £2,796,559, a decrease of £529,323 compared to £3,325,882 in 2023.

This drop was primarily due to a one-off £500,000 donation in 2023 from a funder to support the acquisition of a new distribution centre.

Of the 2024 cash income, £2,461,553 was unrestricted. This is a significant increase from £1,758,426 in 2023, reflecting generous legacy donations totalling £230,730 and a change in how we account for a major grant from the People’s Postcode Lottery of £700,000, which with effect from 2024 we now treat as unrestricted funds.

We received restricted income of £335,006 in 2024, compared to £1,567,456 in 2023. Of the 2023 total, £500,000 was a one-off donation to support the relocation of our distribution operations. The balance of the difference reflects the change in the treatment of the £700,000 grant detailed above.



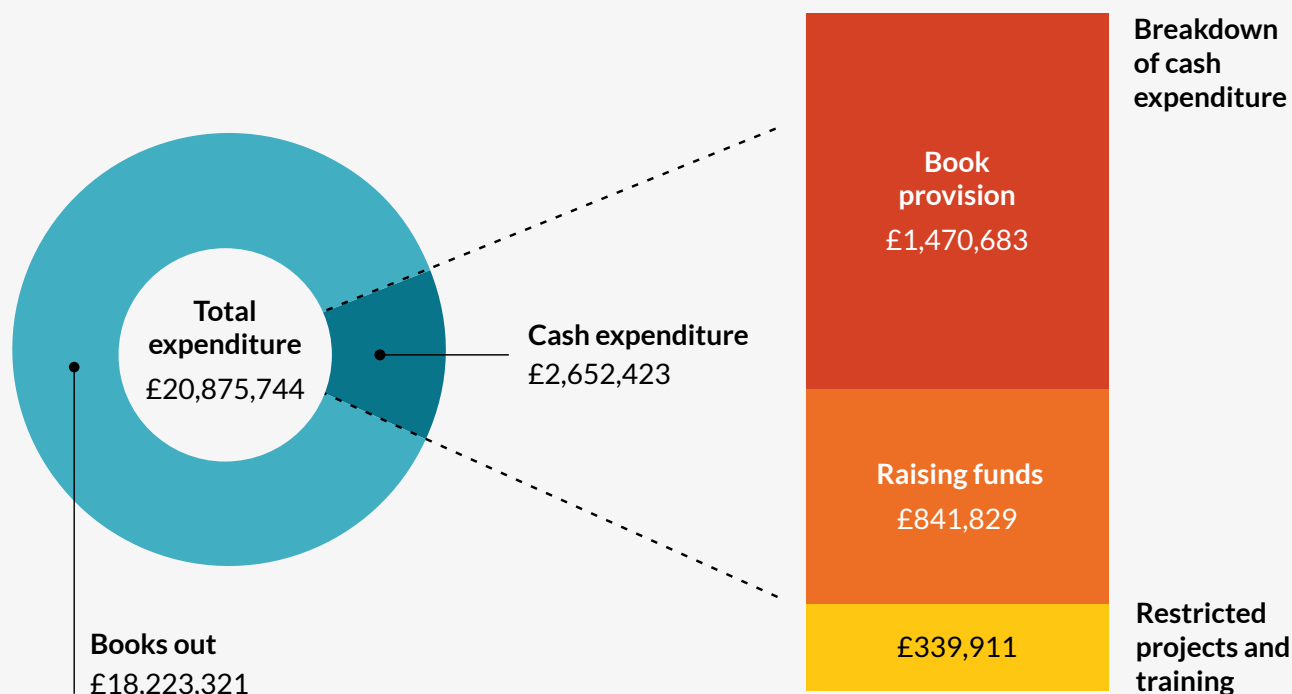
Total expenditure

Our total expenditure in 2024 was £20,875,744, including £2,652,423 of cash expenditure and £18,223,321 which represents the value of books distributed worldwide.

The £2,652,423 in cash expenditure for 2024 marks an increase from £2,457,936 in 2023. This rise is primarily due to additional consultancy and resource costs related to the sale of our warehouse and costs related to the acquisition of a new distribution centre.

Our unrestricted expenditure in 2024 was £2,300,287, a significant increase from the £1,316,343 in unrestricted expenditure in 2023. The increase is largely due to a change in treatment of the £700,000 grant from the People's Postcode lottery, which was all classified as unrestricted expenditure in 2024.

Conversely, restricted expenditure in 2024 amounted to £352,136, a decrease of £789,457 from £1,141,593 in 2023, reflecting the reallocation of the People's Postcode Lottery grant, as noted above.



Managing our finances

We are committed to outstanding financial management that safeguards the money we receive.

In 2024, we employed an average of 28 (25.9 FTE) staff who are divided into five teams: operations, fundraising, communications, programmes and management. Two staff members of the programmes team were based in Nairobi, Kenya and the rest were based in Camberwell, London.

This table details our salary costs:

Function	Salary costs	FTE
Book provision	£488,036	12.6
Restricted projects and training	£233,078	5.2
Fundraising	£277,856	4.9
Management and operational	£337,124	5.3
Total	£1,336,094	28

Gifts in kind

In 2024 99% (2023 – 99%) of the books we sent were donated as gifts in kind by the publishing industry. The following table expresses the value of the books we received, retained and supplied in 2024 compared with preceding years:

Book stock	2024	2023	2022
GIH book stock @ start of year	£7,169,755	£5,467,706	£4,824,275
Books received	£19,307,702	£19,235,755	£15,434,673
Books sent	-£18,223,321	-£17,533,706	-£14,791,242
GIH book stock	£8,254,135	£7,169,755	£5,467,706

Pension liability

We are part of The Pensions Trust (TPT) scheme, a multi-employer scheme that provides benefits to some 638 non-associated participating employers.

The scheme is a defined-benefit scheme subject to the funding legislation outlined in the Pensions Act 2004 which came into force on 30th December 2005.

The provision in respect of the deficit repayment plan is £21,831 (2023: £13,956) and this has been recognised in the accounts as required by FRS 102. See note 16 on page 59 for more information.

Reserves policy and actuals

Our Board meets annually to consider the resources that will be required to meet our long-term objectives and fulfil our commitments.

The Board also considers the risks we face and sets a minimum free reserves policy at a level it believes would sustain our work while we recovered from any future shortfalls in income or unforeseen expenditure.

The reserves have been set to ensure we have the time to adjust to a serious issue or a drop in funding and are more than required for the management of a closure.

In 2024, the minimum level of free reserves was confirmed by the Board at £500,000. We ended 2024 with £593,940 in free reserves, with better than anticipated funding results in 2024 due in part to increased legacy receipts and pledges.

In 2024 we sold our freehold warehouse, so an additional £2.6m was designated for the purchase, fitout and refurbishment of a new distribution centre resulting in a designation of £3,450,000 at year end.

	31-Dec-24	31-Dec-23
Reserves	£	£
Total unrestricted reserves	12,336,062	10,918,405
Less donated books reserve	-8,254,135	-7,169,755
Less unrestricted net fixed assets	-37,987	-2,358,559
Less designated	-3,450,000	-850,000
Free reserves	593,940	540,091
Restricted reserves	676,273	670,513

Restricted reserves for ongoing projects and restricted activities was £676,273 compared to £670,513 in 2023. This includes £524,500 in restricted reserves to help us purchase, relocate and operate from a new distribution centre.

Our fundraising

Our fundraising aims to safeguard our donors and ensure that our organisation is sustainable in the long term.

In 2024, our actual funds raised totalled £2,746,834, exceeding our original budget of £2,630,911.

We continued to run our fundraising campaign, *Generation Reader*, which inspired a number of gifts from individual supporters, corporates and trusts. We were delighted to exceed our year two target.

Our income from major donors and corporates continued to grow steadily as we developed new relationships and partnerships with those who share our vision of a world where everyone has access to books.

In 2024, we were pleased to continue our relationship with a number of corporate partners, including Bloomsbury Publishing Plc, who gave two very generous unrestricted gifts totalling £75,000. Our ongoing Charity of the Year partnership with Cambridge University Press & Assessment was also valuable, as we completed another *Books to Go* project in Kenya with their support.

We have continued to steward relationships with many of our long-standing trust and foundation supporters, who are especially important in ensuring we can deliver a range of projects.

However, trust fundraising was more challenging in 2024, as several long-term partners either closed or shifted priorities, and it has been difficult to secure new support in a highly competitive trust landscape. Our annual gift from The Beit Trust for book provision in southern Africa and our incredibly valuable long-term partnership with People's Postcode Lottery remain critical in helping us deliver our work and expand our reach.

We are especially grateful to all our regular givers for their continued support and are pleased that our investment in acquiring new donors continues to be successful. In 2024, we ran two well performing fundraising appeals – *When I grow up* and *A world away from trouble* – which raised over £95,000.

Our standards

We are committed to maintaining the highest standards in our fundraising in line with our Supporter Promise, which is displayed in the footer of every page on our website: bookaid.org.

In 2024, we remained registered with the Information Commissioner's Office and the Fundraising Regulator. We adhere to the standards of both organisations and respond to changes in the regulatory framework.

We also maintained our Treating Donors Fairly policy which identifies groups of individuals who may be vulnerable and defines our approach to treating these individuals with respect and care.

We continued to place our donors at the centre of our fundraising programmes in 2024, offering flexibility in how they heard from us in line with GDPR regulations.

There were no reported data breaches in 2024.

Our commercial partners and fundraising agencies

The commercial participators with which we exchanged supporter data included print management (Intygra, Fretwell Print and Direct Mail, Yeomans), email marketing (MailChimp), payment processing (including iRaiser, Access Paysuite, WooCommerce, PayPal, Stripe, GoCardless and Just Giving), database software (Blackbaud), Gift Aid claims (HMRC), Christmas card fulfilment (Impress Publishing) and IT support (Wanstor, Headstart IT Solutions).

Each of these organisations has a privacy policy, which is available on its website, and we maintain a data processing agreement with each, as required by GDPR regulations.

Fundraising feedback

We did not receive any complaints about our fundraising last year. Two donors unsubscribed from our communications through the Fundraising Preference Service.

Investing in the future

In 2024, donor acquisition activities took place through unaddressed media inserts in publications and through Meta advertising. Complete return on investment through these campaigns does not occur in the year of the activity but is based on taking a longer-term view of the lifetime value of each new donor, many of whom continue their support for years.

A new home for our mission

In 2024, we took the first major step toward relocating to a new, fit for purpose distribution centre.

For nearly 40 years our headquarters in Camberwell, South London, has been at the heart of our operations. This much-loved warehouse has been more than just a building – it has been the engine room of our mission.

From here, we have stored, selected, and packed over one million brand-new books each year, reaching around 200 partners across the world. These books have enriched countless lives.

Owning the Camberwell building provided us with critical financial security through challenging times, including the 2008 financial crisis and the Covid-19 pandemic. It has truly felt like home.



Our Camberwell warehouse and office

The challenge

However, as our work has grown, so too have our needs. The warehouse is no longer fit for purpose. The limited space has made it increasingly difficult to manage the ever-growing volume of generous donations from our publishing partners.

The building's location – just off a busy South London thoroughfare – offers only a small yard and limited access for large delivery vehicles, presenting significant logistical challenges as we scale up our operations.

In recent years, we reached a critical threshold of providing 1.2 million books annually, beyond which we could not sustainably grow. To cope, we began using offsite storage facilities, which placed added strain on our staff and systems.



A very full warehouse

Our response

Recognising the need for change, our trustees made the strategic decision in 2022 to sell our Camberwell property and invest in a purpose-built distribution centre. As part of this long-term plan, we began designating gifts and legacies specifically to support the move.

In October 2024, we completed the sale of the Camberwell warehouse for £2.5 million. Together with designated income, this provides the necessary funds to purchase, in 2025, a new facility that will support our ambitions for growth.

Our future home will enable us to increase our capacity to distribute up to two million books per year. More importantly, it will allow us to support even more partners around the world and deepen our impact – bringing the joy of reading to those who might otherwise never have access to books.

This is a bold and exciting step for our charity, one that positions us to continue growing our reach and enriching lives for many years to come.



Alison Tweed

Chief Executive,
Book Aid International

“
Whether salvaged
from the ruins of a
library in Ukraine,
placed in the
hands of a child in
Beirut, shared in a
refugee settlement
in Uganda, or read
behind prison walls
in Cameroon, books
fuel learning, open
doors to opportunity
and restore hope.

Building a better future, one book at a time

We are determined to grow our work in 2025 and beyond.

Throughout this report, we have reflected on the progress our charity made in 2024 toward our strategic goals of equity, engagement, partnership and advocacy – and, most importantly, toward our shared vision: a world where everyone has access to books that will enrich, improve and change their lives.

It's a bold vision, particularly in a world where conflict and displacement continue to disrupt young lives, and where poverty remains a barrier to the quality education essential for a more just and resilient future. In 2024, more than 120 million people were forcibly displaced globally, with millions of children and young people cut off from formal education. In Africa south of the Sahara, 98 million school-age children were not attending school, and youth literacy stood at just 75%.

Yet even in the face of these immense challenges, we have seen the extraordinary impact that books can have. Whether salvaged from the ruins of a library in Ukraine, placed in the hands of a child in Beirut, shared in a refugee settlement in Uganda, or read behind prison walls in Cameroon, books fuel learning, open doors to opportunity and restore hope.

Looking ahead, we cannot guarantee that peace will prevail, economies will flourish, or that the Sustainable Development Goals for 2030 will be fully realised. But what we can do is focus on the change within our reach. Every book we send is a tangible step toward a brighter future for the millions of people our work reaches each year.

We are also deeply aware that our efforts – however meaningful – represent only a fraction of the global need. That is why in 2025, we are committed to scaling our impact. With the launch of our new distribution centre, we aim to provide two million books a year to our partners and readers worldwide by 2030.

Our dream is simple but powerful: to see a new generation of readers engaging with books – in classrooms, at home, in libraries, and in workplaces – and using the power of reading to shape their futures.

None of this would be possible without the incredible dedication of our partners, who make change happen in the most challenging of circumstances, and the extraordinary generosity of our donors who equip us with the tools to carry out our mission. We thank you all for your work, and to your commitment to sharing the power of books.

Together, we are building a better world – one book, one reader and one future at a time.

Our partners 2024

Below is a full list of our partners to whom we sent books directly in 2024. We thank them all for their hard work.

Bhutan

Khesar Gyalpo University of Medical Sciences
Read Bhutan
Royal University of Bhutan
The Royal Academy

Cameroon

Community Vision Group
Education Information Services International
Jumpstart Academy Africa
Street Child

Eritrea

Ministry of Education

Ethiopia

British Council
Code Ethiopia
Ethiopia Knowledge Transfer Society
Ethiopia Reads
Hawassa University
Jesuit Refugee Service
Rescue Generation Ethiopia
South West Charitable Organisation

The Gambia

Action Aid
Casa Gambia
Gambia National Library Service
PEN Gambia
SOS Children's Villages
The AfriCare Initiative
The Association of Non-Governmental Organisations

The Child and Environment Development Association of Gambia

The Gambia Committee on Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children

Unique Foundation
Classroom Libraries

Ghana

Action Child Cancer Africa
Action Through Enterprise
AfriKids
Biblioneft
Community Action Ghana
Community Children's Library Project International
CorpsAfrica Ghana
EduSpots Ghana
Fafali Organisation
Humanitas Charity
Ghana Library Authority
Learners Girls Foundation
Lions Clubs International Ghana
Rainbow Trust Foundation
Sabre Education
Samira Empowerment and Humanitarian Projects
School for Life
Seventh Day Adventist Nursing and Midwifery College
Street Children Empowerment Foundation
St Vincent Catholic Basic School
Teach2Teach International
The Olinga Foundation for Human Development
University of Health and Allied Sciences

Greece

Eurorelief
SolidarityNow

India

Rochun – Pay It Forward

Iraq

The Sinjar Academy
University of Mosul

Kenya

Amref Health Africa
Dandora Dumpsite Rehabilitation Group
Dignitas Project
Eliud Kipchoge Library
FAFA Medical Training College
Finn Church Aid
Hands On Art Workshops
Hands of Help Children's Organisation
Justice Defenders
Kenya Medical Training College
Kenya National Library Service
Knowledge Empowering Youth Libraries
State Department for Correctional Services
The Maa Trust
Windle Trust Dadaab Refugee Camp
Windle Trust Kakuma Refugee Camp

Lebanon

ASSABIL Association
Beirut Arab University
Lebanese Board on Books for Young People
Room to Read
Tuyoor Al Amal

Liberia

LIPACE Procure
Street Child
WE-CARE Foundation

Malawi

Civil Society Education Coalition
Kamuzu University of Health Sciences
Malawi College of Health Sciences
Malawi Leaders of Learning
Malawi National Library Service
PEN Malawi
Pharmaceutical Society of Malawi
Solar Aid
St John of God College of Health Sciences
Voluntary Service Overseas

Nigeria

Elliem Young Readers Initiative
Girl Child Concerns
Integrated Women and Youth Empowerment Centre
KOA Education Foundation
Need Schools Foundation Programme

REEL Foundation
University of Abuja
Voluntary Service
Overseas
Western States
Distribution Committee
Zaccheus Onumba
Dibiaezue Memorial
Libraries (ZODML)

Rwanda

Girls' Dignity for Nation
Idebate Rwanda
Ineza Foundation
Kigali Public Library
Rwanda National
Pharmacy Council
Street Child
University of Global
Health Equity
Voluntary Service
Overseas

Sierra Leone

African Hospital Libraries
Pharmaceutical Society of
Sierra Leone
Save The Needy
Sierra Leone Book Trust
Sierra Leone Library Board
Street Child
University of Sierra
Leone Institute of Public
Administration and
Management
We Yone Child Foundation

Somalia

Eva Organisation for
Women
Finn Church Aid
IFTIIN Education and
Development
Kaalmo Relief and
Development
SOS Children's Villages

South Sudan

African Revival, South
Sudan
Excellence Foundation for
South Sudan
Finn Church Aid
Jesuit Refugee Service
Médecins Sans Frontières
(MS FOCB – Brussels)
Norwegian Refugee
Council
Save The Children
South University of
Medicine, Science and
Technology
St John's College Wau
University of Juba
Windle International
Women Relief
Organisation

Tanzania

Child Support Tanzania
Education Gauge for
Growth
New Chapter
Development for Youth
Pharmaceutical Society of
Tanzania
Tanzania Library Service
Board
Tanzanian Training Centre
for International Health
Tanzania Young Eco
Protection

Uganda

Act Women Foundation
Uganda
African Prisons Project
African Revival Uganda
All Saints University Lango
Community Libraries
Association of Uganda
Finn Church Aid
Fort Portal International
Nursing School
Jangu International –
Social Innovation

Kyambogo University
Refugee Innovation
Centre
National Library of
Uganda
Norwegian Refugee
Council
Ntuha Children's
Writers and Illustrators
Association
Pangea Educational
Development
Pharmaceutical Society of
Uganda
Planning 4 Tomorrow
Read for Life
SOS Children's Village
Street Child
The Balinda Children's
Foundation
Tusome Africa
Uganda Protestant
Medical Bureau
Uganda Prisons Service
Voluntary Service
Overseas
Windle Trust International
Uganda
Youth Focus on
Transforming
Communities
Ukraine
PEN Ukraine
Ukraine Bucha City
Council

Zambia

Africa Call Organisation
African Revival, Zambia
Copperbelt University
Katuba Literacy and
Outreach Centre
Lions Club of Mukuba
Matt Children's Hope
Foundation
Organisation of
African First Ladies for
Development
PEN Zambia

Simpact Foundation
The Book Bus
Umi Foundation
University Teaching
Hospital Lusaka
University of Zambia
(Lusaka and Kitwe
Campuses)
Voluntary Service
Overseas
Zambia Episcopal
Conference Health
Institutions
Zambia Library Service
Zambia Open Community
Schools
Zambia Society Trust

Zanzibar

Abdulrahman Al-Sumait
University
State University of
Zanzibar (SUZA)
The Zanzibar Library
Service Board
World Wing Translation
and Interpretation Limited

Zimbabwe

Bulawayo Distribution
Committee
Harare Distribution
Committee
MTC Educate A Girl Inc.
Voluntary Service
Overseas
Zambezi School Project

With thanks to...

We would like to thank the following supporters in particular, as well as those who wish to remain anonymous. We continue to be thankful to the Ranfurly family, who founded the charity and still support us today.

Our book donors and corporate partners

Agency for the Legal Deposit Libraries	Goldsboro Books	Practical Action Publishing
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Baker Books	HarperCollins Publishers Ltd	RELX
BCS Chartered Institute for IT	Head of Zeus	Reverie Puzzles
Blackrock	Heath Educational Books	RNIB
Blackwell's Bookshops	Heywood Hill	Rosemary Low
Bloomsbury Publishing Plc	Hoopoe Books	Royal Society
Blue Violet Publishing	HP Inc UK Ltd	Sage Publications Ltd
Bonnier Books	Influx Press	Scribe Publications
BookTrust	Ingram Content Group	Search Press
Bookspot	Julian Reisz	Simon & Schuster Ltd
Boydell and Brewer	Kube Publishing	SOAS University of London
Bright Red	Letterbox Library	Taylor & Francis UK
British Library	Little Tiger Group	Teeth Relief
British Medical Association	Lonely Planet	The Follett Office Ltd
Cambridge University Press & Assessment	Macmillan	The Society of Authors
Canon	Michael O'Mara Books	Usborne Publishing Ltd
Cengage Learning	Miles Kelly Publishing	Walker Books Ltd
Class Professional Publishing	Multilingual Matters	Watkins Publishing
Clyde & Co	Multiply Group	Wellbeck Publishing
Combined Book Services	National Book Tokens	White & Case
Commonwealth Pharmacists Association	National Library of Wales	Wiley
Coordination Group Publications (CGP)	News UK	Willoughby Book Club
Elsevier USA	Oxford House	Women's Prize
Emerald Publishing	Oxford University Press	
Everyman's Library	PB Shop	
Faber & Faber	Pearson Education Ltd	
Gale, A Cengage Company	Penguin Random House	
	Phaidon Press	
	Phonic Books	
	Pineapple Lane	

Our trust supporters

Be Global Foundation
Beatrice Laing Trust
Bryan Guinness Charitable Trust
Domlal Foundation
Mill Meadow Charitable Trust
Mr & Mrs F E F Newman
Charitable Trust
Peacock Charitable Trust

The 29th of May 1961
Charitable Trust
The Ardwick Trust
The Beit Trust
The Bernard Sunley Foundation
The Bhutan Society Trust Fund
The Blunt Trust
The Earlswood Charitable Trust

The Fulmer Charitable Trust
The GivingForce Foundation
The Hyne Trust
The People's Postcode Lottery
The Tony and Audrey Watson
Charitable Trust
The Veronica Awdry
Charitable Trust

Our volunteers, ambassadors and individual supporters

Patricia Mirlees and Rory Wilson
Brian Greenwood
Caroline Burton
Charly Nobbs
Chris Thackray
Chris Wormell
Dr Michiel Kolman
Dr Olha Mukha
Eleanor and David Holloway
Elif Shafak
Elizabeth Johnson (nee
Mujawamaliya)
Hay Global

Heidi Mulvey
Jada Badu
Jane Jewell
John Bason
Lady Daphne Sulston
Nadifa Mohamed
NBO LitFest
Oxford and Cambridge Club
Priscilla Morris
Reem Jassem
Rose Heatley
Sandra Taekema and Peter van
Tiggelen

Sir Mark and Lady Judy Moody-
Stuart
Sir Michael Palin
Stephanie and Roderick Thirkell-
White
Stephen and Lucia Bough
The Estate of Brian Wildsmith
The Queen's Commonwealth Essay
Competition
The Queen's Reading Room
The Schofield Family
Writers' and Artists' Yearbook

Structure, governance and management

This section details how our charity was governed and managed in 2024.

Image: A girl enjoying a donated book in Sierra Leone
© SALBOT



Governance

We are a company limited by guarantee, governed by our Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Our purpose, as set out in our Articles of Association, is to advance education and literacy by:

- › establishing, providing and carrying on the service of procuring and distributing reading and information material regardless of medium to developing and other countries in need for educational purposes
- › distributing consignments of such material to public and community libraries, universities, colleges, schools, hospitals, youth and children's centres and other charitable institutions according to local needs and priorities
- › promoting or supporting any training or other activity which is designed to enhance the use of books, reading and other information material in developing countries

The Articles were adopted by a resolution of the Board at a General Meeting on 15th November 2022.

The Board has considered the legislative and regulatory requirements for disclosing how its charitable objectives have provided benefit to the public and has complied with the duty set out in Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011.

The strategic report on pages 6 to 33 outlines how our achievements during 2024 have benefited the public, either directly or indirectly.

Our Board of Trustees

The members of the charitable company are also the members of the Board, which consists of between five and 12 members. New members with specialist relevant skills and experience are appointed from time to time and their appointment is ratified at a meeting of the Board. Members serve a three-year term, renewable for up to two further terms by re-election.

Our Trustees bring a range of experience from both the corporate and the not-for-profit sectors and individual members contribute expertise from publishing, finance, fundraising, librarianship, administration and international development.

The Board meets quarterly and reviews strategy, finances and the organisation's charitable activities and approves matters reserved for the Board. These include issues relating to strategy and management, structure of the charity, financial controls, internal controls and risk management, contracts, communication, Board membership, remuneration, delegation of authority, corporate governance, policies and any other matters of importance for the charity.

Two committees formed by the Board meet and report back regularly to the Trustees. The Finance and Audit Committee meets three times a year to review internal controls, the risk register, going-concern assumptions and the annual accounts, budgets and audit findings, and is chaired by the Honorary Treasurer. The Nominations and Remuneration Committee meets annually to approve salary recommendations and other human resources matters, and is chaired by the Chair of the Board of Trustees.

Managing our charity

We are a company limited by guarantee, governed by our Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Our Senior Management Team consists of the Chief Executive and Heads of Programmes, Fundraising, Finance, Communications, Operations and Resources. This team communicates regularly with the Board.

Salaries for the Senior Management Team are reviewed biennially, along with those of other staff, and approved by the Nominations and Remuneration Committee.

One member of staff receives a salary of between £80,000 and £90,000 and five members of staff are paid between £60,000 and £70,000.

Equality, diversity and inclusion

We believe that equality of opportunity is socially, ethically and morally imperative.

We are committed to equality of opportunity and to working in a way and following practices which are inclusive and free from unfair and unlawful discrimination.

We recognise the importance and strength of a diverse workforce and we seek out diverse opinions and lived experiences to better navigate the world in which we work.

We uphold an inclusive culture, where staff are encouraged to be themselves at work and staff at every level are included in decision making, problem solving and growth within the charity.

Our values underpin our commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion:

- › Respect. We listen to everyone's views, and learn from each other
- › Empathy. We care about people as individuals, and what they bring to our community
- › Accountability. We are open and transparent, and take responsibility for our actions
- › Dedication. We work together to get things done and are driven to do more

We monitor the policy continually to assess how it is working in practice, and review it annually. In 2024, the policy was reviewed with no changes.

In 2024 we undertook a thorough inclusive recruitment audit to make sure we follow best practice and important processes to ensure fair and equitable recruitment.

Staff training and policies

Our training policy aims to ensure that staff are equipped to carry out their jobs to the highest possible standard. In 2024 we spent £4,500 on individual training courses.

In 2024, we updated our Anti-harassment and Bullying Policy to incorporate sexual harassment. Our Child Safeguarding Policy was reviewed in full by a solicitor and we introduced a new Carer's Policy and Cyber Policy. These policies were approved by the Board of Trustees at the December 2024 Board meeting, when the Board also reviewed the Data Policy, Environmental Policy, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy, Family Policy and Health and Safety Policy.

Sustainability – operational carbon footprint

Every year, we internally assess our carbon footprint using methods advised to us by advisory body, Carbon Footprint.

Total Co2 emissions in 2024 were 68.13 tons compared to 188.38 tons in 2023. This is approximately a 64% decrease in total emissions.

Key factors contributing to the reduction include travel from the UK where emissions dropped significantly from 60.92 tons to 18.41 tons, largely attributed to a decrease in flights, with nine flights taken in 2024 compared to 29 in 2023.

Electricity emissions were reduced to zero tons in 2024, as we transitioned to a renewable energy supplier.

Shipping emissions decreased from 52.43 tons to 31.21 tons. While there were slightly more shipments in 2024, we remained committed to using energy-efficient shipping partnerships to minimise our carbon footprint.

Commute emissions increased from 2.33 tons to 3.92 tons. Investigation into this rise identified that the length of the commuter journey increased in 2024.

Home working emissions remained stable, with a slight drop from 4.28 tons to 4.23 tons.

The significant reduction in emissions was primarily driven by fewer flights, the shift to renewable energy and responsible shipping practices. Although commute emissions slightly increased, the overall carbon footprint has been substantially reduced, demonstrating a clear commitment to sustainable operations. We continue to review how we work and travel, and the suppliers we use.

Managing risk

We maintain a proactive approach to risk management through regular reviews of strategic, operational, and governance risks, ensuring these are appropriately monitored and addressed by management and the Board.

In 2024, our primary areas of strategic and operational risk remained consistent with previous years. These included the complex environments in which we operate, capacity constraints at our Camberwell warehouse, the challenge of sustaining income growth to support future plans, reliance on a small number of high-value donors and the robustness of our disaster recovery plans in preparation for a major operational relocation.

Our operational strategy focuses on working in conflict-affected and post-conflict regions. Despite ongoing instability, our model of partnering with national organisations enabled us to continue delivering programmes in challenging contexts, including Lebanon, South Sudan, Ukraine and Cameroon.

A significant step in mitigating our capacity risk was taken during 2024 with the sale of the Camberwell warehouse. Proceeds from this sale will support the acquisition of a larger distribution centre outside London in 2025. The relocation represents a major operational transition, and associated risks – such as the impact of staff turnover and the need for resilient disaster recovery planning – are being carefully managed.

Fundraising risk showed an overall decrease during 2024; however, the external fundraising landscape remains uncertain. We continue to receive a significant portion of our income from the People's Postcode Lottery, highlighting the ongoing importance of income diversification.

Our programmes are dependent on the donation of books from publishers. In 2024, we monitored developments in the publishing sector, including the shift toward digital content, digital printing technologies and supply chain changes. While no significant impact on donations was observed, this remains an area of active review.

Artificial intelligence (AI) emerged as both a risk and an opportunity during the year. While the potential for misuse was acknowledged, AI also presents possibilities for innovation and improved efficiency, which the charity is beginning to explore.

From a governance perspective, 2024 saw substantial changes to the composition of the Board of Trustees. Further changes are expected in 2025 as several trustees reach the end of their terms. Recruitment and succession planning will therefore be a key focus in the coming year to maintain strong and effective governance.

Reference and administrative details

Patrons and officials

Patron

Her Majesty The Queen

Vice Patron

Lord Boateng

President

Nigel Newton CBE

Vice President

Professor Kingo Mchombu

Address and registered office

39–41 Coldharbour Lane
Camberwell
London SE5 9NR

Charity number

313869 (England and Wales)

Company number

880754 (England and Wales)

Solicitor

Russell-Cooke LLP
8 Bedford Row
London WC1R 4BX

Auditors

Sayer Vincent LLP
110 Golden Lane
London
EC1Y 0TG

Trustees

Chair

Dr Alice Prochaska

Vice Chair

Robert Sulley
(resigned March 2024)

Zainab Umar

(from March 2024)

Honorary Treasurer

Nicholas Allen

Board members

Alan Hurcombe
(from June 2024)

Alexandra Jones
(from March 2024)

Dr Anne Makena

Charly Nobbs
(retired June 2024)

Dhivya O'Connor

Lee Newman
(from June 2024)

Michelle Okwudiafor

Pam Dix

Susan Hutton

International Advisory Board

Chair

Lord Paul Boateng

Members

Alli Mcharazo

Andrew Nyenty

Antonetta Madziva

Cleopatra Muma

Elizabeth Johnson
(nee Mujawamaliya)

Hayford Siaw

Helena Asamoah-Hassan

Joyce Ampofo

Justin Kiyimba

Lawrence Njagi

Shereen Kriedieh

Victoria Okojie

Senior management

Chief Executive

Alison Tweed

Head of Programmes

Samantha Sokoya

Head of Operations

Brian Martin
(from March 2024)

Head of Communications

Henrietta Yoxall

Head of Finance

Ade Soremekun

Head of Fundraising

Laura Smith

Head of Resources

Rebekah Deboo

Company Secretary

Rebekah Deboo

Directors and members

The directors and members of the company are the Board members named on the preceding page.

Statement of responsibilities of the Trustees

The Trustees (who are also directors for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report, including the strategic report and the financial statements, in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- › select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- › observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP
- › make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- › state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- › prepare the financial statements on the going-concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- › there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware
- › the Trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Members of the charity guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 to the assets of the charity in the event of winding up. The total number of such guarantees at 31st December 2024 was £8 (2023: £8). The Trustees are members of the charity but this entitles them only to voting rights. The Trustees have no beneficial interest in the charity.

Auditor

Sayer Vincent LLP was reappointed as the charitable company's auditor in 2021.

The Trustees' Annual Report, which includes the strategic report, has been approved by the Trustees on 26th June 2025 and signed on their behalf by

Dr Alice Prochaska
Chair
Book Aid International

Alexandra Jones
Honorary Treasurer
Book Aid International

Independent auditor's report

Independent auditor's report to the members of Book Aid International

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Book Aid International (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31st December 2024 which comprise the statement of financial activities, balance sheet, statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- › Give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31st December 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended
- › Have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice
- › Have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on Book Aid International's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Trustees' Annual Report, including the strategic report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- › The information given in the Trustees' Annual Report, including the strategic report, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- › The Trustees' Annual Report, including the strategic report, has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Annual Report including the strategic report. We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- › Adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- › The financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- › Certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- › We have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of Trustees' responsibilities set out in the Trustees' Annual Report, the Trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud are set out below.

Capability of the audit in detecting irregularities

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, our procedures included the following:

- › We enquired of management and the finance and audit committee, which included obtaining and reviewing supporting documentation, concerning the charity's policies and procedures relating to:
 - Identifying, evaluating, and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
 - Detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected, or alleged fraud;
 - The internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- › We inspected the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.
- › We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework that the charity operates in, focusing on those laws and regulations that had a material effect on the financial statements or that had a fundamental effect on the operations of the charity from our professional and sector experience.
- › We communicated applicable laws and regulations throughout the audit team and remained alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout the audit.
- › We reviewed any reports made to regulators.
- › We reviewed the financial statement disclosures and tested these to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- › We performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud.
- › In addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, we tested the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments, assessed whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias and tested significant transactions that are unusual or those outside the normal course of business.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Judith Miller
(Senior statutory auditor)

26th June 2025

for and on behalf of

Sayer Vincent LLP
Statutory Auditor
Invicta House
110 Golden Lane
London EC1Y 0TL

Audited accounts

Statement of financial activities

(incorporating income and expenditure account)

For the year ended 31st December 2024

	Note	Unrestricted £	Value of donated books £	Restricted £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
Income from:						
Donations and legacies	2a	2,411,828		335,006	2,746,834	3,300,891
Value of donated books received			19,307,702		19,307,702	19,235,755
Other trading activities	4	10,552			10,552	8,153
Investments		39,173			39,173	16,838
Total income		2,461,553	19,307,702	335,006	22,104,261	22,561,637
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds		840,364		1,465	841,829	756,070
Charitable activities:						
Book provision		1,459,923		10,760	1,470,683	953,220
Value of donated books sent	3a		18,223,321		18,223,321	17,533,706
Restricted projects and training				339,911	339,911	748,646
Total expenditure	5a	2,300,287	18,223,321	352,136	20,875,744	19,991,642
Net income / (expenditure) for the year	7	161,266	1,084,381	(17,130)	1,228,517	2,569,995
Net income / (expenditure) before other recognised gains and losses		161,266	1,084,381	(17,130)	1,228,517	2,569,995
Transfer between funds		(22,890)		22,890		
Gains on Sale of Fixed Assets		215,599			215,599	398,720
Loss on Pension Scheme		(20,699)			(20,699)	
Net movement in funds		333,276	1,084,381	5,760	1,423,417	2,968,715
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward		3,748,650	7,169,755	670,513	11,588,918	8,620,203
Total funds carried forward	19a	4,081,926	8,254,136	676,273	13,012,335	11,588,918

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above. Movements in funds are disclosed in Note 19a to the financial statements.

The notes on pages 48 to 66 form part of these financial statements.

Balance sheet

As at 31st December 2024

Company number 880754

	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets:					
Tangible assets	11	37,987		37,987	2,358,559
		37,987		2,358,559	2,016,126
Current assets:					
Stock – donated books	12	8,254,136		8,254,136	7,169,755
Debtors	13	192,258	123,250	315,508	305,143
Investments	14	404,026		404,026	201,719
Cash at bank and in hand	14	3,618,781	553,023	4,171,804	1,743,741
		12,469,201	676,273	13,145,474	9,420,358
Liabilities:					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	(149,295)		(149,295)	(176,043)
Net current assets / (liabilities)		12,319,906	676,273	12,996,179	9,244,315
Net assets excluding pension asset / (liability)		12,357,893	676,273	13,034,166	11,602,874
Defined benefit pension scheme asset / (liability)	16	(21,831)		(21,831)	(13,956)
Total net assets / (liabilities)		12,336,062	676,273	13,012,335	11,588,918
The funds of the charity:					
Restricted income funds	19a		676,273	676,273	670,513
Unrestricted income funds:					
Fixed assets		37,986		37,986	263,359
Revaluation reserve					2,095,200
Free reserves	1u	593,940		593,940	540,091
Designated funds		3,450,000		3,450,000	850,000
Total charity funds without stock		4,081,926	676,273	4,758,199	4,419,163
Value of donated books		8,254,136		8,254,136	7,169,755
Total unrestricted funds		12,336,062		12,336,062	10,918,405
Total charity funds		12,336,062	676,273	13,012,335	11,588,918

Approved by the Trustees on 26th June 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

Dr Alice Prochaska, Chair of the Board of Trustees

The notes on pages 48 to 66 form part of these financial statements.

Statement of cash flows

For the year ended 31st December 2024

		2024		2023	
	Note	£	£	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities:					
Net (expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)			1,228,517		2,569,995
Depreciation charges			47,097		55,972
Gains/(losses) on pension scheme	16		(20,699)		
Dividends, interest and rent from investments			(39,173)		(16,838)
(Increase) in stocks			(1,084,380)		(1,702,049)
(Increase) in debtors			(10,365)		(63,845)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors			(26,748)		40,966
Increase/(decrease) in Pension provisions			7,875		(12,292)
Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities			102,124		871,909
Cash flows from investing activities:					
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		39,173		16,838	
Payments into/out of long-term savings				100,000	
Sale of fixed assets		2,491,320			
Purchase of fixed assets		(2,247)		(14,392)	
Net cash provided by / (used in) investing activities			2,528,246		102,446
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year			2,630,370		974,355
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year			1,945,460		971,105
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	14		4,575,830		1,945,460

The notes on pages 48 to 66 form part of these financial statements.

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31st December 2024

1 Accounting policies

a) Statutory information

Book Aid International is a charitable company limited by guarantee and is incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office address is 39-41 Coldharbour Lane, Camberwell, London SE5 9NR.

b) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) – (Charities SORP FRS 102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

c) Public benefit entity

The charitable company meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

d) Going concern

The Trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern.

Key judgements that the charitable company has made which have a significant effect on the accounts include the valuation of donated books as explained below.

The Trustees have reviewed the activities of the Charity in light of the ongoing economic uncertainties and have adjusted estimations for uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period. It is the view of the Trustees that the charity will continue to be a going concern for the current year up to and including 2025.

e) Income

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and that the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

Income from legacies, entitlement is taken as the earlier of the date on which either: the charity is aware that probate has been granted, the estate has been finalised and notification has been made by the executor(s) to the charity that a distribution will be made, or when a distribution is received from the estate. Receipt of a legacy, in whole or in part, is only considered probable when the amount can be measured reliably and the charity has been notified of the executor's intention to make a distribution.

f) Donated books

Donated books are valued at fair value on receipt. This is determined using Nielsen BookScan for identifying published prices and then applying a 30% discount from the full RRP to allow

for the estimated market discount for third party commercial buyers. This discount rate is reviewed by an independent expert on an annual basis. Where at year end books could not be opened and scanned into stock, an estimate of the value of these books is made in relation to the type and class of books remaining unopened.

Books held are recognised as expenditure at the point they are dispatched from the Book Aid International warehouse. Books in transit at the year end are accounted for as expensed as it is deemed highly probable that they will reach their intended beneficiaries in good condition. Any material damage or loss of stock would be adjusted in the accounts in the following year. There was no damage or loss of stock in transit at year end 31st December 2024 to be reflected in these accounts.

Donated books held at year end are measured at their fair value using the same measure as explained above. Provision is made where necessary for obsolete, slow moving and defective stock. Where books are not able to be opened and booked into stock by the finalisation of the accounts, the value of these is estimated using averaged price per class of book based on books received and recognised in the accounts.

g) Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

h) Fund accounting

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund.

Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources received or generated for the charitable purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the Trustees for particular purposes.

i) Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

- › Costs of raising funds relate to the costs incurred by the charitable company in inducing third parties to make voluntary contributions to it, as well as the cost of any activities with a fundraising purpose
- › Expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs of book provision and restricted projects and training undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs
- › Other expenditure represents those items not falling into any other heading

Irrecoverable VAT is charged against book provision.

j) Grants payable

Grants payable are made to third parties in furtherance of the charity's objectives. Single or multi-year grants are accounted for when either the recipient has a reasonable expectation that they will receive a grant and the Trustees have agreed to pay the grant without condition, or the recipient has a reasonable expectation that they will receive a grant and that any condition attaching to the grant is outside of the control of the charity.

Provisions for grants are made when the intention to make a grant has been communicated to the recipient but there is uncertainty about either the timing of the grant or the amount of grant payable.

k) Allocation of support costs

Resources expended are allocated to the particular activity where the cost relates directly to that activity. However, the cost of overall direction and administration of each activity, comprising the salary and overhead costs of the central function, is apportioned based on staff time and book delivery attributable to each activity. This year funding given that would normally be treated as restricted activity has been given as unrestricted, hence the increase in the book provision apportionment and the decrease in the restricted activity apportionment below.

	2024	2023
Raising funds	28%	30%
Book provision	62%	48%
Restricted projects and training	10%	22%

Governance costs are the costs associated with the governance arrangements of the charity. These costs are associated with constitutional and statutory requirements and include any costs associated with the strategic management of the charity's activities.

l) Operating leases

Rental charges are charged on a straight line basis over the term of the lease.

m) Tangible fixed assets

Items of equipment are capitalised where the purchase price exceeds £1,000. Depreciation costs are allocated to activities on the basis of the use of the related assets in those activities. Assets are reviewed for impairment if circumstances indicate their carrying value may exceed their net realisable value and value in use.

Where fixed assets have been revalued, any excess between the revalued amount and the historic cost of the asset will be shown as a revaluation reserve in the balance sheet.

Depreciation is provided on a straight line basis at rates calculated to write down the cost of each asset to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life. The depreciation rates in use are as follows:

Building	50 years	2% per annum on costs
Fixtures and office equipment	4 years	25% per annum on costs
Plant and machinery	10 years	10% per annum on costs

n) Stocks

Donated books held at year end are valued as explained in policy (f) above. Purchased books are measured at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

o) Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

p) Short-term deposit investments

Short-term deposits include cash balances that are invested in accounts with a maturity date of between three and 12 months and long term deposits are deposits with maturity over 12 months.

q) Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

r) Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

s) Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

t) Pensions

The charity contributes to a pension scheme administered by the Pensions Trust, an independent company. The pension cost charge indicated in note 8 represents the contributions payable to the fund for the year, and note 16 gives details of the movements during the year of the agreed deficit repayment plan liability, which has been included as a liability under the requirements of FRS102.

u) Free reserves

The minimum level of free reserves confirmed by the Board of Trustees for 2024 was set at £500,000.

2a Donations (current year)

			2024	2023
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
Charitable trusts and NGOs	(945,950)	(190,491)	(1,136,441)	(1,896,192)
Companies	(101,201)	(86,507)	(187,708)	(140,790)
Community sources	(19,839)	(290)	(20,129)	(19,363)
Individuals	(1,344,838)	(57,717)	(1,402,555)	(1,244,546)
Total donations	(2,411,829)	(335,005)	(2,746,833)	(3,300,891)

2b Donations (prior year)

			2023
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	£	£	£
Charitable trusts and NGOs	(443,320)	(1,452,872)	(1,896,192)
Companies	(98,574)	(42,216)	(140,790)
Community sources	(18,365)	(998)	(19,363)
Individuals	(1,173,379)	(71,167)	(1,244,546)
Total donations	(1,733,638)	(1,567,253)	(3,300,891)

3a Gifts in kind (current year)

The table below shows the discounted value of the 1,344,059 donated books distributed to partner organisations in 2024 (2023: 1,235,985). The process of valuation is described in note (1f) and the total adjusted value of books distributed in 2024 was £18,223,321 (2023: £17,533,793).

	2024	2024
	Total number	Total £
Children and primary	548,423	3,484,841
Development	2,938	66,630
English language skills	75,923	1,008,039
Fiction (adult)	90,867	761,389
Higher education	72,080	3,302,373
Law	2,871	147,651
Leisure reading	86,625	871,494
Medicine and healthcare	99,678	5,616,377
Professional	19,442	606,627
Reference	4,797	43,983
Secondary	132,094	1,236,610
Teacher training	49,364	793,642
Teenage fiction	19,369	133,074
Vocational/technical	6,593	150,591
	1,211,064	18,223,321
Stock adjustments	132,995	
Total expenditure of donated books sent	1,344,059	18,223,321

Stock adjustments relate to adjustments in book “sets”, values and location of individual books.

3b Gifts in kind (previous year)

	2023	2023
	Total number	Total £
Children and primary	559,646	3,418,805
Development	3,107	78,361
English language skills	21,587	349,875
Fiction (adult)	81,857	656,518
Higher education	77,666	3,095,509
Law	5,849	305,893
Leisure reading	73,092	755,788
Medicine and healthcare	103,386	5,999,644
Professional	32,464	925,195
Reference	13,711	112,898
Secondary	101,561	1,089,005
Teacher training	30,910	445,443
Teenage fiction	15,364	98,531
Vocational/technical	7,616	202,241
	1,127,816	17,533,706
Stock adjustments	108,142	
Total expenditure of donated books sent	1,235,958	17,533,706

4 Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2024 Total	2023 Total
	£	£	£	£
UK book and card sales	10,350		10,350	8,131
Other	202		202	22
Total donations	10,552		10,552	8,153

All trading income received in 2024 and 2023 was unrestricted.

5a Analysis of expenditure (current year)

	Raising funds	Book provision	Value of donated books sent	Restricted projects and training	Governance costs	Support costs	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs (note 8)	280,298	609,632		106,078	167,966	172,121	1,336,094	1,261,990
Other staff costs	31,975	27,547		12,101	19,161	19,635	110,418	106,139
Travel and workshop costs	2,176	23,011		10,017			35,204	86,877
Book purchase		11,235		7,490			18,725	11,102
Value of donated books			18,223,321				18,223,321	17,533,706
Overseas project partners (note 6)		210,196		95,924			306,120	221,757
Shipping and book disposal						203,417	203,417	164,648
Fundraising, PR and design	278,512	33,611		8,403			320,526	265,282
Professional fees and irrecoverable VAT						31,136	31,136	28,006
Other direct costs						5,541	5,541	11,195
Other project and training costs		14,176		9,450			23,626	27,158
Governance costs					21,700		21,700	20,016
Support costs						239,915	239,915	253,766
	592,961	929,408	18,223,321	249,463	208,827	671,764	20,875,744	19,991,642
Governance costs	59,018	128,360		21,449	(208,827)			
Support costs	189,850	412,915		68,999		(671,764)		
Total expenditure 2024	841,829	1,470,683	18,223,321	339,911			20,875,744	
Total expenditure 2023	756,070	953,220	17,533,706	748,646				19,991,642

Of the total expenditure, £20,565,606 was unrestricted (2023: £18,850,049) and £352,136 was restricted (2023: £1,141,593).

5b Analysis of expenditure (prior year)

		Charitable activities					
	Raising funds	Book provision	Value of donated books sent	Restricted projects and training	Governance costs	Support costs	2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs (note 8)	255,512	444,336		240,868	163,484	157,790	1,261,990
Other staff costs	21,490	37,371		20,258	13,750	13,271	106,139
Travel and workshop costs	6,937	34,695		45,245			86,877
Book purchase				11,102			11,102
Value of donated books			17,533,706				17,533,706
Overseas project partners (note 6)		7,570		214,187			221,757
Shipping and book disposal						164,648	164,648
Fundraising, PR and design	226,832	19,225		19,225			265,282
Professional fees and irrecoverable VAT						28,006	28,006
Other direct costs						11,195	11,195
Other project and training costs		13,579		13,579			27,158
Governance costs					20,016		20,016
Support costs						253,766	253,766
	510,771	556,776	17,533,706	564,464	197,249	628,676	19,991,642
Governance costs	58,583	94,680		43,987	(197,249)		
Support costs	186,717	301,764		140,195		(628,676)	
Total expenditure 2023	756,070	953,220	17,533,706	748,646			19,991,642

6 Grant payments to project partners

	2024	2023
Partners	£	£
AfriKids	2,016	
Africa Parks		6,720
ASSABIL Lebanon	650	600
BOOK BUNK	1,500	
BOOKRITE MARKETING LTD	1,785	997
Child Support Tanzania	20,503	
CODE Ethiopia	650	600
Consultus Publishing Services	1,146	1,003
Edward Ndlovu Memorial Trust	11,587	22,272
EISERVI Education Info Services International	8,126	879
EMNL		(886)
Gambia National Library Authority	650	

Table continued....

	2024	2023
Partners	£	£
Ghana Library Authority	6,426	10,890
Grace Rwanda Society	1,122	8,586
Gramsol Publishing	2,993	
Healing Cab		2,027
IBBY Lebanon	14,205	
Jesuit Refugees Service		900
KEEP		8,483
Kenya National Library Services	25,396	14,728
Lifeline Africa Consultants		1,590
Lifetime Consulting	523	3,361
LIPACE	19,015	
Malawi National Library Service	30,648	20,559
Mathare Youth Sports Association	1,700	
National Library of Uganda	2,350	7,659
Ntuha Children's Writers	7,530	
PEN Malawi	7,530	
PEN Ukraine	7,525	
Rainbow Trust Foundation	8,000	15,428
Richard Luhanga		3,560
Save The Needy	6,464	6,354
Sierra Leone Book Trust	5,925	
Sierra Leone Library Board	8,275	2,499
Solar Aid UK	7,212	
Squirrel Book Centre & Publishers Ltd.	5,827	
Street Child	22,707	
Street Children Empowerment Foundation	2,983	21,826
Tanzania Library Services Board	6,391	
Unique Foundation	15,000	
Community Libraries Association of Uganda		12,665
Umovement		9,573
Vivienne Moyo		2,694
We Care Liberia	6,606	6,723
Windle International Uganda	28,978	21,388
Zaccheus Onumba Dibiaezue Memorial Libraries	650	
Zambia Library Services	1,442	7,177
Zanzibar Library Services Board	4,050	
Grants to other institutions	36	901
At the end of the year	306,121	221,756

The increase in the 2024 grants sent value is due to increased activity in 2024 as a result of better than expected funding and release of unrestricted funds to support increased activity in that year.

7 Net income / (expenditure) for the year

This is stated after charging / (crediting):

	2024	2023
	£	£
Depreciation	47,097	55,971
Interest payable	3,591	4,508
Operating lease rentals:		
Property		
Other	4,142	8,151
Auditors' remuneration (excluding VAT):		
Audit	15,600	14,900
Other services		
Foreign exchange (gains) or losses	149	373

8 Analysis of staff costs, Trustee remuneration and expenses, and the cost of key management personnel

Staff costs were as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Salaries and wages	1,097,821	995,816
Employer's NI contributions	103,982	103,431
Pension contributions	64,191	71,485
Overseas staff costs	70,100	91,258
	1,336,094	1,261,990

	2024	2023
	(no.)	(no.)
Average head count	28.0	29.0
Full-time equivalent	25.9	26.3
Number of staff whose emoluments were between £60,000 and £70,000	5	3
Number of staff whose emoluments were between £70,000 and £80,000	0	0
Number of staff whose emoluments were between £80,000 and £90,000	1	1

The total employee benefits received by key management personnel were £505,574 (2023: £451,705).

Trustees received no remuneration during the year (2023: £nil). No Trustees received any payments for professional services during the year (2023: £nil).

There were £379 worth of expenses reimbursed to Trustees in 2024 for the charity's business (2023: £4,965).

9 Related party transactions

Aggregate donations from related parties were £3,587 (2023: £3,936).

Robert Sulley was a Director at Hodder Education (part of the Hachette Group) and a Trustee of Book Aid International till March 2024, Paula Lee Clarke Newman became a Trustee of Book Aid International on the 27th June 2024 and is an employee of Harper Collins Publishers. These trustee-related organisations donated the following to Book Aid International during the year.

	2024 Value of books donated	2024 Cash donated	2023 Value of books donated	2023 Cash donated
Trustee-related organisations	£	£	£	£
Harper Collins Publishers	150,875			
Hachette Group	1,377,344		1,135,498	
	1,528,219		1,135,498	

Consultancy services are being provided by Mr Charly Nobbs a former trustee who resigned in June 2024. This specialist services started in July 2024 and for the six months to the 2024 year end £12,887 has been paid to Mr Nobbs for these services. This consultancy arrangement has been properly ratified and approved by the Board and will carry on into 2025 until operations are transferred to the Swindon distribution centre.

10 Taxation

The charitable company is exempt from corporation tax as all its income is deemed charitable and is applied for charitable purposes.

11 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold property	Plant and machinery	Fixtures and office equipment	2024 Total
	£	£	£	£
Cost or valuation				
At the start of the year	2,396,720	41,607	109,803	2,548,130
Gain on revaluation				
Additions in year			2,246	2,246
Disposals in year	(2,396,720)			(2,396,720)
At the end of the year		41,607	112,049	153,656
Depreciation				
At the start of the year	96,720	12,717	80,134	189,571
Charge for the year	24,279	4,161	18,658	47,097
Eliminated on disposal	(120,999)			(120,999)
At the end of the year		16,878	98,792	115,669
Net book value				
At the end of the year		24,729	13,257	37,987
At the start of the year	2,300,000	28,890	29,669	2,358,559

The charity's freehold premises in Coldharbour Lane, Camberwell originally purchased in 1987 for £230,000 was sold for £2,491,320 in November 2024.

As part of the terms of the sale, Book Aid International retained the right to use the property for a peppercorn cost for a period of up to 18 months. However, as the risks and rewards of ownership have substantially moved to the new owner, the property has not been retained on the balance sheet as a sale and leaseback arrangement. The value of the rent-free period of use is not considered material and therefore has not been accounted for within the sales price.

All of the above assets are used for charitable purposes.

12 Stock

	2024	2023
	£	£
Donated books	8,254,135	7,169,755

At year end there are unopened pallets of books stored in our warehouses. We endeavour to open as many of these as possible by the time the accounts are finalised. The value of any unopened pallets is estimated by using the average value of pallets for that class of book received and opened in the year. Included in the closing stock value of £8,254,135 are 437 pallets of books (2023: 369) which could not be opened and booked into stock at year end, these have been estimated using an averaged price per class of book and are valued at £6,047,803 (2023: £4,993,502).

13 Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade debtors	11,620	43,662
Other debtors and prepayments	71,845	89,999
Gift Aid recoverable	37,838	21,088
Accrued income	194,205	150,394
	315,508	305,143

All of the charity's financial instruments, both assets and liabilities, are measured at amortised cost.

14 Bank and short-term investments

	2024	2023
	£	£
Cash and bank	4,171,804	1,743,740
Short-term investments	404,026	201,719
Total cash and short-term investments	4,575,830	1,945,459

Short-term investments are funds invested in 12-month fixed-term deposit accounts. Long-term investment is a two-year term.

15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade creditors	75,118	110,338
Staff tax and social security	40,276	39,527
VAT payable		
Other creditors and accruals	33,901	26,178
	149,295	176,043

16 Pension scheme

The company participates in the scheme, a multi-employer scheme which provides benefits to some 521 non-associated participating employers. The scheme is a defined benefit scheme in the UK. It is not possible for the company to obtain sufficient information to enable it to account for the scheme as a defined benefit scheme. Therefore it accounts for the scheme as a defined contribution scheme.

The scheme is subject to the funding legislation outlined in the Pensions Act 2004 which came into force on 30th December 2005. This, together with documents issued by the Pensions Regulator and Technical Actuarial Standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council, set out the framework for funding defined benefit occupational pension schemes in the UK.

The scheme is classified as a 'last-man standing arrangement'. Therefore the company is potentially liable for other participating employers' obligations if those employers are unable to meet their share of the scheme deficit following withdrawal from the scheme. Participating employers are legally required to meet their share of the scheme deficit on an annuity purchase basis on withdrawal from the scheme.

A full actuarial valuation for the scheme was carried out at 30th September 2023. This valuation showed assets of £514.9m, liabilities of £531m and a deficit of £16.1m.

To eliminate this funding shortfall, the Trustee has asked the participating employers to pay additional contributions to the scheme as follows:

From 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2028: £2,100,000 per annum (payable monthly).

Unless a concession has been agreed with the Trustee the term to 31st January 2028 applies.

Note that the scheme's previous valuation was carried out with an effective date of 30th September 2020. This valuation showed assets of £800.3m, liabilities of £831.9m and a deficit of £31.6m. To eliminate this funding shortfall, the Trustee has asked the participating employers to pay additional contributions to the scheme as follows:

Deficit contribution

From 1st April 2022 to 31st January 2025: £3,312,000 per annum payable monthly.

The recovery plan contributions are allocated to each participating employer in line with their estimated share of the Series 1 and Series 2 scheme liabilities.

Where the scheme is in deficit and where the company has agreed to a deficit funding arrangement the company recognises a liability for this obligation. The amount recognised is the net present value of the deficit reduction contributions payable under the agreement that relates to the deficit. The present value is calculated using the discount rate detailed in these disclosures. The unwinding of the discount rate is recognised as a finance cost.

Deficit contribution (continued)

	2024	2023
	£'000	£'000
Present value of provision	22	14
Reconciliation of opening and closing provisions:		
Provision at start of period	14	26
Unwinding of discount factor (interest expense)		1
Deficit contribution paid	(13)	(13)
Post-year-end adjustment	21	
Provision at end of period	22	14
Income and expenditure impact		
Interest expense		1
Remeasurements – changes in assumptions		
Remeasurements – amendments to contribution schedule	21	
Contributions paid in respect of future service		
Costs recognised on SoFA		

This includes defined contribution schemes and future service contributions (i.e. Excluding any deficit reduction payments) to defined benefit schemes which are treated as defined contribution schemes.

	2024	2023
	% per annum	% per annum
Assumptions:		
Rate of discount 31st December	4.90	5.31

The discount rates shown above are the equivalent single discount rates which, when used to discount the future recovery plan contributions due, would give the same results as using a full AA corporate bond yield curve to discount the same recovery plan contributions.

The estimated contingent liability for the charity as at September 2023 in the event of withdrawal for the Growth Plan was £98,077 (less the £21,831 provided above). There is no intention at present to cease participation or to wind up the Growth Plan.

17 Detailed comparatives for the statement of financial activities (prior year)

	Unrestricted	Value of donated books	Restricted	2023 Total
	£	£	£	£
Income from:				
Donations and legacies	1,733,435		1,567,456	3,300,891
Value of donated books received		19,235,755		19,235,755
Other trading activities	8,153			8,153
Investments	16,838			16,838
Total income	1,758,426	19,235,755	1,567,456	22,561,637
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds	720,705		35,365	756,070
Charitable activities:				
Book provision	595,638		357,582	953,220
Value of donated books sent		17,533,706		17,533,706
Restricted projects and training			748,646	748,646
Total expenditure	1,316,343	17,533,706	1,141,593	19,991,642
Net income / (expenditure) for the year	442,083	1,702,049	425,863	2,569,995
Net income / (expenditure) before other recognised gains and losses	442,083	1,702,049	425,863	2,569,995
Transfer between funds	(1,953)		1,953	
Gains on Revaluation of Fixed Assets	398,720			398,720
Net movement in funds	838,850	1,702,049	427,816	2,968,715
Reconciliation of funds:				
Total funds brought forward	2,909,800	5,467,706	242,697	8,620,203
Total funds carried forward	3,748,650	7,169,755	670,513	11,588,918

18 Detailed comparatives for the balance sheet (prior year)

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2023 Total
	£	£	£
Fixed assets:			
Tangible assets	2,358,559		2,358,559
Investments			
	2,358,559		2,358,559
Current assets:			
Stock – donated books	7,169,755		7,169,755
Debtors	186,143	119,000	305,143
Investments	201,719		201,719
Cash at bank and in hand	1,192,228	551,513	1,743,741
	8,749,845	670,513	9,420,358
Liabilities:			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(176,043)		(176,043)
Net current assets / (liabilities)	8,573,802		(176,043)
Net assets excluding pension asset / (liability)	10,932,361	670,513	11,602,874
Defined benefit pension scheme asset / (liability)	(13,956)		(13,956)
Total net assets / (liabilities)	10,918,405	670,513	11,588,918
The funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds		670,513	670,513
Unrestricted income funds:			
Fixed assets	263,359		263,359
Revaluation reserve	2,095,200		2,095,200
Free reserves	540,091		540,091
Designated funds	850,000		850,000
Total charity funds without stock	3,748,650	670,513	4,419,163
Value of donated books	7,169,755		7,169,755
Total unrestricted funds	10,918,405		10,918,405
Total charity funds	10,918,405	670,513	11,588,918

19a Movements in funds (current year)

	At 1st January 2024 £	Income and gains £	Expenditure and losses £	Transfers £	At 31st Dec 2024 £
Restricted funds:					
Inspiring Readers Projects	13,953	80	(11,830)	12,203	14,406
Impact Assessment Project	682		(682)		
Malawi/Zambia/Zimbabwe – BP (SAF BEIT)	85,144	85,000	(85,049)		85,095
Children's Corner Projects		9,971	(9,807)		164
Classroom Libraries GAM2024		8,250			8,250
Discovery Book Box Projects		4,000	(1,591)		2,409
Explorer Library Projects	(2,229)	51,089	(58,516)	6,539	(3,117)
HP PEN UKR2024		30,625	(30,450)		175
UGA02 – Reading for All Kyangwali	5,164		(1,643)	(3,521)	
RWD2023 – Reading around the Reserve	2,177		(1,802)	(375)	
COMM KNOWLEDGE UGA01	11,210		(9,906)	(1,304)	
Books To Go Projects	14,210	14,811	(26,930)		2,091
Library Procure Proj2023	29,432	600	(39,380)	9,348	
Luveve Library ZIM2023	5,079		(5,079)		
PDP Online Training	3,191	91	(3,282)		
Africa Story Box Projects					
Africa & Other Book Provision	2,500	92,672	(53,118)		42,054
Children's Book Provision		821	(821)		
Law Book Provision					
Medical/Health Book Provision		12,495	(12,249)		246
Distribution Centre Project	500,000	24,500			524,500
Total restricted funds	670,513	335,005	(352,135)	22,890	676,273
Unrestricted funds:					
Fixed asset reserve	263,359			(225,372)	37,987
Revaluation reserve	2,095,200			(2,095,200)	
Stock reserve	7,169,755	19,307,702	(18,223,321)		8,254,136
Free reserves	540,091	4,793,653	(4,437,487)	(302,318)	593,939
Designated reserves	850,000			2,600,000	3,450,000
Total unrestricted funds	10,918,405	24,101,355	(22,660,808)	(22,890)	12,336,062
Total funds per balance sheet	11,588,918	24,436,360	(23,012,943)		13,012,335
Pension reserve	13,956			7,875	21,831
Total funds adding back pension fund	11,602,874	24,436,360	(23,012,943)	7,875	13,034,166
Total unrestricted funds (less stock)	3,748,650	4,793,653	(4,437,487)	(22,890)	4,081,926
Total funds including pension fund (less stock)	3,762,606	4,793,653	(4,437,487)	(15,015)	4,103,757

2024 Transfers between funds

There were net transfers of £22,890 from unrestricted to restricted funds in 2024:

The net movement of funds between unrestricted and restricted of £22,890, relates to agreed use of funding from unrestricted to complete part-funded projects within the financial year, cover minimal project overspends or fully fund smaller projects within the programme plan for which funding could not be secured from usual sources.

*Any transfers are treated within parameters allowed by funders, and any external excess funding transferred to other projects or unrestricted funds will always be agreed with funders.

Included in the restricted reserves balance of £676,273 is £524,500 of restricted funding for to the distribution centre project.

In 2023 the Unwin Trust, which was closing down its fund, gifted £500k to the charity along with other donations from other funders in 2024 totalling £24,500 given to facilitate our move to more suitable premises.

Purposes of designated funds

The total designated funds of £3,450,000 can be broken down as follows:

- › At the March 2024 Board meeting Trustees approved a total designation of £850,000. This designation is to support a relocation and fitout of the charity's headquarters and distribution centre to a new site from which the charity's capacity to send higher volumes of books could be increased and all donated books could be stored on one site in a purpose-built warehouse.
- › On the sale of the Camberwell property in November 2024, £2,250,000 of the sales proceeds was designated to purchase an identified property and a further £350,000 designated to cover associated remedial work and future expansion costs.

19b Movements in funds (prior year)

	At 1st January 2023 £	Income and gains £	Expenditure and losses £	Transfers £	At 31st Dec 2023 £
Restricted funds:					
Book Links					
<i>Inspiring Readers</i> Projects	23,894	31,750	(41,175)	(517)	13,952
Impact Assessment Project	682				682
Reading is Basic GHN02	10,705	640	(11,345)		
Reading Club ZIM01		2,694	(2,694)		
People's Postcode Lottery 2021		374,129	(377,788)	3,659	
People's Postcode Lottery 2022	75,000		(75,000)		
Malawi/Zambia/Zimbabwe – BP (SAF BEIT)	75,000	85,000	(74,856)		85,144
<i>Childrens corner</i> ZAM02	2,818		(3,805)	987	
<i>Childrens corner</i> GHN02		23,500	(23,500)		
<i>Discovery Book Box</i> Projects		6,600	(6,646)	46	
UGA – Shared Reading 02	594			(594)	
KEN – Solar Buy Back		63,903	(66,127)	(5)	(2,229)
UGA – Solar Homework Project Rhino Camp	1,387	215	(1,602)		
<i>Explorer Library</i> Projects	2,330			(2,330)	
SL02 – <i>Children's Corner</i>	1,254	199	(1,453)		
UGA – <i>Reading for All</i> SEC-Intouch	5,449	52,000	(52,285)		5,164
UGA01 – <i>Reading for All</i> Palabek		40,000	(37,823)		2,177
UGA02 – <i>Reading for All</i> Kyangwali	1,845		(957)	(888)	
MAL02a L&M – <i>Reading around the Reserve</i>	1,844		(956)	(888)	
MAL02b M – <i>Reading around the Reserve</i>		19,573	(19,573)		
Reads Program LIB01		14,483	(14,483)		
KEEP reading LIB2023		52,000	(40,790)		11,210
COMM KNOWLEDGE UGA01			(925)	925	
TNZ – Quality Schools for All	23,436	75,704	(84,931)		14,209
<i>Books To Go</i> Projects		29,432			29,432
Library Procurement Proj2023		5,079			5,079
L4L PPL KEN01		22,429	(22,429)		
Luveve Library ZIM2023	3,232	683	(2,549)	(1,366)	
Read Together CAM01	11,421	25,000	(33,230)		3,191
Adumaji Girls Proj UGA01					
PDP Online Training	1,806		(3)	(1,803)	
Community Reading			(133,422)	4,727	
<i>Africa Story Box</i> Projects			(1,200)		
Africa & Other Book Provision		131,195	(5,000)		2,500
Children's Book Provision		1,200	(5,048)		
Law book provision		5,000			
Medical/Health Book Provision		5,048			
Distribution centre project		500,000			500,000
Total restricted funds	242,697	1,567,456	(1,141,593)	1,953	670,512
Unrestricted funds:					
Fixed asset reserve	285,180			(21,821)	263,359
Revaluation reserve	1,716,240	398,720	(19,760)		2,095,200
Stock reserve	5,467,706	19,235,755	(17,533,706)		7,169,755
Free reserves	508,380	1,758,426	(1,296,583)	(430,132)	540,091
Designated reserves	400,000			450,000	850,000
Total unrestricted funds	8,377,506	21,392,901	(18,850,049)	(1,953)	10,918,405
Total funds per balance sheet	8,620,204	22,960,357	(19,991,643)		11,588,918
Pension reserve	26,248			(12,292)	13,956
Total funds adding back pension fund	8,646,452	22,960,357	(19,991,643)	(12,292)	11,602,874
Total unrestricted funds (less stock)	2,909,800	2,157,146	(1,316,343)	(1,953)	3,748,650
Total funds including pension fund (less stock)	2,936,048	2,157,146	(14,245)	3,762,606	3,562,094

Unrestricted income funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the charity’s objectives. Unrestricted funds include designated funds, fixed assets and revaluation reserves representing the excess of the net book value of the property at acquisition. The remainder of the unrestricted funds are the charities free reserves.

2023 Transfers between funds

There were net transfers of £1,953 from unrestricted to restricted funds in 2023:

* Any transfers are treated within parameters allowed by funders, and any external excess funding transferred to other projects or unrestricted funds will always be agreed with funders.

Restricted income funds are subject to specific restrictions imposed by donors or by the purpose of an appeal. Details of all restricted funds held are in note 19a above.

20 Operating lease commitments

The charity’s total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases is as follows for each of the following periods:

	Equipment	
	2024	2023
	£	£
Less than one year	6,685	8,151
One to five years	6,608	14,370
	13,293	22,521

21 Post Balance Sheet event

In February 2025, the charity completed the purchase of a new warehouse in Swindon for £2,250,000 and the charity is in the process of relocating its operations to the new distribution centre in 2025. Relocation costs may include redundancy costs but, at this stage, these have not been quantified.

22 Legal status of the charity

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. The liability of each of the eight members in the event of winding up is limited to £1.

“

I believe that books
give people power.

The power to learn new things
and acquire knowledge, to explore
new horizons and to dream of
new possibilities. Books are the
most powerful learning tools that
a school could ever have.”

*Banja Mkwanazi, Executive Director,
Simpact Foundation Zambia*



Simpact Foundation Executive Director Banja reading with pupils in a poorly resourced school. © Loliwe Phiri / Simpect Foundation

bookaid.org

Book Aid International is a charity and limited company registered in England and Wales.

Charity no: 313869. Company no: 880754. Registered office: 39-41, Coldharbour Lane, London SE5 9NR

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Accounts

2023 Annual Report

Including Trustees' Report and
Accounts for the year ended
31st December 2023



Book Aid
International





Dr Alice Prochaska
Chair, Book Aid
International

“
In 2023 we
provided 1,235,958
books to partners in
22 countries, giving
17.3 million people
the opportunity
to read, learn and
improve their life
chances.

Welcome

In 2023 the continuing global economic crisis had a disastrous impact on people's lives around the world; for many, the cost of everyday essentials slipped out of reach and they had no access to education.

As the Ukraine war raged on, a new crisis in Gaza left millions displaced or cut off from homes, livelihoods and education. In these and other less reported conflicts, people more than ever need reasons to hope for the future and practical support in rebuilding their lives.

At the centre of our work are the many millions of people unable to access books through poverty or because of conflict or disaster.

In 2023 we provided 1,235,958 books to partners in 22 countries, giving 17.3 million people the opportunity to read, learn and improve their life chances.

We responded to the conflict in Ukraine by sending over 25,500 books donated by UK publishers to support our partner PEN Ukraine's *Unbreakable Libraries* project: restoring book collections and creating safe spaces where people can take refuge and find escape in books.

We also supplied 116,114 higher education books, law and teacher training books and 106,721 medical books to support higher education students and practising professionals in a variety of fields.

Last year we launched our *Generation Reader* campaign. Its ambitious objective is, by 2030, to provide access to books for 10 million children in Africa – especially those in marginalised communities. In this first year of the campaign, we sent over 146,000 books to schools and libraries across Africa, raising over £400k towards our £4m target.

We were delighted when our Patron Her Majesty The Queen visited Eastlands Library in Nairobi, Kenya in October. There she saw local children enjoying books donated by Book Aid International, reading and sharing stories. We would like to thank Her Majesty for her unwavering support of reading around the world.

Above all, we would like to thank all of you who generously support the vital work we do, whether through donations of books or funding, or by volunteering your time. Together we share the power of books to change lives.

Alice Prochaska 27th June 2024

The Trustees present their report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2023.

Reference and administrative information set out on page 38 forms part of this report. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the Memorandum and Articles of Association and the Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting and Reporting by Charities: SORP applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102. This Trustees' Annual Report includes a directors' report as required by company law.

Book Aid International is a charity and limited company registered in England and Wales. Charity no: 313869. Company no: 880754. Registered office: 39–41 Coldharbour Lane, London SE5 9NR. www.bookaid.org

What we do

We share the power of books – and people use that power to create a more equal future.

A book might seem like a small thing in the battle against inequality. But we see every day how a book can spark a transformation. Books help learning thrive. They create opportunities. They restore hope. They inspire confidence.

So, every year, we send over one million brand-new books to communities around the world. These books reach readers in thousands of libraries, schools, universities, refugee camps, hospitals and prisons.

The majority of the readers we support live in sub-Saharan Africa, and we also provide smaller numbers of books to partners in the Middle East and other regions where there is specific need.

The books we provide from the UK are donated by leading publishers, and each book we send is carefully selected for the readers it will reach. Our partners tell us what types of books their communities need, and we select books for them based on their requests.

We also support projects and programmes run by our partners to create vibrant reading spaces in schools, libraries and communities, to spark a love of reading and to advocate for books.

These projects and programmes include book donations, grants to refurbish spaces and purchase locally published books, and training support for teachers and librarians to encourage children's reading.

We have reached the mid-point of our strategy *The Power of Books: our vision for 2025*. This report reflects our progress towards our vision of a world where everyone has access to the books they need to enrich, improve and change their lives.

Our vision is a world where everyone has access to books that enrich, improve and change their lives.



Student reading, Bamang Methodist School, Ghana

Our mission is to give people around the world who lack access to books the opportunity to read for pleasure, study and lifelong learning.

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2023 in numbers

In total



1,235,958
books provided



17,301,398
readers reached



166
partners supported

Where we reached readers



1,983
Schools



883
Public and
community libraries



211
Higher and further
education libraries



53
Refugee settings



75
Prisons



232
Medical settings

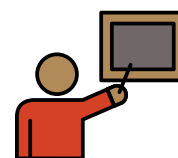
How we supported our partners



£42,690
grants to partners to
purchase local books



80
local trainers
upskilled



827
people trained to
support reading

Where our books went

Bhutan	6,713
Cameroon	88,501
Ethiopia	51,605
The Gambia	30,642
Ghana	177,335
Greece	3,764
Iraq	1,327
Kenya	85,667
Lebanon	22,668
Liberia	52,599
Malawi	70,334
Nepal	557
Rwanda	51,094
Sierra Leone	58,161
Somalia	9,176
Somaliland	30,913
South Sudan	25,453
Tanzania	76,454
Uganda	122,909
Ukraine	25,505
Zambia	99,186
Zimbabwe	145,395

The types of books we provided

Children and primary	653,892
Adult fiction and leisure reading	161,554
Secondary and teenage fiction	116,925
Higher education, law and teacher training	116,114
Medicine and healthcare	106,721
Vocational, technical and business	42,300
English language	22,262
Reference	13,462
Development	3,110

Strategic report

Our strategic report details our work in 2023, how we delivered public benefit and how we funded our activities.

Children reading books donated by Book Aid International, Odobu Primary School, Uganda



Access for all

Throughout 2023, we worked for a world where everyone has access to books that will enrich, improve and change their lives.

The books we provide are read, enjoyed and valued by readers around the world. We work with our library, NGO and institutional partners to support public, community and school libraries and we support libraries in prisons, refugee camps, hospitals and in the remotest communities. We also work to ensure that people are still able to access books when libraries or schools are impacted by conflict or natural disaster.

In 2023 we supported 166 partners in 22 countries and provided books to 3,099 libraries and reading spaces. We gave over 17 million people access to books and the opportunity to fulfil their potential.

Creating access to books

We partner with a number of national library services who offer nationwide access to books through their network of libraries. Many of them are expanding their services by adding new libraries to their networks and are also supporting schools, so the need for the books we send is growing.

In Ghana for example, the Ghana Library Authority (GhLA) currently manages 128 libraries across the country and is looking to expand that number even further. Last year we sent 83,409 books to support GhLA in their work to reach even more communities. In 2023 in total we supported 645 networked public libraries across East, West, Southern and the Horn of Africa.

We also supported 238 prison libraries, local community libraries, school libraries, medical libraries, and higher and further education libraries.

Supporting local communities

Many of our partners focus on setting up small community libraries and reading spaces which are easily accessible for the local community. These libraries support people in the surrounding areas who are unable to visit a larger traditional library.

We work with our partners to get books to the remotest communities, where there would otherwise be little access to books and learning. For example in 2023 through our partner Silanyo National Library in Somaliland, we supplied books which were sent to the camel library. This mobile library supports communities of pastoralists who move from one location to the next with their cattle. The books are eagerly awaited by the children, offering an opportunity to read and learn about the world.

Our Power of Books strategy

In 2022 we launched our *Power of Books* strategy, focusing on four key goals: ensuring equitable access to books; engaging readers; investing in partnership and advocating for books around the world. At the end of 2023, the mid-point of our strategy, we were making good progress on all the strategic goals and key performance indicators, notwithstanding some of the challenges we face, detailed in the 'managing risk' section on p37.

The rest of this report details our work in 2023 towards these four strategic goals.



Early years children reading books in the John S Varflay Public School, Liberia. © Carielle Doe

Creating equitable access to books

In 2023 we focused our work on creating access to books and supporting the UN Sustainable Development Goals for education, gender and health.

In 2023, 99% of the books we sent went to communities in low and low-middle income countries, where poverty, inequality, conflict and natural disasters are excluding people from the opportunity to access books and read.

Helping education to thrive

As part of our commitment to SDG 4: Quality Education, last year we launched our new *Generation Reader* campaign, which aims to get books to 10 million young people in Africa by 2030, (see page 12). We also provided 294,985 books to 64 partners whose core mission is education and we supported 817 schools in low-income countries by donating books to their school libraries.

Through our *Explorer Libraries* project in Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Sierra Leone and Zanzibar we set up seven new libraries in primary schools – transforming unused classrooms into places where children can discover books.



Children reading books through our Books to Go project, Uganda

Through our *Books to Go* project in Uganda, we reached 4,242 children in five schools. This project provides brand-new books, secure book storage and staff training for schools, enriches learning in the classroom and supports children to read at home. In Malawi, we set up *Solar Libraries* in 20 schools, where children can now borrow books and solar lamps to enable them to read at home.

Working with Street Child in the Kyangwali refugee settlements in Uganda, we provided 2,824 brand-new books to 15 primary schools. Since receiving these books 5,438 students in refugee settlements are now supported in their learning.

Promoting gender equality

In 2023 we worked with partners to create reading spaces where girls can feel safe and where they are encouraged to learn as part of our commitment to SDG 5: Gender Equality.

In South Sudan, years of civil war and conflict have had a devastating impact on children's learning. We sent 3,536 books to our partner African Revival in 2023, which helped to stock over 20 school libraries in the Ibba and Maridi regions, in particular IBBA Girls School, where communities had few resources. Work like this and our support of partners like UMOVEMENT in Liberia, who run after-school learning clubs especially for girls, also helps to encourage gender equality.

Our goal: Equity

We will prioritise reaching more of the people who face the greatest barriers to reading and learning.

Achievements in 2023

49%

of books provided to communities in low-income* countries and

99%

to communities in low- and low-middle income* countries



31%

of our work took place in countries recovering from or affected by conflict and disaster



Through our *Reading for All* project in Uganda, we also helped set up libraries in 25 secondary schools and 25 reading spaces in primary schools – at the Palabek Refugees Settlement and the Adjumani Girls Project for refugees in the Adjumani District. We supplied 30,893 brand-new books, including curriculum textbooks and revision guides, as well as grants to buy bookshelves, storage trunks and solar lamps for reading at night.

Supporting good health and wellbeing

Few hospitals and universities have the budgets to stock their libraries with the reference books and textbooks students need. As part of our commitment to SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being we support medical and health professionals in their ongoing training and development by sending brand-new books and resources to higher and further education spaces. In 2023 we provided 103,386 medical, health and social care books in 21 countries, helping professionals to keep developing their skills.

“
Your thoughtful contribution will have a profound impact on our service delivery to patients.

This donation has not only enriched our clinic library but also the lives of those seeking solace and recovery within the University Teaching Hospital.”

Dr. Ngosa Mumba, University Teaching Hospital Adult Hospital, Zambia

In Sierra Leone, which has some of the world's highest maternal mortality rates, we provided 687 medical books through our partner Médecins Sans Frontières, which were on subjects including nursing, maternity care and paediatrics. In South Sudan, 3,274 up to date



Educator, Ridwan, reading a medical text at Edna Adan University, Somaliland

medical books are now giving students and medical faculties the research and information they need. And in Lusaka, Zambia, we provided 452 medical books to the University Teaching Hospital, where 4,000 undergraduate students, 1,000 postgraduate students and 300 lecturers can now access them.

Reaching refugees

Conflict has forced tens of millions of people worldwide from their homes, closing schools and destroying libraries. In 2023 we worked with 25 partners to reach 379,834 refugees in nine countries, distributing everything from picture books to further education books, offering people the chance to escape or to learn, offering hope for a brighter future.

To support refugees who have fled to Lebanon from Palestine and Syria, we donated over 9,304 books through our partner the Lebanese Board on Books for Young People. In 2023 we started working with new partners, Room to Read, in the Bekaa Valley and Tuyoor Al-Amal in the north of Lebanon who have set up three schools to provide education for refugee children there. We also continued to send books to partners in other countries who support refugees including Ethiopia, Greece, Malawi and Kenya.

“
It did not take away Ukrainians' desire to engage with world culture and world literature.

In 2023 we sent 25,505 brand-new books to support over 80 libraries in Ukraine which were damaged or destroyed during the Russian invasion. The shipment was sent overland to Kyiv, in support of PEN Ukraine's *Unbreakable Libraries* project, to help rebuild their collections and to bring hope, comfort and learning to communities across Ukraine.

“Russian aggression tore us out of normal life, but it did not take away our desire to engage with world culture and world literature.

Ukrainians are curious and multilingual readers. This campaign from Book Aid International is of great importance for the whole of Ukraine and for all Ukrainians.”

Ukrainian author Andrey Kurkov, speaking after we shipped books to Ukraine.

Image: Ukrainian author Andrey Kurkov



Engaging readers everywhere

Throughout 2023, we worked in partnership with library services, community groups and education partners to help readers of all ages discover a love of reading.

When books are available, they open up doors of opportunity; they provide knowledge and ideas; they support learning and increase confidence. In 2023 through our network of 166 partners we provided 1,235,958 brand-new books, created inviting reading spaces and trained teachers, librarians, staff and volunteers in new ways to encourage reading.

Alongside the books we provided, we gave grants totalling £42,690 to support the purchase of 17,006 locally published books which reflect readers' own cultures and language. Together with the books we provide they offer a rich and diverse collection for readers to choose from.



Children reading in a *Children's Corner*, Moyamba, Sierra Leone.

Bringing school libraries to life

In some communities where our partners work, children have very few books for learning. In 2023 we supplied 1,637 nursery and primary school and 346 secondary school libraries, offering a broad range of brand-new books and enabling children to discover the joy and benefit of reading. We also supported our partners in training 364 teachers and librarians, enabling them to include reading in school timetables and to use books to inspire children both within and beyond the classroom.

In 2023 in Sierra Leone, through our *Inspiring Readers* programme we provided ten schools with 10,255 books, plus additional locally purchased books. Each school now has its own cupboard library – the perfect solution when there is not a dedicated school library. Teachers report that students are already more engaged in reading exercises and more confident in reading aloud in front of their classmates. We also set up *Children's Corners* in Sierra Leone's Kambia and Moyamba districts, with 7,270 books now available in dedicated spaces for younger readers in public libraries. Librarians have told us children are becoming better readers and love taking part in storytelling sessions.

And in the Bo province, we worked with the Sierra Leone America Calvary Baptist Primary School to set up an *Explorer Library* project – providing 2,500 brand-new books; funding for around 200 locally published books; support to refurbish an unused classroom into an engaging library space and teacher training and guidance to promote the library as a place for the whole community to use.

Our goal: Engagement

We will work to engage more people with reading, especially in under-served, rural and marginalised communities.

Achievements in 2023

1,983

school libraries
reached



15

partners
outside
Africa



Reading in communities

Well-stocked libraries – whether they are in a city, a township, or a village; whether they are public, community or mobile – offer vital sources of information for communities and ensure that people can engage with books wherever they live. In 2023, we supported reading in communities by providing books to 645 public and 238 community libraries.

In Zambia for example, we worked in partnership with the Kabwe Provincial Library, the Mbala Municipal Library and the Mporokoso District Library, to develop dedicated *Children's Corners*. We sent 8,177 UK-donated books, alongside 1,720 titles which were purchased locally. The libraries were painted with brightly-coloured murals and stocked with shelving and furniture for younger readers. We also supported our partners in delivering training on how to inspire children, including children with special educational needs, to develop a lifelong love of reading. Staff are now running regular reading groups and building links with local schools.

Working with education NGOs

Working in partnership with education NGOs, we can support the most marginalised children, giving them the chance to engage with books in their communities. Our partnership with the Rainbow Trust Foundation in Ghana, an NGO focused on improving children's access to quality education, is an example of how valuable this can be.



Students reading at the Apapam Methodist Explorer Library, Ghana

Through them we developed an *Explorer Library* at the Apapam Methodist Primary School, supporting the renovation of an empty classroom into a brand-new library and training staff in how to manage the library. We sent 2,500 books in 2022 and provided a grant in 2023 which purchased 200 locally published books to stock the library, which is now being used by five local schools.

In Liberia we continued our partnership with Street Child by sending books which were distributed to 15 primary schools and two secondary schools, supporting the education of marginalised children in Liberia, many of whom have been living or working on the streets, with no access to school. We also supported Street Child's work by providing books for children in Cameroon, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone and Uganda.

“

The library is set to be a fountain that will water a broad range of futures.

The lack of a community space for reading and learning in Gutu, Zimbabwe was a clear problem. With little access to books, students were struggling in their exams. There were few materials to inspire young people about learning and future opportunities. But, with the opening of the Nemashakwe Community Library, the situation is changing fast.

The library was set up by renowned poet Chirikure Chirikure and is now being used by the entire community including five local primary and secondary schools. We provided 2,119 books, ranging from reference titles and books on career planning to contemporary fiction. And we supported our local partner, Nemashakwe Community Library

and Information Resource Centre, funding bookshelves, computers, solar lights and more. Children in nearby communities can now engage with books and create the future they want to have.

“The great support of Book Aid International has not only alleviated the lack of books in our community for those who needed them but has also brought in a new culture to the majority of the community, a reading culture. The library is set to be a fountain that will water a broad range of futures.”

Image: Chirikure Chirikure, Nemashakwe Community Library



Generation Reader: Empowering young people in Africa to transform their future

In our *Power of Books* strategy we choose to focus our support on the most disadvantaged communities, and the opportunity that books offer people to step up and improve their life chances.

By 2030, a third of the world's under 25-year-olds will live in Africa. Millions of these children and young people will never have the chance to realise their true potential, because they lack access to books and quality education.

That's why, in 2023, we launched our *Generation Reader* campaign – which aims by 2030 to reach 10 million children and young people in sub-Saharan Africa, helping them to unlock their potential through the power of books.

Last year the campaign enabled us to support book provision and a broad range of projects aimed at giving children access to books and reading. Working with partners like Kenya National Library Service, WE-CARE Foundation Malawi, Malawi National Library Service and Sierra Leone Library Board, we created *Explorer Libraries* in Kenya, Liberia, Malawi and Sierra Leone. We also helped to set up two *Children's Corners* in Ghana and we sent *Discovery Book Boxes* to Cameroon and Sierra Leone for children to explore books and reading.

“**Book Aid International's *Generation Reader* is a campaign with an important and valuable goal: to provide 10 million young people across Africa with access to 1.5 million books by 2030. We are very happy to be supporting this.**”

– Sigrid Rausing Trust



Students reading in the Book Aid International WE-CARE Explorer Library, Liberia. © Carielle Doe

Through *Generation Reader*, in 2023 we...

provided



146,000

books for children
and young people

created



28

new reading
spaces

trained



44

teachers and
librarians

raised



£402,238

exceeding our
target for the year



“

Since borrowing these books, I have learned a lot.

When there were no library books, I could not understand my teachers and I was sleeping in class. But since the library came, things started sinking into my head. I have learned things I didn't know.

Now I can raise my hand and answer questions.”

Fabiola, Malawi, is now able to work towards her dream of becoming a nurse.

Strengthening partnership working

In 2023 we created sustainable change by investing in new partnerships, training and co-creating projects.

Partnership is at the heart of everything we do because it generates opportunities for us to create greater impact and positive change for readers with others working locally. Every partner we work with supports our vision of a world where everyone has access to books. In 2023, we continued to broaden our scope for partnerships, working with organisations who may not have education or reading as their core purpose, but who will use books to support broader aims.



Children reading books from a *Discovery Book Box*, Sierra Leone

Welcoming new partners

In total in 2023, we supplied books to 38 new partners, providing 79,069 books to communities. We also worked closely with some of these organisations, setting up a variety of projects to engage readers.

In Liberia we worked with our new partner Kids Education Engagement Project (KEEP) who promote a culture of reading and set up and stock brand-new reading spaces. Through our partnership we launched *Reading Room*, a new project that involved refurbishing a space in the Kendeja Elementary and Junior High School to create a new library. We provided 3,000 brand-new books to stock the library while KEEP provided training to teachers to run the library and promote reading. KEEP also set up a Reading Club as part of the project. The library is now being used by over 5,000 students.

We also partnered with Sierra Leone Book Trust (SALBOT) whose aim is to help create a literate society by making books accessible to all. Through our partnership with SALBOT we sent three *Discovery Book Boxes*, each with 200 books, for the youngest members of the Freetown and Wellington community.

Strengthening partner skills

To support our partners' ongoing learning, we work in-country to train people to become trainers themselves, so that they can continue to cascade their learning and engage their communities in reading.

In 2023, we engaged partners to run 15 virtual training courses on Zoom and coached 68 partner staff.

Our goal: Partnership

We will develop dynamic partnerships with organisations that share our vision of creating more equitable access to books.

Achievements in 2023

80

local trainers
upskilled



38

new partnerships



The training sessions used Book Aid International materials to help teachers, librarians and other community leaders engage more people with reading and it helped them to develop their own skills in promoting and inspiring reading.

We also supported partners to run 20 in-person courses themselves. In Zambia, local librarians and teachers joined our partner-led training on creating welcoming spaces for children and developing a confident network of children's librarians nationwide. In Ghana, our partners led courses on developing *Children's Corners*, covering topics including teaching using children's books, running book clubs and library management. Last year we built upon our new *Partner Development Programme*, which launched in 2022, (see page 16) to support our partners and enable them to do more.

Investing in partner projects

In northwest and southwest regions of Cameroon, where many children have missed years of schooling because of violent conflict, we collaborated with Street Child to create a new project called *Read Together*. The project ran in two primary schools and their surrounding communities, deepening understanding of how to support the wellbeing of children affected by conflict, and helping teachers, parents and caregivers engage children with books and reading.

Project Managers from Book Aid International and Street Child came up with the project outline together based on Street Child's knowledge of what the needs were in the schools and communities. 2,685 books and a grant to buy 300 locally published books were provided by Book Aid International, along with content for the teacher training, while Street Child's positive parenting content was used for the parent/caregiver training.

Together we created a brand-new, carer-friendly guide, assisting parents and carers in supporting their children to read. We have also been able to use this guide with other projects. Using this collaborative approach, the knowledge, skills and materials of both organisations were shared to create a new supportive learning experience for children and a new role for parents and carers in reading promotion.



Children with books from the *Read Together* programme, Cameroon

“We are proud to bring the library closer to the people.”

Yusif Sorieba, Sierra Leone Library Board, Congo Market Community Mobile Library Service



CRA winner, Congo Market Community Mobile Library Service, Sierra Leone

Our *Community Reading Awards* played a big part in empowering partners to reach more people in 2023. Through this scheme we made small grants of £1,540 to partners who had innovative ideas on how to reach the broadest community of readers.

Winners in 2023 included:

- › A project to set up a micro-library in a prison in Zimbabwe
- › A project to run pop-up libraries on football fields in Kenya
- › A library for children and young people awaiting trial in Uganda
- › A 'healing cabinet' library at a hospital in Zimbabwe
- › A mobile library serving communities in the Congo Market area of Freetown in Sierra Leone.

Thanks to our partners, we reached more than 4,000 readers through these awards.

Our *Partner Development Programme*: Creating a community of practice

As part of our *Power of Books* strategy we have committed to develop dynamic partnerships with organisations that share our vision of creating more equitable access to books. In 2022 we launched our *Partner Development Programme* (PDP) to support partners who are working to help more people discover the power of books.

The programme was designed by partners through a collaborative process with civil society advisors INTRAC, to support our partners' existing strengths, plans and objectives.

In 2023, we worked with nine partner organisations across East, West and Southern Africa through the PDP: EISERVI in Cameroon; Rainbow Trust Foundation and Street Child Empowerment Foundation (SCEF) in Ghana; WE-CARE Foundation in Liberia; INEZA Foundation in Rwanda; Sierra Leone Book Trust (SALBOT) and Save the Needy (STN) in Sierra Leone; and the Community Library Association Uganda (COLAU) and Edward Ndlovu Memorial Trust (ENMLT) in Zimbabwe.

Support requested included online learning, face-to-face learning, networking events, peer support, and training from local experts. Every partner planned their own skills development, identifying the opportunities that will be most useful to their organisation.

At the end of the year, the group formed a Community of Practice where they share ideas, knowledge and experience, through partner-led online workshops and discussions to continue learning together in the future.

Peer support is at the heart of the programme and, in March 2023, 18 staff from all nine PDP partners came together at a learning event in Kenya. Over three days, they shared experiences and insights, took part in sessions covering subjects from effective training to safeguarding and visited local libraries. The quotes that follow show how much our partners valued the experience.



Partner Development Programme learning event, Kenya



Partner Development Programme learning event, Kenya

“

It is a good practice to bring implementing partners together.

We get to know each other, learn and share practice from different backgrounds. Unity has been created, linkages have been formed and I have been given an opportunity to advance my skills and techniques for the work I do individually and also within the organisation. I appreciate this opportunity, because my mind has been opened up to the world.”

Emmanuel Anguyo, Community Libraries Association of Uganda

“

In order for Africa to get united, we need – we Africans – to have a vibrant and united Community of Practice!

Thank you Book Aid International for investing in us.”

Elizabeth M Johnson, Ineza Foundation, Rwanda

“

I learnt that when we set up our libraries at home, let it not be book, book, book, read, read – no!

Let's follow the life pattern of the children – 20% reading, the rest play, joke and laugh.”

Solomon Ochwo, Community Libraries Association of Uganda

“

The learning event was well structured.

We learnt a lot. All the sessions were so important. I now have the urge to go back to Sierra Leone to implement some of this great skill.”

Mac Lenger Fofanah, Save the Needy Sierra Leone

Highlights during the year included:

- › EISERVI in Cameroon attracting 140 readers to register at its library, after the team worked with a local marketing expert to refresh its website. The EISERVI team also followed training courses on fundraising and donor relations in 2023.
- › The Rainbow Trust Foundation in Ghana attracting new corporate sponsorship and partnering with KPMG after completing training in marketing, networking and negotiation skills as part of the PDP.
- › The WE-CARE Foundation in Liberia being inspired by a visit to Nairobi during a PDP Learning Event and setting up a new Saturday Story Hour at its library. Children are encouraged to read, write stories, take part in debates and join competitions – and more readers are using the library as a result.



Children reading books in the WE-CARE Library, Liberia

Following this positive start to the programme, Book Aid International plans to continue its journey towards building strong and equitable partnerships.

Advocating for books

In 2023 we worked to raise awareness of the power of books and to get more people reading.

The potential of millions of people worldwide is held back by a lack of access to books, and part of the problem is that too often the value of books goes unrecognised.

So, throughout 2023, we took every opportunity to raise awareness in the UK of the need for books around the world and we supported our partners to advocate for reading in their communities.

Supporting reading promotion

Our local partners know how to engage leaders and make the case for books in their communities, and through our *Reading Promotion* programme we supported them to advocate for reading.

On International Literacy Day in September 2023, we organised our annual *Reading Promotion* celebration, in which 13 partners in Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lebanon, Liberia, Malawi, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Zambia, Zanzibar and Zimbabwe took part.



Alison Tweed and the Second Lady of Ghana, International Literacy Day, Ghana

In total, 2,667 children and 1,081 adults attended these events, participating in a wide range of activities and hearing about the power of books from guest speakers including business leaders and government officials.

Andrew Nyenty from our partner EISERVI in Cameroon explained the impact this work can have:

“**Book Aid International’s financial support allows us to run activity-packed events which attract children to participate in reading activities, dances, games and plays around books.**

These events help develop children’s confidence and skills in using reading materials and boost learners’ self-esteem.”

Supporting the World Book Capital

In 2023, when Accra was nominated UNESCO World Book Capital, our partner Ghana Library Authority (GhLA) capitalised on the attention this recognition created to advocate for the power of books.

Our Chief Executive Alison Tweed visited Ghana to take part in a series of events on International Literacy Day. As part of our involvement, we made a special donation of 25,112 brand-new books, helping GhLA to inspire more people to read at its network of 128 libraries across the country. And Alison joined the Second Lady of Ghana at a series of well-publicised events, giving readings in schools and speaking about Book Aid International’s book donations around the world.

Our advocacy goal

We will be advocates for the transformational power of books.

Achievements in 2023

14
reader
stories
published



3,748
people attended
Reading Promotion
events



Showcasing stories of change

Throughout 2023, we shared blogs on our website and social media channels on the value of libraries in conflict zones and on how communities were empowered by reading. We also shared first-hand stories from children who are reading to transform their futures, teachers who are empowering the next generation of readers and parents who are discovering the impact access to books can have on children's education. The stories really struck a chord and were read 2,313 times.

We also secured more than 180 pieces of press coverage during 2023, and our partnership in Ukraine, in particular, generated significant coverage and comments on social media, including from author Elif Shafak.

“
Maybe books cannot fight against guns or bombs, but they can do something incredibly powerful: they help us realise that we are not alone.

That we are not forgotten or forsaken. That our voices matter. That we have brothers and sisters, we have kindred spirits all across the world. Inside the pages of a book, we find the whole of humanity.”

Elif Shafak, speaking after we sent a shipment of 25,505 books to Ukraine



Her Majesty The Queen visiting Eastlands Library in Nairobi, Kenya

“
Book Aid International and Edward Ndlovu Memorial Trust are doing a superb job in ensuring a literate Gwanda community.

As part of our *Reading Promotion* celebrations on International Literacy Day, our partner Edward Ndlovu Memorial Library in Zimbabwe made sure everyone in Gwanda town heard about the power of books. Our partners arranged a 3km march around the town, led by drum majorettes and pupils from local



Book Aid International panel at Hay Festival 2023

Taking part in the Hay Festival

In 2023 we were joined by over 1,000 book lovers at Hay Festival as our Trustee, Pam Dix, hosted a discussion with authors Elif Shafak, Mariella Frostrup and Kit De Waal on how books can provide solace and strength in times of upheaval.

And we supported Hay Festival Global by participating in a Lviv BookForum event with Rachel Clarke, Halyna Kruk and Sir Ben Okri on *The Power of Words* during conflict, which helped to raise the topic of books in times of conflict, with an international audience.

A Royal visit helps spread the word

In October, Their Majesties made an official visit to Kenya, including a tour of the Eastlands Library in Nairobi. The library had recently been renovated through a local partnership and also received over 8,000 books from Book Aid International.

During the visit, our Patron, Her Majesty The Queen, heard a book reading from 12 children and had an opportunity to talk with many of them. Our East Africa Representative James Kimani, who was there to accompany Her Majesty on the tour, commented:

“
Her Majesty's encouraging words made the children feel great. They now appreciate books and reading even more.



schools. Students then had the chance to take part in a range of activities involving poetry, storytelling, reading and acting, before speakers encouraged community members to promote the power of books. Together with our partners, we put reading at the front of people's minds.

Our book donors

The books we send to our partners around the world are donated to us by UK publishers and the wider book trade.

Every year the books generously donated to us by UK publishers enable us to offer the joy of reading to millions of people around the world who would otherwise have no access to books.

These brand-new books are often the latest, most up-to-date publications, in all genres from picture books for the youngest readers right through to advanced law and medical texts for students and professionals. Our partners really value the books we donate for their quality, relevance and range.

“
The work that Book Aid International does with the books donated by UK publishers, getting books to the remotest and most marginalised communities around the world, is transformational.



Nigel Newton, Chief Executive of Bloomsbury Publishing Plc

By donating brand-new books to Book Aid International publishers are supporting our mission and creating social impact around the world.

Our publisher partners

We are supported by many of the world's leading publishers, some of whom donated more than 100,000 books to us in 2023. Last year, 92 publishers donated 1,150,037 books in total to support our work.

We were especially grateful for the significant support from Cambridge University Press & Assessment, Coordination Group Publications Ltd, Hachette UK, HarperCollins Publishers Ltd, Macmillan, Oxford University Press, Penguin Random House and RELX-Elsevier. A range of independent publishers also donated books to us, enriching the range of books we could offer. We were also pleased to welcome 37 new book donors last year.

The books publishers donate

The brand-new books we receive from publishers are the backbone of our work.

Here are just a few examples of the titles donated to us in 2023:

Children's



Health and social care



Further and higher education



Reference



Leisure reading



Working in collaboration

We also work closely in partnership with publishers to deliver projects which enable us to have an even greater impact on the communities we are reaching.

Last year Pan Macmillan donated 20,000 copies of Julia Donaldson's *The Snail and the Whale* to our partners Ghana Library Authority and Street Child Empowerment Foundation for children in Ghana, as part of the UNESCO World Book Capital celebrations in Accra. With the support of players of People's Postcode Lottery we created a special film about the journey of the book from out of our warehouse in South London and into the hands of delighted children in Accra. The film has been watched over 30,000 times now.

“

Positive changes are only possible through collaboration.

We provided the books, players of People's Postcode Lottery raised the funds and Book Aid International worked with its Ghanaian partners to make sure the books got to where they're needed most. Now, they're having a direct and positive impact on children and families.”

James Long, Pan Macmillan CEO

In 2023 we continued our Charity of the Year partnership with Cambridge University Press & Assessment (CUPA). We received support from CUPA including book donations, project funding, employee fundraising and employee volunteering in our London warehouse. This support enabled us to fund the *Books to Go* project in Warazo Primary School, Kenya, where we set up a library with 2,000 children's books, gave a grant to purchase local books and provided 200 book bags to encourage children to take books home. In August 2023 we visited the school with CUPA's Kenya-based staff and were able to speak with children and teachers about the impact the books and library are having in the school and community. CUPA's support for this project has been transformational for the school and has even inspired the community to champion for a public library for the village.

Financial support from the book industry

Many publishers also donate funds to support our core work or to fund specific projects. In 2023 we received £80,336 from publishers.

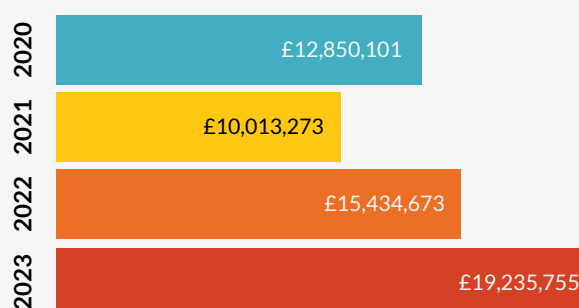
We were delighted to receive a £50,000 gift from Bloomsbury, part of which was used to support our shipment of 25,000 books to Ukraine for PEN Ukraine's *Unbeatable Libraries* project.

In addition, we received a donation from RELX of £9,687 to create an *Explorer Library* in Malawi, a donation of £10,000 from Outland book shop to create an *Explorer Library* in Sierra Leone and a donation from Oxford University Press which helped to send 2,500 books to libraries in Ukraine and refugees in Greece.

The value of the books we receive

In 2023, the books publishers donated to us had a discounted value of £19,235,755, £3.8m more than in 2022, driven by the number and mix of higher value medical books.

Value of donated books 2020–2023



We value the books we receive in our accounts based on Nielsen BookScan prices in our accounts, and we apply an overall 30% discount from the full recommended retail price to allow for the estimated market discount for third-party commercial buyers.

Publishers donate books to us free of charge, and it costs us around £2 to receive, store, select and send a book worth an average of £13.71. That average is calculated using the value of books received over the past five years, as in the table below.

Year	Books sent (no.)	Value of books sent	Discounted cost per book
2023	1,235,958	£17,533,706	£14
2022	1,140,435	£14,791,242	£13
2021	1,007,449	£13,279,151	£13
2020	867,567	£11,066,372	£13
2019	1,211,423	£18,229,466	£15
CUMM	5,462,832	£74,899,937	
Running average			£13.71

Our supporters

We are supported by a range of organisations as well as thousands of people in the UK who believe in the power of books. Some lend their time, others give financially, but we are grateful to every person who is part of our community.

“
We are proud to have been partnering with Book Aid International for over 30 years.

23 companies supported our work last year. The companies we work with share our belief in books, and together we can reach more readers around the world.

“RELX are proud to have been partnering with Book Aid International for over 30 years. Through book donations, volunteering and donations we have supported their work in libraries, schools and universities across sub-Saharan Africa and beyond. We look forward to continuing and strengthening our partnership into their 70th year.”

Alexis Steadman

Global Community Manager,
RELX



“
I’ve had my nose in books all my life – as a reader, then as an editor, proofreader and writer.

By organising events ranging from bake sales, to sponsored walks to readathons, people who fundraise in their communities help us send hundreds of books every year – we’re incredibly grateful for their support.

“The hunger for and delight in books described by the recipients of books from Book Aid seems very real and natural to me. I wanted to promote this worthy cause, so since 2018 I’ve been visiting groups with a talk about Lady Ranfurly, founder of Book Aid International, and have raised nearly £800 so far. I’m sure she would approve!”

Chris Lindop

Supporter



“
Books will change your world and everybody should have access to them.

Almost 9,000 people gave generously to support our work in 2023, and every £2 they gave sent another book. We are grateful for each and every one of their donations, as well as to those who leave gifts in their Wills and make substantial personal donations.

“I support Book Aid International because I love books and have far too many, as anyone who knows me can attest, and I want other people to share in that love. I was first attracted to Book Aid International by their Reversible Book Token – I thought it was a brilliant idea and gave one to all my family. I cannot imagine not having books in my life – what would I do? I firmly believe that books will change your world and everybody should have access to them.”

Dr John Barry

Supporter

“

Reading opens up worlds, ideas, other people's lives.

Whether speaking out on our behalf on social media or joining us at a literary festival, our high-profile friends help us raise awareness about the power of books around the world.

“Reading opens up worlds, ideas, other people's lives. It's the best way of walking in someone else's footsteps, of being there, of imagining another life for yourself - on the moon, in the past, in the future. Stories also have the power to comfort us in times of stress or distress, to make us laugh and wonder.

Book Aid International make sure some of the most vulnerable people have access to books and reading, something many of us take for granted. I'm very happy to support them in this important work.”

• Kit de Waal
Author



“

We look forward to continuing our partnership with Book Aid International.

The long-term relationships we build with trusts like The Beit Trust, the People's Postcode Lottery Education Trust, The Be Global Foundation and many others help us provide books and fund projects that transform reading for millions worldwide. Last year, 45 trusts supported our charity.

“We have supported Book Aid International since 1981. They deliver over 300,000 books a year to Zambia, Zimbabwe and Malawi, the Trust's beneficial countries. Unrivalled in quality and variety, these books boost education and provide reading pleasure in equal measure. We look forward to continuing our partnership with Book Aid International in the provision of this essential service.”

• Sir Andrew Pocock
Secretary to The Beit Trustees,
The Beit Trust



“

We're so glad that we're able to support Book Aid International.

In 2023 we were delighted to welcome volunteer teams from a range of corporate partners. Their contributions were vital to enabling us to select and pack books for readers around the world.

“We were incredibly proud of our team for using their Community Days to volunteer their time and effort towards the *Unbreakable Libraries* campaign in Ukraine. Their commitment embodies our overall mission to make it easy for everyone to discover new worlds of ideas, learning, entertainment and opportunity. A pivotal part of our charitable strategy is to widen access to reading and we're so glad that they were able to support Book Aid International by donating and packing 15,000 of our books for this incredible cause.”

Rachel Cannon
Communications Executive
and HR Assistant, Hachette

Financial review 2023

At Book Aid International all of our income is voluntary – we receive no government grants.

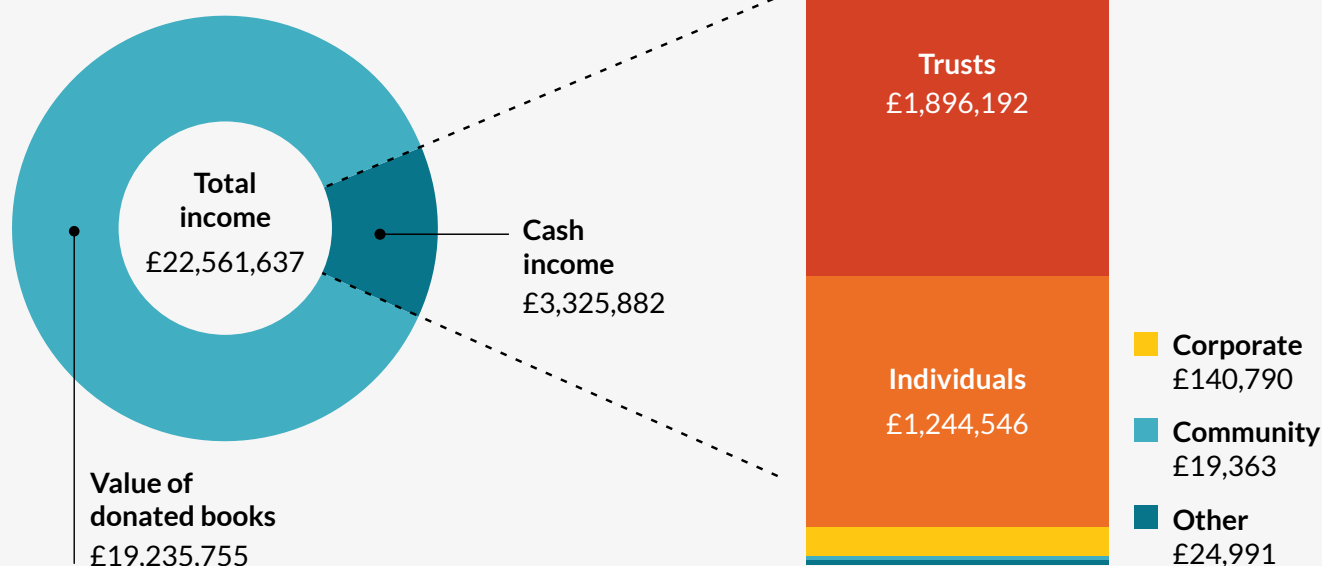
Total income

In 2023 our total income was £22,561,637, of which £3,325,882 was cash and £19,235,755 was the value of the books donated to us by UK publishers.

2023 total cash income was £3,325,882, an increase of £1,059,967 on 2022 cash income of £2,265,915. Of this 2023 cash income, £1,758,426 was unrestricted income (compared to £1,374,336 in 2022), which funded our work providing books around the world.

The increase in unrestricted income was primarily a result of our individual giving programme which performed strongly this year.

We received total restricted income of £1,567,456 in 2023 (compared to £891,579 in 2022). £500k of this income was donated to us by one funder to support the future relocation of our warehouse to a new site. The remaining £175,877 of additional restricted income was used to support project activity establishing school libraries and supporting public and community libraries around the world.

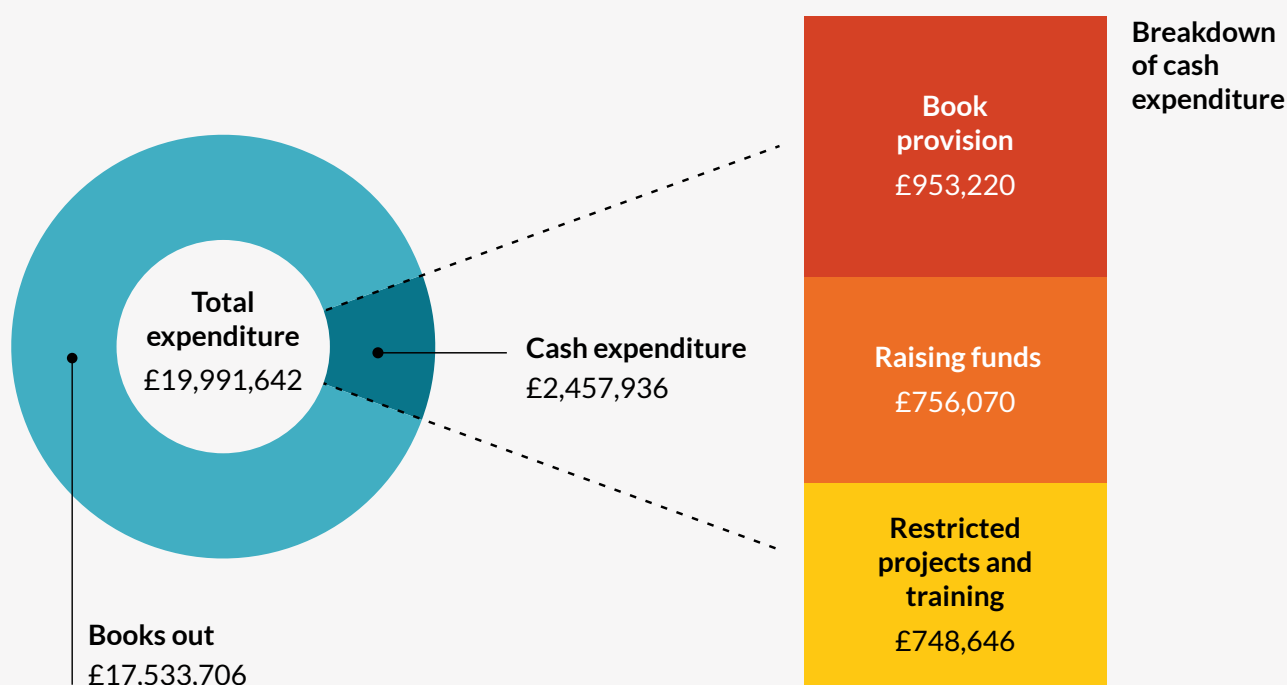


Total expenditure

In 2023 our total expenditure was £19,991,642, of which £2,457,936 was cash expenditure (compared to £2,629,726 in 2022) and £17,533,706 was the value of the books we provided around the world.

Our unrestricted expenditure in 2023, at £1,316,343 (compared with £1,655,240 in 2022) reflected lower investment in infrastructure projects (IT, our new website) than in the previous year, and an increased focus on the number of books we provided to our partners.

Our restricted expenditure in 2023, at £1,141,593 (compared with £974,487 in 2022) reflected the use of additional restricted income received during the year, which enabled us to implement a greater number of projects and deliver more restricted book provision programmes around the world.



Managing our finances

We are committed to outstanding financial management that safeguards the money we receive.

In 2023, we employed an average of 29 (26.3 FTE) staff based in Camberwell who are divided into five teams: operations, fundraising, communications, programmes and management. The numbers include two staff members in Nairobi, Kenya, who are part of our Programmes team.

This table details our salary costs:

Function	Salary costs	Avg
Book provision	£444,336	12.3
Restricted projects and training	£240,869	4.7
Fundraising	£255,513	6.6
Management and operational	£321,274	5.4
Total	£1,261,991	29

Donations in kind

In 2023 99% (2022 – 99%) of the books we sent were donated as gifts in kind by the UK publishing industry. The following table expresses the value of the books we received, retained and supplied in 2023 compared to the previous two years.

Book stock	2023	2022	2021
GIH book stock @ start of year	£5,467,706	£4,824,275	£8,090,153
Books received	£19,235,755	£15,434,673	£10,013,273
Books sent	-£17,533,706	-£14,791,242	-£13,279,151
GIH book stock	£7,169,755	£5,467,706	£4,824,275

Pension liability

We are part of The Pensions Trust (TPT) scheme, a multi-employer scheme that provides benefits to some 638 non-associated participating employers. The scheme is a defined-benefit scheme subject to the funding legislation outlined in the Pensions Act 2004 which came into force on 30th December 2005.

The provision in respect of the deficit repayment plan is £13,956 (2022: £26,248) and this has been recognised in the accounts as required by FRS 102. See note 16 on page 59 for more detail.

Reserves policy and actuals

Our Board meets annually to consider the resources that will be required to meet our long-term objectives and fulfil our commitments.

The Board also considers the risks we face and sets a minimum free reserves policy at a level it believes would sustain our work while we recovered from any future shortfalls in income or unforeseen expenditure.

The reserves have been set to ensure we have the time to adjust to a serious issue or a drop in funding and are more than required for the management of a closure.

We maintain sufficient unrestricted cash reserves to ensure that we can deliver our planned commitments in the event of unforeseen financial challenges. The minimum level of reserves we must hold is agreed by our Board of Trustees and monitored regularly.

In 2023, the minimum level of free reserves was set at £500k by the Board. We ended 2023 with £540k in free reserves, with better than anticipated funding results in 2023.

Additional £450k transferred to designated reserves for the new distribution centre resulting in a designated pot of £850k to be used to help us locate, buy, fit out a new location and fund growth.

Restricted reserves for ongoing projects and restricted activities at year end are £670,513, including £500k restricted to facilitating the move of Book Aid International to more suitable premises.

For more information on our finances, including our full audited accounts, see pages 40 to 66.

	31 Dec 23	31 Dec 22
Reserves	£	£
Total unrestricted reserves	10,918,405	8,377,506
Less donated books reserve	-7,169,755	-5,467,706
Less unrestricted net fixed assets	-2,358,559	-2,001,420
Less designated	-850,000	-400,000
Free reserves	540,091	508,380
Restricted reserves	670,513	242,697

Our fundraising

Our fundraising aims to safeguard our donors and ensure that our organisation is sustainable in the long term.

In 2023 our actual funds raised were £3,300,891 against an original budget of £2,418,901.

It was a strong year for our income generation despite ongoing uncertainty in the wider economic context. We launched our new fundraising campaign *Generation Reader* which inspired a number of gifts from individual supporters, corporates and trusts.

We have continued to develop relationships with a variety of trusts and foundations, which are rooted in a shared long-term vision of a more equitable world. In 2023 our income included gifts totalling £700,000 from The Unwin Charitable Trust as they wound down their operations after supporting us for many years. Several trusts made exceptional gifts including People's Postcode Lottery, The Sigrid Rausing Trust, The Beit Trust and others who all continued their generous support.

Our income from individuals, major donors and corporates continued to grow as we developed new relationships and partnerships and invested in the acquisition of new donors. In 2023 we were delighted to continue our relationship with a number of corporate partners including Bloomsbury, GoodLoop and Outland, who all provided valuable financial contributions.

We also ran two successful fundraising appeals "Books on the move" and "Warm and welcoming spaces" which raised over £80,000 in 2023 and were lucky enough to have a Radio 4 appeal presented by journalist Rageh Omaar in June. Finally, we are especially grateful to all our regular givers for their continued support.

Our standards

We are committed to maintaining the highest standards in our fundraising in line with our Supporter Promise, which is displayed in the footer of every page on our website: bookaid.org.

In 2023, we remained registered with the Information Commissioner's Office and the Fundraising Regulator. We adhere to the standards of both organisations and respond to changes in the regulatory framework.

We also maintained our Treating Donors Fairly policy which identifies groups of individuals who may be vulnerable and defines our approach to treating these individuals with respect and care.

We continued to place our donors at the centre of our fundraising programmes in 2023, offering flexibility in how they heard from us in line with GDPR regulations.

There were no reported data breaches in 2023.

Our commercial partners and fundraising agencies

The commercial participators with which we exchanged supporter data included print management (Do More Printing, Fretwell Print and Direct Marketing), email marketing (MailChimp), payment processing (including Access Paysuite, WooCommerce, PayPal, Stripe, GoCardless and Just Giving (Blackbaud) database software, Gift Aid claims (HRMC), Christmas card fulfilment (Impress Publishing) and IT support (Wanstor).

Each of these organisations has a privacy policy, which is available on its website, and we maintain a data processing agreement with each, as required by GDPR regulations.

Fundraising feedback

We did not receive any complaints about our fundraising last year. Two donors unsubscribed from our communications through the Fundraising Preference Service.

Investing in the future

In 2023, donor acquisition activities took place through unaddressed media inserts in publications and through Meta advertising. Complete return on investment through these campaigns does not occur in the year of the activity but is based on taking a longer-term view of the lifetime value of each new donor, many of whom continue their support for years.

Looking to the future

This section looks to 2024, and recognises those people and organisations who supported our work in 2023.

Book Aid International loading books ready for shipping





Alison Tweed
Chief Executive

“
In a world increasingly driven by new technology, the printed book continues to be hugely relevant for children, students, medical practitioners, teachers and professionals around the world.

Rising to the challenge

As the global need for books increases, we are committed to reaching more readers and transforming more lives.

We are now more than half way to the culmination of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2030 – and yet one in four children in sub-Saharan Africa still cannot read a simple sentence. This is due in large part to the chronic lack of access in so many places around the world to books that support literacy and education and inspire a love of reading from an early age.

At Book Aid International we are working to provide the widest selection of international books, generously donated by UK publishers, and local books, purchased from national publishers, which our partners can use to contribute to a book-rich environment where reading and learning can flourish.

Our partners tell us time and again that they need more books to equip their libraries and to create vibrant learning environments for their students and communities. And every year we receive more requests from organisations who are keen to receive books.

As we look to the future and commit to growing our support for our partners, we are acting to increase our capacity to source, stock and send books by moving our UK headquarters to a new, larger, UK distribution centre which will give us the space and scope to upscale our work. We are excited about this new phase in Book Aid International's story.

Going forward into the second half of our *Power of Books* strategic period we are also working with our partners to drive change on the ground and build resilience. Through our *Partner Development Programme* we offer training, resources and networking opportunities that our partners can use to inform and power the work they do – making books and reading accessible to all.

In a world increasingly driven by new technology, the printed book continues to be hugely relevant for children, students, medical practitioners, teachers and professionals around the world: a simple technology needing no power or access to the Internet, and easy to read anywhere, consult repeatedly, lend, share and return to, time after time, for pleasure, for study or for a lifetime of learning. The printed book is very much alive and well, around the world.

We are very grateful to all the publishers who give us these wonderful brand-new books, and to all of you who support the vital work we do. Together we can contribute to building a better world for the next generation of readers.

Our partners 2023

Below is a full list of our overseas partners to whom we sent books directly in 2023. We thank them all for their hard work.

Bhutan

Read Bhutan
Khesar Gyalpo University of Medical Sciences
Royal University of Bhutan
The Royal Academy

Cameroon

Community Vision Group
Education Information Services International (EISERVI)
Jumpstart Academy Africa
Street Child

Ethiopia

African Entrepreneur Collective
British Council
Code Ethiopia
Ethiopia Knowledge Transfer Society
Ethiopia Reads
Hawassa University
Jesuit Refugee Service

Gambia

Action Aid
Casa Gambia
Edward Francis Small Teaching Hospital
Friends of Janjangbureh Nursery School
Gambia National Library Service
Neneh Loun & Lilia Ali Ghanim Children's and Women Resource Centre
The Association of Non Governmental Organizations
The Gambia Committee on Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children
Unique Foundation
WEC International

Ghana

Afrikids
Biblioneft
Children Enlisted & Equipped in His Royal Service
Community Action Ghana
Community Children's Library Project International
EduSpots Ghana
Fafali Organisation
Ghana Library Authority
Learners Girls Foundation
The Olinga Foundation
Pharmaceutical Society of Ghana
Rainbow Trust Foundation
Sabre
Samira Empowerment and Humanitarian Projects
School for Life
Seventh Day Adventist Nursing and Midwifery College
Teach2Teach

Greece

Solidarity Now
Velos Youth

Iraq

The Sanjir Academy

Kenya

Amref Health Africa
Book Bunk
Dandora Dumpsite Rehabilitation Group
Dignitas
Fafa Medical Training College
Justice Defenders
Kenya Connect
Kenya Medical Training College

Kenya National Library Service
Lewa Wildlife Conservancy
The MAA Trust
Wajukuu Art Centre
Windle Trust Dadaab Refugee Camp
Windle Trust Kakuma Refugee Camp

Lebanon

Assabil Association
Beirut Arab University
Lebanese Association for Development and Communication
Lebanese Board on Books for Young People
Room to Read
Tuyoor Al Amal

Liberia

Kids' Educational Engagement Project
Street Child
University of Liberia
WE-CARE Foundation
Youth Movement for Collective Action

Malawi

African Parks, Malawi
Civil Society Education Coalition
Kamuzu University of Health Sciences
Malawi College of Health Sciences
Malawi Leaders of Learning
Malawi National Library Service
Pharmaceutical Society of Malawi
St John of God College of Medicine
Voluntary Service Overseas

Nepal

Madhesh Institute of Health Sciences

Rwanda

African Parks, Rwanda
Girls' Dignity for Nation
Ineza Foundation
Kigali Public Library
Street Child
University of Global Health Equity
Voluntary Service Overseas

Sierra Leone

African Hospital Libraries
Médecins Sans Frontières (Belgium)
Pharmaceutical Society of Sierra Leone
Save the Needy
Sierra Leone Book Trust
Sierra Leone Library Board
Street Child
USL Institute of Public Administration and Management
We Yone Child Foundation

Somalia

Eva Organisation for Women
Iftiin Education and Development

Somaliland

Edna Adan University Hospital
Silanyo National Library

South Sudan

African Revival, South Sudan
Excellence Foundation for South Sudan
Jesuit Refugee Service
Mary's Help College of Nursing and Midwifery
Médecins Sans Frontières (Brussels)
Norwegian Refugee Council
South University of Medicine, Science and Technology
St John's College Wau
University of Juba
Windle International
Women Relief Aid

Tanzania

Abdulrahman Al-Sumait University
Community Resilience International
Hasty Innovations Development Initiative
New Chapter Development for Youth
Pharmaceutical Society of Tanzania
State University of Zanzibar
Tanzania Library Service Board
Tanzania Young Eco Protection
Tanzanian Training Centre for International Health
World Wing Translation and Interpretation Limited
Zanzibar Library Service Board
Zone of Hope

Uganda

African Revival, Uganda
All Saints University Lango
Bwindi Conservation for Generations Foundation
Community Libraries Association of Uganda
Finn Church Aid
Fortportal International Nursing School
Jango International – Social Innovation
Kyambogo University
National Library of Uganda
Pangea Educational Development
Pharmaceutical Society Uganda
Planning 4 Tomorrow Youth Organisation
Refugee Innovation Centre
SOS Children's Villages
Street Child
Uganda Prison Service
Uganda Protestant Medical Bureau
Voluntary Service Overseas
Windle International

Ukraine

PEN Ukraine

Zambia

Africa Calls
African Parks, Zambia
African Revival, Zambia
Copperbelt University
Lion's Club of Mukuba
Matt Children's Hope Foundation
Pharmaceutical Society of Zambia
Simfact Foundation
UMI Foundation
University of Zambia
University Teaching Hospital Lusaka
Voluntary Service Overseas
Zambia Episcopal Conference Health Institutions
Zambia Open Community Schools
Zambia Library Service

Zimbabwe

Bulawayo Distribution Committee
Harrare Distribution Committee
MTC Educate a Girl Inc.
Nemashakwe Community Library and Information Resource Centre
Siboniwe Foundation
Voluntary Service Overseas
Zambezi School Project
Zimconserve

With thanks to...

We would like to thank the following supporters in particular, as well as those who wish to remain anonymous.

Our book donors and corporate partners

Agency for the Legal Deposit Libraries	Head of Zeus (Bloomsbury)	ReadersMagnet
Al Saqi Bookshop	Heath Educational Books	RELX
Amazon Ltd	Heywood Hill	RNIB
Ambition PR	ICE Publishing	Rochester Bridge Trust
Anima Phonics	Ingram Content Group	Rosemary Low
Arcturus Publishing	Intellectual Property Research Institute of AU	Royal Society of Chemistry
Authors' Licencing & Collecting Society	International African Institute	Sage Publications Ltd
Barrington Stoke	International Institute for Strategic Studies	SanPaul Group
BBC	Islam International Publications	Sallywag Press
BCS Chartered Institute for IT	Julian Reisz	Schofield & Sims
Beaux Books	Kube Publishing	Scion Publishing
Bloomsbury Publishing	LBA Books	Scribe Publications
BookTrust	Letterbox Library	Search Press
Bookspot	Literacy Counts	SOAS University of London
Brilliant Publications	Little Tiger Group	Suicide Crisis
British Academy	Macmillan Publishers	Swarovski Optik
British Library	Miscellaneous	Taylor & Francis UK
Cambridge University Press & Assessment	Multilingual Matters	Teeth Relief
CGP Coordination Group Publications Ltd	National Book Tokens	The Bookcase
Civilized Discourse Construction Kit	National Library of Wales	The Dome Press
Class Professional Publishing	NEBOSH	The Follett Office
Commonwealth Pharmacists Association	News UK	The Novelry
CPI Colour	Nosy Crow	The Society of Authors
CTA (Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Co-op)	Oxford University Press	UNIFY Network at Intermediate Capital Group
David Fickling Books	Outland AS	United Agents
Dorling Kindersley (Penguin Random House)	Patrician Press	Visa Inc
Elsevier UK	Pearson Education Ltd	Waldorf Publications
Elsevier USA	Penguin Random House	Walker Books Ltd
Good-Loop	PG Online Publishers	Watkins Publishing
Hachette UK	Phaidon Press	Welbeck Publishing
HarperCollins Publishers Ltd	Phonic Books	White & Case LLP
Hay House UK	Profile Books	Wiley Europe
	Project Publish	Willoughby Book Club
	ProQuest (part of Clarivate)	Women's Prize for Fiction
	Pushkin Press	Yale University Press
	Quarto Publishing	Zenith Media

Our trust supporters

Arthur Stevens Charitable Trust	The 29th May 1961 Charitable Trust	The GivingForce Foundation
Beatrice Laing Trust	The Allan & Nesta Ferguson Charitable Trust	The Hiscox Foundation
Be Global Foundation	The Ardwick Trust	The Hyne Trust
Carlton House Charitable Trust	The Beatrice Laing Trust	The Ian MacTaggart Trust
Corton Hill Trust	The Beit Trust	The Law Society Charity
DOMLAL Foundation	The Bernard Sunley Charitable Foundation	The MuchLoved Charitable Trust
D R Fine Charitable Trust	The Bhutan Society Trust	The People's Postcode Lottery
GMC Trust	The Bronwen and Brian Mills Educational Trust	The Rhododendron Trust
Merriman Charitable Foundation	The Bryan Guinness Charitable Trust	The Sigrid Rausing Trust
Mr and Mrs F E F Newman Charitable Trust	The Earlswood Charitable Trust	The Tony and Audrey Watson Charitable Trust
Mill Meadow Trust	The Follett Trust	The Veronica Awdry Charitable Trust
Peacock Charitable Trust		Unwin Charitable Trust
Talem Foundation		

Our volunteers, ambassadors and individual supporters

Julia Barder	Eleanor and David Holloway	Stephanie and Roderick Thirkell-White
Frances Crewdson	Maralyn J Jewell	Kathy Rooney
Emma Defries	Nicholas Logsdail OBE	Louisa Symington
Helen Esmonde	Sarah McCullough	Philip Walters MBE
Peter Goodwin	Sir Mark and Lady Moody-Stuart	Peter F Young
Brian Greenwood	Nigel Newton CBE	
Rose Heatley	Matt Nixon	
Harriet Hewitson	The Schofield Family	

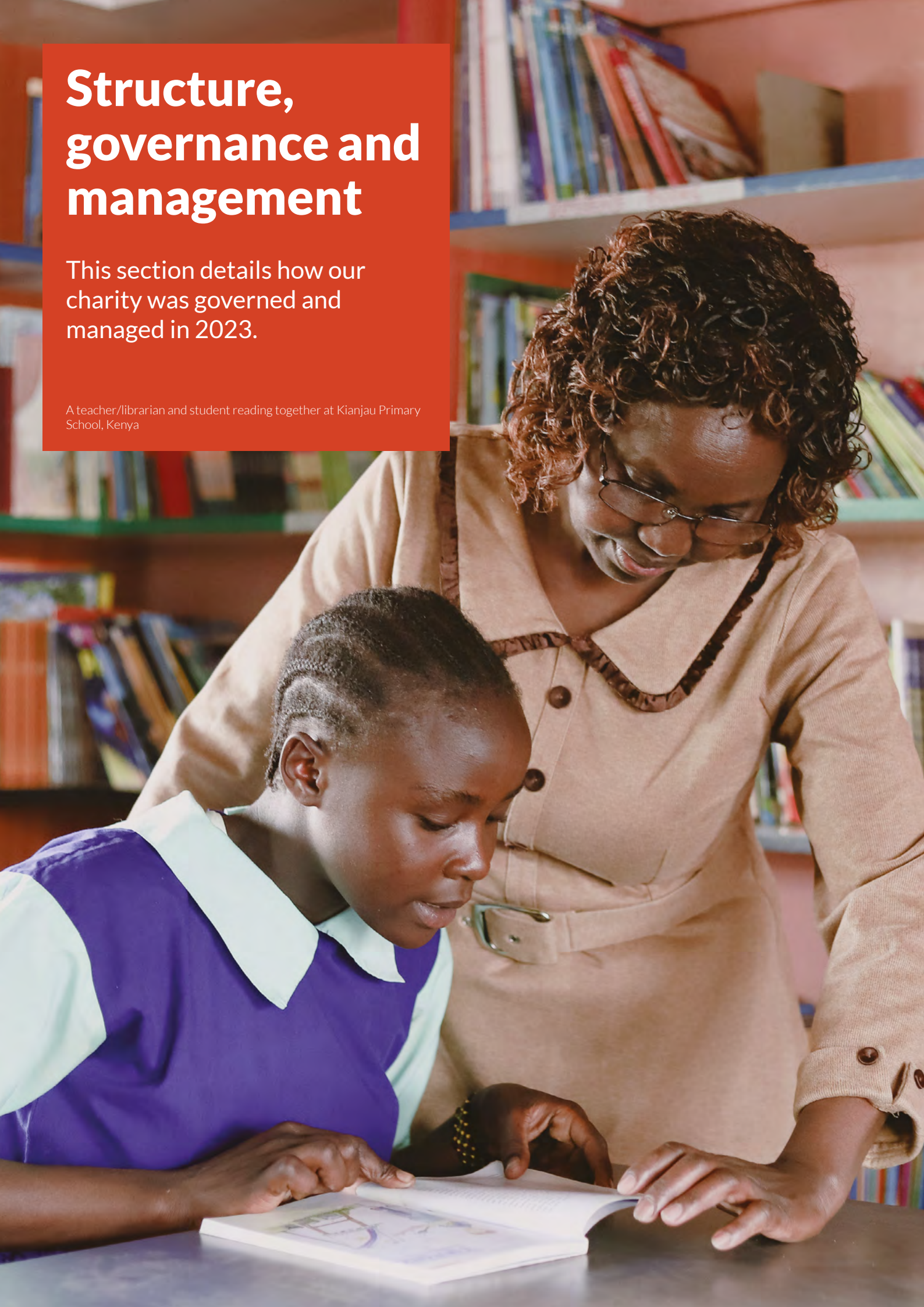
And also thanks to

Centre for Literacy in Primary Education	Rageh Omaar	The Queen's Reading Room
Cliveden Literary Festival	The Oxford and Cambridge Club	The Stationers' Company
Kit de Waal	Sir Michael Palin	World Book Day
Mariella Frostrup	Elif Shafak	Chris Wormell
Hay Festival	Hayford Siaw	Writers' and Artists' Yearbook
Sir Ben Okri	The Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition	

Structure, governance and management

This section details how our charity was governed and managed in 2023.

A teacher/librarian and student reading together at Kianjau Primary School, Kenya



Governance

We are a company limited by guarantee, governed by our Memorandum and Articles of Association.

In 2023 our objects were retained unchanged.

Our purpose, as set out in our Articles of Association, is to advance education and literacy by:

- › establishing, providing and carrying on the service of procuring and distributing reading and information material regardless of medium to developing and other countries in need for educational purposes
- › distributing consignments of such material to public and community libraries, universities, colleges, schools, hospitals, youth and children's centres and other charitable institutions according to local needs and priorities
- › promoting or supporting any training or other activity which is designed to enhance the use of books, reading and other information material in developing countries.

The Articles were adopted by a resolution of the Board at a General Meeting on 15th November 2022.

The Board has considered the legislative and regulatory requirements for disclosing how its charitable objectives have provided benefit to the public and has complied with the duty set out in Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011.

The strategic report on pages 6 to 27 outlines how our achievements during 2023 have benefited the public, either directly or indirectly.

Our Board of Trustees

The members of the charitable company are also the members of the Board, which consists of between five and 12 members. New members with specialist relevant skills and experience are appointed from time to time and their appointment is ratified at a meeting of the Board. Members serve a three-year term, renewable for up to two further terms by re-election.

Our Trustees bring a range of experience from both the corporate and the not-for-profit sectors and individual members contribute expertise from publishing, finance, fundraising, librarianship, administration and international development.

The Board meets quarterly and reviews strategy, finances and the organisation's charitable activities and approves matters reserved for the Board. These include issues relating to strategy and management, structure of the charity, financial controls, internal controls and risk management, contracts, communication, Board membership, remuneration, delegation of authority, corporate governance, policies and any other matters of importance for the charity.

Two committees formed by the Board meet and report back regularly to the Trustees. The Finance and Audit Committee meets three times a year to review internal controls, the risk register, going-concern assumptions and the annual accounts, budgets and audit findings, and is chaired by the Honorary Treasurer. The Nominations and Remuneration Committee meets annually to approve salary recommendations and other human resources matters, and is chaired by the Chair of the Board of Trustees.

Our International Advisory Board

Our International Advisory Board is a non-executive volunteer board, formed in May 2022, and authorised by our Board of Trustees. The board provides insights and guidance to support our strategic development, programmatic activities and operational effectiveness, and meets remotely twice a year. Its members are drawn from our extensive partner network to represent the range of our work, and the board is chaired by our Vice Patron, Lord Boateng. Our Chief Executive, Head of Programmes, Head of Operations and two trustees also sit on the board.

Managing our charity

We are a company limited by guarantee, governed by our Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Our Senior Management Team consists of the Chief Executive and Heads of Programmes, Fundraising, Finance, Communications and Operations. This team communicates regularly with the Board.

Salaries for the Senior Management Team are reviewed every two to three years, along with those of other staff, and approved by the Nominations and Remuneration Committee.

One member of staff receives a salary of between £80,000 and £90,000 and three members of staff are paid between £60,000 and £70,000.

Ensuring equality, diversity and inclusion

At Book Aid International we believe that equality of opportunity is socially, ethically and morally imperative. Our new Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy was approved by the Board in December 2023 and commits us to following practices that are inclusive and free from unfair and unlawful discrimination.

Our policy forbids discrimination for reasons of age, race, colour, nationality, ethnic origin, gender, sex, sexual orientation, disability, marital or civil partnership status, pregnancy and maternity, religion or belief or working patterns.

The aim of the policy is also to ensure that no person is victimised, discriminated against, or subjected to any form of bullying or harassment because of a characteristic. All employees are covered by this policy and it applies to all areas of employment, including recruitment, selection, training, deployment, career development and promotion.

We monitor the policy continually to assess how it is working in practice, and review it annually. In 2023 we set out to deepen our understanding of how to deliver Equality, Diversity and Inclusion more widely through organisation-wide anti-oppression training led by anti-racist experts, Everyday Racism. As our learning journey continues, we will be doing an EDI audit of our recruitment processes in 2024 to ensure we go above best practice. We also created a new set of values in 2023 which underpin our commitment to EDI: Respect, Empathy, Accountability and Dedication.

Staff training and policies

Our training policy aims to ensure that staff are equipped to carry out their jobs to the highest possible standard, that they are provided with the skills they need in a fast-changing working environment and that they are encouraged to develop their skills and talents.

In 2023 we spent £8,000 on group and individual staff training. Training included organisation-wide anti-oppression training as well as a number of individual training and development courses.

In 2023 we reviewed and updated our Health and Safety Policy, Child Safeguarding Policy, Data Policies, Environmental Policy, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy and Salary Policy.

We undertook a salary benchmarking exercise in November 2023 to ensure Book Aid International's salaries remain commensurate with similar-sized voluntary sector organisation salaries. A salary benchmarking exercise is undertaken every two to three years.

Our commitment to sustainability

At Book Aid International we recognise our responsibility to address and minimise the environmental impact of our work. We are continually assessing these impacts by measuring the carbon emissions of shipments, flights and our office and warehouse utilities. We take steps to reduce our impact by using suppliers that are committed to an environmentally sustainable approach.

We recognise that climate change is a critically important global issue, not least for the communities we serve. In 2023 we worked with external consultants, Carbon Footprint, to ensure we capture the most accurate data. In 2023 our internal measurement was 188 tonnes CO₂.

Carbon Footprint Ltd stated that "Book Aid International has established appropriate systems for the collection, aggregation and analysis of quantitative data for determination of GHG emissions", and we will continue to use our methods to measure CO₂ and act on reducing our environmental impact further.

Looking forward, in 2024 we will start reducing this figure by switching to an electricity supplier who uses 100% Carbon Trust verified renewable energy.

Managing risk

We manage risk through regular reviews of our strategic, operational and governance risks.

Throughout 2023 areas of higher strategic risk were identified as the complex environments in which Book Aid International operates, the capacity limitations of our Camberwell warehouse and the risk of insufficient growth in income to fund future plans, coupled with the dependency on a small number of large donors.

We are addressing all these risks on an ongoing basis. Our strategy has a strong focus on conflict-affected and post-conflict countries, but our model of partnership working enables us to operate in complex environments as long as our partners can still operate on the ground. Our broad range of partner countries ensures the long-term continuity of our work even if we have to pause some activities from time to time.

Our Camberwell warehouse is inadequate for current needs, but we have temporary offsite storage space for additional stock and a strict health and safety code of conduct which manages people risks. Longer term our intention is to relocate our UK headquarters, to a new, larger, UK distribution centre.

We have an ambitious and diversified fundraising strategy and we have contingency plans in place in the event of significant loss of income.

A new strategic risk identified during 2023 was the risk of negative public perception of the cultural suitability of BAI's books. We are addressing this risk through ongoing discussions with our partners about their specific requirements; rigorous scrutiny of all donated books before selecting and sending them; agreement with our partners to also assess books for suitability; grants to partners to buy locally published books and clear messaging to our supporters about the value of the books we send to the readers.

Areas of higher operational risk identified in 2023 include a decline in donations of suitable books; an ineffective fundraising strategy or unsuccessful new donor acquisition; risks to staff during travel to our partner countries and external factors beyond our control such as the impact of inflation, and an external event which significantly impacts our operations.

We are addressing these risks by building strong relationships with publisher supporters; investing in a wide range of fundraising activities; training staff in travel security; detailed business continuity and financial planning for a range of eventualities.

All risks on the register have been considered, mitigations put in place and the likelihood/impact ratio assessed. All risk has been assigned a manager, with managers reporting quarterly to the Board on changes to existing risks, or on new risks.

Reference and administrative details

Patrons and officials

Patron

Her Majesty The Queen

Vice Patron

Lord Boateng

President

Nigel Newton CBE

Vice President

Professor Kingo Mchombu

Address and registered office

39–41 Coldharbour Lane
Camberwell
London SE5 9NR

Charity number

313869 (England and Wales)

Company number

880754 (England and Wales)

Solicitor

Russell-Cooke LLP
8 Bedford Row
London WC1R 4BX

Auditors

Sayer Vincent LLP
110 Golden Lane
London
EC1Y 0TG

Trustees

Chair

Dr Alice Prochaska

Vice Chair

Robert Sulley
(resigned March 2024)

Honorary Treasurer

Nicholas Allen

Board members

Pam Dix

Jonathan Hargreaves

Susan Hutton
(from March 2023)

Alexandra Jones
(from March 2024)

Dr Anne Makena
(from March 2023)

Charly Nobbs

Dhivya O'Connor

Michelle Okwudiafor
(from March 2023)

Zainab Umar

International Advisory Board (IAB)

Chair

Lord Paul Boateng

IAB members

Joyce Ampofo

Helena Asamoah-Hassan

Elizabeth Johnson

Justin Kiyimba

Shereen Kriedieh

Antonetta Madziva

Alli Mcharazo

Cleopatra Muma

Lawrence Njagi

Andrew Nyenty

Victoria Okojie

Hayford Siaw

Senior management

Chief Executive

Alison Tweed

Head of Programmes

Samantha Sokoya

Head of Operations

Harry Boughton
(until February 2023)

Head of Communications

Emma Taylor

Head of Finance

Ade Soremekun

Head of Fundraising

Laura Smith

Company Secretary

Rebekah Deboo

Directors and members

The directors and members of the company are the Board members named on the preceding page.

Statement of responsibilities of the Trustees

The Trustees (who are also directors for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report, including the strategic report and the financial statements, in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the **Trustees are required to:**

- › select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- › observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP
- › make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- › state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- › prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis, unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006 and its amendments. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- › there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware
- › the Trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website.

Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Members of the charity guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 to the assets of the charity in the event of winding up. The total number of such guarantees at 31st December 2023 was £11 (2022: £8). The Trustees are members of the charity but this entitles them only to voting rights. The Trustees have no beneficial interest in the charity.

Auditor

Sayer Vincent LLP was reappointed as the charitable company's auditor in 2021.

The Trustees' Annual Report, which includes the strategic report, has been approved by the Trustees on 27th June 2024 and signed on their behalf by



Nicholas Allen
Honorary Treasurer
Book Aid International

Independent auditor's report

Independent auditor's report to the members of Book Aid International

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Book Aid International (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31st December 2023 which comprise the statement of financial activities, balance sheet, statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- › Give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31st December 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended
- › Have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice
- › Have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on Book Aid International's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' annual report, including the strategic report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- › The information given in the trustees' annual report, including the strategic report, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- › The trustees' annual report, including the strategic report, has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' annual report including the strategic report. We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- › Adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- › The financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- › Certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- › We have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities set out in the trustees' annual report, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud are set out below.

Capability of the audit in detecting irregularities

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, our procedures included the following:

- › We enquired of management and the finance and audit committee, which included obtaining and reviewing supporting documentation, concerning the charity's policies and procedures relating to:
 - Identifying, evaluating, and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
 - Detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected, or alleged fraud;
 - The internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- › We inspected the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.
- › We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework that the charity operates in, focusing on those laws and regulations that had a material effect on the financial statements or that had a fundamental effect on the operations of the charity from our professional and sector experience.
- › We communicated applicable laws and regulations throughout the audit team and remained alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout the audit.
- › We reviewed any reports made to regulators.
- › We reviewed the financial statement disclosures and tested these to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- › We performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud.
- › In addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, we tested the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments,

assessed whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias and tested significant transactions that are unusual or those outside the normal course of business.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: [frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Sayer Vincent LLP

Judith Miller (Senior Statutory Auditor)
27th June 2024

for and on behalf of Sayer Vincent LLP,
Statutory Auditor, 110 Golden Lane,
London, EC1Y 0TG

Audited accounts

Statement of financial activities (incorporating income and expenditure account)

For the year ended 31st December 2023

	Note	Unrestricted £	Value of donated books £	Restricted £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
Income from:						
Donations and legacies	2a	1,733,435		1,567,456	3,300,891	2,250,413
Value of donated books received			19,235,755		19,235,755	15,434,673
Other trading activities	4	8,153			8,153	10,086
Investments		16,838			16,838	5,416
Total income		1,758,426	19,235,755	1,567,456	22,561,637	17,700,588
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds		720,705		35,365	756,070	775,876
Charitable activities:						
Book provision		595,638		357,582	953,220	1,129,507
Value of donated books sent	3a		17,533,706		17,533,706	14,791,242
Restricted projects and training				748,646	748,646	724,343
Total expenditure	5a	1,316,343	17,533,706	1,141,593	19,991,642	17,420,968
Net income / (expenditure) for the year	7	442,083	1,702,049	425,863	2,569,995	279,620
Net income / (expenditure) before other recognised gains and losses		442,083	1,702,049	425,863	2,569,995	279,620
Transfer between funds		(1,953)		1,953		
Gains on revaluation of fixed assets		398,720			398,720	
Net movement in funds		838,850	1,702,049	427,816	2,968,715	279,620
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward		2,909,800	5,467,706	242,697	8,620,203	8,340,583
Total funds carried forward	19a	3,748,650	7,169,755	670,513	11,588,918	8,620,203

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above. Movements in funds are disclosed in Note 19a to the financial statements.

The notes on pages 48 to 66 form part of these financial statements.

Balance sheet

Registered company number: 880754

As at 31st December 2023

	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets:					
Tangible assets	11	2,358,559		2,358,559	2,001,419
Investments					100,000
		2,358,559		2,358,559	2,101,419
Current assets:					
Stock – donated books	12	7,169,755		7,169,755	5,467,706
Debtors	13	186,143	119,000	305,143	241,298
Investments	14	201,719		201,719	102,587
Cash at bank and in hand	14	1,192,228	551,513	1,743,741	868,518
		8,749,845	670,513	9,420,358	6,680,109
Liabilities:					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	(176,043)		(176,043)	(135,077)
Net current assets / (liabilities)		8,573,802	670,513	9,244,315	6,545,032
Net assets excluding pension asset / (liability)		10,932,361	670,513	11,602,874	8,646,451
Defined benefit pension scheme asset / (liability)	16	(13,956)		(13,956)	(26,248)
Total net assets / (liabilities)		10,918,405	670,513	11,588,918	8,620,203
The funds of the charity:					
	19a				
Restricted income funds			670,513	670,513	242,697
Unrestricted income funds:					
Fixed assets		263,359		263,359	285,180
Revaluation reserve		2,095,200		2,095,200	1,716,240
Free reserves	1u	540,091		540,091	508,380
Designated funds		850,000		850,000	400,000
Total charity funds without stock		3,748,650	670,513	4,419,163	3,152,497
Value of donated books		7,169,755		7,169,755	5,467,706
Total unrestricted funds		10,918,405		10,918,405	8,377,506
Total charity funds		10,918,405	670,513	11,588,918	8,620,203

Approved by the Trustees on 27th June 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

Dr Alice Prochaska, Chair of the Board of Trustees

Alice Prochaska

The notes on pages 48 to 66 form part of these financial statements.

Statement of cash flows

For the year ended 31st December 2023

		2023		2022	
	Note	£	£	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities:					
Net (expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)			2,569,995		279,620
Depreciation charges			55,972		55,768
(Gains)/losses on pension scheme	16				
Dividends, interest and rent from investments			(16,838)		(5,416)
Decrease/(increase) in stocks			(1,702,049)		(643,431)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors			(63,845)		68,187
(Decrease)/increase in creditors			40,966		(16,347)
(Decrease) in provisions			(12,292)		(19,538)
Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities			871,909		(281,157)
Cash flows from investing activities:					
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		16,838		5,416	
Payments into long-term savings		100,000		(100,000)	
Purchase of fixed assets		(14,392)		(41,061)	
Net cash provided by / (used in) investing activities			102,446		(135,645)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year			974,355		(416,802)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year			971,105		1,387,907
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	14		1,945,460		971,105

The notes on pages 48 to 66 form part of these financial statements.

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31st December 2023

1 Accounting policies

a) Statutory information

Book Aid International is a charitable company limited by guarantee and is incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office address is 39–41 Coldharbour Lane, Camberwell, London SE5 9NR.

b) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) - (Charities SORP FRS 102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy or note.

c) Public benefit entity

The charitable company meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

d) Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern.

Key judgements that the charitable company has made which have a significant effect on the accounts include the valuation of donated books as explained below.

The trustees have reviewed the activities of the Charity in light of the ongoing economic uncertainties and have adjusted estimations for uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period. It is the view of the Trustees that the charity will continue to be a going concern for the current year up to and including 2024.

e) Income

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and that the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

Income from legacies, entitlement is taken as the earlier of the date on which either: the charity is aware that probate has been granted, the estate has been finalised and notification has been made by the executor(s) to the charity that a distribution will be made, or when a distribution is received from the estate. Receipt of a legacy, in whole or in part, is only considered probable when the amount can be measured reliably and the charity has been notified of the executor's intention to make a distribution.

f) Donated books

Donated books are valued at fair value on receipt. This is determined using Nielsen Bookscan for identifying published prices and then applying a 30% discount from the full RRP to allow for the estimated market discount for 3rd party commercial buyers. This discount rate is reviewed by an independent expert on an annual basis. Where at year end books could not be opened and scanned into stock, an estimate of the value of these books is made in relation to the type and class of books remaining unopened.

Books held are recognised as expenditure at the point they are dispatched from the Book Aid International warehouse. Books in transit at the year end are accounted for as expensed as it is deemed highly probable that they will reach their intended beneficiaries in good condition. Any material damage or loss of stock would be adjusted in the accounts in the following year. There was no damage or loss of stock in transit at year end 31 December 2023 to be reflected in these accounts.

Donated books held at year end are measured at their fair value using the same measure as explained above. Provision is made where necessary for obsolete, slow moving and defective stock. Where books are not able to be opened and booked into stock by the finalisation of the accounts, the value of these is estimated using averaged price per class of book based on books received and recognised in the accounts.

g) Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

h) Fund accounting

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund.

Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources received or generated for the charitable purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes.

i) Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

- › Costs of raising funds relate to the costs incurred by the charitable company in inducing third parties to make voluntary contributions to it, as well as the cost of any activities with a fundraising purpose
- › Expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs of book provision and restricted projects and training undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs
- › Other expenditure represents those items not falling into any other heading

Irrecoverable VAT is charged against book provision.

j) Grants payable

Grants payable are made to third parties in furtherance of the charity's objects. Single or multi-year grants are accounted for when either the recipient has a reasonable expectation that they will receive a grant and the trustees have agreed to pay the grant without condition, or the recipient has a reasonable expectation that they will receive a grant and that any condition attaching to the grant is outside of the control of the charity.

Provisions for grants are made when the intention to make a grant has been communicated to the recipient but there is uncertainty about either the timing of the grant or the amount of grant payable.

k) Allocation of support costs

Resources expended are allocated to the particular activity where the cost relates directly to that activity. However, the cost of overall direction and administration of each activity, comprising the salary and overhead costs of the central function, is apportioned based on staff time and book delivery attributable to each activity.

	2023	2022 (restated)
Raising funds	30%	31%
Book provision	48%	45%
Restricted projects and training	22%	24%

Governance costs are the costs associated with the governance arrangements of the charity. These costs are associated with constitutional and statutory requirements and include any costs associated with the strategic management of the charity's activities..

l) Operating leases

Rental charges are charged on a straight line basis over the term of the lease..

m) Tangible fixed assets

Items of equipment are capitalised where the purchase price exceeds £1,000. Depreciation costs are allocated to activities on the basis of the use of the related assets in those activities. Assets are reviewed for impairment if circumstances indicate their carrying value may exceed their net realisable value and value in use.

Where fixed assets have been revalued, any excess between the revalued amount and the historic cost of the asset will be shown as a revaluation reserve in the balance sheet.

Depreciation is provided on a straight line basis at rates calculated to write down the cost of each asset to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life. The depreciation rates in use are as follows:

Building	50 years	2% per annum on costs
Fixtures and office equipment	4 years	25% per annum on costs
Plant and machinery	10 years	10% per annum on costs

n) Stocks

Donated books held at year end are valued as explained in policy (f) above. Purchased books are measured at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

o) Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

p) Short-term deposit investments

Short-term deposits includes cash balances that are invested in accounts with a maturity date of between 3 and 12 months and long term deposits are deposits with maturity over 12 months..

q) Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

r) Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a 3rd party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

s) Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans, which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

t) Pensions

The charity contributes to a pension scheme administered by the Pensions Trust, as independent company. The pension cost charge indicated in note 8 represents the contributions payable to the fund for the year, and note 16 gives details of the movements during the year of the agreed deficit repayment plan liability, which has been included as a liability under the requirements of FRS102.

u) Free reserves

The minimum level of free reserves confirmed by the Board of Trustees for 2023 was set at £500,000.

2 Donations

a) Current year

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2023 Total	2022 Total
	£	£	£	£
Charitable trusts and NGOs	(443,320)	(1,452,872)	(1,896,192)	(900,196)
Companies	(98,574)	(42,216)	(140,790)	(161,920)
Community sources	(18,365)	(998)	(19,363)	(23,139)
Individuals	(1,173,379)	(71,167)	(1,244,546)	(1,165,158)
Total donations	(1,733,638)	(1,567,253)	(3,300,891)	(2,250,413)

b) Prior year

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2022 Total
	£	£	£
Charitable trusts and NGOs	(95,746)	(804,450)	(900,196)
Companies	(126,559)	(35,361)	(161,920)
Community sources	(22,264)	(875)	(23,139)
Individuals	(1,114,265)	(50,893)	(1,165,158)
Total donations	(1,358,834)	(891,579)	(2,250,413)

3 Gifts in kind

a) Current year

The table below shows the discounted value of the 1,235,958 donated books distributed to partner organisations in 2023 (2022: 1,140,435). The process of valuation is described in note (1f) and the total adjusted value of books distributed in 2023 was £17,533,793 (2022: £14,791,242).

	2023	2023
	Total number	Total £
Children and primary	559,646	3,418,805
Development	3,107	78,361
English language skills	21,587	349,875
Fiction (adult)	81,857	656,518
Higher education	77,666	3,095,509
Law	5,849	305,893
Leisure reading	73,092	755,788
Medicine and healthcare	103,386	5,999,644
Professional	32,464	925,195
Reference	13,711	112,898
Secondary	101,561	1,089,005
Teacher training	30,910	445,443
Teenage fiction	15,364	98,531
Vocational/technical	7,616	202,241
	1,127,816	17,533,706
Stock adjustments	108,142	
Total expenditure of donated books sent	1,235,958	17,533,706

Stock adjustments relate to adjustments in book “sets”, values and location of individual books.

a) Prior year

	2022	2022
	Total number	Total £
Children and primary	471,403	2,979,548
Development	7,059	90,015
English language skills	46,753	497,810
Fiction (adult)	83,345	644,451
Higher education	62,391	2,377,623
Law	5,219	349,345
Leisure reading	59,162	630,989
Medicine and healthcare	75,301	3,871,183
Professional	14,660	403,885
Reference	6,142	63,478
Secondary	127,698	1,885,035
Teacher training	15,918	280,480
Teenage fiction	52,679	335,845
Vocational/technical	12,004	210,962
	1,039,734	14,620,649
Stock adjustments	100,701	170,594
Total expenditure of donated books sent	1,140,435	14,791,243

4 Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2023 Total	2022 Total
	£	£	£	£
Events				
UK book and card sales	8,131		8,131	9,563
Other	22		22	524
Total donations	8,153		8,153	10,087

All trading income received in 2023 and 2022 was unrestricted.

5 Analysis of expenditure

a) Current year

	Raising funds	Charitable activities				Governance costs	Support costs	Pension scheme gain/loss	2023	2022
	£	Book provision	Value of donated books sent	Restricted projects and training		£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs (note 8)	255,512	444,336		240,868	163,484	157,790			1,261,990	1,293,276
Other staff costs	21,490	37,371		20,258	13,750	13,271			106,139	48,071
Travel and workshop costs	6,937	34,695		45,245					86,877	43,999
Book purchase				11,102					11,102	4,600
Value of donated books			17,533,706						17,533,706	14,791,242
Overseas project partners (note 6)		7,570		214,187					221,757	323,496
Shipping and book disposal							164,648		164,648	212,991
Fundraising, PR and design	226,832	19,225		19,225					265,282	370,313
Professional fees and irrecoverable VAT							28,006		28,006	29,724
Other direct costs							11,195		11,195	7,237
Other project and training costs		13,579		13,579					27,158	63,413
Governance costs					20,016				20,016	15,408
Support costs							253,766		253,766	217,197
	510,771	556,776	17,533,706	564,464	197,249	628,676			19,991,642	17,420,967
Governance costs	58,582	94,680		43,987	(197,249)					
Support costs	186,717	301,764		140,195		(628,676)				
Gain/loss on pension scheme										
Total expenditure 2023	756,070	953,220	17,533,706	748,646					19,991,642	
Total expenditure 2022	775,876	1,129,506	14,791,242	724,343						17,420,967

Of the total expenditure, £18,850,049 was unrestricted (2022: £16,457,227) and £1,141,593 was restricted (2022: £974,486).

b) Prior year

	Charitable activities							
	Raising funds	Book provision	Value of donated books sent	Restricted projects and training	Governance costs	Support costs	Pension scheme gain/loss	2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs (note 8)	306,325	440,975		232,479	160,335	153,162		1,293,276
Other staff costs	11,386	16,391		8,641	5,960	5,693		48,071
Travel and workshop costs	2,059	35,322		6,618				43,999
Book purchase				4,600				4,600
Value of donated books			14,791,242					14,791,242
Overseas project partners (note 6)		5,073		318,423				323,496
Shipping and book disposal						212,991		212,991
Fundraising, PR and design	294,564	37,874		37,875				370,313
Professional fees and irrecoverable VAT						29,724		29,724
Other direct costs						7,237		7,237
Other project and training costs		31,707		31,706				63,413
Governance costs					15,408			15,408
Support costs						217,197		217,197
	614,334	567,342	14,791,242	640,342	181,703	626,004		17,420,967
Governance costs	56,809	81,780		43,114	(181,703)			
Support costs	195,719	281,750		148,535		(626,004)		
Gain/loss on pension scheme								
Total expenditure 2022	866,862	930,872	14,791,242	831,991				17,420,967

6 Grant payments to project partners

Partners	2023	2022
Partners	£	£
Able Child		20,126
African Parks	6,720	18,509
Assibil Library	600	600
Atanasius Hamwaka		3,420
Baroda Trading		1,049
Bookrite Marketing Ltd	997	
Books Behind Bars		1,279
CODE Ethiopia	600	600
Consultus Publishing	1,003	1,571
Edward Ndlovu	22,272	9,335
EISERVI	879	600
EMNL	(886)	885
Ghana Book Trust		10,304
Ghana Library Authority	10,890	1,540
Grace Rwanda Society	8,586	2,191
Healing Cab	2,027	1,291
IBBY		6,743
Jesuit Refugees Service	900	21,809
KEEP	8,483	
Kenya National Library Services	14,728	4,943
Lifeline Africa Consultants	1,590	
Lifetime Consulting	3,361	
Malawi National Library Service	20,559	25,115
National Library of Uganda	7,659	600
PEN International		32,365
Rainbow Trust foundation	15,428	5,595
Richard Luhanga	3,560	
Save the Needy	6,354	8,080
Street Child Foundation (SCEF)	21,826	9,100
Shurugwi Reading Club		9,802
Sizalendaba		1,195
Sierra Leone Library Board	2,499	27,973
Squirrel Book Centre		3,681
SSSB		600
Street Child		21,458
Tichbay Books		1,050
Uganda Children's Writers		7,528
Uganda Community Library Association	12,665	4,619
UMOVEMENT	9,573	
Venatious Chiiba		1,665
Vivienne Moyo	2,694	
WE-CARE Liberia	6,723	600
Windle International	21,388	25,453
Zambia Library Services	7,177	29,884
Grants to other institutions	901	339
At the end of the year	221,757	323,498

The decrease in the 2023 grants sent value is due to increased activity in 2022 as a result of better than expected funding and release of unrestricted BAI funds to support increased activity in that year.

7 Net income / (expenditure) for the year

This is stated after charging / (crediting):

	2023	2022
	£	£
Depreciation	55,971	55,768
Interest payable	4,508	4,217
Operating lease rentals:		
Property		
Other	8,151	8,146
Auditors' remuneration (excluding VAT):		
Audit	14,900	12,500
Other services		
Foreign exchange (gains) or losses	373	67

8 Analysis of staff costs, Trustee remuneration and expenses, and the cost of key management personnel

Staff costs were as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Salaries and wages	995,816	1,035,149
Employer's NI contributions	103,431	107,283
Pension contributions	71,485	64,380
Overseas staff costs	91,258	86,464
	1,261,990	1,293,276

	2023	2022
	(no.)	(no.)
Average head count	29.0	31.0
Full-time equivalent	26.3	29.4
Number of staff whose emoluments were between £60,000 and £70,000	3	1
Number of staff whose emoluments were between £70,000 and £80,000		
Number of staff whose emoluments were between £80,000 and £90,000	1	1

The total employee benefits received by key management personnel were £451,705 (2022: £458,224).

Trustees received no remuneration during the year (2022: £nil). No trustees received any payments for professional services during the year (2022: £nil).

There were £4,965 worth of expenses reimbursed to trustees in 2023 for the charity's business (2022: £nil).

9 Related party transactions

Aggregate donations from related parties were £3,936 (2022: £3,673).

Robert Sulley is a Director at Hodder Education (part of the Hachette Group). This trustee-related organisation donated the following to Book Aid International during the year.

	2023 Value of books donated	2023 Cash donated	2022 Value of books donated	2022 Cash donated
Trustee-related organisations	£	£	£	£
Hachette Group	1,135,498		1,737,677	
	1,135,498		1,737,677	

10 Taxation

The charitable company is exempt from corporation tax as all its income is deemed charitable and is applied for charitable purposes.

11 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold property	Plant and machinery	Fixtures and office equipment	2023 Total
	£	£	£	£
Cost or valuation				
At the start of the year	1,998,000	33,086	112,396	2,143,482
Gain on revaluation	398,720			398,720
Additions in year		8,521	5,870	14,391
Disposals in year			(8,463)	(8,463)
At the end of the year	2,396,720	41,607	109,803	2,548,130
Depreciation				
At the start of the year	72,360	8,556	61,146	142,062
Charge for the year	24,360	4,161	27,451	55,972
Eliminated on disposal			(8,463)	(8,463)
At the end of the year	96,720	12,717	80,134	189,571
Net book value				
At the end of the year	2,300,000	28,890	29,669	2,358,559
At the start of the year	1,925,640	24,529	51,250	2,001,419

The original (1987) cost of the charity's freehold premises in Coldharbour Lane, Camberwell was £230,000. The premises have been revalued five times, the most recently valuation for a continuation of existing use was in December 2023. The revaluations were undertaken by an independent valuer and give current open market valuations of the freehold interest in the charity's property. The Land and Building were valued at £940,000 and £1,360,000 respectively based on Existing Use value.

All of the above assets are used for charitable purposes.

12 Stock

	2023	2022
	£	£
Donated books	7,169,755	5,467,706

At year end there are unopened pallets of books stored in our warehouses. We endeavour to open as many of these as possible by the time the accounts are finalised. The value of any unopened pallets is estimated by using the average value of pallets for that class of book received and opened in the year. Included in the closing stock value of £7,169,755 are 369 pallets of books (2022: 272) which could not be opened and booked into stock at year end; these have been estimated using an averaged price per class of book and are valued at £4,994,502 (2022: £3,429,228).

13 Debtors

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade debtors	43,662	6,309
Other debtors and prepayments	89,999	63,931
Gift Aid recoverable	21,088	33,058
Accrued income	150,394	138,000
	305,143	241,298

All of the charity's financial instruments, both assets and liabilities, are measured at amortised cost.

14 Bank and short-term investments

	2023	2022
	£	£
Cash and bank	1,743,740	868,518
Short-term investments	201,719	102,587
Long-term investments		100,000
Total cash and short-term investments	1,945,459	1,071,105

Short-term investments are funds invested in twelve month fixed term deposit accounts. The long-term investment is a 2 year term deposit.

15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade creditors	110,338	58,091
Staff tax and social security	39,527	34,277
VAT payable		
Other creditors and accruals	26,178	42,709
	176,043	135,077

16 Pension scheme

The company participates in the scheme, a multi-employer scheme which provides benefits to some 638 non-associated participating employers. The scheme is a defined benefit scheme in the UK. It is not possible for the company to obtain sufficient information to enable it to account for the scheme as a defined benefit scheme. Therefore it accounts for the scheme as a defined contribution scheme.

The scheme is subject to the funding legislation outlined in the Pensions Act 2004 which came into force on 30th December 2005. This, together with documents issued by the Pensions Regulator and Technical Actuarial Standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council, set out the framework for funding defined benefit occupational pension schemes in the UK.

The scheme is classified as a 'last-man standing arrangement'. Therefore the company is potentially liable for other participating employers' obligations if those employers are unable to meet their share of the scheme deficit following withdrawal from the scheme. Participating employers are legally required to meet their share of the scheme deficit on an annuity purchase basis on withdrawal from the scheme.

A full actuarial valuation for the scheme was carried out at 30th September 2020. This valuation showed assets of £800.3m, liabilities of £831.9m and a deficit of £31.6m.

To eliminate this funding shortfall, the Trustee has asked the participating employers to pay additional contributions to the scheme as follows:

From 1st April 2022 to 31st January 2025: £3,312,000 per annum (payable monthly).

Unless a concession has been agreed with the Trustee the term to 31st January 2025 applies.

Note that the scheme's previous valuation was carried out with an effective date of 30th September 2017. This valuation showed assets of £794.9m, liabilities of £926.4m and a deficit of £131.5m. To eliminate this funding shortfall, the Trustee has asked the participating employers to pay additional contributions to the scheme as follows:

Deficit contribution

From 1st April 2019 to 30th September 2025: £11,243,000 per annum payable monthly and increasing by 3% each on 1st April.

The recovery plan contributions are allocated to each participating employer in line with their estimated share of the Series 1 and Series 2 scheme liabilities.

Where the scheme is in deficit and where the company has agreed to a deficit funding arrangement the company recognises a liability for this obligation. The amount recognised is the net present value of the deficit reduction contributions payable under the agreement that relates to the deficit. The present value is calculated using the discount rate detailed in these disclosures. The unwinding of the discount rate is recognised as a finance cost.

Deficit contribution (continued)

	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
Present value of provision	14	26
Reconciliation of opening and closing provisions:		
Provision at start of period	26	46
Unwinding of discount factor (interest expense)	1	
Deficit contribution paid	(13)	(19)
Post-year-end adjustment		(1)
Provision at end of period	14	26
Income and expenditure impact		
Interest expense	1	
Remeasurements – changes in assumptions		(1)
Remeasurements – amendments to contribution schedule		
Contributions paid in respect of future service		
Costs recognised on SoFA		

This includes defined contribution schemes and future service contributions (i.e. excluding any deficit reduction payments) to defined benefit schemes which are treated as defined contribution schemes.

	2023	2022
	% per annum	% per annum
Assumptions:		
Rate of discount 31st December	5.31	4.96

The discount rates shown above are the equivalent single discount rates which, when used to discount the future recovery plan contributions due, would give the same results as using a full AA corporate bond yield curve to discount the same recovery plan contributions.

The estimated contingent liability for the charity as at September 2023 in the event of withdrawal for the Growth Plan was £98,007 (less the £13,956 provided above). There is no intention at present to cease participation or to wind up the Growth Plan.

17 Detailed comparatives for the statement of financial activities (prior year: 2022)

	Unrestricted £	Value of donated books £	Restricted £	2022 Total £
Income from:				
Donations and legacies	1,358,834		891,579	2,250,413
Value of donated books received		15,434,673		15,434,673
Other trading activities	10,086			10,086
Investments	5,416			5,416
Total income	1,374,336	15,434,673	891,579	17,700,588
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds	864,564		27,548	892,112
Charitable activities:				
Book provision	790,676		127,572	918,248
Value of donated books sent		14,791,242		14,791,242
Restricted projects and training			819,367	819,367
Total expenditure	1,655,240	14,791,242	974,487	17,420,969
Net income / (expenditure) for the year	(280,903)	643,431	(82,908)	279,620
Net income / (expenditure) before other recognised gains and losses	(280,903)	643,431	(82,908)	279,620
Transfer between funds	456		(456)	
Gain on pension scheme				
Net movement in funds	(280,447)	643,431	(83,364)	279,620
Reconciliation of funds:				
Total funds brought forward	3,190,247	4,824,275	326,061	8,340,583
Total funds carried forward	2,909,800	5,467,706	242,697	8,620,203

18 Detailed comparatives for the balance sheet (prior year: 2022)

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2022 Total
	£	£	£
Fixed assets:			
Tangible assets	2,001,419		2,001,419
Investments	100,000		100,000
	2,101,419		2,101,419
Current assets:			
Stock – donated books	5,467,706		5,467,706
Debtors	140,298	100,000	241,298
Investments	102,587		102,587
Cash at bank and in hand	717,019	151,499	868,518
	6,427,610	251,499	6,680,109
Liabilities:			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(125,275)	(9,802)	(135,077)
Net current assets / (liabilities)	6,302,335	(9,802)	(135,077)
Net assets excluding pension asset / (liability)	8,403,754	242,697	8,646,451
Defined benefit pension scheme asset / (liability)	(26,248)		(26,248)
Total net assets / (liabilities)	8,377,506	242,697	8,620,203
The funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds		242,697	242,697
Unrestricted income funds:			
Fixed assets	285,180		285,180
Revaluation reserve	1,716,240		1,716,240
Free reserves	508,380		508,380
Designated funds	400,000		400,000
Total charity funds without stock	2,909,800	242,697	3,152,497
Value of donated books	5,467,706		5,467,706
Total unrestricted funds	8,377,506		8,377,506
Total charity funds	8,377,506	242,697	8,620,203

19 Movements in funds

a) Current year: 2023

	At 1st January 2023 £	Income and gains £	Expenditure and losses £	Transfers £	At 31st Dec 2023 £
Restricted funds:					
BookLinks					
<i>Inspiring Readers</i> project	23,894	31,750	(41,175)	(517)	13,952
Impact Assessment project	682				682
<i>Reading is Basic</i> GHN02	10,705	640	(11,345)		
Reading Club ZIM01		2,694	(2,694)		
People's Postcode Lottery 2023		374,129	(377,788)	3,659	
People's Postcode Lottery 2022	75,000		(75,000)		
Malawi/Zambia/Zimbabwe – BP (SAF BEIT)	75,000	85,000	(74,856)		85,144
<i>Children's Corner</i> ZAM02	2,818		(3,805)	987	
<i>Children's Corner</i> GHN02		23,500	(23,500)		
<i>Discovery Book Box</i> projects		6,600	(6,646)	46	
UGA – Solar Homework Project Rhino Camp	594			(594)	
<i>Explorer Library</i> projects		63,903	(66,127)	(5)	(2,229)
SL02 – <i>Children's Corner</i>	1,387	215	(1,602)		
UGA – <i>Reading for All</i> – SEC Intouch	2,330			(2,330)	
UGA01 – <i>Reading for All</i> – Palabek	1,254	199	(1,453)		
UGA02 – <i>Reading for All</i> – Kyangwali	5,449	52,000	(52,285)		5,164
MAL – <i>Reading Around the Reserve</i>		40,000	(37,823)		2,177
MAL02a L&M – <i>Reading Around the Reserve</i>	1,845		(957)	(888)	
MAL02b L&M – <i>Reading Around the Reserve</i>	1,844		(956)	(888)	
Reads Program LIB01		19,573	(19,573)		
KEEP reading LIB2023		14,483	(14,483)		
COMM KNOWLEDGE UGA01		52,000	(40,790)		11,210
TNZ – <i>Quality Schools for All</i>			(925)	925	
<i>Books To Go</i> projects	23,436	75,704	(84,931)		14,209
Library Procurement Proj2023		29,432			29,432
Luveve Library ZIM2023		5,079			5,079
Read Together CAM01		22,429	(22,429)		
Adumaji Girls project UGA01	3,232	683	(2,549)	(1,366)	
PDP Online Training	11,421	25,000	(33,230)		3,191
Community Reading					
<i>Africa Story Box</i> projects	1,806		(3)	(1,803)	
Africa and other book provision		131,195	(133,422)	4,727	2,500
Children's book provision		1,200	(1,200)		
Law book provision		5,000	(5,000)		
Medical/healthcare book provision		5,048	(5,048)		
Distribution centre project		500,000			500,000
Total restricted funds	242,697	1,567,456	(1,141,593)	1,953	670,511
Unrestricted funds:					
Fixed asset reserve	285,180			(21,821)	263,359
Revaluation reserve	1,716,240	398,720	(19,760)		2,095,200
Stock reserve	5,467,706	19,235,755	(17,533,706)		7,169,755
Free reserves	508,380	1,758,426	(1,296,583)	(430,132)	540,091
Designated reserves	400,000			450,000	850,000
Total unrestricted funds	8,377,506	21,392,901	(18,850,049)	(1,953)	10,918,405
Total funds per balance sheet	8,620,204	22,960,357	(19,991,643)		11,588,918
Pension reserve	26,248			(12,292)	13,956
Total funds adding back pension fund	8,646,452	22,960,357	(19,991,643)	(12,292)	11,602,874
Total unrestricted funds (less stock)	2,909,800	2,157,146	(1,316,343)	(1,953)	3,748,650
Total funds including pension fund (less stock)	2,936,048	2,157,146	(1,316,343)	(14,245)	3,762,606

The net movement of funds between unrestricted and restricted of £456 relate to minor overspends on three projects that were funded by unrestricted funds.

2023 transfers between funds

There were net transfers of £1,953 from Unrestricted to Restricted funds in 2023.

Any transfers are treated within parameters allowed by funders, and any external excess funding transferred to other projects or unrestricted funds will always be agreed with funders.

Purpose of Distribution Centre project value of £500k within restricted funds

In 2023 the Unwin Trust, which was closing down its fund, gifted £500k to the charity to facilitate our move to more suitable premises.

Purposes of designated funds

The total designated funds of £850,000 was agreed as follows:

- › At the March 2024 Board meeting trustees approved the transfer of a further £450k in unrestricted funds to the existing designated fund of £400k, totalling £850k. This designation is to support a relocation of the charity's headquarters and distribution centre to a new site from which the charity's capacity to send higher volumes of books could be increased and all donated books could be stored on one site in a purpose-built warehouse.

b) Prior year: 2022

	At 1st January 2022 £	Income and gains £	Expenditure and losses £	Transfers £	At 31st Dec 2022 £
Restricted funds:					
BookLinks		7,950	(8,534)	584	
<i>Inspiring Readers</i>	40,783	40,377	(56,496)	(770)	23,894
Impact Assessment project	4,064		(3,383)		681
<i>Reading is Basic</i> GHN02	(63)	20,000	(9,232)		10,705
Reading Club ZIM01	(301)	70,000	(70,795)	1,096	
People's Postcode Lottery 2021	129,943		(130,010)	67	
People's Postcode Lottery 2022		244,365	(170,029)	664	75,000
Malawi/Zambia/Zimbabwe – BP (SAF BEIT)	75,186	75,000	(75,186)		75,000
ZAM – STEM STD Hubs01	2,224		(1,665)	(559)	
<i>Children's Corner</i> ZAM02		34,808	(31,990)		2,818
GHA – STEM Hubs – Agrekko	2,479		(2,479)		
Reading Promotion		9,546	(9,546)		
KEN – Mini-Solar Homework project	78		(78)		
<i>Discovery Book Box</i> projects	1,255	6,500	(7,755)		
UGA – Shared Reading 02	2,014			(2,014)	
KEN – Solar Buy Back	688		(822)	134	
UGA – Solar Homework Project Rhino Camp	594				594
<i>Explorer Library</i> projects	20,640	29,201	(49,341)	(500)	
SL02 – <i>Children's Corner</i>	(18)	22,752	(21,347)		1,387
UGA – <i>Reading for All</i> – SEC Intouch	2,929		(465)	(134)	2,330
UGA – <i>Reading for All</i> – ECD PRIM PPL	1,866	(1,401)	(465)		
KEN02 – <i>Reading for All</i> – Solar	79			(79)	
UGA01 – <i>Reading for All</i> – Palabek	(45)	59,942	(58,643)		1,254
UGA02 – <i>Reading for All</i> – Kyangwali		5,449			5,449
MAL02a L&M – <i>Reading Around the Reserve</i>				1,845	1,845
MAL02b M – <i>Reading Around the Reserve</i>	13,572		(12,800)	1,072	1,844
ZAM – <i>Reading Around the Reserve</i>	6,656		(6,549)	(107)	
ZIM – <i>Reading Around the Reserve</i>	10,000		(11,633)	1,633	
TNZ – <i>Quality Schools for All</i>	9,000		(9,000)		
<i>Books To Go</i> projects	(1,468)	29,000	(4,175)	79	23,436
L4L PPL KEN01			(413)	413	
CCL ZNZ01	426		(426)		
KEN01-I C Reading	917		(377)	(540)	
Read Together CAM01	(9)	10,000	(9,990)		1
Adumaji Girls project UGA01		50,427	(47,195)		3,232
PDP Online Training		50,000	(38,579)		11,421
<i>Africa Story Box</i> projects	938	77,199	(74,625)	(1,707)	1,806
Africa and other book provision		43,089	(43,089)		
Children's book provision		6,500	(6,500)		
Medical/healthcare book provision		875	(875)		
Other legacies/activities	1,633			(1,633)	
Total restricted funds	326,061	891,579	(974,487)	(456)	242,697
Unrestricted funds:					
Fixed asset reserve	280,127			5,053	285,180
Revaluation reserve	1,736,000			(19,760)	1,716,240
Stock reserve	4,824,275	15,434,673	(14,791,242)		5,467,706
Free reserves	571,106	1,374,336	(1,655,240)	218,178	508,380
Designated reserves	603,015			(203,015)	400,000
Total unrestricted funds	8,014,523	16,809,009	(16,446,482)	456	8,377,506
Total funds per balance sheet	8,340,584	17,700,588	(17,420,969)		8,620,203
Pension reserve	45,786			(19,538)	26,248
Total funds adding back pension fund	8,386,370	17,700,588	(17,420,969)	(19,538)	8,646,451
Total unrestricted funds (less stock)	3,190,248	1,374,336	(1,655,240)	456	2,909,800
Total funds including pension fund (less stock)	3,236,034	1,374,336	(1,655,240)	(19,082)	2,936,048

Unrestricted income funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the charity's objectives. Unrestricted funds include designated funds, fixed assets and revaluation reserves representing the excess of the net book value of the property at acquisition. The remainder of the unrestricted funds are the charity's free reserves.

2022 Transfers between funds

There were no transfers between restricted and unrestricted funds in 2022.

Any transfers are treated within parameters allowed by funders, and any external excess funding transferred to other projects or unrestricted funds will always be agreed with funders.

Restricted income funds are subject to specific restrictions imposed by donors or by the purpose of an appeal. Details of all restricted funds held are in note 19a above.

20 Operating lease commitments

The charity's total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases is as follows for each of the following periods:

	Equipment	
	2023	2022
	£	£
Less than one year	8,151	8,147
One to five years	14,370	30,414
	22,521	38,561

21 Legal status of the charity

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. The liability of each of the eight members in the event of winding up is limited to £1.



“

Schools had barely any books to read so by getting a wide collection of books, learners were able to interact and learn about other cultures.

Book Aid International partner, Kenya Connect

A shipment of Book Aid International books being unloaded by Kenya Connect, Kenya

bookaid.org

Book Aid International is a charity and limited company registered in England and Wales.
Charity no: 313869. Company no: 880754. Registered office: 39-41, Coldharbour Lane, London SE5 9NR
© Book Aid International.



Accounts



**Book Aid
International**



2022 Annual Report

Including Trustees' Report and Accounts for the
year ended 31st December 2022

Medical student Marnty Oruko with a book donated by Book Aid International in Kenya Medical Training College library. © Natalia Jidovanu
Company no: 880754



Dr Alice Prochaska
Chair, Book Aid
International

“
For those fleeing war, struggling to give their children the education they deserve or facing barriers simply because of their gender, books are a source of hope, strength and the chance to build a brighter future.

Her Majesty The Queen

Welcome

In 2022, Covid, climate change and conflicts disrupted millions of lives, forcing children from school and leaving more families struggling.

So throughout the year, we worked to give people facing these huge challenges the opportunity to read, and we put them at the heart of our new *Power of Books* strategy.

In total, we provided 1,140,435 books donated by leading publishers to partners in 26 countries, and funded the purchase of 46,247 locally published books. They have given 13.1 million people the opportunity to read.

Highlights included our first shipment in many years to Nigeria, the expansion of our work across Liberia to some of the world's most poorly resourced schools and a new project to get families reading together in Cameroon, which is suffering from a long-running conflict.

We also launched our International Advisory Board to help shape and guide our work. The board is made up of our long-standing partners and is chaired by our Vice Patron, Lord Boateng.

I attended the board's first meeting and was inspired by our partners' accounts of how they respond to their own particular and widely differing challenges.

In our London headquarters, it was a special moment when we welcomed Her Majesty the Queen, who was then Duchess of Cornwall, as our Patron. Her words give us encouragement and inspiration:

“For those fleeing war, struggling to give their children the education they deserve, or facing barriers simply because of their gender, books are a source of hope, strength and the chance to build a brighter future.”

Our work relies on our partners' commitment and our supporters' wonderful generosity. I am grateful to our volunteers for their time, to the publishers who donate the books we send, to the companies and trusts who give so generously and to the many thousands of donors here in the UK who enable us to provide the books communities need.

Together, we can share the power of books with more readers worldwide.

27th June 2023

The Trustees present their report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2022.

Reference and administrative information set out on page 34 forms part of this report. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the Memorandum and Articles of Association and the Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting and Reporting by Charities: SORP applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102. This Trustees' Annual Report includes a directors' report as required by company law.

Book Aid International is a charity and limited company registered in England and Wales. Charity no: 313869. Company no: 880754. Registered office: 39–41 Coldharbour Lane, London SE5 9NR. www.bookaid.org

What we do

We share the power of books – and people use that power to create a more equal future.

A book might seem like a small thing in the battle against inequality. But we see every day how a book can spark a transformation. Books help learning thrive. They create opportunities. They restore hope. They inspire confidence.

So, every year, we send over one million brand-new books to communities around the world. These books reach readers in thousands of libraries, schools, universities, refugee camps, hospitals and prisons.

The majority of the readers we support live in sub-Saharan Africa, and we also provide smaller numbers of books to partners in the Middle East and other regions where there is specific need.

The books we provide from the UK are donated by leading publishers, and each book we send is carefully selected for the readers it will reach. Our partners tell us what types of books their communities need, and we select books for them based on their requests.

In addition to providing books, we also run projects and programmes with our partners to create vibrant reading spaces in schools, libraries and communities, to spark a love of reading and to advocate for books.

These projects and programmes include book donations, grants to refurbish spaces and purchase locally published books and training for teachers and librarians in how to support children's reading.

Our work gives millions of people in thousands of libraries around the world the opportunity to read.

Our vision is a world where everyone has access to books that enrich, improve and change their lives.

Our mission is to give people around the world who lack access to books the opportunity to read for pleasure, study and lifelong learning.



Loading a shipment of books for The Gambia

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2022 in numbers

In total



1,186,682
books provided*



13.1 million
readers reached



185
partners supported

Where we reached readers



2,512
Schools**



1,059
Public and
community libraries



294
Higher and further
education libraries



126
Refugee settings



57
Prisons



362
Medical settings

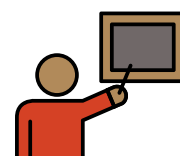
How we supported our partners



£84,428
grants to partners to
purchase local books



28
local trainers
upskilled



1,109
people trained to
support reading

* Includes 46,247 locally published books.

** Includes number of schools receiving books and school libraries established.

Where our books went*

Bhutan	4,650
Cameroon	39,321
Ethiopia	50,757
The Gambia	40,137
Ghana	87,491
Greece	4,927
Iraq	10,817
Kenya	84,006
Lebanon	21,035
Liberia	32,255
Malawi	69,252
Nepal	38
Nigeria	45,446
Palestine	22,495
Rwanda	49,761
Sierra Leone	73,779
Somalia	6,215
Somaliland	28,798
South Sudan	32,479
St Vincent	14,235
Syria	3,128
Tanzania	68,132
Uganda	112,819
Ukraine	15,744
Zambia	102,652
Zimbabwe	120,066

* Excludes 46,247 locally published books .

The types of books we provided*

Children and primary	559,203
Secondary and teenage fiction	180,554
Adult fiction and leisure reading	149,238
Higher education, law and teacher training	87,186
Medicine and healthcare	77,965
English language	40,666
Vocational, technical and business	27,076
Development	13,186
Reference	5,361

Strategic report

This section details how our charity was governed and managed in 2022.

Image: A girl reading a donated book in rural Malawi.
© SolarAid/ChrisGagnon



Access for all

Throughout 2022, we worked to give more people the opportunity to read for pleasure, study and lifelong learning.

We believe that everyone, whatever their situation, should have access to the books they need to build the future they want.

So in 2022, we supported 185 partners in 26 countries and provided books to 4,410 libraries and reading spaces of all shapes and sizes. They ranged from community libraries run by grassroots NGOs to national libraries in capital cities to a collection of a few books in a refugee camp.

By supporting this range of libraries and partners with books of all types, we gave over 13 million people the opportunity to read.

Country-wide access to books

National library services offer the widest possible access to books. They give millions of people their only chance to read, but they are often under-resourced and unable to purchase the books that might fire readers' imaginations.

So we support public library networks across East and West Africa with ongoing donations of high-quality books to build their collections.

These donations cover all kinds of books – from the most advanced medical texts to picture books for people learning to read. By providing such a wide range of books, we can ensure that everyone has access to a rich book collection that suits their needs.

Last year we supported 433 networked public libraries in The Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zanzibar and Zimbabwe.

“

If a library has the right books, anyone at any point in life can go there to continue exercising their brain.

So Book Aid International's work donating relevant books to all library types is very important.”

Nkem Osuigwe, Director, African Library and Information Associations and Institutions

Access for communities

Many of our partners focus on creating small libraries that are tailored to specific communities' needs. These libraries often serve people for whom visiting a school or traditional public library would be impossible.

For example, last year we provided educational, law and fiction books to 57 prison libraries. Reading offers prisoners the chance to find respite in a story or to keep learning so they're prepared for release. Without these special libraries they would have no books.

We also worked with NGOs that focus on giving people who have been excluded from formal learning environments the opportunity to read.

In Somalia, where women and girls are too often kept out of the classroom, we supplied 3,150 books to the Eva Organisation for Women. Eva is working to establish libraries in community spaces in Mogadishu, Balcad and Jowhar.

And in Kenya, we provided 1,269 books to the Dandora Dumpsite Rehabilitation Group's small community library. The NGO serves people who make a living in Nairobi's largest dumpsite. Many are ostracised from the wider community.

Our Power of Books strategy

To guide our work taking the next step towards a world where everyone has access to books, in 2022 we launched our new *Power of Books* strategy. It focuses on four key goals:

- › Ensuring equitable access
- › Engaging readers
- › Investing in partnership
- › Advocating for books

The rest of this report details our work towards these four strategic goals.

Ensuring equitable access

In 2022 we prioritised creating access to books where the barriers to reading and learning are at their highest and on supporting the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Access to books can help break the cycle of poverty and build a more equal world.

So last year we worked with our partners to reach more people whose lives were impacted by poverty and inequality, who were denied the chance to read and who were unable to access books because of conflicts and disasters.

Supporting education

171 million people could be lifted out of poverty if all pupils left school with basic reading skills. Yet teachers must often try to teach reading with just a few old textbooks and a chalkboard.

In 2022 we supported 1,519 schools in low-income countries* by donating books to their school



Children reading donated books in South Sudan. © University of Juba

libraries, contributing to SDG 4: Quality Education. Much of this work focused on communities where learners and teachers are facing huge challenges.

In South Sudan, where years of civil war have devastated the education system, we worked with our partners to provide brand-new books to 60 nursery, primary and secondary school libraries. And in Malawi, one of the ten poorest countries in the world, we provided books to 206 school libraries.

We also worked with our partners to create new school libraries in some of the world's poorest communities. In 2022, we created 245 new school libraries in low-income countries*.

Promoting gender equality

Reading books by and about women can help girls see themselves and their world in a whole new light. Throughout 2022 we worked with new and existing partners to give more girls the opportunity to read, contributing to SDG 5: Gender Equality.

Northern Uganda is home to thousands of girls who have fled conflict in South Sudan, and they all too often miss out on education. In 2022, we worked with the Jesuit Refugee Service to support its work encouraging girls to stay in school.

Together, we created school libraries for 395 girls across 21 secondary schools. They offer loans of both books and solar lights, ensuring that girls can continue reading into the night once chores are done.

Our equity goal

We will prioritise reaching more of the people who face the greatest barriers to reading and learning.

Achievements in 2022

52.8%

of books provided to low-income* countries



34.8%

of books reached disaster and conflict-affected countries



Supporting good health and well-being

Addressing the global shortage of trained medical professionals around the world is key to achieving SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being. Yet in the countries where we work, up-to-date medical texts are too expensive for universities and hospitals to buy.

In 2022 we provided 77,965 brand-new medical texts to partners in 24 countries, supporting both students and healthcare providers. These books reached professionals and students in some of the world's most challenging contexts.

We provided 1,088 books to the Edna Adan University Hospital to help educate midwives, nurses and teachers in Hargeisa, Somaliland. The city is still rebuilding following war. In Sierra Leone, a country with one of the worst under-fives survival rates in the world, we provided 1,540 books to Médecins Sans Frontières to support their life-saving work.

Reaching refugees

When war forces people to flee, books provide hope and create the opportunity to learn. In 2022, we provided books to 126 refugee settings, giving 131,452 refugees the opportunity to read.

In Greece, our partner SolidarityNow used the 2,256 books we provided to help refugees learn English, continue their education and find a moment of respite from camp life.

We also provided 15,744 books to Packed with Hope and the Universal Reading Foundation. Both organisations are supporting Ukrainian refugees, and the books we sent offered hope to children fleeing the conflict.



Refugees supported by SolidarityNow reading donated books.
© SolidarityNow

In Uganda, in addition to our girl-focused work with the Jesuit Refugee Service, we also worked with our partner, Windle International to establish 29 new school libraries serving South Sudanese refugees through our *Reading for All* project.

Responding to conflict

Where communities are living with war or its aftermath, books help people return to education. So in 2022 we provided books to people living with or recovering from conflicts in 12 countries.

In Syria we sent 3,128 higher education and medical texts to our partner Action for Humanity to help students complete their degrees. In the Occupied Palestinian Territories, we provided 22,495 books to support learning for Palestinians for whom living with unrest and insecurity is the norm.

And in Iraq, we supplied 10,288 higher education texts to the University of Mosul Library to help restore its collection after Islamic State burnt it to the ground in 2014. To date, we have provided 35,860 books to support the library.

“

**Despite it all, we're still asking to learn more.
The books are very important to me.**

In Syria, the higher education texts we provided in 2022 are helping reading and learning to continue despite the devastating decade-long war. They are so important to students like Ahmed:

“I'm studying at the Computer Technical Institute at Idlib University. My study depends on research. Of course, I can use Google, but in the search results it is so hard to find exactly what you're looking for.

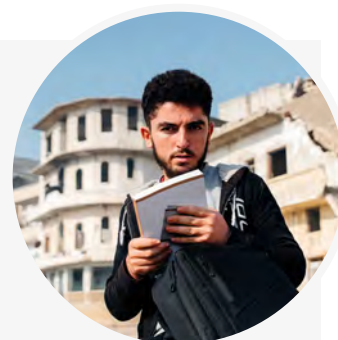
And when we find useful information, in print or electronically, there's always a price.

It could cost \$100. That \$100 could be a month's worth of food for a whole family.

I dream and aspire to finish my studies in software and work in this field. My apps and projects will benefit the community.

My message to the people who support education is to keep it going.”

Image: Ahmed Makkour, student at Idlib University, Syria.
© Syria Relief/Action for Humanity



Engaging readers

Last year we worked to engage more people in reading, particularly in marginalised communities.

If people are to engage with reading, they need easy access to high-quality books chosen to meet their needs and the support of skilled teachers and librarians.

In 2022 we worked with our partners to provide a wide range of books to readers of all ages, to establish inviting reading spaces and to train teachers, librarians, staff and volunteers in how to encourage reading. We also grew our partner network outside Africa to provide more opportunities for people worldwide to engage with books.

Creating vibrant school libraries

School libraries full of brand-new, well-chosen books help pupils become confident readers, curious learners and, eventually, school leavers with ambition to succeed.



Exploring books together in a Liberian school.
© Street Child/Carielle Doe

In 2022, we stocked 2,056 school libraries with brand-new, carefully selected books that will encourage children to begin a lifetime of reading. They included books chosen to get children excited about reading – from illustrated storybooks to true-life adventure stories to science fiction.

In addition to stocking school libraries with books, we worked with our partners to establish 456 new school libraries, bringing the total number of schools we supported to 2,512.

We also trained 599 teachers in how to get children engaged with reading and funded the purchase of 46,247 locally published books to. These books reflect children's own experiences and can help them engage with reading.

In Ghana, Uganda and Zimbabwe we expanded our *Discovery Book Box* programme in 40 schools where children would otherwise have only a few tattered textbooks.

Each school received a *Discovery Book Box* with 200 carefully chosen children's books and a simple manual to help teachers use the books to enrich classroom learning and encourage children to read. In 2022, the programme gave 9,831 children access to 8,779 books in their classrooms.

Our *Reading Around the Reserve* project established libraries in 68 schools around national parks in Malawi and Zimbabwe, training 142 teachers. There are no other libraries in these rural communities, so these libraries offer children their only chance to read.

Our engagement goal

We will engage more people with reading, especially in under-served, rural and marginalised communities.

Achievements in 2022

2,512

school libraries established or supported



18

partners supported outside Africa



By supporting quality education, these libraries also support African Parks' conservation work, as educated communities are more able to care for the natural world.

In Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Sierra Leone and Zanzibar, our *Explorer Library* programme transformed 12 disused spaces into beautiful, engaging reading spaces stocked with exciting books. We also trained 29 teachers working in *Explorer Library* schools in how to get children engaged in reading, giving more than 6,000 children support to discover books.

Supporting education NGOs

Throughout the year, we focused on working with NGOs to give the world's most disadvantaged young people the chance to engage with books.

In Cameroon, Liberia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone, we provided 16,000 books to Street Child, an NGO which works to make sure even the most marginalised children can have an education. We also provided 12,000 books to Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) to support its work establishing school libraries across Ethiopia, Rwanda and Uganda.

Engaging people in communities

Public, community and mobile libraries give people the opportunity to engage with books where they live, and well-stocked libraries act as vital information hubs for the whole community. In 2022, we provided books to 433 public and 626 community libraries across all of the African countries where we worked and Lebanon.



The Community Container Library in Rwanda. © Ineza Foundation

The Community Libraries Association of Uganda aims to create greater access to books at the community level by fostering the growth of community libraries. We provided 5,394 books to support its work in 2022. In Ethiopia, we also supported 41 community libraries across the country.

Our third Community Container Library

In 2022 we worked with local literacy organisation the Ineza Foundation in Rwanda to open our third *Community Container Library*, turning an ordinary shipping container into a thriving community library.

We provided 5,000 books to stock the library's shelves and a grant to completely fit out the space – funding everything from shelves to murals to windows. We also provided a grant to buy locally published books, and trained Ineza staff and volunteers in how to foster a love of reading.

“

The African Story Box is a brilliant idea. The locally authored books will give children confidence.

Zimbabwean writer Virginia Phiri leads the local branch of the International Board on Books for Young People and has helped expand the *African Story Box* project in Zimbabwe.

The project gives children access to book box libraries stocked with 100 UK-donated and 100 locally published books. Last year, we provided 84 *African Story Boxes* to schools in Ghana, Malawi, Sierra Leone, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

She talked about the impact of books on her own life, and on the children she supports:

“If I had never had access to books, I would not have become a successful accountant, author, environmentalist and human rights defender.

The *African Story Box* project will give children in urban and rural areas opportunities to read locally published books and books from the United Kingdom. The locally authored books will give children confidence.”

Image: Children reading books from an *African Story Box* in Zimbabwe.
© Cynthia R Matonhodze/Book Aid International



Investing in partnership

In 2022 we worked to support our partners so they can create sustainable change for readers around the world.

Everything we do we do through partnerships with organisations of all kinds that believe, as we do, in the power of books.

In 2022 we increased the number of new partnerships we have with organisations that share our vision of creating equitable access to books and invested in new initiatives to strengthen capacity amongst our existing partners.

Welcoming new partners

We formed 56 new partnerships in 2022 – primarily with NGOs that focus on the most vulnerable readers in their community.

In remote rural Kenya, for example, we partnered with The Maa Trust, providing books to make it easier for children of Maasai families, especially girls, to read, study and learn new skills. And in Lebanon we began working with the Lebanese Association for Development and Communication, a local partner that provides English classes to refugees.



A Kenyan child reading a book from a Books to Go library. This programme expanded in 2022 and was delivered entirely by local trainers. © knls

Many of these organisations do not have education or reading as their core purpose and use the books we provide to support their larger aims.

For example, in Uganda, we built links with the Bwindi Conservation for Generations Foundation, which came to us with a request for books related to nature and responsible tourism.

Developing partner capacity

The books we provided to all of our partners are a vital contribution to their collections, and support them in developing their libraries and programmes.

In addition to supplying books, we also help our partners develop their capacity by training teachers and librarians directly, by providing grants that partners can use to refurbish reading spaces and purchase locally published books and by upskilling partner staff as trainers.

In 2022, we upskilled 28 trainers. This means that staff now have the skills to support teachers and librarians in the long term.

In Kenya, the expansion of our *Books to Go* project was delivered entirely by Kenya National Library Service (knls) librarians who received training in 2021 which enhanced their skills with further knowledge on how to run a school-based library and encourage family reading. *Books to Go* establishes lending libraries in schools so children have the opportunity to read in class and at home with their parents.

Our partnership goal

We will develop dynamic partnerships with organisations that share our vision of creating more equitable access to books.

Achievements in 2022

28

local trainers
upskilled



56

new partnerships
formed



In our work with the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) establishing school libraries in Northern Uganda, we delivered a virtual Train the Trainer workshop to ten JRS staff from both the refugee community and Kampala. They went on to train 40 teachers from 21 schools.

These staff were already skilled professionals with a wealth of experience supporting refugees. Now they also have the librarianship skills needed to support reading.

“
I learned how gender balance can be attained in the library.

I smile when I remember that a girl in the camp will be able to get the same books as a boy.”

Abigail Hamba, JRS English instructor, Kampala

We also provided grants totalling £84,428 for local book purchase throughout the year, and trained 1,109 librarians, teachers, parents and staff.

Investing in partner projects

Our *Community Reading Awards* programme provides small grants to establish microprojects outside traditional school and library settings to get communities reading.

In 2022, we provided 12 grants totalling £18,090 to fund 12 microprojects, including a library in a market in Freetown, Sierra Leone, a reading space in a children's hospital in Zimbabwe and a library for football spectators in Kenya.

“
The books coming from Book Aid International are making a huge impact in the community.

In Uganda, Rogers Serunjogi began his community library in a local church with four boxes of books we provided.

Today he runs a thriving library with 5,000 books for readers of all ages – and his partnership with us is helping him do more for his community.

Through the *Community Reading Awards*, he's set up a bicycle library to take books to the most rural and remote communities.



The *Community Reading Awards* funded 12 additional projects like this bicycle library. © Jjumba Martin/Music for Life Foundation

Co-creating programmes

We also worked with our long-standing partners to co-create programmes designed to address the specific challenges readers face.

In Zimbabwe, we joined forces with World Vision, providing 30,000 books as part of a jointly conceived initiative to create 21 reading clubs.

We also worked with Street Child in Cameroon to develop *Reading Together* – a programme designed to encourage families affected by conflict to engage with books.

Through the programme, we provided training for eight Street Child staff in how to support reading, and they went on to train 200 parents in techniques to help children build and develop their reading skills.

As a result, 845 children were given extra support to read at home by trained mothers, fathers and carers.



“Youth volunteers take the books to the families that are far from the library.

These families are accessing information they have never accessed before. Some parents do not know how to read but their children do. We have some books that are about agriculture and children help their parents read them. So the reading culture is totally changing in the community.”

Image: Rogers Serunjogi. © Jjumba Martin/Music for Life Foundation

Advocating for books

We stepped up our efforts to advocate for the transformational power of books in 2022.

Millions of people are held back by a lack of books, and too often the impact of being without books goes unrecognised.

So in 2022 we worked to raise awareness of the pressing need for books around the world and to help our partners advocate for reading in the communities where they work.

Supporting Reading Promotion

Our partners are passionate about inspiring people to read, making the case for books and motivating local leaders to do the same. By expanding our *Reading Promotion* campaign in 2022, we helped support this work.

The *Reading Promotion* campaign provides grants for partners to run events that encourage reading.



Girls in Malawi showing off their favourite books for International Day of the Girl Child. © African Parks

These events are designed to raise the profile of libraries, encourage people to visit and engage local decision-makers who can unlock resources for libraries and become advocates for books.

In 2022 we ran the campaign in 12 African countries and Lebanon. The events our partners held engaged 819 adults and 4,310 children.

Showcasing stories of change

Throughout 2022, we supported our partners, readers and donors to share their stories with us – and we published 31 stories on our website and social media channels to bring the power of books to life. They were read 1,788 times.

These posts included stories from Tinotenda in Zimbabwe, who uses the library almost every day, Monica in Ghana, who loves storybooks, and Judith in Malawi, who knows that books will help her daughter achieve her dream of becoming a nurse.

In addition, we placed a story in the London Book Fair Dailies and secured 103 pieces of press coverage.

We also developed a feature on The Queen's Reading Room around International Day of the Girl Child. Working with our partners, we spoke to girls around the world about their favourite books. The Reading Room team then published a list of the most-loved books, along with a call to action to make sure that all girls have the chance to read.

Our advocacy goal

We will be advocates for the transformational power of books.

Achievements in 2022

31

reader stories published



5,129

people attended *Reading Promotion* events



Taking part in the Hay Festival

Since 2017, we've had a platform at the Hay Festival to hold an event focused on the power of books. The platform offers a key opportunity to spread the word about the need for books and encourage more individual book-lovers to take action for reading.

In 2022, our event focused on how books can help Nigerians imagine their future. The conversation between Booker Prize-winning author Ben Okri and Book Aid International Trustee Zainab Umaar covered the challenges readers face, the role of the storyteller and the vital importance of books for the next generation of Nigerians.

The event was sold out and gave us the chance to engage festival followers and participants, encouraging them to take action for a book-rich world.

Working with publishers

Throughout 2022, we joined the conversation at a wide range of book industry events about the need for and importance of books worldwide.

We led a panel discussion on the importance of diverse children's books around the world at the London Book Fair, and joined a panel at the Frankfurt Book Fair focused on the importance of African libraries.

And at the Bologna International Book Fair, our Chief Executive Alison Tweed moderated a panel discussion on African children's books and joined discussions about reading projects in marginalised communities and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

We were also asked by RELX to join an SDG Inspiration Day, where Alison joined a panel discussion on



Booker-winning author Ben Okri and trustee Zainab Umaar in conversation at the Hay Festival. © Hay Festival

operating in conflict zones. The event gave her the chance to advocate for the vital role of books in helping quality education to continue during war.

“
We were delighted to have Book Aid International join our 2022 Virtual SDG Inspiration Day.

They provided valuable insight into the power of books, and how together we can build a more sustainable future for all.”

Alexis Steadman, Community Manager, RELX

In addition, we were invited to visit HarperCollins, the Institute of Physics (IOP) Publishing and Oxford University Press to speak about the impact of donated books.

“
We think that our public changed its perception of the library.

Lebanon has experienced an economic crisis in recent years. More than 80% of Lebanese have now slipped below the poverty line. In Beirut, many schools have had budgets cut and libraries often have only old books.

Assabil is a not-for-profit organisation running public libraries in Lebanon. With access to books increasingly limited, its work has never been more important.

The NGO used a *Reading Promotion* grant to hold an event for families, and the effect was immediate.

“We think that our public changed its perception of the library – from a bookstore to an alive place. Many parents didn't know that we had an important section of English books for children.

One parent expressed that their children fell in love with the library, and another child said it was the best activity of the summer.”

Ali Sabbagh, Executive Coordinator, Assabil



Image: A reading promotion event in Beirut's Geitawi library. © Assabil

Our supporters

We are supported by thousands of people in the UK who believe in the power of books. Some lend their time, others give financially, but we are grateful to every person who is part of our community.



“

We've been privileged to work with Book Aid International for nearly 30 years.

43 companies supported our work last year. The companies we work with share our belief in books, and together we can reach more readers around the world.

“We've been privileged to work with Book Aid International for nearly 30 years. We know that the strength of their partnerships with local libraries and communities means our donations are reaching the people who most need them.”

Heidi Mulvey, Head of Community Engagement, Cambridge University Press & Assessment (CUPA)

“

I look forward to the days I volunteer.

In 2022, we were delighted to welcome in-person volunteers back into our warehouse full time. Their contributions were vital to enabling us to select and pack books for readers around the world.

“I look forward to the days I volunteer. I enjoy the fact that in a very small way, I might be helping a child's eyes to open, a student nurse to gain important knowledge, a library that has been bombed to be restocked or perhaps a prisoner to endure their captivity a little more easily.”

Margaret Martindale, volunteer



“

I feel happy donating to Book Aid International.

Over 8,000 people gave to our cause in 2022, and every £2 they gave sent another book. We are grateful for each and every one of their donations, as well as to those who leave legacies in their Wills and make substantial personal donations.

“I feel happy donating to Book Aid International because it is an open and transparent organisation that operates in a thoughtful, well-targeted manner.”

Rose Heatley, donor



“

We know we have an ally and a friend in Book Aid International.

The long-term relationships we build with trusts like the People's Postcode Lottery Education Trust, The Beit Trust and many others help us provide books and fund projects that transform reading for millions worldwide. Last year, 26 trusts supported our charity.

“Be Global Foundation has been partnering with Book Aid International for a few years now and they have continued to remain a reliable and accomplished partner. We know we have an ally and a friend in Book Aid International and are proud to be working together to create a more equal world through the power of books.”

Caroline Yulin Wilson, Founder and CEO, Be Global Foundation

“

I hope that I will inspire people to pick up a book, go out for a sponsored walk or donate.

By organising events ranging from bake sales to sponsored walks to readathons, people who fundraise in their communities help us send hundreds of books every year – and we're incredibly grateful for their support.

“I decided to choose Book Aid International as the charity's mission feels especially close to me. I have always been so lucky to have access to books, and I hope that I will inspire people to pick up a book, go out for a sponsored walk or donate.”

Caroline Guillet, supporter



“

Books can help people reimagine their futures.

Whether speaking out on our behalf on social media or joining us at a literary festival, our high-profile friends help us raise awareness about the need for books around the world.

“Books can help people reimagine their futures. I was delighted to be at 2022's Hay Festival to talk about how readers and writers can influence the world for tomorrow.”

Sir Ben Okri, OBE, poet, novelist and artist

Our book donors

99% of the books we provide from the UK are donated to us by publishers and the wider book trade.

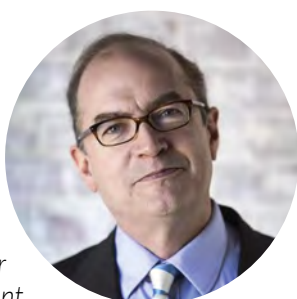
Publishers donate a variety of books to us – from picture books for the youngest readers right through to advanced law and medical texts.

These generous donations allow us to support readers of every age and from all walks of life.

The brand-new books that we receive are highly valued by our partners and by readers, and the generosity of our book donors in the UK gives millions of people around the world the opportunity to read.

“
Books improve life by educating, inspiring and entertaining and they open doors for millions.

Nigel Newton, Bloomsbury founder and Publishers Association President



Our publisher partners

Last year, 111 publishers donated 989,647 books to our charity. We are supported by many of the world's leading publishers, some of whom donated more than 100,000 books to us last year.

We also received books from a range of independent publishers who donate a smaller number of books but still have a huge impact on readers worldwide.

Last year, we welcomed 37 new book donors while also deepening relationships with many of our long-standing publishing partners.

In 2022, we were especially grateful for the significant support from: Cambridge University Press & Assessment, Coordination Group Publications Ltd, Hachette UK, HarperCollins Publishers Ltd, Macmillan, Oxford University Press, Penguin Random House, Quarto Publishing and RELX-Elsevier.

Each book donor receives an annual report on how their books are changing lives, and we are always seeking new book donors.

The books publishers donate

The brand-new books we receive from publishers are the backbone of our work.

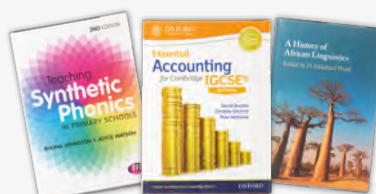
Here are just a few examples of the titles donated to us in 2022:



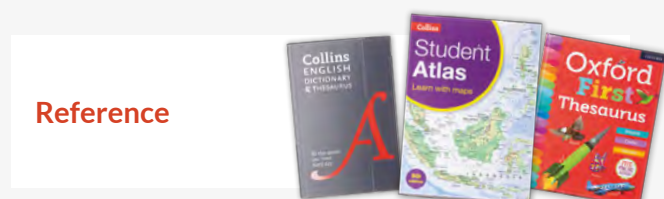
Health and social care



Children's



Further and higher education



Reference



Leisure reading

Financial support from the book industry

In addition to giving books, many publishers also choose to donate funds to support our work. In 2022, we received over £74,664 from publishers and from the Africa Publishing Innovation Fund (APIF).

We were delighted to receive a £50,000 gift from Bloomsbury to enable us to reach out to readers around the world. At a time where there is growing need for books this level of unrestricted funding helped us offer transformational opportunities to read in the communities that are most in need of books.

APIF chose to support us for a second year, giving £33,206 towards our *African Story Box* project. This grant will give 24,518 children in Ghana, Uganda and Zimbabwe the opportunity to read stories from near and far in their classrooms. Since 2021, APIF has given us £60,700.

“**Book Aid International is the only applicant to have twice won Africa Publishing Innovation Fund funding.**

The Community Container Library and the African Story Box aligned perfectly with our own objectives, and we knew Book Aid International would deliver on its promises.”

Ben Steward, APIF Programme Manager

In addition, RELX donated £9,500 to help us open a *Children's Corner* in Zambia, Cambridge University Press & Assessment donated £6,000 to support our *Books to Go* programme in Kenya and Oxford University Press pledged £5,000 to provide books to Ukrainian refugees and refugees in Greece.

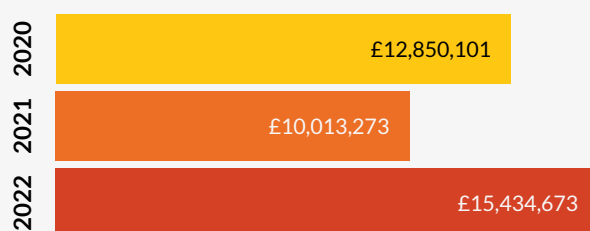
“**We look forward to continuing our support for Book Aid International in the future, as they work towards delivering sustainable change.**

Christine Richardson, Group Communications Director, Oxford University Press

The value of the books we receive

In 2022, the books that publishers donated to us had a discounted value of £15,434,673. This is £5.4 million more than the previous year as we received a greater number of books and more high-value medical books than in 2021.

Value of donated books 2020–2022



We value our books based on Nielsen BookScan prices and we apply an overall 30% discount from the full recommended retail price to allow for the estimated market discount for third-party commercial buyers.

Publishers donate books to us free of charge, so it costs just £2 to receive, store, select and send a book worth an average of £13.50. That average is calculated using the value of the books we have sent over the past five years, as shown in the table below.

Year	Books sent (no.)	Value books sent	Discounted cost per book*
2022	1,140,435	£14,791,242	13
2021	1,007,449	£13,279,151	13
2020	867,567	£11,066,372	13
2019	1,211,423	£18,229,466	15
2018	1,193,263	£16,047,872	13
CUMM	5,420,137	£73,414,103	
*Rounded to nearest pound.		Running average	£13.50

Financial review 2022

At Book Aid International all of our income is voluntary – we receive no government grants.

Total income

In 2022 our total income was £17,700,588, of which £2,265,915 was cash (a decrease of £288,708 on 2021's cash income of £2,554,623) and £15,434,673 was the value of books donated to us by publishers.

Of this 2022 cash income, £1,374,336 was unrestricted income (£1,489,090 in 2021) which funded our work providing books around the world.

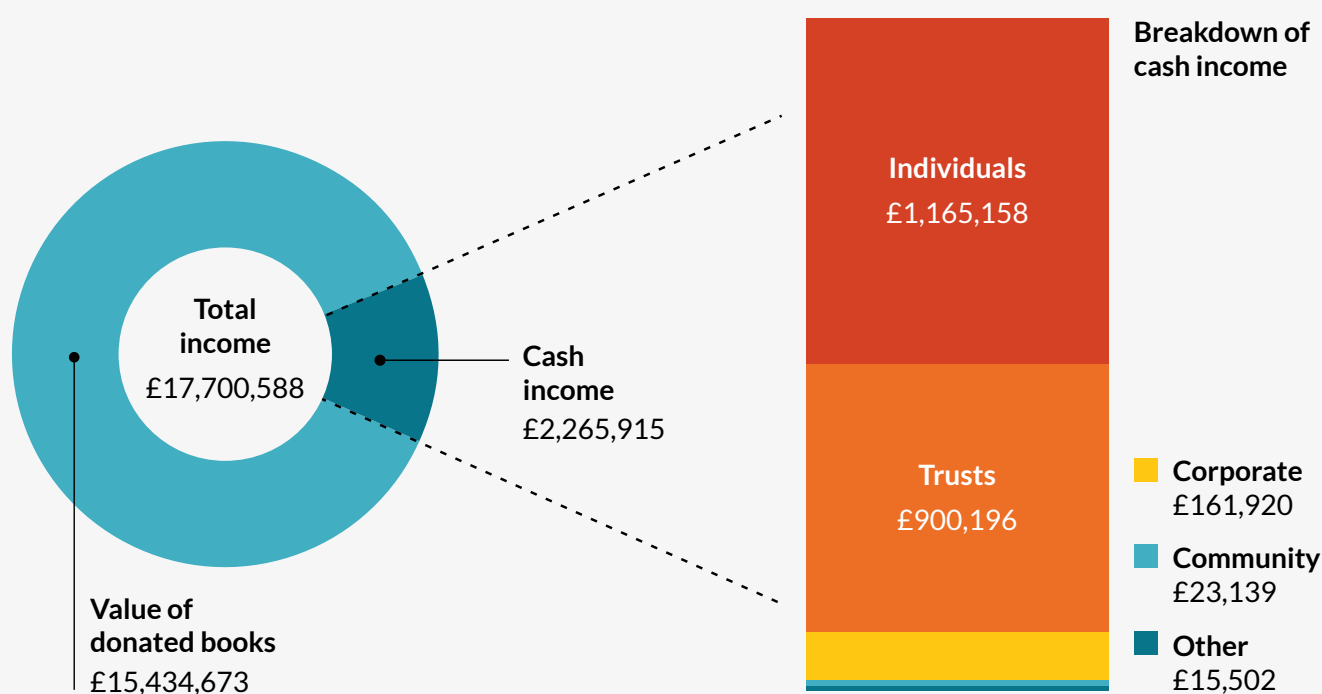
This decrease in unrestricted income was primarily a result of the economic climate impacting on our individual giving programme.

However, performance across the year remained strong. We anticipate the programme recovering once the economic climate improves.

We received restricted income of £891,579 in 2022 (£1,065,533 in 2021). This income was used to support project activity working with our partners around the world to train teachers and librarians and establish reading spaces.

This decrease is because of 2021's unusually high trust funding, some of which was not expected to be repeated in 2022.

Restricted income from major donors and corporate supporters remained relatively steady in 2022.



Total expenditure

In 2022 our total expenditure was £17,420,968, of which £2,629,726 was cash expenditure and £14,791,242 was the value of the books we provided around the world.

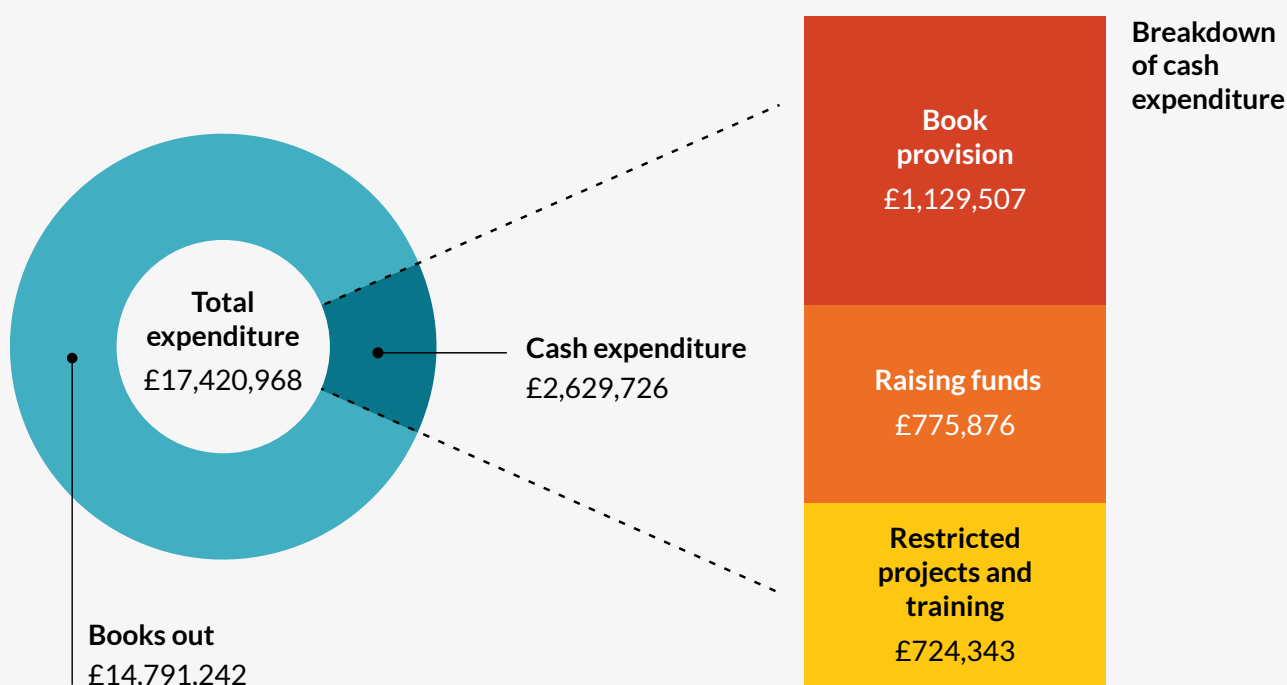
2022's cash expenditure of £2,629,726 was substantially higher than the 2021 figure of £2,308,575.

Much of this additional expenditure was the result of the inflationary pressure of higher fuel prices throughout 2022, which substantially increased the cost of shipping books around the world, as well as impacting the cost of running our Camberwell offices and warehouse.

2022's increased expenditure also reflects our work in 2022 to fulfil our strategic commitment to invest in the sustainability of the organisation.

We upgraded our IT systems to support our finance and fundraising functions, built a new website to strengthen and support donor engagement and invested in our building and facilities to improve their environmental efficiency.

We also made a significant investment in our fundraising, with a pilot project to acquire new regular supporters through digital channels as well as through our more traditional offline acquisition.



Our fundraising

Our fundraising aims to safeguard our donors, and ensure that our organisation is sustainable in the long term.

In 2022 we raised £2,250,413 against an original budget of £2,308,133.

It was a challenging year for fundraising broadly as the impact of external factors, including the cost-of-living crisis, were felt across the board.

This resulted in a drop in the number of new donors we were able to recruit and a change in the priorities of some of our long-standing trust funders.

However, our corporate and major donor income streams remained steady, with some moderate growth, and we were very grateful that our existing supporters continued to give both regular and cash gifts.

An uplift in our grant from People's Postcode Lottery was also significant in helping us to maintain income levels.

Our standards

We are committed to maintaining the highest standards in our fundraising in line with our Supporter Promise, which is displayed in the footer of every page on our website: bookaid.org.

In 2022, we remained registered with the Information Commissioner's Office and the Fundraising Regulator. We adhere to the standards of both organisations and respond to changes in the regulatory framework.

We also maintained our Treating Donors Fairly policy which identifies groups of individuals who may be vulnerable and defines our approach to treating these individuals with respect and care.

We continued to place our donors at the centre of our fundraising programmes in 2022, offering flexibility in how they heard from us in line with GDPR regulations.

There were no reported data breaches in 2022.

Our commercial partners and fundraising agencies

The commercial participators with which we exchanged supporter data included print management (DMP), email marketing (MailChimp), payment processing (including Access Paysuite, WooCommerce, PayPal, Stripe, GoCardless, JustGiving and Virgin Money Giving), database software (Blackbaud), Gift Aid claims (HRMC), Christmas card fulfilment (Impress Publishing) and IT support (Wanstor).

Each of these organisations has a privacy policy, which is available on its website, and we maintain a data processing agreement with each, as required by GDPR regulations.

Fundraising feedback

We did not receive any complaints about our fundraising last year. One donor unsubscribed from our communications through the Fundraising Preference Service.

Investing in the future

In 2022, donor acquisition activities took place through unaddressed media inserts in publications and through a pilot programme testing Facebook advertising. Complete return on investment through these campaigns does not occur in the year of the activity, but is based on taking a longer-term view of the lifetime value of each new donor, many of whom continue their support for years.

We also updated our CRM (donor database) from Blackbaud's Raiser's Edge 7 to the cloud-based Raiser's Edge NXT, which has improved functionality and allowed us to streamline some of our administrative processes.

Managing our finances

We are committed to outstanding financial management that safeguards the money we receive

In 2022, we employed an average of 31 (29.4 FTE) staff based in Camberwell who are divided into five teams: operations, fundraising, communications, programmes and management. The numbers include two staff members in Nairobi, Kenya, and one in Accra, Ghana, who are part of our Programmes team.

This table details our salary costs:

Function	Salary costs	FT
Book provision	£440,975	12.6
Restricted projects and training	£232,479	5.5
Fundraising	£306,325	7.6
Management and operational	£313,497	5.3
Total	£1,293,276	31

Donations in kind

In 2022 99% (2021 – 99%) of the books we sent were donated as gifts in kind by the UK publishing industry. The following table expresses the value of the books we received, retained and supplied in 2022 compared with preceding years:

Book stock	2022	2021	2020
GIH book stock @ start of year	£4,824,275	£8,090,153	£6,306,425
Books received	£15,434,673	£10,013,273	£12,850,101
Books sent	-£14,791,242	-£13,279,151	-£11,066,372
GIH book stock	£5,467,706	£4,824,275	£8,090,153

Pension liability

We are part of The Pensions Trust (TPT) scheme, a multi-employer scheme that provides benefits to some 638 non-associated participating employers.

The scheme is a defined-benefit scheme subject to the funding legislation outlined in the Pensions Act 2004 which came into force on 30th December 2005.

The provision in respect of the deficit repayment plan is £26,248 (2021: £45,786) and this has been recognised in the accounts as required by FRS 102. See note 16 on page 55 for more detail.

Reserves policy and actuals

Our Board meets annually to consider the resources that will be required to meet our long-term objectives and fulfil our commitments.

The Board also considers the risks we face and sets a minimum free reserves policy at a level it believes would sustain our work while we recovered from any future shortfalls in income or unforeseen expenditure.

The reserves have been set to ensure we have the time to adjust to a serious issue or a drop in funding and are more than required for the management of a closure.

In 2022, the minimum level was confirmed at a range between £500,000 and £550,000. We ended 2022 with £508,380 in free reserves, higher than anticipated as a result of better than expected funding results in 2022.

Restricted reserves are not available for general purposes and are for restricted programmes spanning two or more financial years. There was a balance at the end of 2022 of £242,697 (2021: £326,061).

	31-Dec-22	31-Dec-21
Reserves	£	£
Total unrestricted reserves	8,377,506	8,015,822
Less donated books reserve	-5,467,706	-4,824,275
Less unrestricted net fixed assets	-2,001,420	-1,984,649
Less designated	-400,000	-603,015
Free reserves	508,380	603,883
Restricted reserves	242,697	326,061

The £400k in our designated reserves are funds reserved for the planning and delivering of options to increase our warehouse capacity in order to deliver more books in line with our strategy.

Looking to the future

This section looks to 2023, and to the people who made our work in 2022 possible.

Image: A shipment of books heading to Kenya being loaded at our UK warehouse.





Alison Tweed

Chief Executive,
Book Aid International

“
By 2030, 750 million children and young people will live in Africa. They all have the potential to become future doctors, teachers, tech professionals, thought leaders, and more.

Rising to the challenge

The global need for books is growing, and so is our ambition to reach more readers.

In 2022, as the world began to recover from the impact of the pandemic a global economic crisis, fuelled by the war in Ukraine, began to take its toll. And, as 2022 passed, the target year of 2030 for the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) drew a step closer.

It was in response to these huge impacts and challenges that in early 2022, we launched our *Power of Books* strategy. In it we committed to support the most marginalised people, both in and out of education, and those cut off from normal life by conflict and other man-made and natural disasters.

Our *Power of Books* strategy also challenges us to look ahead and to consider how we can best support young people to create positive change and build a more equal future.

By 2030, 750 million children and young people will live in Africa. They all have the potential to become future doctors, teachers, technology professionals, thought leaders and more. Books, and reading, are key to unlocking this potential.

And so, in 2023, we will launch a major new initiative, *Generation Reader*, to reach 10 million young people across the continent and to support them on their journey towards becoming confident readers and realising their potential – and their dreams.

We will also continue to support those displaced by conflict, to support aspiring medical and higher education students, to support prisoners and to support people from all walks of life: with brilliant, brand-new books of the highest quality, selected carefully for their relevance and for their power to inspire, entertain and comfort, even in the toughest of circumstances.

To do all this we will need – more than ever – the support both of our loyal donors and that of new supporters who share our belief in the power of books.

We thank all the publishers who give us wonderful new books to share, the partners who work so hard to effect positive change and everyone who has continued to stand by us in these most challenging recent times.

Thank you for everything you do to help us share the power of books.

Our partners

Below is a full list of our overseas partners to whom we sent books directly in 2022. We thank them all for their hard work.

Bhutan

Khesar Gyalpo University of Medical Sciences
READ Bhutan
Royal University of Bhutan

Cameroon

Education Information Services International
Street Child

Ethiopia

African Entrepreneurs Collective
British Council
CODE Ethiopia
Ethiopian Knowledge and Technology Transfer Society
Ethiopia Reads
Hawassa University
Jesuit Refugee Service
Voluntary Service Overseas

Gambia

Binti International
Gambia National Library Service Authority
Intouch Gambia
Intouch Global
Unique Foundation

Ghana

AfriKids
Agents for Positive Change
Biblionef
Community Action Ghana
Ghana Book Trust
Ghana International Foundation
Ghana Library Authority
Learners Girls Foundation

Obaniehi Foundation
Philanthropic Youth Initiative Ghana
Rainbow Trust Foundation
Samira Empowerment and Humanitarian Projects
Seventh Day Adventist Nursing and Midwifery College
Street Child Empowerment Foundation
The Olinga Foundation

Greece

A Drop In The Ocean (Nea Kavala)
Danish Refugee Council
Open Cultural Center
SolidarityNow

Iraq

Sinjar Academy
University of Mosul

Kenya

Amref Health Africa
Association for Aid and Relief, Japan
Book Bunk
Dandora Dumpsite Rehabilitation Group
Dignitas
FAFA Medical Training College
Fahari Community Initiative
Justice Defenders
Kenya Connect
Kenya Medical Training College
Kenya National Library Service
Lewa Wildlife Conservancy
Lutheran World

Federation
Majajani Primary School
Resources Oriented Development Initiatives
The Big 5 Group
The Maa Trust
Windle Trust

Lebanon

Assabil Association
Lebanese Board on Books for Young People
Lebanese Association for Development and Communication

Liberia

Agents of Positive Change
Kids Education Engagement Project
Liberia Institute for the Promotion of Academic Excellence
Street Child
We Care Foundation
Youth Movement for Collective Action

Malawi

African Parks
Billy Riordan Memorial Clinic
Civil Society Education Coalition
Kamuzu University of Health Sciences
Malawi College of Health Science
Malawi Leaders of Learning
Malawi National Library Service
PEN International
St John of God College of Health Science

Voluntary Service Overseas

Nepal

Calls Over Ridges Nepal

Nigeria

Elliem Young Readers Initiative
Girl Child Concerns
Pathfinder International
Street Child
Voluntary Service Overseas
Western States Distribution Committee

Palestine

Al-Quds University
Palestinian Board on Books for Young People
Tamer Institute for Community Education
The International Medical Education Trust 2000

Rwanda

African Parks Rwanda
Girls' Dignity for Nation
Ineza Foundation
Kigali Public Library
Street Child
University of Rwanda
Voluntary Service Overseas

Sierra Leone

African Hospital Libraries
EducAid
Médecins Sans Frontières (Belgium)
Médecins Sans Frontières (Holland)
PEN International

Save the Needy
Sierra Leone Book Trust
Sierra Leone Library Board
Street Child
USL Institute of Public
Administration and
Management

Somalia

Eva Organization for
Women
Iftiin Education &
Development

Somaliland

Edna Adan University
Hospital
Silanyo National Library

South Sudan

African Revival
Jesuit Refugee Service
Médecins Sans Frontières
(Belgium)
Norwegian Refugee
Council
Save the Children
South University of
Medicine, Science and
Technology
St John's College – Wau
St John's Yambio Campus
of the Catholic University
St Mary's College
St Mary's College of
Nursing and Midwifery
University of Juba
Windle International
Women Relief Aid

St Vincent and The Grenadines

National Public
Library, Archive and
Documentation Service

Syria

Action for Humanity

Tanzania

Evangelical Lutheran
Church in Tanzania
Muhimbili University of
Health and Allied Sciences
New Chapter
Development for Youth
State University of
Zanzibar
Sumait University
Tabora League for
Children
Tanzania Library Services
Board
Tanzanian Training Centre
for International Health
World Wind Translation
and Interpretation
Zanzibar Library Services
Board

Uganda

African Revival, Uganda
All Saints University Lango
Balinda Children's
Foundation
Bwindi Conservation for
Generations Foundation
Community Libraries
Association of Uganda
Finn Church Aid
FInS Medical University
International Board on
Books for Young People
Inspire Lives Africa
Jango International
Jesuit Refugee Service
Junubin Urban Refugee
Community
Justice Defenders
Kyambogo University
National Library of
Uganda

Norwegian Refugee
Council
Pangea Educational
Development
Refugee Innovation
Centre
SALVE International
SOS Children's Villages
Uganda Prisons Service
Uganda Protestant
Medical Bureau
Voluntary Service
Overseas
Windle Trust

Ukraine

Packed with Hope
Universal Reading
Foundation

Zambia

Africa Calls
African Parks Zambia
African Revival, Zambia
CELIM
Copperbelt University
Lions Club of Mukuba
Matt Children's Hope
Foundation
PEN International
Senanga School of Nursing
UMI Foundation
University of Zambia,
Lusaka and Kitwe
campuses
University Teaching
Hospital Lusaka
Voluntary Service
Overseas
Zambia Conference of
Catholic Bishops
Zambia Library Service
Zambia Open Community
Schools

Zimbabwe

Bulawayo Distribution
Committee
Harare Distribution
Committee
International Board on
Books for Young People
MTC Educate a Girl
Incorporated
Nemashakwe Community
Library and Information
Resource Centre
Voluntary Service
Overseas
World Vision
Zambezi Schoolbook
Project

With thanks to...

We would like to thank the following supporters in particular, as well as those who wish to remain anonymous.

Our book donors and corporate partners

Agatha Christie Ltd	David Fickling Books	Little Tiger Group	ReadersMagnet
Agency for the Legal Deposit Libraries	David Logan	Lost World Press	RELX
Amazon Ltd	Duke of Edinburgh's Library	Macmillan Publishers	RNIB
Aude Publishing	Dunedin Academic Press	Manson Publishing	Rodney Matthews Studios
Authors' Licencing and Collecting Society	Elsevier UK	Miles Kelly Publishing	Royal Society
b small publishing	Elsevier USA	Moleskine Foundation	Sage Publications Ltd
Badsey Publications	Enlighten Press	Multilingual Matters	Scallywag Press
BCS Chartered Institute for IT	Entertainment One Group	National Book Tokens	Scholastic Ltd
Beaux Books	Everyman's Library	National Library of Wales	Scion Publishing
Bella Figura Publications	Faber & Faber	Neilsen BookData	Search Press
Blackwell's	Gestalten	New Internationalist Publications	Shahida Rahman
Bloomsbury Publishing	Good-Loop	Nicholas Searle	Silva Education Services
Book Harvest	Grange Communications	Nosy Crow	SOAS University of London
BookTrust	Granta	Novus World Ltd	Spink & Son Ltd
BookSpot	Green Bean Books	Open University Press	Square & Circus
British Library	Gwyneth Jones	Opportunity International	Story Therapy
British Medical Journal	Hachette UK	Oundle Bookshop	Taylor & Francis UK
Cactus TV	Haese Mathematics	Outland AS	Teeth Relief
Cambridge University Press	HarperCollins Publishers Ltd	Owl Bookshop	The Aldeburgh Bookshop Ltd
Cambridge University Press & Assessment	Hay House Publishing UK	Oxford University Press	The Blair Partnership
Canford Publishing	Head of Zeus (Bloomsbury)	Pace Gallery	The Follett Office Ltd
CGP Coordination Group Publications Ltd	Heath Educational Books	Pearson Education Ltd	The Novelry
Charles Tripp	Hermitage Capital Management	Penelope Lively	The Society of Authors
Choc Lit Publishing	Hootsuite	Penguin Random House	Tropic Skincare
Christopher Ambler	ICE Publishing	PG Online Publishers	Tropical Health Technology
Civilized Discourse	INFUSEmedia	Pi Capital	Universal Write Publications
Construction Kit Inc	Innova Press	Premier Christianity	Viking Cruises
Claire McGowan	IntechOpen	Pre-school Learning Alliance	Virgin
Class Professional Publishing	Intrinsic Books	Princeton University Press	Waldorf Publications
Clinical Pocket Reference	IOP Publishing	Profile Books	Walker Books Ltd
Commonwealth Pharmacists Association	Julian Reisz	ProQuest (part of Clarivate)	Watkins Publishing
Copyright Licensing Agency	Kube Publishing	PTI Express	What on Earth Books
	LBA Books	Publishers' Licensing Society	Wiley
	Legal & General Group	Quarto Publishing	Wiley Europe
	Letterbox Library	Ragged Bears Books	Willoughby Book Club
	Literacy Counts	Reach PLC	Women's Prize for Fiction
			Yale University Press

Our trust supporters

Africa Publishing Innovation Fund	Merriman Charitable Foundation	The E Alec Colman Charitable Fund Limited	The Hippocleides Trust
Arthur Stevens Charitable Trust	Peacock Charitable Trust	The Earlswood Charitable Trust	The Hyne Trust
Be Global Foundation	People's Postcode Lottery	The Eddie Dinshaw Foundation	The Ian MacTaggart Trust
Beatrice Laing Trust	Scotland Community Foundation	The Fulmer Charitable Trust	The Law Society Charity
Bernard Sunley Charitable Foundation	The 29th May 1961 Charitable Trust	The GivingForce Foundation	The Michael and Anna Wix Charitable Trust
Corton Hill Trust	The Ardwick Trust	The Gunter Charitable Trust	The MuchLoved Charitable Trust
D R Fine Charitable Trust	The Beit Trust	The Henry and Rebecca Tinsley Charitable Trust	The Rest-Harrow Trust
Eva Reckitt Trust Fund	The Bhutan Society Trust Fund	The Hetton Charitable Trust	The Rhododendron Trust
Fresh Leaf Charitable Foundation	The Bower Trust		The Tony and Audrey Watson Charitable Trust
GMC Trust	The Bryan Guinness Charitable Trust		The Veronica Awdry Charitable Trust
Jacobs Ladder Charitable Fund	The Children's Library for Literacy		Unwin Charitable Trust

Our volunteers, ambassadors and individual supporters

Anthony and Anne Sheppard	Emma and Graham Defries	Lyn Newton	Philip Walters MBE
Anthony Glaister	Frances Crewdson	Malcolm Farrer-Brown	Rose Heatley
Brian Greenwood	Gillian Goss	Maralyn J. Jewell	Sarah McCullough
Caroline Burton	Harriet Hewitson	Matt Nixon	Sir Mark and Lady Moody-Stuart
Christine Cohen Park	Helen Esmonde	Mrs J Prime	Stephanie and Roderick Thirkell-White
David Brewer	Jill Prime	Mrs Jane Penson	The Cooper Carr Family
Eleanor and David Holloway	Kathy Rooney	Peter Goodwin	
	Louisa Symington	Peter Waller and Erica Zimmer	

And also thanks to

Ben Okri	Cliveden Literary Festival	Sarah Odedina	The Queen's Reading Room
Bodour Al Qasimi	Elif Shafak	Sir Michael Palin	World Book Day
Centre for Literacy in Primary Education	Hay Festival	The Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition	Writers' and Artists' Yearbook
Chris Wormell	Mariella Frostrup		
	Nadifa Mohamed		

Structure, governance and management

This section details how our charity was governed and managed in 2022.

Image: A doctor in Somaliland browsing donated medical texts.
© Mustafa Saeed



Governance

We are a company limited by guarantee, governed by our Memorandum and Articles of Association.

In 2022 we undertook a review of our Articles of Association, in accordance with good practice and the 2022 Charities Act. The two key changes were to rationalise Board tenure and to create a single-tier structure in which the trustees of the charity are also the company members. Our objects were retained unchanged.

Our purpose, as set out in our Articles of Association, is to advance education and literacy by:

- › establishing, providing and carrying on the service of procuring and distributing reading and information material regardless of medium to developing and other countries in need for educational purposes
- › distributing consignments of such material to public and community libraries, universities, colleges, schools, hospitals, youth and children's centres and other charitable institutions according to local needs and priorities
- › promoting or supporting any training or other activity which is designed to enhance the use of books, reading and other information material in developing countries

The Articles were adopted by a resolution of the Board at a General Meeting on 15th November 2022.

The Board has considered the legislative and regulatory requirements for disclosing how its charitable objectives have provided benefit to the public and has complied with the duty set out in Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011.

The strategic report on pages 6 to 23 outlines how our achievements during 2022 have benefited the public, either directly or indirectly.

Our Board of Trustees

The members of the charitable company are also the members of the Board, which consists of between five and 12 members. New members with specialist relevant skills and experience are appointed from time to time and their appointment is ratified at a meeting of the Board. Members serve a three-year term, renewable for up to two further terms by re-election.

Our Trustees bring a range of experience from both the corporate and the not-for-profit sectors and individual members contribute expertise from publishing, finance, fundraising, librarianship, administration and international development.

The Board meets quarterly and reviews strategy, finances and the organisation's charitable activities and approves matters reserved for the Board. These include issues relating to strategy and management, structure of the charity, financial controls, internal controls and risk management, contracts, communication, Board membership, remuneration, delegation of authority, corporate governance, policies and any other matters of importance for the charity.

Two committees formed by the Board meet and report back regularly to the Trustees. The Finance and Audit Committee meets three times a year to review internal controls, the risk register, going-concern assumptions and the annual accounts, budgets and audit findings, and is chaired by the Honorary Treasurer. The Nominations and Remuneration Committee meets annually to approve salary recommendations and other human resources matters, and is chaired by the Chair of the Board of Trustees.

Managing our charity

We are a company limited by guarantee, governed by our Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Our Senior Management Team consists of the Chief Executive and Heads of Programmes, Fundraising, Finance, Communications and Operations. This team communicates regularly with the Board.

Salaries for the Senior Management Team are reviewed biennially, along with those of other staff, and approved by the Nominations and Remuneration Committee.

One member of staff receives a salary of between £80,000 and £90,000 and one member of staff is paid between £60,000 and £70,000.

Ensuring equality and diversity

At Book Aid International we value people as individuals, with diverse opinions, cultures, lifestyles and circumstances. Our Equality and Diversity Policy was approved by the Board in November 2021 and commits us to following practices that are inclusive and free from unfair and unlawful discrimination.

Our policy forbids discrimination for reasons of age, race, colour, nationality, ethnic origin, gender, sex, sexual orientation, disability, marital or civil partnership status, pregnancy and maternity, religion or belief, or working patterns.

The aim of the policy is also to ensure that no person is victimised, discriminated against, or subjected to any form of bullying or harassment because of a characteristic.

All employees are covered by this policy and it applies to all areas of employment, including recruitment, selection, training, deployment, career development and promotion.

We monitor the policy continually to assess how it is working in practice, and review it annually. While there were no revisions in 2022, in 2023 we will be investing in external support to embed equality, diversity and inclusion more widely across the charity. We have also made a commitment to give all staff anti-racism training in 2023.

Staff training and policies

Our training policy aims to ensure that staff are equipped with the skills they need to carry out their jobs to the highest possible standard, that they are provided with the skills they need in a fast-changing working environment and that they are encouraged to develop their skills and talents.

In 2022 we spent £8,000 on group and individual staff training, including a workshop for line managers on building team connections, wellbeing and performance in a hybrid world and a number of individual training and development courses, particularly in the Programmes and Fundraising teams.

We also have several policies that define and protect the benefits available to staff. In 2022 many of these policies were reviewed, updated and upgraded.

In particular, the Family Leave Policy was enhanced to grant two weeks' statutory paternity leave with full pay, adoption leave was updated to mirror maternity leave and parental bereavement pay was upgraded to full pay for the two-week statutory leave period. We also adopted a new Menopause Policy.

Our Health and Safety Policy, Data Policy, Equality and Diversity Policy and Child Safeguarding Policy were all reviewed by the Board on their annual cycle, and changes were made to reflect upgrades of internal operating processes. An updated policy on trustee expenses was also issued.

Our commitment to sustainability

At Book Aid International we recognise our responsibility to address and minimise the environmental impact of our work. We are continually assessing these impacts by measuring the carbon emissions of shipments, flights and our office and warehouse utilities. We take steps to reduce them by using suppliers that are committed to an environmentally sustainable approach.

In 2022, we calculated that the carbon footprint for our core activities was 92 tons. We further reduced the carbon footprint of our warehouse by installing new sensor LED lighting, and we continued to implement our environmental code of practice which includes recycling and responsible use of resources. We are also working to reduce the number of international flights we take by using local experts as far as possible.

We recognise that climate change is a critically important global issue, not least for the communities we serve. We therefore aspire to deliver our work in a way that has minimal negative impact on the climate.

In 2023 we will appoint a consultant to advise us on further improvements we can make to manage our carbon emissions.

Managing risk

We manage risk through regular reviews of our strategic, operational and Board risks.

In 2022 **areas of higher strategic risk** were identified as the political, economic and social structures of the countries or environments in which we work, the operational limitations of our Camberwell warehouse and the risk of insufficient growth in funding to secure the future of the charity.

We are addressing these risks through strong partnerships on the ground and a broad portfolio of partner countries, off-site solutions to the limit on physical capacity and an ambitious fundraising strategy to promote growth.

Areas of higher operational risk were identified as a decline in the availability of suitable books over time, inappropriate or ineffective fundraising strategy, including dependency on large donors and unsuccessful donor acquisition campaigns, staff risks when travelling, risks through fraud or error and the risk of an unforeseen external event.

We are addressing these risks by prioritising strong relationships with our publishing partners to maximise donations, diversification and intensification of our fundraising activities, travel safety training and a constant review of travel plans, tightening of financial controls and an updated and strengthened business recovery plan to minimise the impact of an unforeseen event.

Higher scoring **Board risks** were identified as the Board lacking the appropriate skills and knowledge of the environment in which the charity works.

The Board is addressing these risks by conducting skills reviews ahead of any new Board appointments, and by appointing an International Advisory Board recruited from among the charity's key partners to keep the Board updated on in-country issues and developments.

Risks that had increased over the previous year were primarily fundraising or financial risks. The increased risk in these areas arose primarily from the more challenging post-pandemic fundraising climate.

Risks assessed as diminishing were primarily delays to project implementation, failure to follow legal rules and risks to health and safety. These improvements can largely be attributed to post-pandemic recovery in project partner capacity, and the tightening up of internal procedures.

All risks have been considered, mitigations put in place and the likelihood/impact ratio assessed. All risks have been assigned a manager, with managers reporting quarterly to the Board on changes to existing risks, or on new risks.

Reference and administrative details

Patrons and officials

Patron	The former Duchess of Cornwall (from March 2022)
Vice Patron	Lord Boateng (from February 2022)
President	Nigel Newton
Vice President	Professor Kingo Mchombu

Trustees

Chair

Dr Alice Prochaska (from February 2022)
Lord Boateng (until February 2022)

Vice Chair

Robert Sulley

Honorary Treasurer

Nicholas Allen

Board members

Dhivya O'Connor
Jonathan Hargreaves
Zainab Umar
Pam Dix
Charly Nobbs

Senior management

Chief Executive

Alison Tweed

Head of Programmes

Samantha Thomas Chuula

Head of Operations

Harry Boughton

Head of Communications

Emma Taylor

Head of Finance

Ade Soremekun

Head of Fundraising

Laura Smith

Address and registered office

39–41 Coldharbour Lane
Camberwell
London SE5 9NR

Charity number

313869 (England and Wales)

Company number

880754 (England and Wales)

Solicitor

Stone King LLP
Boundary House
91 Charterhouse Street
London EC1M 6HR

Auditors

Sayer Vincent LLP
Invicta House
108–114 Golden Lane
London EC1Y 0TL

Directors and members

The directors and members of the company are the Board members named on the preceding page.

Statement of responsibilities of the trustees

The trustees (who are also directors for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report, including the strategic report and the financial statements, in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- › select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- › observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP
- › make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- › state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- › prepare the financial statements on the going-concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- › there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware
- › the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Members of the charity guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 to the assets of the charity in the event of winding up. The total number of such guarantees at 31st December 2022 was £8 (2021: £8). The trustees are members of the charity but this entitles them only to voting rights. The trustees have no beneficial interest in the charity.

Auditor

Sayer Vincent LLP was reappointed as the charitable company's auditor in 2021.

The Trustees' Annual Report, which includes the strategic report, has been approved by the trustees on 27th June 2023 and signed on their behalf by

Dr Alice Prochaska
Chair
Book Aid International

Nicholas Allen
Honorary Treasurer
Book Aid International

Independent auditor's report

Independent auditor's report to the members of Book Aid International

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Book Aid International (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31st December 2022 which comprise the statement of financial activities, balance sheet, statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102, *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- › give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31st December 2022 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended
- › have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice
- › have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going-concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on Book Aid International's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least 12 months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Trustees' Annual Report, including the strategic report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- › The information given in the Trustees' Annual Report, including the strategic report, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- › The Trustees' Annual Report, including the strategic report, has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Annual Report including the strategic report. We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- › Adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- › The financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- › Certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- › We have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities set out in the Trustees' Annual Report, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going-concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud are set out below.

Capability of the audit in detecting irregularities

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, our procedures included the following:

- › We enquired of management and the Finance and Audit Committee, which included obtaining and reviewing supporting documentation concerning the charity's policies and procedures relating to:
 - Identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
 - Detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected, or alleged fraud;
 - The internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- › We inspected the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.
- › We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework that the charity operates in, focusing on those laws and regulations that had a material effect on the financial statements or that had a fundamental effect on the operations of the charity from our professional and sector experience.
- › We communicated applicable laws and regulations throughout the audit team and remained alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout the audit.
- › We reviewed any reports made to regulators.
- › We reviewed the financial statement disclosures and tested these to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- › We performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud.
- › In addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, we tested the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments, assessed whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias and tested significant transactions that are unusual or those outside the normal course of business.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Judith Miller
(Senior statutory auditor)

10 July 2023

for and on behalf of

Sayer Vincent LLP
Statutory Auditor
Invicta House
108-114 Golden Lane
London EC1Y 0TL

Audited accounts

Statement of financial activities

(incorporating income and expenditure account)

For the year ended 31st December 2022

	Note	Unrestricted £	Value of donated books £	Restricted £	2022 Total £	2021 Total £
Income from:						
Donations and legacies	2a	1,358,834		891,579	2,250,413	2,537,342
Value of donated books received			15,434,673		15,434,673	10,013,273
Other trading activities	4	10,086			10,086	11,960
Investments		5,416			5,416	5,321
Total income		1,374,336	15,434,673	891,579	17,700,588	12,567,896
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds		731,339		44,537	775,876	599,439
Charitable activities:						
Book provision		923,900		205,607	1,129,507	1,004,720
Value of donated books sent	3a		14,791,242		14,791,242	13,279,151
Restricted projects and training				724,343	724,343	704,416
Total expenditure	5a	1,655,239	14,791,242	974,487	17,420,968	15,587,726
Net income / (expenditure) for the year	7	(280,903)	643,431	(82,908)	279,620	(3,019,830)
Net income / (expenditure) before other recognised gains and losses		(280,903)	643,431	(82,908)	279,620	(3,018,830)
Transfer between funds		456		(456)		723,000
Gain on pension scheme	16					71,650
Net movement in funds		(280,447)	643,431	(83,364)	279,620	(2,225,180)
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward		3,190,247	4,824,275	326,061	8,340,583	10,565,763
Total funds carried forward	19a	2,909,800	5,467,706	242,697	8,620,203	8,340,583

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above. Movements in funds are disclosed in Note 19a to the financial statements.

The notes on pages 44 to 62 form part of these financial statements.

Balance sheet

As at 31st December 2022

Company no: 880754

	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2022 £	2021 £
Fixed assets:					
Tangible assets	11	2,001,419		2,001,419	2,016,126
Investments	14	100,000		100,000	
		2,101,419		2,101,419	2,016,126
Current assets:					
Stock – donated books	12	5,467,706		5,467,706	4,824,275
Debtors	13	140,298	101,000	241,298	309,485
Investments	14	102,587		102,587	201,718
Cash at bank and in hand	14	717,019	151,499	868,518	1,186,189
		6,427,610	252,499	6,680,109	6,521,667
Liabilities:					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	(125,275)	(9,802)	(135,077)	(151,424)
Net current assets / (liabilities)		6,302,335	242,697	6,545,032	6,370,243
Net assets excluding pension asset / (liability)		8,403,754	242,697	8,646,451	8,386,369
Defined benefit pension scheme asset / (liability)	16	(26,248)		(26,248)	(45,786)
Total net assets / (liabilities)		8,377,506	242,697	8,620,203	8,340,583
The funds of the charity:					
Restricted income funds	19a		242,697	242,697	326,061
Unrestricted income funds:					
Fixed assets		285,180		285,180	280,126
Revaluation reserve		1,716,240		1,716,240	1,736,000
Free reserves	1u	508,380		508,380	571,106
Designated funds		400,000		400,000	603,015
Total charity funds without stock		2,909,800	242,697	3,152,497	3,516,308
Value of donated books		5,467,706		5,467,706	4,824,275
Total unrestricted funds		8,377,506		8,377,506	8,014,522
Total charity funds		8,377,506	242,697	8,620,203	8,340,583

Approved by the trustees on 27th June 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

Dr Alice Prochaska, Chair of the Board of Trustees

The notes on pages 44 to 62 form part of these financial statements.

Statement of cash flows

For the year ended 31st December 2022

		2022		2021	
	Note	£	£	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities:					
Net (expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)			279,620		(3,019,830)
Depreciation charges			55,768		39,236
(Gains)/losses on pension scheme	16				71,649
Dividends, interest and rent from investments			(5,416)		(5,321)
Decrease/(increase) in stocks			(643,431)		3,265,877
Decrease/(increase) in debtors			68,187		(115,510)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors			(16,347)		(424,265)
(Decrease) in provisions			(19,538)		(107,214)
Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities			(281,157)		(295,378)
Cash flows from investing activities:					
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		5,416		5,323	
Payments into long-term savings		(100,000)			
Purchase of fixed assets		(41,061)		(51,861)	
Net cash provided by / (used in) investing activities			(135,645)		(46,538)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year			(416,802)		(341,916)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year			1,387,907		1,729,823
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	14		971,105		1,387,907

The notes on pages 44 to 62 form part of these financial statements.

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31st December 2022

1 Accounting policies

a) Statutory information

Book Aid International is a charitable company limited by guarantee and is incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office address is 39–41 Coldharbour Lane, Camberwell, London SE5 9NR.

b) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and (Charities SORP FRS 102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy or note.

c) Public benefit entity

The charitable company meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

d) Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern.

Key judgements that the charitable company has made which have a significant effect on the accounts include the valuation of donated books, as explained below.

The trustees have reviewed the activities of the charity and have adjusted estimations for uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period. It is the view of the Trustees that the charity will continue to be a going concern for the current year up to and including 2024.

e) Income

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and that the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

Income from legacies: entitlement is taken as the earlier of the date on which either the charity is aware that probate has been granted, the estate has been finalised and notification has been made by the executor(s) to the charity that a distribution will be made, or when a distribution is received from the estate. Receipt of a legacy, in whole or in part, is only considered probable when the amount can be measured reliably and the charity has been notified of the executor's intention to make a distribution.

f) Donated books

Donated books are valued at fair value on receipt. This is determined using Nielsen BookScan for identifying published prices and then applying a 30% discount from the full RRP to allow for the estimated market discount for third party commercial buyers. This discounted rate is reviewed by an independent expert on an annual basis. Where at year end books could not be opened and scanned into stock, an estimate of the value of these books is made in relation to the type and class of books remaining unopened.

Books held are recognised as expenditure at the point they are dispatched from the Book Aid International warehouse. Books in transit at the year end are accounted for as expensed as it is deemed highly probable that they will reach their intended beneficiaries in good condition. Any material damage or loss of stock would be adjusted in the accounts in the following year. There was no damage or loss of stock in transit at year end 31st December 2022 to be reflected in these accounts.

Donated books held at year end are measured at their fair value using the same measure as explained above. Provision is made where necessary for obsolete, slow moving and defective stock. Where books are not able to be opened and booked into stock by the finalisation of the accounts, the value of these is estimated using averaged price per class of book based on books received and recognised in the accounts.

g) Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

h) Fund accounting

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund.

Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources received or generated for the charitable purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes.

i) Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

- › Costs of raising funds relate to the costs incurred by the charitable company in inducing third parties to make voluntary contributions to it, as well as the cost of any activities with a fundraising purpose
- › Expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs of book provision and restricted projects and training undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs
- › Other expenditure represents those items not falling into any other heading

Irrecoverable VAT is charged against book provision.

j) Grants payable

Grants payable are made to third parties in furtherance of the charity's objects. Single or multi-year grants are accounted for when either the recipient has a reasonable expectation that they will receive a grant and the trustees have agreed to pay the grant without condition, or the recipient has a reasonable expectation that they will receive a grant and that any condition attaching to the grant is outside of the control of the charity.

Provisions for grants are made when the intention to make a grant has been communicated to the recipient but there is uncertainty about either the timing of the grant or the amount of grant payable.

k) Allocation of support costs

Resources expended are allocated to the particular activity where the cost relates directly to that activity. However, the cost of overall direction and administration of each activity, comprising the salary and overhead costs of the central function, is apportioned based on staff time and book delivery attributable to each activity.

	2022	2021
Raising funds	20%	20%
Book provision	70%	64%
Restricted projects and training	10%	16%

Governance costs are the costs associated with the governance arrangements of the charity. These costs are associated with constitutional and statutory requirements and include any costs associated with the strategic management of the charity's activities.

l) Operating leases

Rental charges are charged on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease.

m) Tangible fixed assets

Items of equipment are capitalised where the purchase price exceeds £1,000. Depreciation costs are allocated to activities on the basis of the use of the related assets in those activities. Assets are reviewed for impairment if circumstances indicate their carrying value may exceed their net realisable value and value in use.

Where fixed assets have been revalued, any excess between the revalued amount and the historic cost of the asset will be shown as a revaluation reserve in the balance sheet.

Depreciation is provided on a straight-line basis at rates calculated to write down the cost of each asset to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life. The depreciation rates in use are as follows:

Building	50 years	2% per annum on costs
Fixtures and office equipment	4 years	25% per annum on costs
Plant and machinery	10 years	10% per annum on costs

n) Stocks

Donated books held at year end are valued as explained in policy (f) above. Purchased books are measured at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

o) Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

p) Short-term deposit investments

Short-term deposits includes cash balances that are invested in accounts with a maturity date of between three and 12 months and long-term deposits are deposits with maturity over 12 months.

q) Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

r) Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

s) Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value, with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

t) Pensions

The charity contributes to a pension scheme administered by The Pensions Trust, as an independent company. The pension cost charge indicated in note 8 represents the contributions payable to the fund for the year, and note 16 gives details of the movements during the year of the agreed deficit repayment plan liability, which has been included as a liability under the requirements of FRS 102.

u) Free reserves

The minimum level of free reserves confirmed by the Board of Trustees for 2022 was set at a range between £500,000 and £550,000.

2 Donations

a) Current year

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2022 Total	2021 Total
	£	£	£	£
Charitable trusts and NGOs	(95,746)	(804,450)	(900,196)	(1,103,816)
Companies	(126,559)	(35,361)	(161,920)	(84,236)
Community sources	(22,264)	(875)	(23,139)	(26,539)
Individuals	(1,114,265)	(50,893)	(1,165,158)	(1,322,751)
Total donations	(1,358,834)	(891,579)	(2,250,413)	(2,537,342)

b) Prior year

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2021 Total
	£	£	£
Charitable trusts and NGOs	(106,220)	(997,596)	(1,103,816)
Companies	(45,736)	(38,500)	(84,236)
Community sources	(26,539)		(26,539)
Individuals	(1,293,314)	(29,438)	(1,322,751)
Total donations	(1,471,809)	(1,065,533)	(2,537,342)

3 Gifts in kind

a) Current year

The table below shows the discounted value of the 1,140,435 donated books distributed to partner organisations in 2022 (2021: 1,007,449). The process of valuation is described in note (1f) and the total adjusted value of books distributed in 2022 was £14,791,242 (2021: £13,249,151).

	2022	2022
	Total number	Total £
Children and primary	471,403	2,979,548
Development	7,059	90,015
English language skills	46,753	497,810
Fiction (adult)	83,345	644,451
Higher education	62,391	2,377,623
Law	5,219	349,345
Leisure reading	59,162	630,989
Medicine and healthcare	75,301	3,871,183
Professional	14,660	403,885
Reference	6,142	63,478
Secondary	127,698	1,885,035
Teacher training	15,918	280,480
Teenage fiction	52,679	335,845
Vocational/technical	12,004	210,962
	1,039,734	14,620,649
Stock adjustments	100,701	170,594
Total expenditure of donated books sent	1,140,435	14,791,243

Stock adjustments relate to adjustments in book, sets, values and location of individual books.

a) Prior year

	2021	2021
	Total number	Total £
Children's and teenagers'	468,125	2,999,197
Leisure reading (fiction, non-fiction and literature)	113,535	1,033,274
Reference	1,595	19,178
Secondary textbooks	87,387	1,077,379
Vocational skills and development	31,018	376,139
Professional	12,089	321,730
Higher education	59,784	2,312,496
Education and teacher training	15,052	291,605
English as a foreign language	37,393	355,235
Health and medicine	87,339	4,313,981
Law	3,164	149,089
	916,481	13,249,304
Stock adjustments	90,968	29,847
Total expenditure of donated books sent	1,007,449	13,279,151

4 Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2022 Total	2021 Total
	£	£	£	£
Events				2,251
UK book and card sales	9,563		9,563	9,644
Other	524		524	65
Total donations	10,087		10,087	11,960

All trading income received in 2022 and 2021 was unrestricted.

5 Analysis of expenditure

a) Current year

	Raising funds	Charitable activities			Governance costs	Support costs	Pension scheme gain/loss	2022	2021
	£	Book provision	Value of donated books sent	Restricted projects and training	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs (note 8)	306,325	440,975		232,479	160,335	153,162		1,293,276	1,090,809
Other staff costs	11,386	16,391		8,641	5,960	5,693		48,071	86,172
Travel and workshop costs	2,059	35,322		6,618				43,999	6,155
Book purchase				4,600				4,600	18,428
Value of donated books			14,791,242					14,791,242	13,279,151
Overseas project partners (note 6)		5,073		318,423				323,496	410,118
Shipping and book disposal						212,991		212,991	146,397
Fundraising, PR and design	294,564	37,874		37,875				370,313	237,066
Professional fees and irrecoverable VAT						29,724		29,724	40,730
Other direct costs						7,237		7,237	2,956
Other project and training costs		31,707		31,706				63,413	52,721
Governance costs					15,408			15,408	14,738
Support costs						217,197		217,197	202,287
	614,334	567,342	14,791,242	640,342	181,703	626,004		17,420,967	15,587,726
Governance costs	36,341	126,465		18,897	(181,703)				
Support costs	125,201	435,699		65,104		(626,004)			
Gain/loss on pension scheme									
Total expenditure 2022	775,876	1,129,506	14,791,242	724,343				17,420,967	
Total expenditure 2021	599,439	1,004,720	13,279,151	704,416					15,587,726

Of the total expenditure, £16,457,227 was unrestricted (2021: £14,658,307) and £974,486 was restricted (2021: £929,419).

b) Prior year

	Charitable activities							2021
	Raising funds	Book provision	Value of donated books sent	Restricted projects and training	Governance costs	Support costs	Pension scheme gain/loss	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs (note 8)	237,398	380,647		193,568	146,125	133,070		1,090,809
Other staff costs	18,754	30,071		15,291	11,544	10,512		86,172
Travel and workshop costs	228	4,008		1,919				6,155
Book purchase				18,428				18,428
Value of donated books			13,279,151					13,279,151
Overseas project partners (note 6)		100,601		309,517				410,118
Shipping and book disposal						146,397		146,397
Fundraising, PR and design	191,270	22,898		22,898				237,066
Professional fees and irrecoverable VAT						40,730		40,730
Other direct costs						2,956		2,956
Other project and training costs		26,360		26,361				52,721
Governance costs					14,738			14,738
Support costs						202,287		202,287
	447,650	564,584	13,279,151	587,982	172,407	535,952		15,587,726
Governance costs	34,481	110,341		27,585	(172,407)			
Support costs	117,308	329,795		88,849		(535,952)		
Gain/loss on pension scheme								
Total expenditure 2021	599,439	1,004,720	13,279,151	704,416				15,587,726

6 Grant payments to project partners

	2022	2021
Partners	£	£
Able Child	20,126	
African Parks	18,509	32,034
Alusine Jalloh		1,740
Assabil Association	600	
Atanasius Hamwaka	3,420	
Baroda Trading	1,049	1,027
Books Behind Bars	1,279	
CODE Ethiopia	600	600

Table continued....

	2022	2021
Partners	£	£
College Press		5,363
Community Libraries Association of Uganda	4,619	5,600
Consultus Publishing Services	1,571	2,853
Edward Ndlovu	9,335	2,000
EISERVI	600	600
EMNL	885	
Gambia National Library Service Authority		600
Ghana Book Trust	10,304	
Ghana Library Authority	1,540	2,376
Grace Rwanda Society	2,191	34,109
Green Chilongo		8,635
Healing Cab	1,291	
International Board on Books for Young People	6,743	27,103
I Choose Life – Africa		5,673
Innov8 Bookshop		973
Jesuit Refugee Service	21,809	
Kenya National Library Service	4,943	40,623
Lutheran World Federation		8,355
Maiden Publishing		4,160
Malawi National Library Service	25,115	39,113
Milward Tobias		2,911
MYSA		2,800
National Library of Uganda	600	16,849
PEN International	32,365	
Plan International Uganda		2,813
Publishers Ltd		8,240
Rainbow Trust Foundation	5,595	16,596
Richard Luhanga		2,824
Save the Needy	8,080	4,040
Street Child Empowerment Foundation (SCEF)	9,100	32,750
Shurugwi Reading Club	9,802	
Sizalendaba	1,195	
Sierra Leone Library Board	28,573	14,173
SolarAid		3,896
Squirrel Book Centre	3,681	
Street Child	21,458	
Tichbay Books	1,050	
Uganda Children's Writers & Illustrators Association	7,528	18,217
Venatious Chiiba	1,665	
We-Care Liberia	600	600
Weaver Press		1,110
Windle International	25,453	27,784
Zambia Library Service	29,884	28,843
Zimbabwe Publishing House Ltd		1,981
Grants to other institutions	339	154
At the end of the year	323,497	410,118

The decrease in the 2022 grants sent value is due to increased activity in 2021 as a result of better than expected funding and release of unrestricted Book Aid International funds to support increased activity in that year.

7 Net income / (expenditure) for the year

This is stated after charging / (crediting):

	2022	2021
	£	£
Depreciation	55,768	39,236
Interest payable	4,217	6,322
Operating lease rentals:		
Property		
Other	8,146	10,583
Auditors' remuneration (excluding VAT):		
Audit	12,500	11,125
Other services		1,100
Foreign exchange (gains) or losses	67	2

8 Analysis of staff costs, trustee remuneration and expenses, and the cost of key management personnel

Staff costs were as follows:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Salaries and wages	1,035,149	884,498
Employer's NI contributions	107,283	87,720
Pension contributions	64,380	53,171
Overseas staff costs	86,464	65,420
	1,293,276	1,090,809

	2022	2021
	(no.)	(no.)
Average head count	31.0	31.0
Full-time equivalent	29.4	27.6
Number of staff whose emoluments were between £60,000 and £70,000	1	1
Number of staff whose emoluments were between £70,000 and £80,000		1
Number of staff whose emoluments were between £80,000 and £90,000	1	

The total employee benefits received by key management personnel were £458,224 (2021: £397,943).

Trustees received no remuneration during the year (2021: £nil). No trustees received any payments for professional services during the year (2021: £nil).

There were no expenses reimbursed to trustees in 2022 (2021: £nil).

9 Related party transactions

Aggregate donations from related parties were £3,673 (2021: £1,318).

Robert Sulley was a Director at Hodder Education (part of the Hachette Group). This trustee related organisations donated the following to Book Aid International during the year.

	2022 Value of books donated £	2022 Cash donated £	2021 Value of books donated £	2021 Cash donated £
Trustee related organisations				
Hachette Group	1,737,677		631,975	
	1,737,677		631,975	

10 Taxation

The charitable company is exempt from corporation tax as all its income is deemed charitable and is applied for charitable purposes.

11 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold property £	Plant and machinery £	Fixtures and office equipment £	2022 Total £
Cost or valuation				
At the start of the year	1,998,000	26,578	82,312	2,106,890
Gain on revaluation				
Additions in year		6,508	34,553	41,061
Disposals in year			(4,469)	(4,469)
At the end of the year	1,998,000	33,086	112,396	2,143,482
Depreciation				
At the start of the year	48,000	5,248	37,516	90,764
Charge for the year	24,360	3,309	28,099	55,768
Eliminated on disposal			(4,469)	(4,469)
At the end of the year	72,360	8,557	61,146	142,063
Net book value				
At the end of the year	1,925,640	24,529	51,250	2,001,419
At the start of the year	1,950,000	21,330	44,796	2,016,126

The original (1987) cost of the charity's freehold premises in Coldharbour Lane, Camberwell was £230,000. The premises have been revalued five times, and the most recently detailed valuation was in December 2021. The revaluations were undertaken by an independent valuer and give current open market valuations of the freehold interest in the charity's property. The land and building were valued at £780,000 and £1,170,000 respectively based on existing use value.

All of the above assets are used for charitable purposes.

12 Stock

	2022	2021
	£	£
Donated books	5,467,706	4,824,275

At year end there are unopened pallets of books stored in our warehouses. We endeavour to open as many of these as possible by the time the accounts are finalised. The value of any unopened pallets is estimated by using the average value of pallets for that class of book received and opened in the year. Included in the closing stock value of £5,467,706 are 272 pallets of books (2021: 233) which could not be opened and booked into stock at year end; these have been estimated using an averaged price per class of book and are valued at £3,429,228 (2021: £2,324,732).

13 Debtors

	2022	2021
	£	£
Trade debtors	6,309	1,411
Other debtors and prepayments	63,931	75,152
Gift Aid recoverable	33,058	33,794
Accrued income	138,000	199,128
	241,298	309,485

All of the charity's financial instruments, both assets and liabilities, are measured at amortised cost.

14 Bank and short-term investments

	2022	2021
	£	£
Cash and bank	868,518	1,186,189
Short-term investments	102,587	201,718
Long-term investments	100,000	
Total cash and short-term investments	1,071,105	1,387,907

Short-term investments are funds invested in 12-month fixed-term deposit accounts. Long-term investment is a two-year term.

15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022	2021
	£	£
Trade creditors	58,091	78,784
Staff tax and social security	34,277	38,395
VAT payable		
Other creditors and accruals	42,709	34,245
	135,077	151,424

16 Pension scheme

The company participates in The Pensions Trust scheme, a multi-employer scheme which provides benefits to some 638 non-associated participating employers. The scheme is a defined benefit scheme in the UK. It is not possible for the company to obtain sufficient information to enable it to account for the scheme as a defined benefit scheme. Therefore it accounts for the scheme as a defined contribution scheme.

The scheme is subject to the funding legislation outlined in the Pensions Act 2004 which came into force on 30th December 2005. This, together with documents issued by the Pensions Regulator and Technical Actuarial Standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council, set out the framework for funding defined benefit occupational pension schemes in the UK.

The scheme is classified as a 'last-man-standing arrangement'. Therefore the company is potentially liable for other participating employers' obligations if those employers are unable to meet their share of the scheme deficit following withdrawal from the scheme. Participating employers are legally required to meet their share of the scheme deficit on an annuity purchase basis on withdrawal from the scheme.

A full actuarial valuation for the scheme was carried out at 30th September 2020. This valuation showed assets of £800.3m, liabilities of £831.9m and a deficit of £31.6m.

To eliminate this funding shortfall, the Trustees has asked the participating employers to pay additional contributions to the scheme as follows:

From 1st April 2022 to 31st January 2025: £3,312,000 per annum (payable monthly).

Unless a concession has been agreed with the Trustees the term to 31st January 2025 applies.

Note that the scheme's previous valuation was carried out with an effective date of 30th September 2017. This valuation showed assets of £794.9m, liabilities of £926.4m and a deficit of £131.5m. To eliminate this funding shortfall, the Trustee has asked the participating employers to pay additional contributions to the scheme as follows.

Deficit contribution

From 1st April 2019 to 30th September 2025: £11,243,000 per annum payable monthly and increasing by 3% each year on 1st April.

The recovery plan contributions are allocated to each participating employer in line with their estimated share of the series 1 and series 2 scheme liabilities.

Where the scheme is in deficit and where the company has agreed to a deficit funding arrangement, the company recognises a liability for this obligation. The amount recognised is the net present value of the deficit reduction contributions payable under the agreement that relates to the deficit. The present value is calculated using the discount rate detailed in these disclosures. The unwinding of the discount rate is recognised as a finance cost.

Deficit contribution (continued)

	2022	2021
	£'000	£'000
Present value of provision	26	46
Reconciliation of opening and closing provisions:		
Provision at start of period	46	153
Unwinding of discount factor (interest expense)		1
Deficit contribution paid	(19)	(36)
Post-year-end adjustment	(1)	(1)
		(71)
Provision at end of period	26	46
Income and expenditure impact		
Interest expense		
Remeasurements – changes in assumptions	(1)	(1)
Remeasurements – amendments to contribution schedule		(71)
Contributions paid in respect of future service		
Costs recognised on SoFA		

This includes defined contribution schemes and future service contributions (i.e. excluding any deficit reduction payments) to defined benefit schemes which are treated as defined contribution schemes.

	2022	2021
	% per annum	% per annum
Assumptions:		
Rate of discount 31st December	4.96	1.18

The discount rates shown above are the equivalent single discount rates which, when used to discount the future recovery plan contributions due, would give the same results as using a full AA corporate bond yield curve to discount the same recovery plan contributions.

The estimated contingent liability for the charity as at September 2021 in the event of withdrawal for the growth plan was £291,932 (less the £26,248 provided above). There is no intention at present to cease participation or to wind up the growth plan.

17 Detailed comparatives for the statement of financial activities (prior year: 2021)

	Unrestricted	Value of donated books	Restricted	2021 Total
	£	£	£	£
Income from:				
Donations and legacies	1,471,809		1,065,533	2,537,342
Value of donated books received		10,013,273		10,013,273
Other trading activities	11,960			11,960
Investments	5,321			5,321
Total income	1,489,090	10,013,273	1,065,533	12,567,896
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds	568,351		31,088	599,439
Charitable activities:				
Book provision	810,805		193,915	1,004,720
Value of donated books sent		13,279,151		13,279,151
Restricted projects and training			704,416	704,416
Total expenditure	1,379,156	13,279,151	929,419	15,587,726
Net income / (expenditure) for the year	109,934	(3,265,878)	136,114	1,838,228
Net income / (expenditure) before other recognised gains and losses	109,934	(3,265,878)	136,114	(3,019,830)
Gains on revaluation of fixed assets	723,000			723,000
Gain on pension scheme	71,650			71,650
Net movement in funds	904,584	(3,265,878)	136,114	(2,225,180)
Reconciliation of funds:				
Total funds brought forward	2,285,663	8,090,153	189,947	10,565,763
Total funds carried forward	3,190,247	4,824,275	326,061	8,340,583

18 Detailed comparatives for the balance sheet (prior year: 2021)

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2021 Total
	£	£	£
Fixed assets:			
Tangible assets	2,016,126		2,016,126
	2,016,126		2,016,126
Current assets:			
Stock – donated books	4,824,275		4,824,275
Debtors	129,985	179,500	309,485
Investments	201,718		201,718
Cash at bank and in hand	1,025,100	161,089	1,186,189
	6,181,078	340,589	6,521,667
Liabilities:			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(136,896)	(14,528)	(151,424)
Net current assets / (liabilities)	6,044,182	326,061	6,370,243
Net assets excluding pension asset / (liability)	8,060,308	326,061	8,386,369
Defined benefit pension scheme asset / (liability)	(45,786)		(45,786)
Total net assets / (liabilities)	8,014,522	326,061	8,340,583
The funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds		326,061	326,061
Unrestricted income funds:			
Fixed assets	280,126		280,126
Revaluation reserve	1,736,000		1,736,000
Free reserves	571,106		571,106
Designated funds	603,015		603,015
Total charity funds without stock	3,190,247	326,061	3,516,308
Value of donated books	4,824,275		4,824,275
Total unrestricted funds	8,014,522	326,061	8,340,583
Total charity funds	8,014,522	326,061	8,340,583

19 Movements in funds

a) Current year: 2022

	At 1st January 2022 £	Income and gains £	Expenditure and losses £	Transfers £	At 31st Dec 2022 £
Restricted funds:					
BookLinks		7,950	(8,534)	584	
<i>Inspiring Readers</i>	40,783	40,377	(56,496)	(770)	23,894
Impact Assessment project	4,064		(3,383)		681
<i>Reading is Basic</i> GHN02	(63)	20,000	(9,232)		10,705
Reading Club ZIM01	(301)	70,000	(70,795)	1,096	
People's Postcode Lottery 2021	129,943		(130,010)	67	
People's Postcode Lottery 2022		244,365	(170,029)	664	75,000
Malawi/Zambia/Zimbabwe – BP (SAF BEIT)	75,186	75,000	(75,186)		75,000
ZAM – STEM STD Hubs01	2,224		(1,665)	(559)	
<i>Children's Corner</i> ZAM02		34,808	(31,990)		2,818
GHA – STEM Hubs – Agrekko	2,479		(2,479)		
Reading Promotion		9,546	(9,546)		
KEN – <i>Mini-Solar Homework</i> project	78		(78)		
<i>Discovery Book Box</i> projects	1,255	6,500	(7,755)		
UGA – Shared Reading 02	2,014			(2,014)	
KEN – Solar Buy Back	688		(822)	134	
UGA – Solar Homework Project Rhino Camp	594				594
<i>Explorer Library</i> projects	20,640	29,201	(49,341)	(500)	
SL02 – <i>Children's Corner</i>	(18)	22,752	(21,347)		1,387
UGA – <i>Reading for All</i> – SEC Intouch	2,929		(465)	(134)	2,330
UGA – <i>Reading for All</i> – ECD PRIM PPL	1,866	(1,401)	(465)		
KEN02 – <i>Reading for All</i> – Solar	79			(79)	
UGA01 – <i>Reading for All</i> – Palabek	(45)	59,942	(58,643)		1,254
UGA02 – <i>Reading for All</i> – Kyangwali		5,449			5,449
MAL02a L&M – <i>Reading Around the Reserve</i>				1,845	1,845
MAL02b M – <i>Reading Around the Reserve</i>	13,572		(12,800)	1,072	1,844
ZAM – <i>Reading Around the Reserve</i>	6,656		(6,549)	(107)	
ZIM – <i>Reading Around the Reserve</i>	10,000		(11,633)	1,633	
TNZ – <i>Quality Schools for All</i>	9,000		(9,000)		
<i>Books To Go</i> projects	(1,468)	29,000	(4,175)	79	23,436
L4L PPL KEN01			(413)	413	
CCL ZNZ01	426		(426)		
KEN01-I C <i>Reading</i>	917		(377)	(540)	
Read Together CAM01	(9)	10,000	(9,990)		1
Adumaji Girls project UGA01		50,427	(47,195)		3,232
PDP Online Training		50,000	(38,579)		11,421
<i>Africa Story Box</i> projects	938	77,199	(74,625)	(1,707)	1,806
Africa and other book provision		43,089	(43,089)		
Children's book provision		6,500	(6,500)		
Medical/healthcare book provision		875	(875)		
Other legacies/activities	1,633			(1,633)	
Total restricted funds	326,061	891,579	(974,487)	(456)	242,697
Unrestricted funds:					
Fixed asset reserve	280,126			5,053	285,179
Revaluation reserve	1,736,000			(19,760)	1,716,240
Stock reserve	4,824,275	15,434,673	(14,791,242)		5,467,706
Free reserves	571,106	1,374,336	(1,655,240)	218,178	508,380
Designated reserves	603,015			(203,015)	400,000
Total unrestricted funds	8,014,522	16,809,009	(16,446,482)	456	8,377,505
Total funds per balance sheet	8,340,583	17,700,588	(17,420,969)		8,620,203
Pension reserve	45,786			(19,538)	26,248
Total funds adding back pension fund	8,386,369	17,700,588	(17,420,969)	(19,538)	8,646,451
Total unrestricted funds (less stock)	3,190,247	1,374,336	(1,655,240)	456	2,909,799
Total funds including pension fund (less stock)	3,236,033	1,374,336	(1,655,240)	(19,082)	2,936,047

Projects with negative balances

The net movement of funds between unrestricted and restricted of £456 relate to minor overspends on three projects that were funded by unrestricted funds.

2022 transfers between funds

There were no transfers between restricted and unrestricted funds in 2022.

Any transfers are treated within parameters allowed by funders, and any external excess funding transferred to other projects or unrestricted funds will always be agreed with funders.

Purposes of designated funds

The total designated funds reduced from £603,015 to £400,000, a net £203,000 decrease as at 31st December 2022, made up of the following:

- › At the Board meeting of 16th December 2021 the trustees confirmed £53,000 of designated funds to test a range of options to acquire new regular supporters through digital fundraising activities. This designation was utilised in 2022.
- › At the same meeting, and a further meeting in March 2022 the Board approved a total designation of £500k for the costs associated with planning and delivering options to increase warehouse capacity, thus enabling the charity to increase its operational reach through storing, processing and sending more books. These include consultancy, agency, professional fees and equipment and rental costs. This designation was reduced to £400k at the March 2023 Board meeting.
- › At the same meeting, the trustees approved a £50,000 designated fund to develop required projects where funding may not have been raised or raised in total. This includes match funding initiatives, or projects Book Aid International deem beneficial where funding may be needed to top up the project or get it off the ground; this designation was utilised in full in 2022.

b) Prior year: 2022

	At 1st January 2021 £	Income and gains £	Expenditure and losses £	Transfers £	At 31st Dec 2021 £
Restricted funds:					
BookLinks	1,458	7,950	(9,408)		
Inspiring Readers projects	14,067	45,232	(17,957)	(559)	40,783
Impact Assessment project	4,064				4,064
Reading is Basic GHN02			(63)		(63)
Reading Club ZIM01			(301)		(301)
People's Postcode Lottery 2021		253,924	(126,405)	2,424	129,943
MAL/ZAM/ZIM – BP (SAF BEIT)	75,094	75,000	(74,908)		75,186
ZAM – STEM STD Hubs01		25,702	(23,478)		2,224
GHA – STEM Hubs – Agrekko	2,479				2,479
KEN – STEM Hubs	2,189		(2,189)		
GHA – Children's Corner 02	338		(338)		
Reading Promotion		8,154	(8,154)		
KEN – Mini-Solar Homework project	6,078		(6,000)		78
Discovery Book Box projects	1,255	10,000	(10,000)		1,255
UGA – Shared Reading 02		32,864	(30,850)		2,014
KEN – Solar Homework project 02	79			(79)	
KEN – Solar Buy Back	15,926		(15,238)		688
UGA – Solar Homework project – Rhino Camp	10,007		(9,413)		594
Explorer Library projects	8,316	66,268	(53,943)		20,641
SL02 – Children's Corner			(18)		(18)
SOML – Children's Corner					
MAL – Solar Libraries 01	4,621		(3,521)	(1,100)	
UGA – Reading for All – SEC Intouch	3,277		(348)		2,929
UGA – Reading for All – ECD PRIM PPL	3,521		(1,655)		1,866
KEN02 – Reading for All – Solar				79	79
UGA01 – Reading for All – Palabek			(45)		(45)
MAL – Reading Around the Reserve	2,789		(1,641)	(1,149)	
MAL02a L&M – Reading Around the Reserve		70,121	(71,255)	1,134	
MAL02b M – Reading Around the Reserve		26,362	(12,790)		13,572
ZAM – Reading Around the Reserve		42,504	(35,848)		6,656
ZIM – Reading Around the Reserve		10,000			10,000
TNZ – Quality Schools for All	750	9,000		(750)	9,000
Books to Go projects		107,804	(109,272)		(1,468)
L4L PPL KEN01		62,855	(62,855)		
CCL ZNZ01		27,533	(27,107)		426
KEN01-I C Reading		15,000	(14,083)		917
Education PRG CAM01			(9)		(9)
Africa Story Box projects		90,710	(89,772)		938
Africa and other book provision	32,006	42,150	(74,156)		
Children's book provision		1,400	(1,400)		
Law book provision		5,000	(5,000)		
Medical/healthcare provision		30,000	(30,000)		
Other legacies/activities	1,633				1,633
Total restricted funds	189,947	1,065,533	(929,420)		326,061
Unrestricted funds:					
Fixed asset reserve	267,502		(7,021)	19,645	280,126
Revaluation reserve	1,013,000	723,000			1,736,000
Stock reserve	8,090,153	10,013,273	(13,279,151)		4,824,275
Free reserves	677,146	1,560,739	(1,372,134)	(294,645)	571,106
Designated reserves	328,015			275,000	603,015
Total unrestricted funds	10,375,816	12,297,012	(14,658,306)		8,014,522
Total funds per balance sheet	10,565,763	13,362,545	(15,587,726)		8,340,583
Pension reserve	153,000			(107,214)	45,786
Total funds adding back pension fund	10,718,763	13,362,545	(15,587,726)	(107,214)	8,386,369
Total unrestricted funds (less stock)	2,285,663	2,283,739	(1,379,155)		3,190,247
Total funds including pension fund (less stock)	2,628,610	3,349,272	(2,308,575)	(107,214)	3,562,094

Unrestricted income funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the charity's objectives. Unrestricted funds include designated funds, fixed assets and revaluation reserves representing the excess of the net book value of the property at acquisition. The remainder of the unrestricted funds are the charity's free reserves.

2021 Transfers between funds

There were no transfers between restricted and unrestricted funds in 2021.

Any transfers are treated within parameters allowed by funders, and any external excess funding transferred to other projects or unrestricted funds will always be agreed with funders.

Restricted income funds are subject to specific restrictions imposed by donors or by the purpose of an appeal. Details of all restricted funds held are given in note 19a above.

20 Operating lease commitments

The charity's total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases is as follows for each of the following periods:

	Equipment	
	2022	2021
	£	£
Less than one year	8,147	8,149
One to five years	30,414	37,523
	38,561	45,672

21 Legal status of the charity

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. The liability of each of the eight members in the event of winding up is limited to £1.

“

**Book Aid International
doesn't send books which
are not relevant to us.**

We submit our order form in advance.
We put in books for health sciences
and we receive those books. Without
them, it would be very difficult for our
students.”

*Dr Musangi, Amref International University
Librarian, Nairobi, Kenya*



Dr Musangi in her library. © Natalia Jidovanu

bookaid.org

Book Aid International is a charity and limited company registered in England and Wales.
Charity no: 313869. Company no: 880754. Registered office: 39-41, Coldharbour Lane, London SE5 9NR
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Accounts



Book Aid
International

“

Now the children are able to read various books and their reading has improved.

Beatrice Maluza, Head Teacher, Kalira School, Malawi



2021 Annual Report

Including Trustees' Report and Accounts
for the year ended 31st December 2021



Lord Paul Boateng
Book Aid International
Vice Patron and former
Chair of the Board of
Trustees

Welcome

2021 was another extraordinary year. Covid continued to dominate headlines and lives here in the UK and around the world.

The pandemic kept so many classrooms closed – and millions of students, in particular girls, will never return to school.

More families have been pushed into poverty by the pandemic, and the effects of conflict and climate change have driven yet more people from home.

In this difficult landscape, our work creating access to books matters so much. With books, students can begin to catch up. With books, adults can learn new skills and chart a course out of poverty. And with books, families facing war can find the strength to carry on.

So in 2021 we set ourselves a target to once again send more than one million books to communities around the world and to expand our programmes to reach more readers. I am very proud to say that thanks to the hard work of our staff and the generosity of our supporters we exceeded those targets.

Our supporters range from publishers who donate thousands of brand-new books to our cause to book lovers who donate £6 a month as members of our Reverse Book Club – but they all share a belief in the power of books to help create a more equal future for all.

Our former Patron His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh also shared that belief, and we were all deeply saddened by his passing in April 2021. He was a great reader and we honour his memory by remaining committed to the mission that so inspired him: giving everyone the opportunity to read.

2021 was the last year of our *Vision 2020* strategy, and it is clear to see how much our charity has grown since the strategy's launch in 2017. We do more for readers facing barriers to reading and learning, we have a more diverse partner network and we are more innovative.

This Annual Report highlights some of these innovations and introduces you to a few of the readers we reached in 2021. I hope you enjoy reading it, and I thank you for your support.

8 June 2022

The Trustees present their report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2021.

Reference and administrative information set out on page 30 forms part of this report. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the Memorandum and Articles of Association and the Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting and Reporting by Charities: SORP applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102. This Trustees' Annual Report includes a directors' report as required by company law.

Book Aid International is a charity and limited company registered in England and Wales. Charity no: 313869. Company no: 880754. Registered office: 39–41 Coldharbour Lane, London SE5 9NR. www.bookaid.org

What we do

The consequences of not being able to access books can limit potential for a lifetime.

Children struggle to learn to read. Adults and children have fewer chances to develop new skills, discover new interests or read simply for the joy of it. Professionals miss out on the opportunity to study the latest research and push their careers forward.

That is why every year we provide more than one million books to communities around the world where people would otherwise have few books, or no books at all.

Publishers donate books to us for free – everything from children's picture books to law and medical texts. We then provide these books to our network of 150 partners who make them available to readers in thousands of schools, libraries, universities, hospitals, prisons and refugee camps around the world.

We also work with our partners to establish and refurbish libraries, train teachers and librarians, promote reading and fund the purchase of locally published books.

In all the places we work, our partners tell us which books people need most, and we provide a carefully chosen selection of titles in response to their requests. In 2021, we focused in particular on supporting schools affected by the pandemic, people displaced by conflicts and climate disasters and medical students and professionals who struggle to access the latest books.

Our vision is a world where everyone has access to books that will enrich, improve and change their lives.

Our mission is to provide books, resources and training to support an environment in which reading for pleasure, study and lifelong learning can flourish.

“We manage 28 schools across Liberia, and the books donated by Book Aid International are very important.”

Ernest Lavi Lincoln, Data Officer, Street Child Liberia



A Liberian student making use of donated books

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Two boys in Gowrie Primary School, Northern Ghana, enjoy a donated book

Covid: building on our initial response

As the pandemic continued into its second year we built on lessons learned in 2020 to reach out to readers around the world.

In 2021 the effects of Covid continued to create challenges – delaying shipments and projects and creating a climate of uncertainty. And yet, with the support of our donors and publishing partners, we were able to deliver the majority of our planned programmes and provide more than one million books once again.

Covid’s impacts on our projects

In many of the communities where we work the effects of Covid showed few signs of diminishing. In Uganda, for example, schools remained closed for much of the year. In total their doors were shut to pupils for 83 weeks – the longest shutdown in the world. Our projects were affected as a result.

Kenya, Somaliland, Zambia and Zimbabwe also experienced Covid-related school closures, and many of our other partners faced Covid restrictions which meant that they needed to adjust project implementation schedules. As a result, our *Study Hub*, *Children’s Corners*, *Reading for All*, *Inspiring Readers*, *Books to Go*, *I Choose Reading* and *Libraries for Learning* programmes were all delayed.

Travel remained challenging, so we delivered our programme training online and via the ‘train the trainer’ approach we developed in 2020.

Despite all of these challenges, we were able to complete the majority of our planned projects in 2021 – although many were on adjusted timelines. The success of our remote training methods mean that they will remain part of our work even after the pandemic, helping us to reach more people in more communities.



Girls reading donated books at a STEM Study Hub in Malawi

103,744

pupils benefited compared to 55,882 in 2020

19

local trainers upskilled

609

teachers and librarians trained

Covid’s impacts on our operations

Operations were disrupted by Covid throughout the year, and our Covid protocols meant that we were unable to welcome volunteers. Instead, we employed two new staff to ensure we could provide the books our partners needed.

While demand for books remained very high, our partners were facing their own challenges related to the pandemic. This meant we sometimes needed to adjust the timings of shipments or the number of books sent. Covid-related driver shortages also meant that our operations team faced challenges securing transport for book shipments.

In spite of all these issues we exceeded our goal of providing more than one million books worldwide.



A shipment of books being loaded on its way to the Gambia

40

of 40 planned shipments sent

24

countries reached compared to 19 in 2020

1,007,449

books sent compared to 867,567 in 2020

Covid’s impacts on our fundraising

Throughout the year, despite an uncertain outlook here in the UK, support for our charity remained as strong as ever and our total income increased. Thousands of people donated to us either through our Reverse Book Club or with one-off gifts. 827 supporters started new regular gifts in 2021 – an extraordinary contribution at such a challenging time.

Covid-related school closures forced us to adapt programme schedules and made gathering data more challenging in 2021. This meant that we were not always able to meet report and programme delivery schedules agreed with donors.

However, our corporate and trust funders showed patience and flexibility, allowing us to amend our reporting schedules to accommodate Covid-related delays. We would like to warmly thank them for their support in 2021.



Our chair, Lord Boateng, speaking at a supporter event in November 2021

£2,537,342

raised, against a budget of £2,025,914

£1,103,816

donated by trusts

827

new regular gifts

2021 in numbers

In 2021, we worked with 150 partners, providing 1,007,449 books worldwide and giving an estimated 19.3 million people the opportunity to read.

Countries that received books

Bhutan	4,280
Cameroon	53,415
Ethiopia	55,515
The Gambia	31,582
Ghana	95,642
Greece	10,518
India	11,472
Iraq	11,575
Jordan	2,107
Kenya	91,712
Lebanon	21,352
Liberia	28,888
Malawi	55,875
Palestine	21,687
Rwanda	49,531
Sierra Leone	63,576
Somalia	1,529
Somaliland	34,365
South Sudan	26,438
Syria	3,054
Tanzania	95,985
Uganda	103,716
Zambia	36,656
Zimbabwe	96,979

The types of books we provided

Children and primary	509,784
Secondary and teenage fiction	130,699
Adult fiction and leisure reading	116,193
Medicine and healthcare	89,069
Higher education, law and teacher training	79,115
English language teaching	36,514
Development	27,242
Vocational, technical and business	17,231
Reference	1,602



Two boys reading a book borrowed from a Solar Library in rural Malawi
© Book Aid International/Solar Aid/Chris Gagnon

Where we reached readers

 805 Public and community libraries	 101 Refugee camps and support centres
 280 Higher and further education libraries	 45 Prison libraries
 280 Medical libraries	 1,373 School libraries

Supporting our partners

 £110,840 Grants provided for local books	 609 Teachers and librarians trained
 45,190 Local books purchased	 133 School libraries established

Our impact: books to enrich education

In 2021, school closures during the pandemic left millions of children behind – so the need for books to help pupils catch up was greater than ever.

World Bank research in 2021 found that the number of 10-year-olds unable to read a simple book could soon rise as high as 70% in some low and middle income countries. Good-quality books in schools could help these children receive the education they deserve, but in the communities where we work well-stocked school libraries are rare. Many schools have no library at all.

So last year we provided brand-new, carefully selected books to school libraries and worked with our partners to establish new reading spaces in schools. The books we provided ranged from story books to support young readers right through to advanced non-fiction for secondary school pupils preparing for exams.

Supporting education partners

In 2021, we provided books to 47 partners who have education at the heart of their missions. These included the Tamer Institute of Community Education in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Ibba Girls School in South Sudan and VSO's education projects in Ethiopia, Malawi, Rwanda, South Sudan, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. These partners run programmes ranging from large-scale teacher training to projects that help the youngest pupils develop a love of reading – and the books we supply are a vital contribution to their work.

We also provided books to a number of organisations that focus on education for the most vulnerable children, both in and out of school. These partners include Street Child in Cameroon, Rwanda, Sierra Leone and Liberia, The Street Child Empowerment Foundation in Ghana and Salve International and Inspire Lives Africa in Uganda.

1,846
school libraries
supported



47
education
partners supported



Lighting the way to learning in rural Malawi

In many rural communities, few families have access to electricity. This means that for children – especially girls – daylight hours after school are taken up with chores, leaving little time for reading and learning.

In 2021, we worked with SolarAid to launch the *Solar Libraries* project, providing 8,984 books to 20 schools to create lending libraries stocked with books and solar lights. The programme allowed 17,964 students to continue reading after dark.

“The coming of new books has boosted learners’ confidence in reading and they truly enjoy reading. As a librarian I am able to give them appropriate books for their current reading level: not too difficult but challenging enough to encourage growth.”

Kondwani Malisawa, Librarian, Chinkhumbe Primary School, Malawi



A Malawian primary school pupil studying at home thanks to a *Solar Library*
© Book Aid International/SolarAid/Chris Gagnon

Establishing new school libraries

In addition to providing books to schools, we also ran a number of projects that established new school libraries in 2021.

In total these programmes established 133 new school libraries, provided more than 160,000 books to schools, trained 516 teachers in how to use books to enrich classroom learning and upskilled 19 local trainers. These trainers now have the skills to support local teachers in the years ahead.

Some of our programmes establish permanent school libraries. Through our *Inspiring Readers* programme, for example, we set up new libraries in 82 schools across Uganda, Sierra Leone, Zimbabwe and Kenya, benefiting 49,842 pupils.

Other programmes establish small ‘book box’ libraries in schools or less formal school reading spaces.

Our *Reading Around the Reserve* programme in Malawi established reading spaces in 71 schools, while our *Discovery Book Box* programme established eight ‘school libraries in a box’ in Cameroon, Ghana, The Gambia, Malawi, Kenya, Zimbabwe and Uganda, directly benefiting 5,715 pupils.

In 2021, we also increased the grants we provided to partners to buy locally published books to £110,840, funding the purchase of 45,190 books.

“
Before the donation from Book Aid International, we didn’t have any books to offer our pupils.

Florence Ayamga, Head Teacher, Gowrie Primary School, Ghana

516
teachers
trained



A teacher in Zambia leads a lesson using a donated book to enrich learning

45,190
local books
purchased



Students in Zimbabwe exploring a set of locally purchased books © Cynthia R Matonhodze/Book Aid International

New possibilities in Sierra Leone

Many of the schools where we work have room for a library but don’t have the funds or books to create a reading space.

Through our *Explorer Libraries* programme, we provide the books, funds and training to transform unused spaces into thriving school libraries.

In 2021, we set up 11 *Explorer Libraries* including one in the Namya Islamic Primary School in Sierra Leone.

“The new books have changed children’s perceptions. They are motivated to read and forge ahead with their education.”

Librarian, Namya Islamic Primary School, Sierra Leone



Readers at Namya Islamic Primary School enjoying their *Explorer Library*

Our impact: books in communities

In far too many places, books remain a luxury – out of reach for huge numbers of people.

Public and community libraries often offer the only chance for people to read, but many lack the funds to buy new books. Community libraries, in particular, are often run by volunteers with very few resources.

In 2021 we provided brand-new books of all types to 270 public libraries and 535 community libraries. They ranged from networks of libraries spanning entire countries to small community libraries that serve a single village. Many have outreach programmes and mobile libraries that also benefited from the books we provided.

Working with partners to promote reading

In addition to providing books, we also work with our partners to raise awareness of the importance of libraries and reading. In 2021, we provided books to partners who specifically focus on promoting reading in The Gambia, Ghana, Lebanon, Palestine and Somaliland. These books are a vital resource for these partners, helping them encourage reading in their communities.

We also expanded our *Reading Promotion* programme in 2021, supporting 12 partners to run a total of 12 events which promoted the value of books, raising the profile of local libraries and encouraging people to read.

805

libraries supported



2,865

people involved in reading promotion



A new container library for Zanzibar

Our *Community Container Library* programme transforms shipping containers into thriving libraries. We provide the funds to refurbish each shipping container, along with a collection of books chosen for the local community, a grant to buy locally published books and training for librarians. The libraries are then run by our local partner.

Working with Zanzibar Library Service, we began building our second container library in Southern Zanzibar in May 2021. Located in Dunga, a town of 76,000 people that previously had no library, it has already become a community hub stocked with 5,000 UK-donated books and 1,192 locally purchased books.

“Nowadays, learners are able to spend time in the library and escape other negative activities happening in the community. Adults regard the library as a safe space for their children. With this library, female students in these rural areas are developing their knowledge through reading.”

Nuru Khatib Mirat, Librarian,
Dunga Community Container Library



The finished Community Container Library in Dunga, Zanzibar

Celebrating community reading

In 2021 we launched the *Community Reading Award* project, which offered grants of £1,400 to launch innovative projects and inspire more people to read in the community. Winners included:

- › The I am a Story Champ project, which will involve 400 vulnerable children in new community reading centres and through a reading competition in Uganda
- › The Love Through Books project, which will establish a library in the Africa Hope Centre Orphanage in Nairobi
- › The Ekon Community Literacy Project, which will set up a community library in the fishing community of Ekon, Ghana

AfLIA (The African Library and Information Associations and Institutions) helped to select the winners, and they commented on how this new programme supports African libraries:

“AfLIA is enthused with this Community Reading Award that encourages African libraries to think innovatively about how to reach and provide information and literacy services that are not just within the four walls of the library.”

Dr Helena Asamoah-Hassa, AfLIA Executive Director



A child reads with a Mummy Matters staff member in Uganda

Inspiring reading at school and home

In 2021, we expanded our *Books to Go* programme, which establishes lending libraries in schools and trains teachers in how to encourage children to read both in school and at home with families.

In 2021, we established 20 *Books to Go* libraries in 20 primary schools across Kenya, Ghana, Sierra Leone and Zanzibar – and whole families are feeling the benefit.

“My children came home and told me they have a library in the school. I came to the school to confirm whether it was true and, when I did, I was able to borrow three books. I dropped out in class eight, so reading right now is my only hope to ensure that I gain knowledge and also motivate my children to read.”

Simon Kimutai, parent, Wewo Primary School, Kenya



A mum reads with her children at home thanks to Books to Go in Sierra Leone

Our impact: books during crisis

In 2021, the number of people around the world forced to flee their homes rose to more than 82 million.

The impact of a crisis on education and learning can be devastating, with millions of people robbed of the chance to read. In 2021 we worked with partners worldwide to create the opportunity for people who have been displaced or who live in communities where conflict is an everyday reality to access books.

Supporting refugees

Kakuma Refugee Camp in Kenya is one of the world's largest refugee camps. It is home to 196,666 people and, in 2021, we worked to enrich education across the camp. Through our *Reading for All* programme we provided 12,000 brand-new books to eight primary schools in the camp and equipped five secondary schools with study books.

Elsewhere, we also reached many thousands more refugees by providing books to Shire Refugee Camp Library in Ethiopia, to Dadaab refugee settlement in Kenya, to Bidi Bidi, Navikale and Kyaka II refugee settlements in Uganda, to the Nyarugusu refugee camp in Tanzania and to 23 refugee camps across Greece. In total, we provided 56,721 books to refugees around the world.

"I love reading. Especially, I love reading history. To be a lawyer you need to be good in languages. You need to be good in English. So sometimes I do read a lot of novels too. I read them to improve my vocabulary and make my career bright."

Justin, refugee, Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya

Reaching people living with conflict

In 2021 we provided books to eight countries where people live with the daily impact of ongoing conflicts: Cameroon, Ethiopia, Iraq, Palestine, Somalia, Somaliland, South Sudan and Syria. Books in these communities provide a lifeline, enabling people in some of the world's most marginalised communities to study, learn and escape into books.

One of our new partners in 2021 was Yezidi Emergency Support (YES), a local organisation that supports the minority Yezidi community in Iraq. Yezidis were brutally targeted by ISIS in 2014 and, last year, we provided 1,208 books to support five reading spaces designed to support Yezidi children.

"Every day, queues of children all dressed in their best clothes wait at the door and plead to be allowed to come to our child-friendly reading space."

Anna Norona, Yezidi Emergency Support, Iraq

101
refugee
settings supported



Justin on his way to school in Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya

207,578
books provided
to conflict-affected
countries



Readers in a YES Centre enjoying a reading lesson

Our impact: books for professionals

In many of the countries we work in, professionals and higher education students face multiple barriers to accessing up to date information.

Libraries often lack the funds to buy books for higher-education students, and practising professionals are also unable to purchase the up to date books that they need. Unreliable internet and electricity mean that digital information is often out of reach as well.

In response, in 2021 we provided 79,115 higher education books, law and teacher training books and 89,069 medical books around the world to support higher-education students and practising professionals in a variety of fields. Our partners included the Hawassa University in Ethiopia, AMREF Health Africa in Kenya, the University of Liberia and the College of Medicine at the University of Malawi.

Supporting healthcare providers

We provided a wide range of brand-new medical books to universities, colleges, hospitals and clinics around the world, reaching trainee doctors and nurses and helping professionals to keep building their skills.

One of the medical training facilities we supported in 2021 was the Edna Adan Maternity Hospital in Somaliland. We provided 1,167 books to give the next generation of midwives access to the information they need to offer the best possible support to every mother and baby in their care.

"Without books, we cannot develop. Without books, we cannot get trained. Without books, we cannot get out of the situation that we are in. In Somaliland, there's no bookshop I can walk to and just buy books from, and there's nobody like Book Aid International. When I first opened the hospital, the first gift of books were received from Book Aid International."

Edna Adan Ismail, Director and Founder, Edna Adan Maternity Hospital

288
Medical
libraries supported



Edna Adan Ismail, centre, in The Edna Adan Maternity Hospital Library with her students

Reaching universities

A lack of books puts students' education and future success in jeopardy so last year we provided higher-education books to universities in 12 countries. They covered topics ranging from history to the social sciences to law.

Our focus is on universities where students face the greatest barriers to reading and learning. Last year that included working with the University of Mosul to restore its library, which was deliberately destroyed by IS in 2014. In 2021, the library reopened, and we were pleased to support students with a donation of 10,295 books.

"I have always believed that libraries are lighthouses of knowledge – providing a beacon for those who value learning... Now our lighthouse is once again burning bright. Libraries can only thrive when they are full of inspiring, wonderful books – and I join the university community in thanking Book Aid International for its support."

Dr Alaa Hamdon, University of Mosul Lecturer and Founder, Mosul Book Bridge

280
higher education
libraries supported



Students studying from UK-donated books at The University of Mosul

Meeting our strategic goals

2021 marks the end of our *Vision 2020* strategy, and our charity has grown and changed significantly since the strategy was launched in 2017.

Our *Vision 2020: Where Books Change Lives* strategy was due to guide our work until 2020. In light of the pandemic, we extended the strategy for one more year.

Five key objectives shaped our work during the strategic period and, in meeting them, we have grown our partner network, increased our focus on reaching people with the least access to books and developed new ways to support education.

Our performance against our five key objectives is outlined here.

Objective one: Increase the number of books we send every year to 1.5m

Between 2016 and 2018, the number of books we provided grew annually, and in 2018, we sent 1,286,538 books around the world.

Since 2020, our ability to send books has been reduced due to the pandemic, so we have not been able to reach the initial targets we set ourselves.

However, we provided more than one million books in 2021 and, looking to the future, we still hope to achieve our 1.5 million book target.



A shipment of books leaving our London warehouse


1.28m
books sent in
2018

Objective two: Donate an estimated 35% of books specifically to five priority beneficiary groups

Our focus for this strategy has been on reaching people who have been displaced or who live in fragile states, pupils in poorly resourced schools, learners in the community, healthcare providers and educators and excluded or disadvantaged groups and individuals.

We have made significant progress in meeting this goal. In 2016 we were working with 42 partners which supported these priority groups and provided them with a total of 151,164 books. In 2021, those numbers rose to 119 partners and 609,096 books.




59.8%
of books
donated to
priority
groups in 2021

Books being unloaded in Syria

Objective three: Continue our work to encourage children's reading by establishing more than 150 Children's Corners in public and community libraries

In 2021, we opened two new *Children's Corners* – one at Siilaanyo National Library in Somaliland and one at the Accra Central Library in Ghana.

These bring us to a total of 150 *Children's Corners* established since 2016.



A child enjoying reading in the Siilaanyo National Library *Children's Corner* in Somaliland


150
*Children's
Corners
opened*

Objective four: Support more than 250,000 school pupils with reading resources through *Inspiring Readers*, our schools outreach programme

We were pleased to have exceeded this target. We have now reached 290,883 children through *Inspiring Readers* across seven African countries.

Through this programme, we have also trained 113 librarians and 880 teachers, provided 372,473 books across 53 libraries and 297 schools, and funded the purchase of more than 50,000 locally published books.



A student in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, reads a donated book thanks to *Inspiring Readers*. © KB Mpofu/Book Aid International


290,883
pupils reached

Objective five: Advocate for the value of reading and be able to demonstrate that we have helped to support and develop a culture of reading

Our *Reading Promotion* campaign now spans 12 countries across Africa, compared with five in 2016. Through the campaign, our library partners run events to engage children and partners with reading.

We have also built partnerships with NGOs that exist to promote reading, most recently in Bhutan, The Gambia, Ghana, Lebanon, Palestine and Somaliland.



A speech by Hayford Siaw, director of Ghana Library Authority, at a *Reading Promotion* event in Ghana. © Ghana Library Authority


12
countries
involved in
*Reading
Promotion*

Meet our supporters

We are only able to give millions of people the opportunity to read because we are supported by thousands of people in the UK. Some give £6 a month, others make multi-year grants. But they all contribute to a world where everyone has access to books.



“ Books brought me so much joy.

We are incredibly grateful to our community of individual donors and the members of our Reverse Book Club who recognise the transformational power of books and want to share that with others.

“Books brought me so much joy when I was a child. I know that they can bring a valuable escape in difficult situations and be incredibly empowering, especially for women.”

Carol Whitworth, donor, Book Aid International

“ Our Trustees are very proud of their long partnership with Book Aid International.

Trust and foundation support is vital in helping us deliver so many of our projects and we are very grateful to both our long-standing supporters and those who are new to us.

“The Bernard Sunley Foundation has supported Book Aid International for over 30 years and has particularly focused on helping to fund *Children's Corners* in libraries across Africa. Our Trustees are very proud of their long partnership with Book Aid International that has improved the quality of life – through books and a love of reading – for many thousands of children.”

Sue Davies, Director, Bernard Sunley Foundation



“ Blackwell's is a supporter of Book Aid International because we believe that books are powerful.

Working with corporate supporters whose values align with ours allows us to ensure more people benefit from the power of books. We are very grateful to organisations which choose to support us in this way.

“Blackwell's is a strong supporter of Book Aid International because, like them, we believe that books are powerful. We are thrilled to be continuing our support of this wonderful organisation. It is a rare joy to be in a partnership where our values are so closely aligned.”

Kate Stilborn, Operations and Customer Service Director, Blackwell's



“ Book Aid International's mission clearly aligns with Postcode Education Trust's vision.

People's Postcode Lottery has stood beside us since 2015 – offering funds, advice and connections with charities with whom we can collaborate. Their funding comes from the many thousands who play the lottery every month – and to them we offer our heartfelt thanks.

“Players of People's Postcode Lottery have raised over £3 million for Book Aid International since 2018. Their mission clearly aligns with Postcode Education Trust's vision for all children to have access to an inclusive and quality education whilst promoting sustainable and lifelong learning opportunities.”

Laura Chow, Head of Charities, People's Postcode Lottery

“ We are indeed very lucky.

While in 2021 our warehouse remained closed to volunteers in line with Covid restrictions, we welcomed remote volunteers who donated 118 hours supporting our communications and fundraising teams. Their work freed up staff time to deliver essential services, and gave volunteers a sense of connection to readers around the world.

“While I was transcribing interviews as a Book Aid International volunteer, I was struck by the joy the children experience when receiving something as simple as a colourful story book. My two young boys have shelves full of them but to a child in Uganda they're a game changer, a chance to take pride in learning and a window into something magical. We are indeed very lucky.”

Chris Buck, volunteer, Lexis Nexis



“ Books and libraries have such a vital role to play.

Authors, celebrities and influencers are an essential part of our efforts to raise awareness of our work and of the need for books around the world. They represent us at high-profile events, help us spread the word online and are vital to our press coverage every year. We cannot thank them enough for their support.

“Books and libraries have such a vital role to play after conflict, and it has been my privilege to be a part of the Siilaanyo National Library's story. I have seen how brand-new books provided by Book Aid International have helped to develop the Siilaanyo National Library into what it is today, and so I'm delighted to be a part of this Book Aid International event at the Hay Festival.”

Rageh Omaar, journalist, author and broadcaster

Our book donors

The support of the publishing industry is critical to our work. All of the books that we send from the UK are donated to us brand-new and free of charge, and 99.2% of those books are donated by publishers.

The brand-new books that we receive are highly valued by our partners and by readers, and the generosity of our book donors in the UK gives millions of people around the world the opportunity to read.

Our publisher partners

Last year, 106 publishers donated 889,644 books to our charity.

We are supported by many of the world’s leading publishers, some of which donated more than 100,000 books to us last year. We also receive books from a range of independent publishers who donate a smaller number of books but still have a huge impact on readers worldwide.

Publishers donate a wide variety of books to us – from picture books for the youngest readers right through to advanced law and medical texts. This generosity allows us to support readers of every age and from every walk of life.

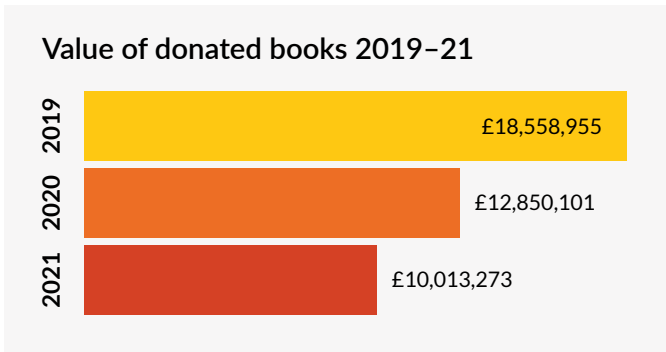
In 2021, we were especially grateful for the significant support from: Bloomsbury Publishing, Cambridge University Press, Coordination Group Publications, Hachette UK, HarperCollins Publishers, Macmillan, Oxford University Press, Penguin Random House, RELX Elsevier, Sage Publications, Taylor & Francis and Wiley.

“Donating to Book Aid International is an important part of our CSR programme and we are proud to support them. We know that when we send them books they will have a direct and positive impact on children and adults who need them most around the world.”

Sarah McPhee, Head of Corporate Social Responsibility and Events, HarperCollins

The value of the books we receive

In 2021, the books that publishers donated to us were worth £10,013,273. This is less than 2020 and 2019 when we received large numbers of high-value medical and law texts.



We value our books based on Nielsen Bookscan prices and we apply an overall 30% discount from the full Recommended Retail Price to allow for the estimated market discount for third-party commercial buyers.

Because publishers donate books to us free of charge, it costs just £2 to receive, store, select and send a book worth an average of £13. That average is calculated using the value of the books we have sent over the past five years as shown in the table below.

Year	Books sent (no.)	Value books sent	Discounted cost per book*
2021	1,007,449	£13,279,151	£13
2020	867,567	£11,066,372	£13
2019	1,211,423	£18,229,466	£15
2018	1,193,263	£16,047,872	£13
2017	938,330	£10,300,049	£11
Running average			£13

*Rounded to nearest pound

Connecting with publishers

We maintain strong relationships with the International Publishers Association (IPA) and the Publishers Association to ensure that we stay involved in industry conversations and understand publishers’ concerns and priorities.

International book fairs provide an invaluable opportunity to stay connected to our friends in the book trade. This year we were delighted to be invited to take part in a panel at the Sharjah International Book Fair Publishers’ conference.

We also held our own seminar at the London Book Fair. We were joined by Sarah Odedina, editor-at-large at Pushkin Children’s Books, Pam Dix, Chair of IBBY UK, and Sita Brahmachari, award-winning writer, to discuss why access to children’s books is part of creating a fairer future for millions. The panel was chaired by Bodour Al Qasimi, President of The IPA, who commented on the event:

“Access to a choice of relevant, good quality books can make all the difference to a child’s life and prospects, which is why it is a priority issue for the IPA. It was very interesting to hear about the work being done by our panellists to address book access inequities, and to share the IPA’s experiences around the initiatives it is leading in this field, in particular in developing countries.”

Bodour Al Qasimi, President, IPA; Founder and CEO, Kalimat Group; Founder, Emirates Publishers Association

We also regularly secure coverage of our work in the BookSeller, BookBrunch and Publishing Perspectives which raises awareness of the need for and value of books. Last year these publications covered our work 15 times.

“
We know that when we send Book Aid International books they will have a direct and positive impact on children and adults who need them most around the world.”

Sarah McPhee, Head of Corporate Social Responsibility and Events, HarperCollins

Financial support from book donors

Some publishers donate funds to us as well as books. In 2021, publishing partners gave £20,263 to create an *Explorer Library* in Kenya, send books to refugees in South Sudan and the Occupied Palestinian Territories and to support some of the world’s most vulnerable readers.

We were also delighted to receive a grant of £27,533 from The Africa Publishing Innovation Fund (APIF), which is a trust developed through a collaboration between the IPA and Dubai Cares.

This enabled us to establish a *Community Container Library* in the town of Dunga in Zanzibar, giving the city’s 76,000 residents local access to books for the first time.

“
Access to a choice of relevant, good quality books can make all the difference to a child’s life and prospects.”

Bodour Al Qasimi, President, International Publishers Association



Financial overview 2021

At Book Aid International all of our income is voluntary – we receive no government grants.

Total income

In 2021 our total income was £12,567,896, of which £2,554,623 was cash and £10,013,273 was the value of books donated to us by UK publishers.

2021's cash income was £2,554,623. This was a significant increase of £597,272 from 2020's income of £1,957,351.

Of cash income in 2021, £1,489,090 was unrestricted income compared to £1,194,063 in 2020. This funded our work providing books around the world.

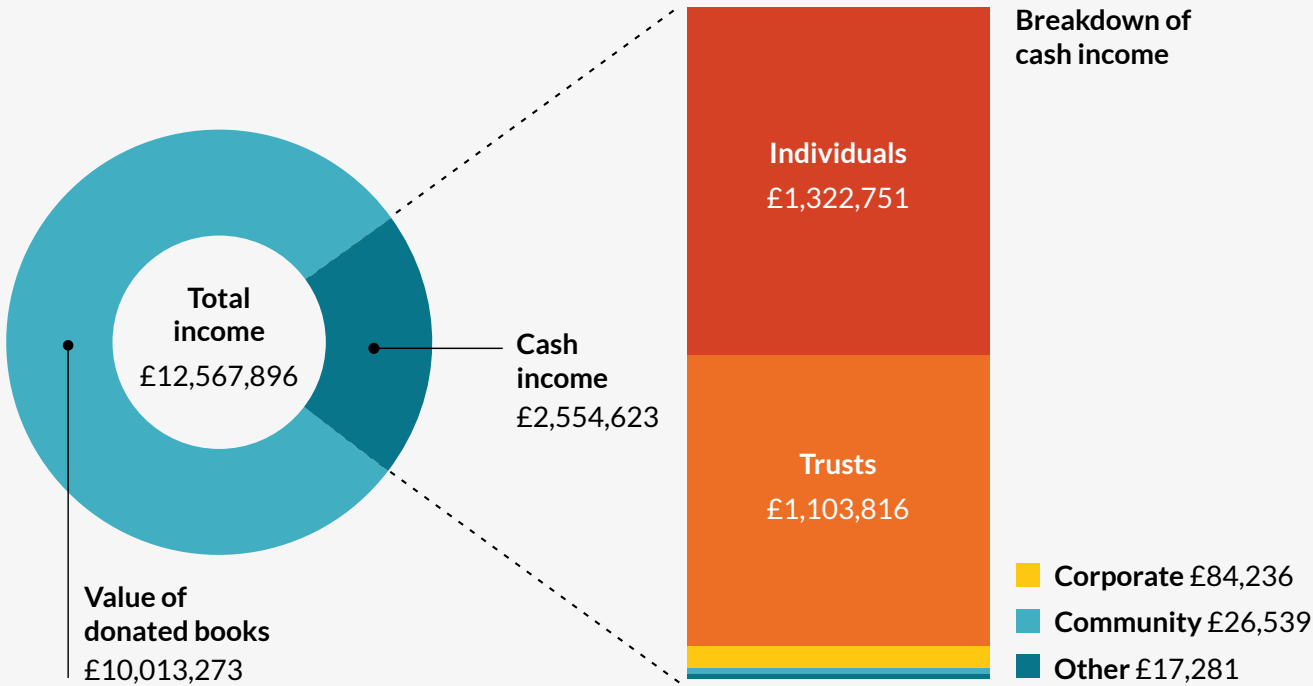
This increase in unrestricted income was primarily a result of continued growth and investment in our individual giving programme which performed strongly despite the pandemic.

There was also an increase in unrestricted income from trusts, major donors and legators. However, community fundraising continued to feel the effects of Covid restrictions and income from this stream was lower than we have seen in previous years.

We received restricted income of £1,065,533 in 2021 compared to £763,287 in 2020.

This income was used to support project activity working with our partners around the world to train teachers and librarians, establish school libraries and support public and community libraries.

This significant increase is because of a substantial rise in trust funding for the year, some of which was a one-off. Restricted income from major donors and corporate supporters remained steady.



Total expenditure

Our total expenditure was £15,587,726, of which £2,308,575 was cash expenditure and £13,279,151 was the value of the books we provided around the world.

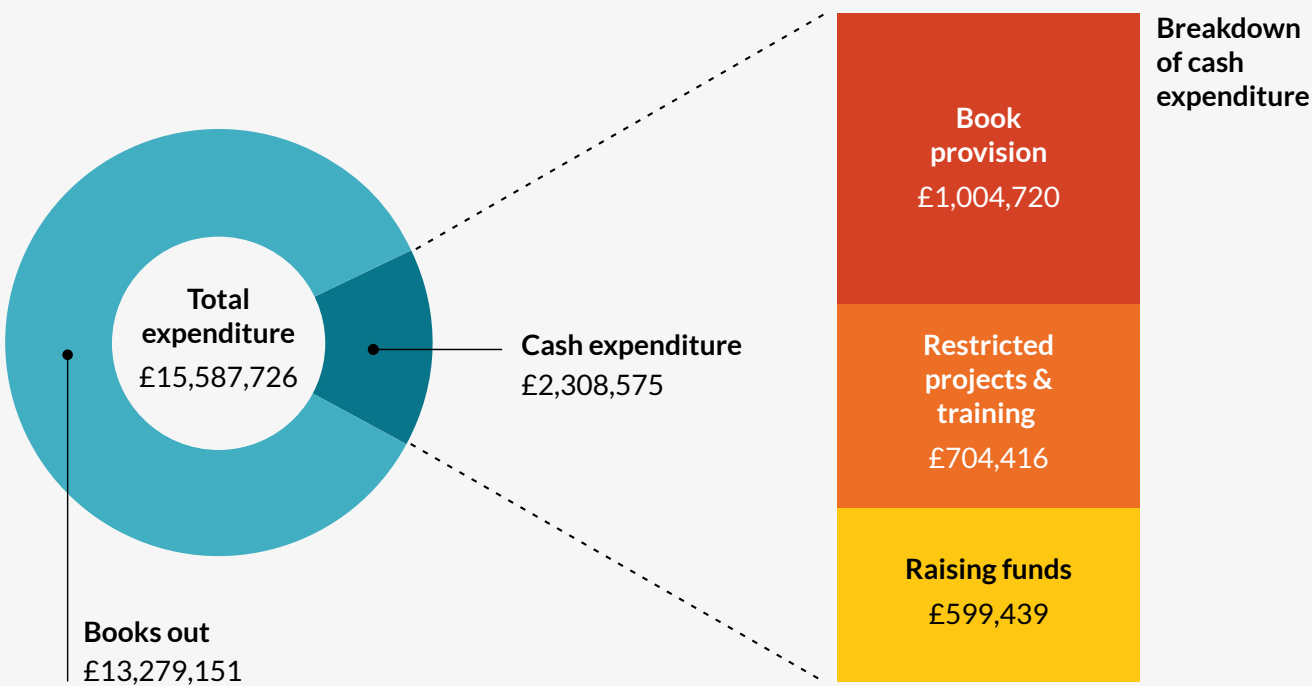
2021's cash expenditure of £2,308,575 was substantially higher than the 2020 figure of £1,902,852.

The majority of this additional expenditure was a result of increased project spending and an expanded

programme as a result of the additional trust income received in the year.

We continued to invest in fundraising, particularly in the area of new donor acquisition, to ensure the future sustainability of the organisation.

The relatively large increase also results from lower expenditure in 2020, when our activities were affected by UK and international Covid restrictions.



Maintaining reserves

We maintain sufficient unrestricted cash reserves to ensure that we can deliver our planned commitments in the event of unforeseen financial challenges. The minimum level of reserves we must hold is agreed by our Board of Trustees and monitored regularly.

In 2021, the minimum level was confirmed at a range between £500,000 and £550,000.

We ended 2021 with £571,106 in free reserves, higher than anticipated as a result of better than anticipated funding results in 2021.

For more information on our finances, including our full audited accounts, see pages 36 to 57.



Alison Tweed
Chief Executive,
Book Aid International

The future

In 2021 the global pandemic continued to impact millions of children in their learning, push more people into poverty and further erode progress towards the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

Global displacement through conflict and climate change reached new levels, with more than 80 million people displaced from their homes at the end of the year.

For people living in these very challenging situations access to books and education became even less attainable in 2021. Yet the need for books in people's lives has never been greater.

At Book Aid International we know books give people power. A book offers information, inspiration, hope, joy. And so much more. We are committed to sharing the power of books with even more people in the years to come because we know that books help build a more equal world.

The work we have done to date, the partnerships we have developed and the support we have generated will be the foundation for everything we will do in the years ahead.

In 2022 we launch our new strategy for 2022 to 2025: *The Power of Books*. It is based on four key goals: equity, engagement, partnership and advocacy.

To ensure equity of access to books we will focus our work on the places with fewest resources, and on the most marginalised communities. To get people engaged with reading we will support school, public and community libraries, and anywhere where people can access books and read. And we will take every opportunity to advocate for the power of books to improve and change lives.

To do all this we will call on the support of publishers and donors, the skills and determination of our partners and the encouragement of our many friends who believe, as we do, in the power of books.

Thank you for helping us work towards our vision of a world where everyone has access to books. I do hope you will continue to support us in the years ahead.

Alison Tweed

“
The work we have
done to date, the
partnerships we
have developed and
the support we have
generated will be
the foundation for
everything we will do
in the years ahead.”

Our partners

Below is a full list of all our overseas partners to whom we sent books directly in 2021. We thank them all for their hard work.

Bhutan

Khesar Gyalpo
University of Medical
Sciences
READ Bhutan
Royal University of
Bhutan

Cameroon

Education Information
Services International
Street Child

Ethiopia

British Council
CODE Ethiopia
Ethiopia Knowledge
and Technology
Transfer Society
Ethiopia Reads
Hawassa University
Jesuit Refugee Services
Voluntary Services
Overseas

Gambia

Binti International
Gambia National
Library Service
Unique Foundation

Ghana

Afrikids
Biblione
Community Action
Edu-Spots Ghana
Ghana Library
Authority
Humanitas
International Board on
Books for Young People
Rainbow Trust
Sabre
Street Children
Empowerment
Foundation
Teach 2 Teach
The Olinga Foundation

Greece

Danish Refugee
Council
A Drop in the Ocean
Echo 100 Plus

Education Community
Hope & Opportunity
Iliaktida
Merimna

Open Cultural Centre
Solidarity Now
Soup & Socks
Starfish Foundation
Wave of Hope for the
Future

India

Rochun

Iraq

Mosul University
Yezidi Emergency
Support

Jordan

Blumont International

Kenya

Akili Trust
AMREF Health Africa
Dandora Dumpsite
Rehabilitation Group
Dignitas
Exposing Hope
I Choose Life
Jesuit Refugee
Service Kenya
Justice Defenders
Kenya Medical
Training College
Kenya National
Library Service
Lutheran World
Services
Rescue Wing
St Joseph the Worker
Parish Development
Programme
Windle Trust

Lebanon

Assabil Association
International Board
on Books for Young
People

Liberia

Street Child
University of Liberia
We Care

Malawi

African Parks
College of Medicine,
University of Malawi
Malawi College of
Health Science
Malawi Leaders of
Learning
Malawi National
Library Service
Solar Aid
St John of God College
of Health Science
Volunteer Service
Overseas

Occupied Palestinian Territories

Gaza Health Science
Library
Itijah Youth
Organisation
International Board on
Books for Young People
Tamer Institute of
Community Education

Rwanda

Girls' Dignity for
Nation
Ineza Foundation
Kigali Public Library
Street Child
University of Rwanda
VSO Rwanda

Sierra Leone

EducAID
Save the Needy
Sierra Leone Library
Board
Street Child
USL Institute of Public
Administration and
Management

Somalia

Iftiin Education and
Development

Somaliland

Edna Adan University
Hospital
Siilaanyo National
Library

South Sudan

Bishop Mazzoldi
Memorial Primary
School
Ibba School
Jesuit Refugee Service
Kuajok Community
College
Mary's College of
Nursing and Midwifery
Medicins Sans
Frontiers
Save the Children
St John's College Wau
St John's Yambio
Campus of the
Catholic University of
South Sudan
St Mary's College
Save the Children
South University of
Medicine Science
University of Juba
Windle International
Women Relief
Organisation

Syria

Action for Humanity

Tanzania

Child Support Tanzania
Evangelical Lutheran
Church of Tanzania
Muhimbili University
of Health and Allied
Sciences
New Chapter
Development for
Youth
Refugee Youth
Empowerment
Network
State University of
Zanzibar
Sumait University
Tanzania Library
Services Board
Tanzanian Training
Centre for
International Health
Zanzibar Library
Services

Uganda

African Revival,
All Saints University
Lango
Butabika National
Mental Referral Hospital
Fortportal International
Nursing School
Gejja Women Foundation
Good Samaritan Uganda
Inspire Lives Africa
International Board on
Books for Young People
Jango International
Jesuit Refugee Service
Justice Defenders
Kyambogo University
National Library of
Uganda
School of Hygiene Mbale
SALVE International
Soft Power Education
SOS Children's Village
Street Child
Rwamwanja Rural
Foundation
Tusome Africa
Uganda Community
Libraries Association
Uganda Prison Service
Uganda Protestant
Medical Bureau
Volunteer Services
Overseas
Zambia
African Parks
Copperbelt University
University Teaching
Hospital Lusaka
Zambia Library Service
Zimbabwe
Bulawayo Distribution
Committee
Harare Distribution
Committee
International Board on
Books for Young People
Volunteer Service
Overseas
Zambesi Schoolbook
Project

With thanks to...

We would like to thank the following supporters in particular as well as those who wish to remain anonymous.

Our book donors and corporate partners

Agatha Christie Ltd
Agency for Legal Deposit Libraries
Aggreko PLC
Al Saqi Bookshop
ALCS
Alice Dartnell
Amazon.co.uk
Arcturus Publishing
BackList Books
Baker Books
Barrington Stoke
BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT
Beaux Books
Blackrock
Blackwell's Bookshop
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Clinical Pocket Reference
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Crooks Creative
Crown House
Daunt Books
David Fickling Books
Derby Book Festival
Dunedin Academic Press
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Elwin Street Productions
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Everymans Library

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Gale, A Cengage Company
Golden Oak Press
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Griffin Books
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HarperCollins Publishers
Haven Books
Heath Educational Books
Human Kinetics Publishing
ICE Publishing
Innova Press
Ituri Publications
Kube Publishing
LBA Books
Letterbox Library
Little Tiger Group
Macmillan
Make Believe Ideas
Marylebone Books
Maverick Arts Publishing
McGraw Hill Education
Mending House Publishing Inc
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Moleskine Foundation
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Phaidon Press
Picaresque Books

Practical Action Publishing
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Profile Books
ProQuest
Publishers Licensing Society
Pushkin Press
Quarto Publishing Group
Quentin Blake
Reed Business Information Ltd
RELX Elsevier
Roger Lane
Royal National Institute of Blind People
Royal Society
Sage Publications
Sandstone Press
Scholastic Corporation
Scion Publishing Ltd
Scribe Publications
Shared Services Connected Limited
Silver Jungle
SOAS University of London
Taylor & Francis
Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation
Teeth Relief
The Accenture Foundation
The Blair Partnership
The Copyright Licensing Agency Ltd
The Reading Agency
The Society of Authors
Think Publishing
Tropical Health Technology
Ulverscroft
United Agents
Usborne Publishing
Walker Books
Watkins Publishing
What on Earth Books
White Fox Publishing
Wiley
Wiley Europe Ltd
Willoughby Book Club
WME Agency

Our trust supporters

Africa Publishing Innovation Fund
Alan Cadbury Trust
Arthur Stevens Charitable Trust
Beatrice Laing Trust
Corton Hill Trust
D R Fine Charitable Trust
Dubai Cares
Eva Reckitt Trust Fund
Fresh Leaf Charitable Foundation
GMC Trust
Intouch Global Foundation
Kilpatrick Fraser Charitable Trust
Merriman Charitable Foundation
Mona Hatoum Foundation
Montier Charitable Trust
Peacock Charitable Trust
Scotland Community Foundation
The 29th May 1961 Charitable Trust
The Allan & Nesta Ferguson Charitable Trust
The Ardwick Trust
The Beit Trust
The Bernard Sunley Charitable Foundation
The Bhutan Society Trust
The Bryan Guinness Charitable Trust
The E Alec Colman Charitable Fund Limited
The Earlswood Charitable Trust
The Fulmer Charitable Trust
The GivingForce Foundation
The Henry and Rebecca Tinsley Charitable Trust
The Law Society Charity
The Lennox Hannay Charitable Trust

The Michael and Anna Wix Charitable Trust
The MuchLoved Charitable Trust
The People's Postcode Lottery
The Rest-Harrow Trust
The Rhododendron Trust
The Tony and Audrey Watson Charitable Trust
The Veronica Awdry Charitable Trust
Unwin Charitable Trust

Our volunteers, ambassadors and individual supporters

Caroline Burton
Christopher and Gilda Haskins
David Brewer
Dhivya O'Connor
Diana Hardman
Eleanor and David Holloway
Emma and Graham Defries
Francis Crewdson
Gillian Goss
Harriet Hewitson
Helen Esmonde
Jacobs Ladder Charity Fund
Jane Jewell
Jane Penson
Jane Tappuni
Jeremy and Dora Warren
Kathy Rooney
Louisa Symington
Malcolm Farrer-Brown
Matt Nixon
Peter Goodwin
Peter Waller and Erica Zimmer
Philip Walters MBE

Robert Farrer-Brown
Rosie Glazebrook
Sarah McCullough
Sir Mark and Lady Moody-Stuart
Stephanie and Roderick White
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David Nicholls
Edmund De Waal
Emily Maitlis
Hay Festival
John Simpson
Jonathan Dimpleby
Konnie Huq
Levison Wood
Onjali Q Rauf
Paul Cooper
Rageh Omaar
Sir Michael Palin
Sita Brahmachar
The Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition
World Book Day
Writers' & Artists' Yearbook

In addition to all those named above, we would like to thank all of those who supported us anonymously in 2021.

Patrons, trustees and officials

Patron

HRH The Duke of Edinburgh
KG KT OM (until April 2021)

President

Nigel Newton

Vice President

Professor Kingo Mchombu

Chief Executive and Company Secretary

Alison Tweed



Board

Chair

Lord Paul Boateng

Honorary Treasurer

Nicholas Allen

Trustees

Dhivya O'Connor
Jonathan Hargreaves
Zainab Umar
Pam Dix
Charly Nobbs
Robert Sulley

Our fundraising

In 2021 we raised £2,537,342 against an original budget of £2,025,914.

Income shortfalls in community giving were more than made up by increased Trust and Individual Giving income, including an additional award from players of People's Postcode Lottery of £425,000.

Our standards

We are committed to maintaining the highest standards in our fundraising in line with our Supporter Promise, which is displayed in the footer of every page on our website: bookaid.org. In 2021, we remained registered with the Information Commissioner's Office and the Fundraising Regulator.

We adhere to the standards of both organisations and respond to changes in the regulatory framework. We also maintained our Treating Donors Fairly policy which identifies groups of individuals who may be vulnerable and defines our approach to treating these individuals with respect and care.

We continue to place our donors at the centre of our fundraising programmes, offering flexibility in how they hear from us in line with GDPR regulations. There were no reported data breaches in 2021.

Commercial partners and fundraising agencies

The commercial participators with which we exchanged supporter data included print management (DMP), email marketing (MailChimp), payment processing (including Access Paysuite, WooCommerce, PayPal, Stripe, JustGiving and Virgin Money Giving), database software (Blackbaud), Gift Aid claims (HRMC) and IT support (Wanstor).

Each of these organisations has a privacy policy, which is available on its website, and we maintain a data processing agreement with each, as required by GDPR regulations.

Fundraising feedback

In 2021 we did not receive any complaints about our fundraising. Seven donors unsubscribed from our communications through the Fundraising Preference Service.

Investing in the future

In 2021, donor acquisition activities took place largely through unaddressed media inserts in publications. Complete return on investment through these campaigns does not occur in the year of the activity, but is based on taking a longer-term view of the lifetime value of each new donor, many of whom continue their support for years.

Managing our finances

We are committed to outstanding financial management that safeguards the money we receive and ensures that our organisation is sustainable in the long term. By providing full details of all our financial management, how we comply with all relevant regulation and how we manage our funds, we aim to ensure that we earn the trust placed in us by our partners, beneficiaries and supporters.

Staff and staffing costs

In 2021, we employed an average of 31 (27.6 FTE) staff based in Camberwell who are divided into five teams: Operations, Fundraising, Communications, Programmes and Finance. The numbers include two staff members in Nairobi, Kenya, who are part of our Programmes team. This table details our salary costs:

Team	Salary costs	FT
Book Provision	£380,647	10.96
Restricted Projects and Training	£193,568	4.60
Fundraising	£237,398	6.46
Management and Operational	£279,195	5.18
Total	£1,090,809	27.6

Pension liability

We are part of The Pensions Trust scheme, a multi-employer scheme that provides benefits to some 638 non-associated participating employers. The scheme is a defined-benefit scheme subject to the funding legislation outlined in the Pensions Act 2004 which came into force on 30th December 2005. The provision in respect of the deficit repayment plan is £45,786 (2020: £153,000) and this has been recognised in the accounts as required by FRS 102. Please see note 16 on page 50 for more detail.

Reserves policy and actuals

Our Board meets annually to consider the resources that will be required to meet our long-term objectives and fulfil our commitments. The Board also considers the risks we face and sets a minimum free reserves policy at a level it believes would sustain our work while we recovered from any future shortfalls in income or unforeseen expenditure. The reserves have been set to ensure we have the time to adjust to a serious issue or a drop in funding and are more than required for the management of a closure.

In 2021, the free reserves level set by the Board was between £500,000 and £550,000. Our free reserves were £571,106 (2020: £677,146) thanks to strong Individual giving funding and low attrition. The relatively high free reserves is also as a result of better than anticipated funding in 2021. Restricted reserves are not available for general purposes and are for restricted programmes spanning two or more financial years. There was a balance at the end of 2021 of £326,061 (2020: £189,947).

Reserves	31-Dec-21	31-Dec-20
Total unrestricted reserves	8,014,522	10,375,816
Less donated books reserve	-4,824,275	-8,090,153
Less unrestricted net fixed assets	-2,016,126	-1,280,502
Less designated reserves	-603,015	-328,015
Free reserves	571,106	677,146
Restricted reserves	326,061	189,947

Donations in kind

In 2021 99.2% (2020 – 99.9%) of the books we sent were donated as Gifts in Kind by the UK publishing industry. The following table expresses the value of the books we received, retained and supplied in 2021 compared with preceding years:

Book stock	2021	2020	2019
GIK book stock start of year	£8,090,153	£6,306,425	£5,976,936
Books received	£10,013,273	£12,850,101	£18,558,955
Books sent	-£13,279,151	-£11,066,372	-£18,229,466
GIK book stock year end	£4,824,275	£8,090,153	£6,306,425

Ongoing impact of Covid

In response to the Covid pandemic and its ongoing impact, the Finance and Audit Committee (FAC) conducted an exercise to arrive at an opinion on the funds of the organisation up to and beyond the end of 2023. Based on the information supplied and the modelling performed, the FAC reported to the Board that in their opinion the organisation was sufficiently resourced to operate on a going concern basis.

Structure, governance and management

We are a company limited by guarantee, governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Our purpose, as set out in our Articles of Association, is to advance education and literacy by:

- › procuring and distributing reading and information materials to developing and other countries for educational purposes
- › distributing these materials to public and community libraries, universities, colleges, schools, hospitals, youth and children's centres and other charitable institutions according to local needs and priorities
- › promoting and supporting any training or other activity which is designed to enhance the use of books, reading and other information material in developing countries.

The Board has considered the legislative and regulatory requirements for disclosing how its charitable objectives have provided benefit to the public and has complied with the duty set out in Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011. The strategic report on pages 4 – 25 outlines how our achievements during 2021 have benefited the public, either directly or indirectly.

Our Board of Trustees

The members of the charitable company are also the members of the Board, which consists of between five and 15 members. New members with specialist relevant skills and experience are appointed from time to time and their appointment is ratified at a meeting of the Board.

Members serve a three-year term, renewable for up to two further terms by re-election. New Trustees receive an induction and information pack and spend time in the offices and warehouse in London.

Our Trustees bring a range of experience from both the corporate and the not-for-profit sectors and individual members contribute expertise from publishing, finance, fundraising, librarianship, administration and international development.

The Trustees are actively engaged with strategic direction and policy. They discuss and approve a strategic plan every three years, an annual budget each November and staff report regularly on progress against the plan.

The Board meets quarterly and reviews strategy, finances and the organisation's charitable activities and approves matters reserved for the Board.

These include issues relating to strategy and management, structure of the charity, financial controls, internal controls and risk management, contracts, communication, board membership, remuneration, delegation of authority, corporate governance, policies and any other matters of importance for the charity.

Two committees formed by the Board meet and report back regularly to the Trustees: the Finance and Audit Committee, which meets three times a year to review internal controls, the risk register, going concern assumptions and the annual accounts, budgets and audit findings and is chaired by the Honorary Treasurer; and the Remuneration Committee, which meets annually to approve salary recommendations and other human resources matters and is chaired by the Chair of Trustees.

Our Senior Management Team

Our Senior Management Team consists of the Chief Executive and Heads of Programmes, Fundraising, Finance, Communications and Operations and this team communicates regularly with the Board. The Trustees have delegated the day-to-day operations of the charity to this Senior Management Team, while reserving for itself ultimate decision-making on the matters listed above where deemed necessary.

Salaries for the Senior Management Team are reviewed biennially along with those of other staff and approved by the Remuneration Committee. The Chief Executive is currently the only staff member receiving a salary of between £70,000 and £80,000, with the Head of Finance being the only staff member receiving a salary between £60,000 and £70,000.

How we assess and manage risk

Our Trustees, led by the Risk Committee, formally assess risks annually using Charity Commission guidelines. Our position is regularly reviewed against this assessment and mitigating actions taken as necessary.

External risks to the charity in 2021 consisted primarily of the continuing impact of the pandemic on the organisation's ability to deliver its projects and programmes in the context of ongoing disruption to libraries and schools in Africa. In late 2021 an increase in the risks posed by the political, economic and social structures of the countries and environments in which Book Aid International operates was identified, and the need for heightened due diligence processes agreed.

Areas of ongoing internal risk were identified as the reliance of Book Aid International for its model on donated books from the publishing industry, the need for an effective fundraising strategy to support Book Aid International's growth plans, the charity's dependence on a small number of large donors for its projects and programmes, and the limitations on capacity of the Camberwell site to support the expansion of the charity's activities.

The Trustees are satisfied that measures have been put in place to mitigate external and internal risks to the charity as far as possible.

Protecting the environment

At Book Aid International we are committed to helping to build a more sustainable future for all.

Climate change and environmental degradation disproportionately impact people in poorer communities. These communities include many readers we support and we have a responsibility to them to reduce our environmental impact. To that end, we have been working to understand and reduce our carbon footprint.

Our environmental impact

We recognise that there are environmental costs to our work. We ship the books we provide by sea and overland around the world – a process which creates emissions. Wherever possible we use shipping companies which take steps to reduce carbon emissions for the books we send. By supporting a greener journey for our books, we can help to reduce our contribution to climate change.

We also keep our London office and warehouse as green as possible by working with utility suppliers that are committed to an environmentally

sustainable approach to their business. In-house we raise awareness and have a code of practice which includes recycling, responsible use of resources and purchasing.

Our environmental benefit

While there is an environmental impact to our work, there is also a benefit. Our work creates environmental benefit in four ways.

Extending the life of books

There is a carbon cost to every book that is printed, and so it is vital that we get the longest life possible out of each book. Many of the books we receive would be recycled were we not able to extend their lives by donating them to our partners. By keeping them from being recycled, we reduce waste and the carbon used in the recycling process.

Quality education

We enrich classroom learning by providing books to existing school libraries, creating new school libraries and training teachers in how to use books to support classroom learning. This work improves the quality of education that children receive and, in the long-term, education enables people to make more informed life choices and creates awareness about environmental issues.

Awareness raising

We provide books in schools and libraries around the world about the climate crisis and the urgent need to protect the natural world. These range from picture books for the youngest readers through to university-level texts on sustainable farming practices for agriculture students. These books inform and raise awareness of the need for change at a global level and how, together, we can safeguard our shared future.

Conservation support

We also work with organisations that have environmental protection at the heart of their missions. In Malawi we are working with SolarAid to create *Solar Libraries* where families can borrow books and solar lights – reducing emissions from kerosene lamps and enriching education. In Zambia, we're working directly with conservation NGO African Parks to support its work in schools improving the quality of education that children living around national parks receive and increasing their understanding of conservation.

We know that the time to act to protect our shared future is now, so in the months and years ahead we will continue to seek out opportunities to reduce our environmental footprint and deliver a direct environmental benefit.

Reference and administrative details

Patrons and officials

Patron	HRH The Duke of Edinburgh KG KT OM (until April 2021)
President	Nigel Newton
Vice President	Professor Kingo Mchombu

The following served as members and Board members throughout 2021:

Trustees

Chair
Lord Paul Boateng

Honorary Treasurer
Nicholas Allen

Dhivya O'Connor

Jonathan Hargreaves

Zainab Umar

Pam Dix

Charly Nobbs

Robert Sulley

Senior management

Chief Executive
Alison Tweed

Head of Programmes
Samantha Thomas Chuula

Head of Operations
Harry Boughton

Head of Communications
Emma Taylor

Head of Finance
Ade Soremekun

Head of Fundraising
Laura Smith (joined May 2021)

Address and registered office

39–41 Coldharbour Lane
Camberwell
London SE5 9NR

Charity number

313869 (England and Wales)

Company number

880754 (England and Wales)

Solicitor

Stone King LLP
Boundary House
91 Charterhouse Street
London EC1M 6HR

Auditors

Sayer Vincent LLP
Invicta House
108–114 Golden Lane
London EC1Y 0TL

Directors and members

The directors and members of the company are the Board members named on the preceding page.

Statement of responsibilities of the trustees

The trustees (who are also directors for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' annual report including the strategic report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- › select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- › observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP
- › make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- › state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- › prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- › there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware
- › the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Members of the charity guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 to the assets of the charity in the event of winding up. The total number of such guarantees at 31st December 2021 was £8 (2020: £8). The trustees are members of the charity but this entitles them only to voting rights. The trustees have no beneficial interest in the charity.

Auditor

Sayer Vincent LLP was reappointed as the charitable company's auditor during the year and has expressed its willingness to continue in that capacity.

The Trustees' Annual Report which includes the strategic report has been approved by the trustees on 28 June and signed on their behalf by



Dr Alice Prochaska
Chair
Book Aid International



Nicholas Allen
Honorary Treasurer
Book Aid International

Independent auditor's report

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Book Aid International (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31st December 2021 which comprise the statement of financial activities, balance sheet, statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- › give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31st December 2021 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended
- › have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice
- › have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on Book Aid International's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least 12 months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' annual report, including the strategic report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- › the information given in the trustees' annual report, including the strategic report, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- › the Trustees' Annual Report, including the strategic report, has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' annual report including the strategic report. We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- › adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- › the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- › certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- › we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities set out in the trustees' annual report, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud are set out below.

Capability of the audit in detecting irregularities

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, our procedures included the following:

- › We enquired of management and the finance committee, which included obtaining and reviewing supporting documentation, concerning the charity's policies and procedures relating to:
 - identifying, evaluating, and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance
 - detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected, or alleged fraud
 - the internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations
- › We inspected the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.
- › We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework that the charity operates in, focusing on those laws and regulations that had a material effect on the financial statements or that had a fundamental effect on the operations of the charity from our professional and sector experience.
- › We communicated applicable laws and regulations throughout the audit team and remained alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout the audit.
- › We reviewed any reports made to regulators.
- › We reviewed the financial statement disclosures and tested these to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- › We performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud.
- › In addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, we tested the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments, assessed whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias and tested significant transactions that are unusual or those outside the normal course of business.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities.

This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Sayer Vincent LLP

Judith Miller
(Senior statutory auditor)

21st June, 2021

for and on behalf of

Sayer Vincent LLP
Statutory Auditor
Invicta House
108-114 Golden Lane
London EC1Y 0TL

Audited accounts

Statement of financial activities (incorporating income and expenditure account)

For the year ended 31 December 2021

	Note	Unrestricted £	Value of donated books £	Restricted £	2021 Total £	2020 Total £
Income from:						
Donations and legacies	2a	1,471,809	-	1,065,533	2,537,342	1,887,628
Value of donated books received		-	10,013,273	-	10,013,273	12,850,101
Other trading activities	4	11,960	-	-	11,960	61,177
Investments		5,321	-	-	5,321	8,546
Total income		1,489,090	10,013,273	1,065,533	12,567,896	14,807,452
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds		568,351	-	31,088	599,439	534,718
Charitable activities:						
Book provision		810,805	-	193,915	1,004,720	832,275
Value of donated books sent	3a	-	13,279,151	-	13,279,151	11,066,372
Restricted projects and training		-	-	704,416	704,416	535,859
Total expenditure	5a	1,379,156	13,279,151	929,419	15,587,726	12,969,224
Net income / (expenditure) for the year	7	109,934	(3,265,878)	136,114	(3,019,830)	1,838,228
Net income / (expenditure) before other recognised gains and losses		109,934	(3,265,878)	136,114	(3,019,830)	1,838,228
Gains on revaluation of fixed assets		723,000	-	-	723,000	-
Gain on pension scheme	16	71,650	-	-	71,650	-
Net movement in funds		904,584	(3,265,878)	136,114	(2,225,180)	1,838,228
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward		2,285,663	8,090,153	189,947	10,565,763	8,727,536
Total funds carried forward	19a	3,190,247	4,824,275	326,061	8,340,583	10,563,763

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above. Movements in funds are disclosed in note 19a to the financial statements.

The notes on pages 39 to 57 form part of these financial statements.

Balance sheet

As at 31st December 2021

	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2021 £	2020 £
Fixed assets:					
Tangible assets	11	2,016,126	-	2,016,126	1,280,502
		2,016,126	-	2,016,126	1,280,502
Current assets:					
Stock – donated books	12	4,824,275	-	4,824,275	8,090,152
Debtors	13	129,985	179,500	309,485	193,975
Investments	14	201,718	-	201,718	301,715
Cash at bank and in hand	14	1,025,100	161,089	1,186,189	1,428,108
		6,181,078	340,589	6,521,667	10,013,950
Liabilities:					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	(136,896)	(14,528)	(151,424)	(575,689)
Net current assets / (liabilities)		6,044,182	326,061	6,370,243	9,438,261
Net assets excluding pension asset / (liability)		8,060,308	326,061	8,386,369	10,718,763
Defined benefit pension scheme asset / (liability)	16	(45,786)	-	(45,786)	(153,000)
Total net assets / (liabilities)		8,014,522	326,061	8,340,583	10,565,763
The funds of the charity:					
Restricted income funds	19a	-	326,061	326,061	189,947
Unrestricted income funds:					
Fixed assets		280,126	-	280,126	267,502
Revaluation reserve		1,736,000	-	1,736,000	1,013,000
Free reserves	1u	571,106	-	571,106	677,146
Designated funds		603,015	-	603,015	328,015
Total charity funds without stock		3,190,247	326,061	3,516,308	2,475,610
Value of donated books		4,824,275	-	4,824,275	8,090,153
Total unrestricted funds		8,014,522	-	8,014,522	10,375,816
Total charity funds		8,014,522	326,061	8,340,583	10,565,763

The increase in the 2021 grants sent value is due to increased activity as a result of better than expected funding and release of unrestricted Book Aid International funds to support increased activity.

Approved by the trustees on 28th June and signed on their behalf by:

Alice Prochaska

Dr Alice Prochaska
Chair of the Board of Trustees

The notes on pages 39 to 57 form part of these financial statements.

Statement of cash flows

For the year ended 31st December 2021

	Note	2021	2020
		£	£
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net (expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)		(3,019,830)	1,838,228
Depreciation charges		39,236	32,345
(Gains)/losses on pension scheme	16	71,649	-
Dividends, interest and rent from investments		(5,321)	(8,546)
Decrease/(Increase) in stocks		3,265,877	(1,783,727)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors		(115,510)	107,852
(Decrease)/increase in creditors		(424,265)	(36,747)
(Decrease) in provisions		(107,214)	(30,000)
Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities		(295,378)	119,405
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		5,323	8,546
Purchase of fixed assets		(51,861)	(37,420)
Net cash provided by / (used in) investing activities		(46,538)	(28,874)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(341,916)	90,531
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		1,729,823	1,639,292
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	14	1,387,907	1,729,823

The notes on pages 39 to 57 form part of these financial statements.

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31 December 2021

1 Accounting policies

a) Statutory information

Book Aid International is a charitable company limited by guarantee and is incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office address is 39-41 Coldharbour Lane, Camberwell, London SE5 9NR.

b) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) – (Charities SORP FRS 102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy or note.

c) Public benefit entity

The charitable company meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

d) Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern.

Key judgements that the charitable company has made which have a significant effect on the accounts include the valuation of donated books as explained below.

The trustees have reviewed the activities of the charity in light of Covid and have adjusted estimations for uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period. It is the view of the Trustees that the charity will continue to be a going concern for the current year up to and including 2023.

e) Income

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and that the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

Entitlement to income from legacies is taken as the earlier of the date on which either: the charity is aware that probate has been granted, the estate has been finalised and notification has been made by the executor(s) to the charity that a distribution will be made, or when a distribution is received from the estate. Receipt of a legacy, in whole or in part, is only considered probable when the amount can be measured reliably and the charity has been notified of the executor's intention to make a distribution.

f) Donated books

Donated books are valued at fair value on receipt. This is determined using Nielsen Bookscan for identifying published prices and then applying a 30% discount from the full RRP to allow for the estimated market discount for third-party commercial buyers. This discount rate is reviewed by an independent expert on an annual basis. Where at year-end books could not be opened and scanned into stock, an estimate of the value of these books is made in relation to the type and class of books remaining unopened.

Books held are recognised as expenditure at the point they are dispatched from the Book Aid International warehouse. Books in transit at the year-end are accounted for as expensed as it is deemed highly probable that they will reach their intended beneficiaries in good condition. Any material damage or loss of stock would be adjusted in the accounts in the following year. There was no damage or loss of stock in transit at year-end 31st December 2021 to be reflected in these accounts.

Donated books held at year-end are measured at their fair value using the same measure as explained above. Provision is made where necessary for obsolete, slow-moving and defective stock. Where books are not able to be opened and booked into stock by the finalisation of the accounts, the value of these is estimated using averaged price per class of book based on books received and recognised in the accounts.

g) Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity. This is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

h) Fund accounting

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund.

Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources received or generated for the charitable purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes.

i) Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

- › Costs of raising funds relate to the costs incurred by the charitable company in inducing third parties to make voluntary contributions to it, as well as the cost of any activities with a fundraising purpose.
- › Expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs of book provision and restricted projects and training undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs.
- › Other expenditure represents those items not falling into any other heading.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged against book provision.

j) Grants payable

Grants payable are made to third parties in furtherance of the charity’s objects. Single or multi-year grants are accounted for when either the recipient has a reasonable expectation that they will receive a grant and the trustees have agreed to pay the grant without condition, or the recipient has a reasonable expectation that they will receive a grant and that any condition attaching to the grant is outside the control of the charity.

Provisions for grants are made when the intention to make a grant has been communicated to the recipient but there is uncertainty about either the timing of the grant or the amount of grant payable.

k) Allocation of support costs

Resources expended are allocated to the particular activity where the cost relates directly to that activity. However, the cost of overall direction and administration of each activity, comprising the salary and overhead costs of the central function, is apportioned based on staff time and book delivery attributable to each activity.

	2021	2020
Raising funds	22%	20%
Book provision	60%	64%
Restricted projects and training	18%	16%

l) Operating leases

Rental charges are charged on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease.

m) Tangible fixed assets

Items of equipment are capitalised where the purchase price exceeds £1,000. Depreciation costs are allocated to activities on the basis of the use of the related assets in those activities. Assets are reviewed for impairment if circumstances indicate their carrying value may exceed their net realisable value and value in use.

Where fixed assets have been revalued, any excess between the revalued amount and the historic cost of the asset will be shown as a revaluation reserve in the balance sheet.

The increase in the 2021 grants sent value is due to increased activity as a result of better than expected funding and release of unrestricted Book Aid International funds to support increased activity.

Depreciation is provided on a straight-line basis at rates calculated to write down the cost of each asset to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life. The depreciation rates in use are as follows:

Building	50 years	2% per annum on costs
Fixtures and office equipment	4 years	25% per annum on costs
Plant and machinery	10 years	10% per annum on costs

n) Stocks

Donated books held at year-end are valued as explained in policy (f) above. Purchased books are measured at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

o) Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

p) Short-term deposit investments

Short-term deposits includes cash balances that are invested in accounts with a maturity date of between three and 12 months.

q) Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

r) Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

s) Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

t) Pensions

The charity contributes to a pension scheme administered by the Pensions Trust, as an independent company. The pension cost charge indicated in note 8 represents the contributions payable to the fund for the year, and note 16 gives details of the movements during the year of the agreed deficit repayment plan liability, which has been included as a liability under the requirements of FRS 102.

u) Free reserves

The minimum level of free reserves confirmed by the Board of Trustees for 2021 was set at a range between £500,000 and £550,000.

2a Donations (current year)

			2021	2020
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
Charitable trusts and NGOs	(106,220)	(997,596)	(1,103,816)	(735,184)
Companies	(45,736)	(38,500)	(84,236)	(81,944)
Community sources	(26,539)	-	(26,539)	(74,166)
Individuals	(1,293,314)	(29,438)	(1,322,751)	(996,334)
Total donations	(1,471,809)	(1,065,533)	(2,537,342)	(1,887,628)

2b Donations (prior year)

			2020
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
Charitable trusts and NGOs	(51,774)	(683,409)	(735,184)
Companies	(35,993)	(45,951)	(81,944)
Community sources	(73,283)	(882)	(74,166)
Individuals	(963,289)	(33,045)	(996,334)
Total donations	(1,124,340)	(763,287)	(1,887,628)

3a Gifts in kind (current year)

The table below shows the discounted value of the 1,007,449 donated books distributed to partner organisations in 2021 (2020: 867,567). The process of valuation is described in note (1f) and the total adjusted value of books distributed in 2021 was £13,249,151 (2020: £11,066,372).

	2021	2021
	Total number	Total £
Children's and teenagers'	468,125	2,999,197
Leisure reading (fiction, non-fiction and literature)	113,535	1,033,274
Reference	1,595	19,178
Secondary textbooks	87,387	1,077,379
Vocational skills and development	31,018	376,139
Professional	12,089	321,730
Higher education	59,784	2,312,496
Education and teacher training	15,052	291,605
English as a foreign language	37,393	355,235
Health and medicine	87,339	4,313,981
Law	3,164	149,089
	916,481	13,249,304
Stock adjustments	90,968	29,847
Total expenditure of donated books sent	1,007,449	13,279,151

Stock adjustments relate to adjustments in book, sets, values and location of individual books.

3b Gifts in kind (prior year)

	2020	2020
	Total number	Total £
Children's and teenagers'	399,867	2,488,700
Leisure reading (fiction, non-fiction and literature)	86,035	767,229
Reference	1,905	19,776
Secondary textbooks	83,749	1,108,974
Vocational skills and development	28,457	311,181
Professional	14,075	435,942
Higher education	46,473	1,719,532
Education and teacher training	16,543	342,450
English as a foreign language	25,943	324,635
Health and medicine	73,120	3,172,776
Law	5,147	185,729
	781,314	10,876,924
Stock adjustments	86,253	189,448
Total expenditure of donated books sent	867,567	11,066,372

4 Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2021 Total	2020 Total
Events	2,251	-	2,251	1,757
UK book and card sales	9,644	-	9,644	13,102
Other	65	-	65	46,318
Total donations	11,960	-	11,960	61,177

All trading income received in 2021 and 2020 was unrestricted. Prior year figure includes £46,000 HMRC income for furloughed staff.

5a Analysis of expenditure (current year)

	Charitable activities							2021	2020
	Raising funds	Book provision	Value of donated books sent	Restricted projects and training	Governance costs	Support costs	Pension scheme gain/loss	£	£
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs (note 8)	237,398	380,647	-	193,568	146,125	133,070	-	1,090,809	1,021,064
Other staff costs	18,754	30,071	-	15,291	11,544	10,512	-	86,172	50,243
Travel and workshop costs	228	4,008	-	1,919	-	-	-	6,155	13,593
Book purchase	-	-	-	18,428	-	-	-	18,428	15,795
Value of donated books	-	-	13,279,151	-	-	-	-	13,279,151	11,066,372
Overseas project partners (note 6)	-	100,601	-	309,517	-	-	-	410,118	193,083
Shipping and book disposal	-	-	-	-	-	146,397	-	146,397	128,685
Fundraising, PR and design	191,270	22,898	-	22,898	-	-	-	237,066	220,499
Professional fees and irrecoverable VAT	-	-	-	-	-	40,730	-	40,730	28,873
Other direct costs	-	-	-	-	-	2,956	-	2,956	386
Other project and training costs	-	26,360	-	26,361	-	-	-	52,721	21,557
Governance cost	-	-	-	-	14,738	-	-	14,738	10,813
Support cost	-	-	-	-	-	202,287	-	202,287	198,260
	447,650	564,584	13,279,151	587,982	172,407	535,952	-	15,587,726	12,969,223
Support costs	117,308	329,795	-	88,849	-	(535,952)	-	-	-
Governance costs	34,481	110,341	-	27,585	(172,407)	-	-	-	-
Gain/Loss on pension scheme	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total expenditure 2021	599,439	1,004,720	13,279,151	704,416	-	-	-	15,587,726	-
Total expenditure 2020	534,718	832,275	11,066,372	535,858	-	-	-	-	12,969,223

Of the total expenditure, £14,658,308 was unrestricted (2020: £12,165,273) and £929,420 was restricted (2020: £803,950).

5b Analysis of expenditure (prior year)

	Charitable activities							2020	2019
	Raising funds	Book provision	Value of donated books sent	Restricted projects and training	Governance costs	Support costs	Pension scheme gain/loss	£	£
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs (note 8)	201,228	361,301	-	191,593	147,347	266,943	-	1,021,064	1,005,604
Other staff costs	9,902	17,778	-	9,427	10,322	13,136	-	50,243	92,228
Travel and workshop costs	129	6,736	-	6,728	-	-	-	13,593	74,465
Book purchase	-	-	-	15,795	-	-	-	15,795	14,045
Value of donated books	-	-	11,066,372	-	-	-	-	11,066,372	18,229,466
Overseas project partners (note 6)	-	7,577	-	185,507	-	-	-	193,083	284,495
Shipping and book disposal	-	-	-	-	-	128,685	-	128,685	152,968
Fundraising, PR and design	194,040	13,230	-	13,229	-	-	-	220,499	254,634
Professional fees and irrecoverable VAT	-	-	-	-	-	28,873	-	28,873	47,427
Other direct costs	-	-	-	-	-	386	-	386	2,295
Other project and training costs	-	11,513	-	10,045	-	-	-	21,557	45,986
Governance cost	-	-	-	-	10,813	-	-	10,813	15,476
Support cost	-	-	-	-	-	198,260	-	198,260	214,477
	405,299	418,134	11,066,372	432,323	10,813	636,282	-	12,969,224	20,433,566
Support costs	127,256	407,220	-	101,805	-	(636,282)	-	-	-
Governance costs	2,163	6,920	-	1,730	(10,813)	-	-	-	-
Gain/Loss on pension scheme	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total expenditure 2020	534,718	832,275	11,066,372	535,858	-	-	-	12,969,224	-
Total expenditure 2019	588,963	832,275	18,229,466	648,080	-	-	-	-	20,433,566

Of the total expenditure, £12,165,273 was unrestricted (2019: £19,488,530) and £803,950 was restricted (2019: £945,036).

6 Grant payments to project partners

	2021	2020
Partners	£	£
Edward Ndlovu Memorial Trust	2,000	25,096
Alusine Jalloh	1,740	
Baroda Trading	1,027	
College Press	5,363	711
Consultus Publishing	2,853	
EISERVI	600	
Zimbabwe Publishing House Ltd	1,981	
DLIGHT Limited		2,298
Gramsol Trading		1,928
CODE Ethiopia	600	
Malawi National Library Service	39,113	17,258
Gambia National Library Authority	600	
Oldship Enterprise Ltd		2,688
Maiden Publishing House and Stationers		4,160
National Library of Uganda	16,849	790
Ghana Library Authority	2,376	7,413
EISERVI Information Services International		1,500
Sierra Leone Library Board	14,173	52,133
Kenya National Library Services	40,623	29,730
Uganda Community Library Association	5,600	
Uganda Children's Writers and Illustrators	18,217	
Siilaanyo National Library		5,378
Solar Aid	3,896	3,158
Street Children Empowerment Foundation	32,750	26,220
Rainbow Trust Foundation	16,596	
Richard Luhanga	2,824	
Save the Needy	4,040	
Zambia Library Services	28,843	770
Grace Rwanda Society	34,109	
Green Chilongo	8,635	
I Choose Life Africa	5,673	
IBBY	27,103	
Innovate Bookshop	973	
International Uganda	2,813	
MYSA	2,800	
We Care Liberia	600	
Windle International	27,784	8,891
Weaver Press	1,110	
Lutheran World Federation	8,355	
Maiden Publishing	4,160	
Publishers Ltd	8,240	
Milward Tobias	2,911	
Africa Parks	32,034	2,067
Grants to other institutions	154	893
At the end of the year	410,118	193,083

The increase in the 2021 grants sent value is due to increased activity as a result of better than expected funding and release of unrestricted Book Aid International funds to support increased activity.

7 Net income / (expenditure) for the year

This is stated after charging / (crediting):

	2021	2021
	£	£
Depreciation	39,236	32,345
Interest payable	6,322	9,274
Operating lease rentals:		
Property	-	-
Other	10,583	9,353
Auditors' remuneration (excluding VAT):		
Audit	11,125	10,800
Other services	1,100	-
Foreign exchange (gains) or losses	2	176

8 Analysis of staff costs, trustee remuneration and expenses, and the cost of key management personnel

Staff costs were as follows:

	2021	2021
	£	£
Salaries and wages	884,498	837,686
Employer's NI contributions	87,720	64,697
Pension contributions	53,171	50,560
Overseas staff costs	65,420	68,121
	1,090,809	1,021,064

	2021	2021
	No.	No.
Average head count	31.0	26.0
Full-time equivalent	27.6	25.3
Number of staff whose emoluments were between £60,000 – £70,000	1	1
Number of staff whose emoluments were between £70,000 – £80,000	1	-

The total employee benefits received by key management personnel were £397,943 (2020: £387,045).

Trustees received no remuneration during the year (2020: £nil). No trustees received any payments for professional services during the year (2020: £nil).

There were no expenses reimbursed to trustees in 2021 (2020: £nil).

9 Related party transactions

Aggregate donations from related parties were £1,318 (2020: £1,325).

Robert Sulley is a director at Hodder Education (part of the Hachette Group). This trustee related organisations donated the following to Book Aid International during the year.

	2021 Value of books donated	2021 Cash donated	2020 Value of books donated	2020 Cash donated
Trustee related organisations	£	£	£	£
Hachette Group	631,975	-	376,067	-
	631,975	-	376,067	-

10 Taxation

The charitable company is exempt from corporation tax as all its income is deemed charitable and is applied for charitable purposes.

11 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold property £	Plant and machinery £	Fixtures and office equipment £	2021 Total £
Cost or valuation				
At the start of the year	1,275,000	26,533	62,712	1,364,245
Gain on revaluation	723,000	-	-	723,000
Additions in year	-	19,900	31,961	51,860
Disposals in year	-	(19,855)	(12,361)	(32,216)
At the end of the year	1,998,000	26,578	82,312	2,106,890
Depreciation				
At the start of the year	32,000	22,445	29,298	83,743
Charge for the year	16,000	2,658	20,580	39,238
Eliminated on disposal	-	(19,855)	(12,362)	(32,217)
At the end of the year	48,000	5,248	37,516	90,764
Net book value				
At the end of the year	1,950,000	21,330	44,796	2,016,126
At the start of the year	1,243,000	4,088	33,414	1,280,502

The original (1987) cost of the charity's freehold premises in Coldharbour Lane, Camberwell was £230,000. The premises have been revalued five times. The most recently detailed valuation was in December 2021. The revaluations were undertaken by an independent valuer and give current open market valuations of the freehold interest in the charity's property. The Land and Building were valued at £780,000 and £1,170,000 respectively based on Existing Use value.

All of the above assets are used for charitable purposes.

12 Stock

	2021 £	2020 £
Donated books	4,824,275	8,090,153

At year-end there are unopened pallets of books stored in our warehouses. We endeavour to open as many of these as possible by the time the accounts are finalised. The value of any unopened pallets is estimated by using the average value of pallets for that class of book received and opened in the year. Included in the Closing stock value of £4,824,275 are 233 pallets of books (2020: 366) which could not be opened and booked into stock at year-end. These have been estimated using an averaged price per class of book and are valued at £2,324,732 (2020: £4,567,624). The reduced closing stock balance is due to the increased number of books sent to partners as well as a reduction of higher-value medical books received in the year.

13 Debtors

	2021 £	2020 £
Trade debtors	1,411	13,568
Other debtors and prepayments	75,152	50,769
All trading income received in 2021 and 2020 was unrestricted. Prior year figure includes £46,000 HMRC income for furloughed staff.	33,794	31,888
Accrued income	199,128	97,750
	309,485	193,975

All of the charity's financial instruments, both assets and liabilities, are measured at amortised cost.

14 Bank and short-term investments

	2021 £	2020 £
Cash and bank	1,186,189	1,428,108
	1,186,189	1,428,108
Short-term investments	201,718	301,715
Total cash and short-term investments	1,387,907	1,729,823

Short-term investments are funds invested in 12 month fixed term deposit accounts.

15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021	2020
	£	£
Trade creditors	78,784	72,820
Staff tax and social security	38,395	39,224
VAT payable	-	-
Other creditors and accruals	34,245	463,646
	151,424	575,690

Reduced figure for other creditor and accruals in 2021 is due to a change in way a donor funds for activity. Previously funds for the following years activity were received at the end of the prior year. Now funds will be given in tranches in the year of the activity.

16 Pension scheme

The company participates in the scheme, a multi-employer scheme which provides benefits to some 638 non-associated participating employers. The scheme is a defined benefit scheme in the UK. It is not possible for the company to obtain sufficient information to enable it to account for the scheme as a defined benefit scheme. Therefore it accounts for the scheme as a defined contribution scheme.

The scheme is subject to the funding legislation outlined in the Pensions Act 2004 which came into force on 30th December 2005. This, together with documents issued by the Pensions Regulator and Technical Actuarial Standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council, sets out the framework for funding defined benefit occupational pension schemes in the UK.

The scheme is classified as a 'last-man standing arrangement'. Therefore, the company is potentially liable for other participating employers' obligations if those employers are unable to meet their share of the scheme deficit following withdrawal from the scheme. Participating employers are legally required to meet their share of the scheme deficit on an annuity purchase basis on withdrawal from the scheme.

A full actuarial valuation for the scheme was carried out at 30th September 2020. This valuation showed assets of £800.3m, liabilities of £831.9m and a deficit of £31.6m.

To eliminate this funding shortfall, the Trustee has asked the participating employers to pay additional contributions to the scheme as follows:

From 1 April 2022 to 31 January 2025: £3,312,000 per annum (payable monthly)

Unless a concession has been agreed with the Trustee the term to 31 January 2025 applies.

Note that the scheme's previous valuation was carried out with an effective date of 30th September 2017. This valuation showed assets of £794.9m, liabilities of £926.4m and a deficit of £131.5m. To eliminate this funding shortfall, the Trustee has asked the participating employers to pay additional contributions to the scheme as follows:

Deficit Contribution

From 1st April 2019 to 30th September 2025: £11,243,000 per annum payable monthly and increasing by 3% each on 1st April.

The recovery plan contributions are allocated to each participating employer in line with their estimated share of the Series 1 and Series 2 scheme liabilities.

Where the scheme is in deficit and where the company has agreed to a deficit funding arrangement, the company recognises a liability for this obligation. The amount recognised is the net present value of the deficit reduction contributions payable under the agreement that relates to the deficit. The present value is calculated using the discount rate detailed in these disclosures. The unwinding of the discount rate is recognised as a finance cost.

	2021	2020
	£	£
Present value of provision		
Reconciliation of opening and closing provisions:	153	183
Provision at start of period	1	2
Unwinding of discount factor (interest expense)	(36)	(35)
Post year-end adjustment	(1)	3
	(71)	-
Provision at end of period	46	153
Income and expenditure impact		
Interest expense	-	2
Remeasurements – changes in assumptions	(1)	3
Remeasurements – amendments to contribution schedule	(71)	-
Contributions paid in respect of future service	-	35
Costs recognised on SoFA	-	51

This includes defined contribution schemes and future service contributions – that is, excluding any deficit reduction payments – to defined benefit schemes which are treated as defined contribution schemes.

	2021	2020
	% per annum	% per annum
Assumptions:		
Rate of discount 31st December	1.18	0.27

The discount rates shown above are the equivalent single discount rates which, when used to discount the future recovery plan contributions due, would give the same results as using a full AA corporate bond yield curve to discount the same recovery plan contributions.

The estimated contingent liability for the charity as at September 2020 in the event of withdrawal for the Growth Plan was £498,600 (less the £45,786 provided above). There is no intention at present to cease participation or to wind up the Growth Plan.

17 Detailed comparatives for the statement of financial activities (prior year – 2020)

	Unrestricted	Value of donated books	Restricted	2020 Total
	£	£	£	£
Income from:				
Donations and legacies	1,124,340	-	763,287	1,887,628
Value of donated books received	-	12,850,101	-	12,850,101
Other trading activities	61,177	-	-	61,177
Investments	8,546	-	-	8,546
Total income	1,194,063	12,850,101	763,287	14,807,452
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds	487,346	-	47,372	534,718
Charitable activities:				
Book provision	611,555	-	220,720	832,275
Value of donated books sent	-	11,066,372	-	11,066,372
Restricted projects and training	-	-	535,859	535,859
Loss on pension scheme	-	-	-	-
Total expenditure	1,098,901	11,066,372	803,951	12,969,224
Net income for the year	95,162	1,783,729	(40,664)	1,838,228
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	95,162	1,783,729	(40,664)	1,838,228
Reconciliation of funds:				
Total funds brought forward	2,190,501	6,306,425	230,610	8,727,536
Total funds carried forward	2,285,663	8,090,154	189,946	10,565,763

18 Detailed comparatives for the balance sheet (prior year – 2020)

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2020 Total
	£	£	£
Fixed assets:			
Tangible assets	1,280,502	-	1,280,502
	1,280,502	-	1,280,502
Current assets:			
Stock – donated books	8,090,152	-	8,090,152
Debtors	96,225	97,750	193,975
Investments	301,715	-	301,715
Cash at bank and in hand	880,423	547,685	1,428,108
	9,368,515	645,435	10,013,950
Liabilities:			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(120,201)	(455,488)	(575,689)
Net current assets / (liabilities)	9,248,314	189,947	9,438,261
Net assets excluding pension asset / (liability)	10,528,816	189,947	10,718,763
Defined benefit pension scheme asset / (liability)	(153,000)	-	(153,000)
Total net assets / (liabilities)	10,375,816	189,947	10,565,763
The funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds	-	189,947	189,947
Unrestricted income funds:			
Fixed assets	267,502	-	267,502
Revaluation reserve	1,013,000	-	1,013,000
Free reserves	677,146	-	677,146
Designated funds	328,015	-	328,015
Total charity funds without stock	2,285,663	189,947	2,475,610
Value of donated books	8,090,153	-	8,090,153
Total unrestricted funds	10,375,816	-	10,375,816
Total charity funds	8,015,822	326,061	10,565,763

19a Movements in funds (current year – 2021)

	At 1 January 2021 £	Income and gains	Expenditure and losses £	Transfers £	At 31 Dec 2021 £
Restricted funds:					
Book Links	1,458	7,950	(9,408)	-	-
Inspiring Readers Projects	14,067	45,232	(17,957)	(559)	40,783
Impact Assessment Project	4,064	-	-	-	4,064
Reading is Basic GHN02	-	-	(63)	-	(63)
Reading Club ZIM01	-	-	(301)	-	(301)
People's Postcode Lottery 2021	-	253,924	(126,405)	2,424	129,943
MAL/ZAM/ZIM – BP (SAF BEIT)	75,094	75,000	(74,908)	-	75,186
ZAM – STEM STD Hubs01	-	25,702	(23,478)	-	2,224
GHA – STEM Hubs – Agrekko	2,479	-	-	-	2,479
KEN – STEM HUBS	2,189	-	(2,189)	-	-
GHA – Children's Corner 02	338	-	(338)	-	-
Reading Promotion	-	8,154	(8,154)	-	-
KEN – Mini Solar Homework Project	6,078	-	(6,000)	-	78
Discovery Book Box Projects	1,255	10,000	(10,000)	-	1,255
UGA – Shared Reading 02	-	32,864	(30,850)	-	2,014
KEN – Solar Homework Project 02	79	-	-	(79)	-
KEN – Solar Buy Back	15,926	-	(15,238)	-	688
UGA – Solar Homework Project Rhino Camp	10,007	-	(9,413)	-	594
Explorer Library Projects	8,316	66,268	(53,943)	-	20,641
SLO2 – Children's Corner	-	-	(18)	-	(18)
SOML – Children's Corner	-	-	-	-	-
MAL – Solar Libraries 01	4,621	-	(3,521)	(1,100)	-
UGA – Reading for All SEC-Intouch	3,277	-	(348)	-	2,929
UGA – Reading for All ECD PRIM-PPL	3,521	-	(1,655)	-	1,866
KEN02 – Reading for All Solar	-	-	-	79	79
UGA01 – Reading for All Palabek	-	-	(45)	-	(45)
MAL – Reading around the Reserve	2,789	-	(1,641)	(1,149)	(1)
MAL02a L&M – Reading around the Reserve	-	70,121	(71,255)	1,134	-
MAL02b M – Reading around the Reserve	-	26,362	(12,790)	-	13,572
ZAM – Reading around the Reserve	-	42,504	(35,848)	-	6,656
ZIM – Reading around the Reserve	-	10,000	-	-	10,000
TNZ – Quality Schools for All	750	9,000	-	(750)	9,000
Books To Go Projects	-	107,804	(109,272)	-	(1,468)
L4L PPL KEN01	-	62,855	(62,855)	-	-
CCL ZNZ01	-	27,533	(27,107)	-	426
KEN01-I C Reading	-	15,000	(14,083)	-	917
Education PRG CAM01	-	-	(9)	-	(9)
Africa Story Box Projects	-	90,710	(89,772)	-	938
Africa and other book provision	32,006	42,150	(74,156)	-	-
Children's Book Provision	-	1,400	(1,400)	-	-
Law Book Provision	-	5,000	(5,000)	-	-
Medical/Health Book Provision	-	30,000	(30,000)	-	-
Other legacies/activities	1,633	-	-	-	1,633
Total restricted funds	189,947	1,065,533	(929,420)	-	326,061
Unrestricted funds:					
Fixed asset reserve	267,502	-	(7,021)	19,645	280,126
Revaluation reserve	1,013,000	723,000	-	-	1,736,000
Stock reserve	8,090,153	10,013,273	(13,279,151)	-	4,824,275
Free reserves	677,146	1,560,739	(1,372,134)	(294,645)	571,106
Designated reserves	328,015	-	-	275,000	603,015
Total unrestricted funds	10,375,816	12,297,012	(14,658,306)	-	8,014,522
Total funds per balance sheet	10,565,763	13,362,545	(15,587,726)	-	8,340,583
Pension reserve	153,000	-	-	(107,214)	45,786
Total funds adding back pension fund	10,718,763	13,362,545	(15,587,726)	(107,214)	8,386,369
Total unrestricted funds (less stock)	2,285,663	2,283,739	(1,379,155)	-	3,190,247
Total funds including pension fund (less stock)	2,628,610	3,349,272	(2,308,575)	(107,214)	3,562,094

Projects with negative balances

Funding for these projects is expected in 2022 with applications for funders already sent or being sent in 2022. Failure to receive this funding will result in the projects being funded from unrestricted funds.

2021 transfers between funds

There were no transfers between Restricted and Unrestricted funds in 2021:

* Any transfers are treated within parameters allowed by funders, and any external excess funding transferred to other projects or unrestricted funds will always be agreed with funders.

Purposes of designated funds

The total designated funds increased from £328,015 to £603,015 by a net £275,000 increase as at 31/12/2021 made up of the following:

- At the 16/12/2021 Board meeting the Trustees confirmed £53,000 of designated funds to test a range of options to acquire new regular supporters through digital fundraising activities. The designated fund will be spent in 2022 after which digital donor acquisition will become part of the charity's regular investment in fundraising.
- At the same meeting the Board approved a further £55,000 and at the March 2022 meeting a further £250,000 for the costs associated with planning and delivering options to increase warehouse capacity, thus enabling the charity to increase its operational reach through storing, processing and sending more books. Costs associated with the total designation of £500,000 (£195,000 having been designated in prior years) include consultancy, agency, professional fees and equipment and rental costs.
- At the same meeting the Trustees approved a £50,000 designated fund to develop required projects where funding may not have been raised or raised in total, this includes match-funding initiatives, or projects Book Aid International deem beneficial where funding may be needed to top up the project or get it off the ground.

19b Movements in funds (prior year – 2020)

	At 1 January 2020 £	Income and gains	Expenditure and losses £	Transfers £	At 31 Dec 2020 £
Restricted funds:					
Book Links	1,330	7,975	(7,848)	-	1,457
Inspiring Readers Projects	30,058	123,798	(146,038)	6,250	14,068
Impact Assessment Project	5,022	-	(958)	-	4,065
People's Postcode Lottery 2020	-	195,236	(210,172)	14,936	-
Malawi/Zambia/Zimbabwe – BP (SAF BEIT)	74,919	75,000	(74,826)	-	75,093
Zambia – Children's Corner	3,064	-	(1,649)	(1,414)	-
Ghana – STEM Hubs – Agrekko	2,479	-	-	-	2,479
Kenya – STEM HUBS	11,153	-	(8,964)	-	2,189
Malawi – Children's Corner	20,496	-	-	(20,496)	-
Ghana – Children's Corner 01	8,106	-	(4,621)	(3,485)	-
Ghana – Children's Corner 02	9,279	-	(8,940)	-	339
Kenya – Mini Solar Homework Project	-	10,700	(4,622)	-	6,078
Kenya – Library in a Camp. Secondary PPL	-	-	(620)	620	-
Pioneer Book Box Projects	6,224	13,713	(18,683)	-	1,254
Kenya – Solar Homework Project 02	789	15,251	(15,341)	(620)	79
Kenya – Solar Buy Back	-	24,298	(8,372)	-	15,926
Uganda – Solar Homework Project Rhino Camp	-	12,671	(2,664)	-	10,007
Explorer Library Projects	49,357	41,750	(84,391)	1,600	8,316
Malawi – Solar Libraries 01	-	32,166	(27,545)	-	4,621
Uganda – Reading for All SEC-Intouch	(2,662)	12,539	(6,600)	-	3,277
Uganda – Reading for All ECD PRIM-PPL	(12,358)	47,389	(31,510)	-	3,521
Malawi – Reading around the Reserve	(17,959)	54,624	(33,876)	-	2,789
Ghana – Reading is Basic – SCEF	3,600	23,787	(35,595)	8,207	-
Tanzania – Quality Schools for All	750	-	-	-	750
Africa and other book provision	29,733	65,890	(63,616)	-	32,007
Children's Book Provision	-	6,500	(6,500)	-	-
Other legacies/activities	7,230	-	-	(5,598)	1,632
Total restricted funds	230,610	763,287	(803,951)	-	189,947
Unrestricted funds:					
Fixed asset reserve	251,804	-	(12,758)	28,456	267,502
Revaluation reserve	1,023,624	-	-	(10,624)	1,013,000
Stock reserve	6,306,425	12,850,100	(11,066,372)	-	8,090,153
Free reserves	682,058	1,194,063	(1,086,143)	(112,832)	677,146
Designated reserves	233,015	-	-	95,000	328,015
Total unrestricted funds	8,496,926	14,044,163	(12,165,273)	-	10,375,816
Total funds per balance sheet	8,727,538	14,807,450	(12,969,224)	-	10,565,763
Pension reserve	183,000	-	(30,000)	-	153,000
Total funds adding back Pension fund	8,910,538	14,807,450	(12,999,224)	-	10,718,763
Total unrestricted funds (less stock)	2,190,502	1,194,063	(1,098,901)	-	2,285,663
Total funds including pension fund (less stock)	2,604,111	1,957,350	(1,932,853)	-	2,628,610

Unrestricted income funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the charity's objectives. Unrestricted funds include designated funds, fixed assets and revaluation reserves representing the excess of the net book value of the property at acquisition. The remainder of the unrestricted funds are the charities free reserves.

2020 Transfers between funds

The total £1,000 net transfers between Restricted and Unrestricted funds is made up of the following:

Uganda Gilead medical books project was funded through unrestricted funds until sourced funding was received in 2019. The excess funding of £1,000 has been returned to unrestricted funds.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds 'earmarked' by the trustees for use against specific future activities and commitments.

Restricted income funds are subject to specific restrictions imposed by donors or by the purpose of an appeal. Details of all restricted funds held are in note 19a above.

20 Operating lease commitments

The charity's total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases is as follows for each of the following periods.

	Equipment	
	2021 £	2020 £
Less than one year	8,149	9,633
One to five years	37,523	11,998
	45,672	21,631

21 Legal status of the charity

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. The liability of each of the eight members in the event of winding up is limited to £1.



Teacher Naluca Mwitelela during a reading session in class. © Jason J Mulikita

“

Every time a child turns the page of a book, they're taking another step towards a happier and better future.

Naluca Mwitelela, Teacher, Rosa Mystica Community School, Zambia

bookaid.org

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Charity no: 313869. Company no: 880754. Registered office: 39-41, Coldharbour Lane, London SE5 9NR



Accounts



Book Aid International 2020 Annual Report

Including Trustees' Report and Accounts
for the year ended 31st December 2020



Book Aid
International



Welcome

THE RT HON LORD PAUL BOATENG, CHAIR

In 2020 the pandemic touched every aspect of our lives. All year we heard from our partners around the world about children out of school who had no books and could not access e-learning and about libraries forced to close.

And yet, we also heard the stories of how people used the books we provided to fight for learning. In Somaliland, staff from the Siilaanyo National Library stayed open to provide a haven for reading and learning and even found ways to safely distribute books to others. In Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya, books and solar lamps from libraries created with your support offered a rare opportunity for refugees to learn.

Many of our partners told us they still needed books, so our staff in London rose to the challenge of providing those books in a Covid-safe way. Thanks to their extraordinary work, we were able to provide more than 867,000 books to 108 partners.

We were only able to continue offering books because of our UK supporters. At Christmas we asked our donors to give so that students around the world would have books when they returned to school. It was the most successful appeal in our charity's long history.

Despite facing economic uncertainty our corporate donors continued to give and the support of publishers never wavered. All year we kept receiving the brand-new books that readers around the world rely on. Our trust funders also showed incredible flexibility – adjusting their schedules to allow for delays in response to Covid.

When I reflect on 2020, I will remember a difficult year – but also a year in which I was inspired by the determination of our partners, by the tireless work of our staff and by the generosity of our supporters. This Annual Report features just a few of their stories.

I would like to personally thank every person who helped our charity continue its life-changing work in the face of truly unprecedented challenges in 2020. Your contribution is helping to create a book-rich world for millions.

Paul Boateng

The Trustees present their report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2020. Reference and administrative information set out on page 28 forms part of this report. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the Memorandum and Articles of Association and the Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting and Reporting by Charities: SORP applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102. This Trustees' Annual Report includes a directors' report as required by company law.

Book Aid International is a charity and limited company registered in England and Wales. Charity no: 313869. Company no: 880754. Registered office: 39–41 Coldharbour Lane, London SE5 9NR. www.bookaid.org

Cover image: A child reading a donated book at a literacy event in Ghana organised by the The Rainbow Trust Foundation

The challenge we face

Today, more people around the world can read than ever before – but millions of readers have access to only a few out-of-date books, or no books at all.

Public and school libraries often cannot afford to purchase the books that readers and pupils need, while the 600 million people around the world who live on less than \$1.90 a day cannot afford to buy books.

Without access to books children find it more difficult to learn to read, adults have fewer chances to gain new skills, students and professionals cannot benefit from the latest information and people from all walks of life are denied the joy of reading.

That is why every year we provide around one million brand-new books to thousands of communities where people have very few opportunities to access books and read.

We work with an extensive network of libraries, schools, hospitals, NGOs and other partners to make sure that the books we send are available to all. Each partner requests the books its community needs and our team selects and sends books in response to their requests.

All of the books we provide are donated to us by UK publishers. With their support we can provide brand-new books for people of every age and from every walk of life – from picture books for the youngest readers to law and medical texts for practising professionals.

We also run projects which build local capacity in the long term by creating school libraries, refurbishing children's library spaces, training teachers and librarians in how to support children's reading and funding the purchase of local books.

Our vision is a world where everyone has access to books that will enrich, improve and change their lives. Our mission is to provide books, resources and training to support an environment in which reading for pleasure, study and lifelong learning can flourish.

Over the last decade, with the books provided by Book Aid International, we were able to reach more than 120 public libraries throughout Ethiopia. These books assisted hundreds of thousands of students from all levels, supplementing their classroom lessons.

Kassahun Getachew, General Manager, Ethiopian Knowledge and Technology Transfer Society



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Image left: Books arriving in Ethiopia in 2020

The effects of Covid

We began 2020 with ambitions to reach more people than ever before and to deliver an ambitious suite of programmes that would support thousands of children as they discovered books and began to read.

When the pandemic struck, we closed our London warehouse for two months and furloughed the majority of our operations and programmes staff. We focused on staying in touch with our supporters and partners so that as soon as it was safe to do so we would be able to resume providing books.

While the pandemic prevented us from delivering many of our planned programmes, slowed our book provision and book acquisition and challenged our fundraising, we were still able to make books available to an estimated 18.7m people in 2020.

Continuing book provision

Covid presented significant challenges to our core work of providing books, including to our ability to operate safely in our London warehouse and work with partners who were themselves experiencing the impact of the pandemic through school, library and office closures.

During April and May, while our warehouse was closed, we prepared for re-opening, putting in place Covid-safe procedures that would enable us to run a core team focusing on supporting our active partners for the remainder of the year.

Our warehouse re-opened for book donations from publishers from June and although many publishers' offices remained closed we still received over 750,000 book donations throughout the year from more than 88 publishers, including Macmillan, Oxford University Press, Penguin Random House and Sage Publications.

With our warehouse open again and donations arriving from publishers we were able to continue sending books to those partners who were able to receive and distribute them.

Some of our partners were able to accept significant book donations. For example, the Malawi National Library Service managed to accept two shipments totaling 31,889 books despite the pandemic in the country.



A member of our book provision team packing books

We timed some shipments in between UK and local lockdowns, as in Zimbabwe with two shipments containing 35,442 books to the Harare Distribution Committee.

Some organisations, such as our library partners in Eritrea, in The Gambia and in Mosul, Iraq, were unable to receive books in 2020 so we pledged renewed support for them in 2021. And for those we were unable to support due to our own limited capacity we promised priority support for 2021.

All our partners emphasised that despite the pandemic books were needed more than ever to support post lockdown recovery in schools and communities.

In 2020 we sent a total of 867,567 books to 108 priority partners in 19 countries and territories thanks to the ongoing support of our publishers and funders and the commitment of our partners.

Delivering projects and programmes

Throughout 2020 many of our partners wanted to continue with their planned work, so we found safe ways of delivering projects and programmes together.

Despite the challenges of Covid, we continued to support refugees through our *Reading for All* and *Solar Homework Club* projects, invested in education through our *Inspiring Readers* and *Reading is Basic* programmes and started work on our next *Children's Corner* to invite more children into reading.

To help our partners stay as safe as possible, we also began supplying handwashing stations alongside books wherever we created new school libraries and included a section in our training on Covid-safe practices.



Providing training for librarians in Somaliland

With travel for in-person training impossible, we developed innovative new approaches to remote and online training which allowed us to train a total of 548 teachers and librarians. The detail of these training innovations is described on page 15.



22 projects
of 30 started or completed



55,882
readers directly affected by our programmes



Seven
online training events to upskill local trainers

Keeping in touch

During the pandemic, we worked to keep our supporters connected with readers around the world by publishing stories from our partners on our website and social media. These included stories from Kenyan teachers who walked books to local children's homes, mobile libraries in Ghana and even inmates in Zambia.

To replace our programme of in-person events, we created a series of *Books Change Lives* webinars designed to continue the conversation about the importance of books with our friends and supporters.

In total, we held three live events, engaging over 400 people and raising almost £2,000.



Mariella Fostrop taking part in a November Books Change Lives event



£1.89m
of a forecast income of £1.94m raised



Three
digital fundraising events held



£85,000
raised in biannual appeals, our highest total ever

2020 in numbers

In 2020, we made 867,567 books available to an estimated 18.7 million people in 19 countries and territories.

Countries where we sent books

Bahamas	2,599	Liberia	25,922	Syria	30,552
Cameroon	37,942	Malawi	71,667	Tanzania	53,826
Ethiopia	49,483	Nepal	175	Uganda	47,171
Ghana	100,997	Sierra Leone	70,506	Zambia	65,720
Greece	5,520	Somalia	1,315	Zimbabwe	157,391
Kenya	95,242	Somaliland	24,955		
Lebanon	10,601	South Sudan	15,983		

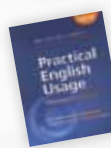
Where books are changing lives

 292 public libraries	 351 secondary schools
 238 community libraries	 37 prison libraries
 415 medical libraries	 36 refugee camps
 223 further and higher education libraries	 886 nurseries and primary schools

Building local capacity

 11,962 local books purchased
 62 school libraries created
 548 teachers and librarians trained

The types of books we provided

 Children and primary 430,868	 Higher education 52,688	 Development 27,214	 Medicine and healthcare 75,353
 Leisure reading 129,867	 Vocational, technical and business 38,030	 English language skills 26,213	 Reference and secondary 87,334

Realising our Vision 2020

In 2017 we launched our *Vision 2020* strategy and committed to reaching out to people around the world who face the greatest barriers to reading and learning. To realise our vision, we prioritised the following areas of our work.

Providing more books

In 2017 we committed to increasing our impact by growing the reach of our work: increasing the number of books we send each year to 1.5 million and expanding our geographic reach.

In 2020, we had planned to make 1.3 million books available to people in at least 25 countries. However, the impacts of Covid restricted the number of books we could safely send and reduced our partners' capacity to receive books.

Despite these challenges, we were still able to send over 867,000 books to partners in 19 countries and territories. In 2021 we expect to return to pre-pandemic levels of activity and resume our work increasing our capacity to provide books around the world.



A shipment of books being loaded in our London warehouse.



20% increase in books sent and 10 new countries of operation between 2017 and 2019

Reaching those who need books most

In our strategy period we worked to make at least one third of the books we provide each year available to people who live with conflict, who have been displaced, who attend poorly resourced schools, who face discrimination or who cannot attend school. Nearly half of the books we provided in 2020 were available to people in these key priority groups.

To achieve this aim, we forged new partnerships with organisations that serve these marginalised communities, including with six grassroots NGOs supporting Greece's refugee communities, Médecins Sans Frontières in South Sudan, conservation charity African Parks and international NGO Street Child in Liberia and Rwanda.



Children reading donated books in a school affected by the conflict in Cameroon



48 new partners and a 14% increase in books sent to vulnerable communities since 2017

Developing innovative projects

A key aim of our strategy was to offer innovative programmes that would help libraries become more active and sustainable so that they are able to encourage reading in their own communities in the long-term.

In 2020, we moved towards this goal by expanding our *Reading for All* and *Solar Homework Club* programmes. *Reading for All* takes an innovative approach to improving refugee education by creating school libraries and training refugee teachers. *Solar Homework Clubs* offer solar lamps alongside books in the same schools to extend the time available for reading and learning into the evening even when electricity is not reliable.

We also expanded our solar programmes outside of refugee settings in other communities where unreliable electricity limits reading time. In 2020, we launched our *Solar Libraries* programme in Malawi, offering thousands of pupils and students in rural communities books and lights.



Training being delivered by a Malawian librarian for our new Reading Around the Reserve programme



11 new programme models developed since 2017

Advocating for books

In our *Vision 2020* strategy we committed to supporting our partners in promoting the value of reading for pleasure, study and lifelong learning.

In 2020 we helped inspire our partners to keep advocating for reading through our *BookLinks* partner newsletter. *BookLinks* empowers our partners in their reading promotion work by offering stories, tips and information about the work of others around the world. In 2020, we sent *BookLinks* to 202 partners.

Despite the challenges of Covid, we also trained more than 500 teachers and librarians in 2020. That training included strategies for promoting reading, and participants often report feeling more confident in engaging their communities after going through our courses.

While our *Reading Promotion* campaign which supports our partners to run in-person reading promotion events was not able to go forward in 2020 due to Covid restrictions, we look forward to restarting the campaign in 2021.



Students taking part in a reading event in Malawi



Reading promotion campaign expanded from 11 countries in 2017 to 15 in 2019

Our impact on children

Access to high-quality books helps children and young people learn to read, succeed in school and reach their full potential.

Yet millions of children around the world live in a world without the books that could inspire them to read and learn. Their parents cannot afford to buy books, their schools can offer only a few tattered textbooks and libraries often have only a small collection of old children's books.

With inspiring, age-appropriate books, children and young people are more able to thrive in education and develop a lifelong love of reading, and in 2020 we provided 557,261 brand-new, carefully selected books for young readers. They included books to encourage reading and learning at every age – from picture books for the youngest children to revision support books for secondary school pupils.

Supporting out of school learning

At the height of the Covid crisis, 1.5 billion students and pupils were out of school, often with few or no books to support their learning. In 2020, many of our partners used the books we provided to offer children the opportunity to keep reading while the

schools were closed. One such partner was AfriKids in Ghana. In 2020, we provided 3,000 books to support their work, and AfriKids used those books to stock a mobile library which offered 10,000 children the opportunity to read during lockdown.

Reaching students like Catherine

Thousands of families live on the outskirts of the Dandora dumpsite in Nairobi, Kenya. Most live in poverty, and few were able to access Kenya's e-learning platforms while schools were closed. Local NGO Dandora Dumpsite Rehabilitation Group works to support the local community and they maintain a library where young people can come to study, read and learn.

In 2020, the 1,000 books we provided helped the NGO deliver its vital work and offered a lifeline for students like Catherine.

"Being able to access books and read while my school is closed has been really helpful. This will help me to improve my grades because I am able to cover a lot in my study areas. I really appreciate the books that Book Aid International has sent to us students!"

- Catherine, Dandora community resident



Catherine reading in her spare time

Creating school libraries

In 2020, our *Inspiring Readers* programme took the next step towards its goal of bringing books to the classrooms of 250,000 African primary school children.

We worked with our partners in Uganda, Sierra Leone, Zimbabwe and Zanzibar to establish 50 school libraries, enriching the education of 44,380 pupils.

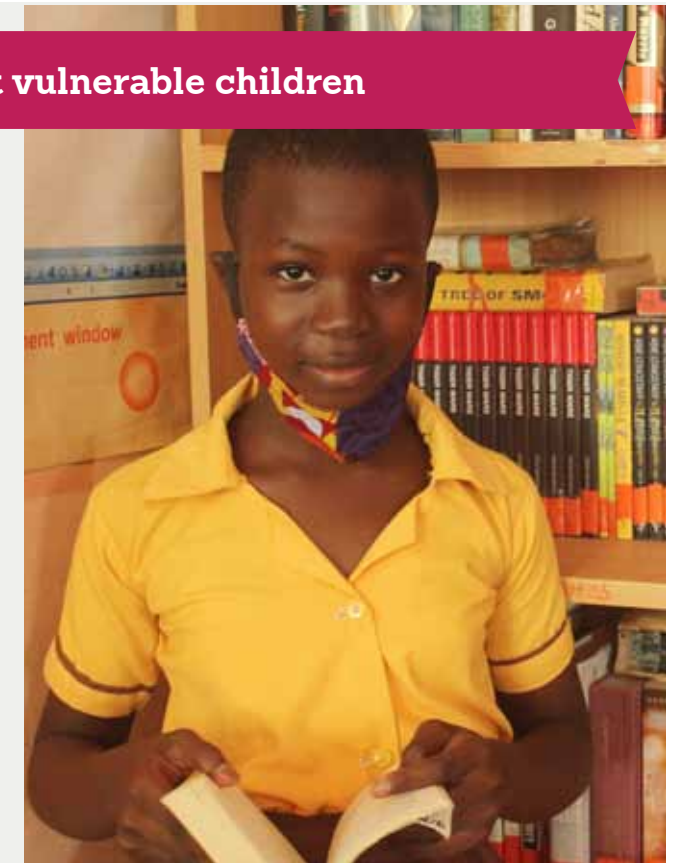
We also opened 12 *Explorer Libraries* in partnership with local NGO Save the Needy and the Sierra Leone Library Board in Sierra Leone, giving 6,960 children books in their schools. Each *Explorer Library* transforms a disused classroom space into a thriving school library through a grant for refurbishment, a donation of 2,500 brand-new books, funds to purchase local books and a training programme for staff.

Enriching classrooms for the most vulnerable children

In Accra, Ghana, local NGO Street Child Empowerment Foundation (SCEF) is working to support children who live or work on the streets. In 2020 we supported SCEF's inspiring work through the *Reading is Basic* project. Together, we created school libraries in 12 primary schools and three learning centres that support at-risk children, training teachers in how to make use of these new books and supporting the education of more than 4,000 pupils.

"Reading was a big challenge among my students because we had old dusty books and couldn't use them. I was happy when I was told my school was part of the *Reading is Basic* project. The training has helped me train my staff and now I can boldly say, my children love going to the library!"

- Adedeinkpo, Headmistress, Madam Fareeda Mumuni school, Ghana



A child picking out a book in her school thanks to the *Reading is Basic* project in Ghana

Encouraging a love of reading

In 2020 we provided children's books to 530 public and community libraries in 19 countries and territories. The children's books we provided to our partners were particularly important in regions where libraries offered the only opportunity to read and learn during Covid lockdowns. In Sierra Leone, for example, the library board kept all 24 of its branch libraries open even when schools were closed, encouraging families to borrow books so that children could keep learning at home. We supported their work in 2020 by providing 20,765 books.

"Children are always so excited to see the new books arrive from Book Aid International and to open up the pages. You know, [these new books are] better than second hand books, because most times second hand books are torn, pages are missing or someone has already scribbled in them. The children come to the library because books are available."

- Dunstanette, Head of the Children's Library Department, Sierra Leone Library Board

Our impact when disaster and conflict strike

Books have an important role to play for people who live with disaster, displacement and conflict.

In August 2020, an explosion in Lebanon's capital, Beirut, destroyed or damaged thousands of books in local libraries and schools. We responded with a shipment of 10,000 books to the Assabil Association and Lebanese Board on Books for Young People to support their work restoring lost book collections and helping thousands of local residents return to reading and learning. These books will reach readers in seven public schools, eight public libraries and eight libraries in refugee camps.

"The Book Aid International donation was a great opportunity to help us make reading and culture accessible for everyone - a mission in which we strongly believe, being aware of what the Lebanese population is facing during this hard financial crisis. Clearly, this is a fresh, new and highly appealing book collection for children and adults visiting our libraries."

- Ali Sabbagh, Executive Coordinator, Assabil Association

Books for people living with conflict

In 2020, we worked directly with NGO partners who are supporting communities affected by conflict, offering books to ten secondary schools across South Sudan in partnership with Windle Trust International, sending 25,678 books to international

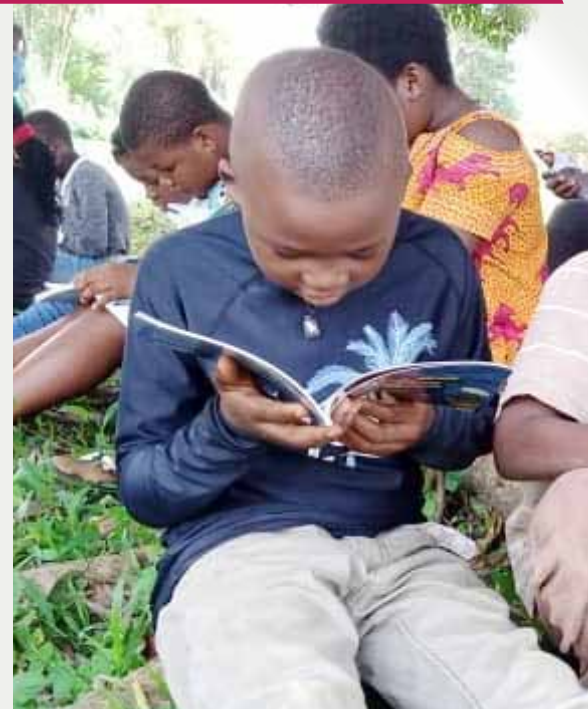
NGO Syria Relief to support education for children affected by war and providing 1,315 books to secondary school pupils in Somalia through our partnership with Windle Trust Somalia.

Reaching children like Sheera*

In Cameroon hundreds of thousands of people have been displaced by ongoing unrest. Thousands of children are out of school, and the interruption to their education threatens to put their futures at risk. In 2020, we provided 30 *Pioneer Book Boxes* to children who have been displaced in Cameroon, each stocked with 200 beautiful children's books. These sturdy, damp-proof boxes are designed to be transported to wherever children are sheltering – and they are essential to children like Sheera:

"When I grow up, I want to do agriculture so that I can grow a lot of food. So many people are hungry. I want to feed the world with food from my farms. We did not have books to read until Book Aid International gave *Pioneer Book Boxes* to the priest and now we can read two or three days every week. I am so happy."

- Sheera*, 13 year old displaced girl, Cameroon



Children reading donated books in Cameroon

*Name changed to protect confidentiality

Supporting refugee learning

In 2020 we provided 53,177 books to 20 partners across five countries to support refugee education.

In Greece the pandemic coupled with the destruction of the Moria refugee camp on the island of Lesbos worsened the already dire situation faced by the refugees sheltering in the country. We worked to support these refugees by providing a total of 5,520 books selected to encourage children to read and help adults learn English.

In Uganda's Rhino Refugee Settlement we began work in partnership with Windle International Uganda to support the education of thousands of students and pupils through our *Reading for All* programme. Together we have begun work to establish libraries in 41 early childhood development centres, primary schools and secondary schools, providing brand-new books alongside grants to purchase local books and training for teachers in how to use books to support classroom learning.

In Kenya's Dadaab and Kakuma refugee camps we continued to provide books to support primary and secondary school students through our partnerships with local NGOs Windle International Kenya and The Lutheran World Federation. In total, we provided 23,809 books which will be available to thousands of young people in 72 schools.



Refugees reading at the Echo Mobile Library in Athens

"There's very little to look forward to in these camps, and one of the very few things you can actually do is sit and read a book, either for study or for the sake of exploring a different world."

- Becka, Echo Mobile Library Coordinator, Athens

Lockdown learning for refugees in Kenya

In Kakuma we continued to support refugee learning by expanding our *Solar Homework Club* project. The project enables refugee students and their teachers to borrow solar lamps alongside books so that learning and lesson preparation can continue even when the camp's unreliable electricity fails.

"When schools were closed learning was going on [in Kenya] through radio lessons, but our learners faced challenges in accessing devices such as radios, smart phones and internet bundles. So the teachers issued out books provided by Book Aid International and also solar lamps. They helped the students to continue to study at home."

- George Nandi, Education Officer, Windle International Kenya



A young woman in Kauma Refugee Camp reading a donated book in the evening using a solar lamp

Our impact on healthcare

Up to date medical books are essential in educating the next generation of healthcare providers and enabling practising professionals to provide quality care.

Yet around the world there is an acute shortage of medical texts. Supporting healthcare providers, educators and students by providing up to date medical books is one of our key aims. In 2020 we provided 75,333 brand-new medical texts to hospitals and medical training facilities in 18 countries.

The medical books we provided

We carefully select the medical books we provide, ensuring that they are appropriate to the setting where they will be used. Our medical partners include medical colleges, universities, hospitals and NGOs and their book needs are diverse.

In response, the books we provided in 2020 covered every stage of study and practice, including nursing and anatomy texts for students, practical guides for those practising in remote settings and advanced surgical techniques to support professionals.

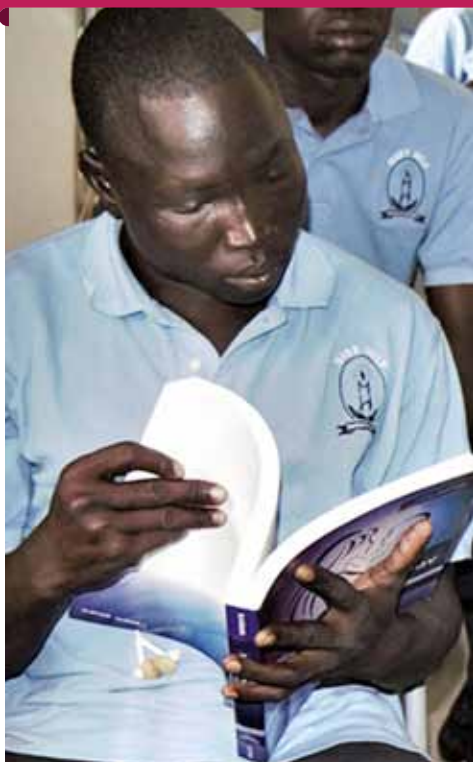
The books we provided went to communities where the need to educate more healthcare providers is pressing.

These locations included The Edna Adan University Hospital in Somaliland, St John of God College of Medicine in Malawi and the new Levy Mwanawasa University Teaching Hospital, Zambia.

"2020 without Book Aid International? It would have been a disaster. There would have been even less information and both teachers and students would have had problems accessing that information. So, the value of the books we receive is priceless. It really helps us to do our job and for the students to learn."

- Prisca, Lecturer St John of God College of Medicine, Malawi

Supporting healthcare in South Sudan



South Sudan suffered a civil conflict from 2013 to 2018, and as a result many people have very poor access to health care. A lack of skilled health workers is a major challenge.

In 2020 we provided 4,370 books to medical partners in South Sudan, including The South University of Medicine Science, Mary's College of Nursing and Midwifery and Médecins Sans Frontières. These books will improve healthcare today and help to educate the next generation of professionals, ensuring that they can provide high quality patient care in the years to come.

"It is difficult to get medical books in South Sudan. The students have been depending on only the class notes given by the teacher for past years. Now the books have arrived, the students are able to read, understand better and increase their knowledge. They are now able to prepare themselves to be the future nurses and midwives of our country."

- Sr Gracy Adichirayil Joseph, Mary's College of Nursing and Midwifery

A student at Mary's College of Nursing and Midwifery studying from a donated book

Innovating to support reading

It is vital that we continue to find new ways of encouraging more people to read and supporting our partners to make the best possible use of the books that we provide.

In 2020, we focused on innovating to continue providing essential training for teachers and librarians and on expanding our work setting up solar libraries.

Providing Covid-safe training

In all of our programmes, we provide training for teachers and librarians in how to use the books we provide to support children's reading and learning. This training has normally been carried out in person by our team. With travel impossible in 2020, we had to find new ways to upskill local teachers and librarians.

Where partners had strong internet bandwidth, our staff provided training via Zoom. This distance learning was supported by a series of training videos illustrating key librarianship skills which would normally be demonstrated in person. In total, we provided 43 teachers and librarians with training via Zoom.

Where internet connections didn't allow for us to deliver virtual training directly, we focused on upskilling local librarians to deliver training on our behalf. We provided virtual 'train the trainer' workshops for 21 partner staff in four countries who then went on to train 392 librarians and teachers.

These innovative new training models allowed us to keep working during Covid. They will also create future opportunities to train more people who we might previously have been unable to reach.

Lighting the way to learning

In many communities around the world, electricity is unreliable – so even where books are available, reading time can be limited to daylight hours. For everyone, but especially girls, this can leave little time around chores for reading and learning. We have been piloting the lending of solar lamps alongside books in Kakuma Refugee camp, and in 2020 we expanded this solar work.

In partnership with Solar Aid in Malawi, we created 17 *Solar Libraries* in the central Malawian town of Dedza. In total, we trained 70 teachers and school staff in how to use these books to support learning and provided 6,800 UK donated as well as 2,632 locally purchased books to offer thousands of pupils and their families the opportunity to borrow books alongside lamps.

While enabling children to read and study at home, the partnership also promotes clean energy, and we hope to expand the model in years to come.



Books, handwashing equipment and solar lights arriving in Malawian primary schools

 **17,000**
students with access to
solar lights and books

Our supporter community

We are entirely voluntary funded, supported by thousands of individuals and by organisations whose generosity makes our work possible. The support we receive enables us to deliver a wide range of work promoting reading around the world.

Unrestricted giving

The unrestricted income of £1,194,063 we received in 2020 from individuals, community groups, trusts and foundations and corporate partners funded our core work providing books around the world, allowing us to support 108 partners.

In 2020 we raised £595,112 from 5,678 regular givers. We continued to build new support, attracting over 1,700 new supporters, and our two biannual cash appeals raised over £85,000 – our best performing appeals to date. This unrestricted income enables us to support our existing partners and respond to new requests for books.

Legacies also continued to make a highly-valued contribution to our unrestricted income in 2020. Legacies of £27,228 recognised in the 2020 accounts enabled us to send more books to partners around the world.

Community fundraising was significantly impacted by the pandemic in 2020. Although World Book Day went ahead on 5th March schools closed soon afterwards and income fell short of our target. Total community fundraising income in 2020 was £74,166.

Restricted gifts

In 2020 restricted grants from trusts and foundations totalling £735,184 funded a range of projects across Africa. As much of this work was interrupted by school and library closures trust funders generously allowed us longer reporting timetables or a reallocation of the grant to other projects.

Other trusts funded our book provision programme in named countries, including the Beit Trust which generously gave £75,000 to support our book provision programme in Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Corporate partners continued to support us in 2020 despite the pressures of managing their businesses through the pandemic.



The image that one young fundraiser created for her readathon which raised over £1,400

Income from our online shop grew significantly in 2020, raising £12,779 from the sale of Reverse Book Tokens, tote bags and Christmas cards.

Corporate supporters donated more than £81,000 to our work. We would like to thank in particular Aggreko, Outland AS, Accenture, Oxford University Press and RELX for their support.

"At RELX, we believe in universal and sustainable access to information. That's why for over 20 years, we have supported the work of Book Aid International, whose mission is to ensure that everyone has access to books. Seeing how our donation was used to transform the library space in Accra Central Children's Library and provide children with a selection of beautiful, brand-new books is so inspiring. We are extremely proud to support this wonderful charity."

- Alexis Steadman, Corporate Responsibility Project Manager, RELX

Gifts in kind

In 2020 the UK publishing industry donated 756,554 books in total, valued at £12,850,101, enabling us to offer the opportunity to read to millions around the world. We would like to thank all our book donors but particularly Penguin Random House, Macmillan, Sage and Elsevier.

Raising our profile

In 2020 we achieved 219 pieces of press coverage – including in *The Big Issue* and *The Times* through our collaboration with Edmund De Waal and his Library of Exile. We engaged high profile friends in our Lockdown Reads series and at The Hay Literary Festival, where our event was chaired by John Simpson.

We also launched our online *Books Change Lives* events programme in 2020. Comprised of three live interviews and audience Q&As with well known authors and journalists, guests included BBC *Newsnight* presenter Emily Maitlis, Sir Michael Palin and best-selling author and screenwriter David Nicholls. Over the course of the year, the events attracted over 400 attendees and raised almost £2,000 in ticket donations.

Although we were unable to welcome volunteers in our warehouse from March onwards 36 virtual volunteers donated 127.5 hours helping us with vital distance tasks, including transcribing interviews to improve our digital presence.



Authors Sita Sita Brahmachari and Onjali Raulf and the Centre for Literacy's Farrah Serroukh during a January 2020 warehouse visit

Support from players of People's Postcode Lottery

In 2020 we received funds totalling £425,000 from players of People's Postcode Lottery. These funds helped us adapt to the challenges of working through the pandemic – enabling us to invest in our digital fundraising and set up our *Books Change Lives* series.

We also used funds from players to support a school library project in Sierra Leone, our refugee programmes in Uganda and Kenya, the provision of over 75,000 books to libraries and schools across Africa and one of our newest projects, *Reading Around the Reserve* in Malawi which we are delivering in partnership with fellow player-supported charity, African Parks.

"These wonderful books will help us to show young people here in our communities the significance of the world's natural heritage, which we have a shared responsibility to protect for future generations to benefit from. We would like to thank players of People's Postcode Lottery for making this very special book donation possible."

- Samuel Kamoto, Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve Park Manager, African Parks



Our Chief Executive, Alison Tweed, celebrating our 2020 award from players of People's Postcode Lottery

Financial overview

At Book Aid International all of our income is voluntary – we receive no government grants.

In 2020 our total income was £14,807,452, of which £1,957,351 was cash and £12,850,101 was the value of books donated to us by UK publishers.

Our total expenditure was £12,969,224, of which £1,902,852 was cash expenditure and £11,066,372 was the value of the books we provided around the world.

Cash income and expenditure

In 2020 we received cash income of £1,957,351, which was £322,907 below 2019's income of £2,280,258. Of cash income in 2020, £1,194,063 was unrestricted income which funded our work providing books around the world.

Unrestricted income fell compared to 2019, when we raised £1,323,434, primarily because of reduced community fundraising activity during 2020 as a result of the pandemic. Most other forms of unrestricted income held up well with individual giving income even coming in slightly above the 2019 figure and income received from HMRC for furloughed staff.

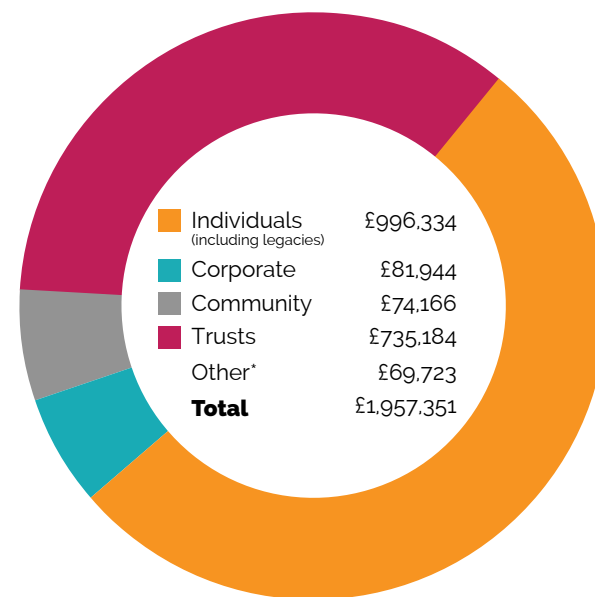
We received restricted income of £763,287 to support our projects, compared to £956,824 in 2019. Funding from corporates and major donors was hit heavily during the year as organisations and individuals delayed or reassessed their funding pipelines.

Cash expenditure in 2020 was £1,902,852, substantially lower than the 2019 figure of £2,204,100. This reduction was related to the two month closure of our warehouse, termination of our evening shift, delays to projects that could not go forward because of the pandemic and reduced travel costs due to lockdowns. We anticipate returning to more normal expenditure levels in 2021.

Maintaining reserves

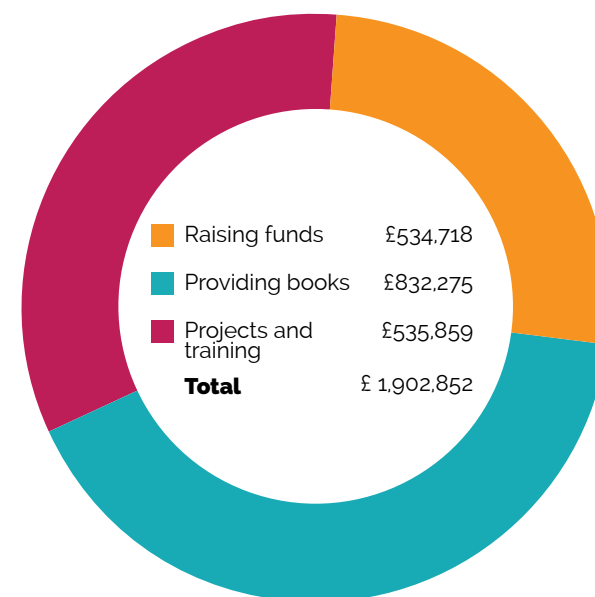
We maintain sufficient unrestricted cash reserves to ensure that we can deliver our planned commitments in the event of unforeseen financial challenges. The minimum level of reserves we must hold is agreed by our Board of Trustees and monitored regularly. In 2020 the minimum level was confirmed at a range between £500,000 and £550,000.

Total cash income 2020



*Includes income of £49,000 from HMRC for furloughed staff

Total cash expenditure 2020



We ended 2020 with £677,146 in free reserves - higher than anticipated as some activity that had been planned for 2020 could not go forward due to the pandemic and has been deferred to 2021. We also held an additional £328,015 of reserves that were designated by the trustees for specific purposes. For more information see the notes to the accounts pages 24 to 53.

Covid response

In response to the pandemic and its likely impact the Finance and Audit Committee (FAC) conducted an exercise to arrive at an opinion on the funds of the organisation up to and beyond the end of 2022.

Based on the information supplied and the modelling performed, the FAC reported to the Board of Trustees that in its opinion the organisation was sufficiently resourced to operate on a going concern basis.

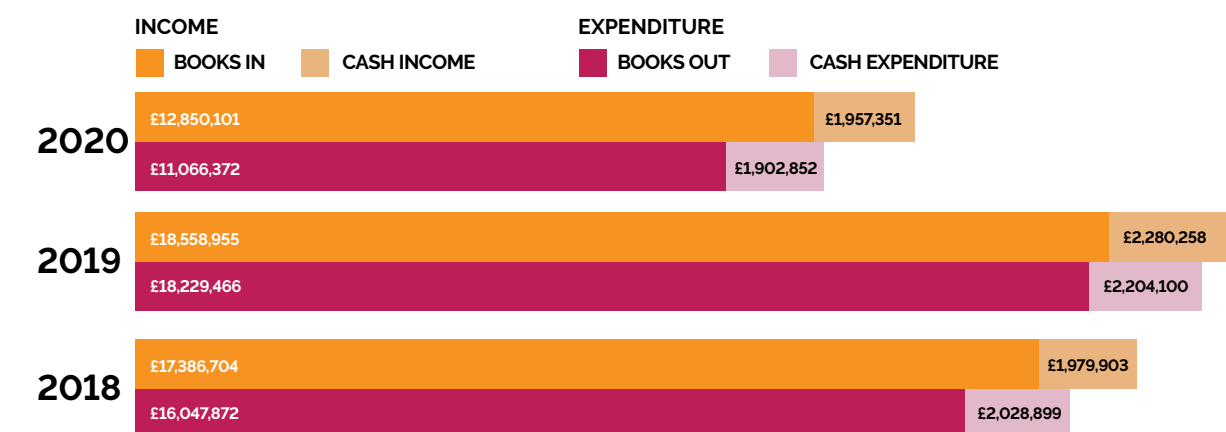
The value of donated books

In 2020 the value of books donated by publishers to our charity decreased by 31% from £18,558,955 in 2019 to £12,850,101. This reflects the impacts of the pandemic.

We expect to receive a more normal number of books again in 2021 and we acknowledge that

fluctuations in the value of the books we receive will continue in the coming years as the books publishers donate change year on year. However, these fluctuations are not impacting cash income and expenditure, which remain largely stable.

How our income and expenditure have changed



Making the best use of donated money and books

In 2020 96p in every pound of expenditure represented the cost of providing books and supporting readers.

- 85p** Use of donated books
- 11p** Book provision, training, projects and other charitable activities
- 4p** Raising funds

If you remove the value of donated books we spent 71p of every pound on charitable activities. We spent a total of £10,813 on governance.





Looking to the future

ALISON TWEED, CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The long-term impact of the pandemic in 2020 on people around the world, and especially on our young people, makes the need for books even more acute in 2021 as communities rebuild and pupils return to school after a year of lost lessons.

Books have a vital role to play in this recovery. High quality books will help pupils rediscover reading and catch up on their learning and support students as they return to higher education and pick up their studies again. Well-stocked libraries will create a conducive learning environment and offer access to information for all.

Books and access to up to date information will have a key role, too, in supporting medical professionals and in addressing the huge challenges they face given the increased pressure of the pandemic.

And with ever more displaced people around the world, with more unemployment and more disrupted future, books will be a vital lifeline for people as they rebuild their lives, wherever they find themselves.

But the challenges do not stop there: climate change, conflict and an increasingly technological world require the response of a highly trained and well-informed workforce to shape our future. Education is key and books play a central role in informing and shaping the next generation of professionals.

Aside from all this we have seen how in a pandemic people have rediscovered the simple joy of reading. We believe that books and reading offer people the opportunity to shape their own futures: we exist to help people access books that will enrich, improve and change their lives.

In the years to come, we know that together with our partners, we can do much more to support people and communities as they return to learning, rebuild lost businesses and forge new routes forward to a more prosperous, sustainable future.

We cannot do this alone, however. We rely on our key supporters: the publishers who generously provide the books we donate and those who give money to enable us to send them.

We are just one part of a very wide community of people who believe in the power of books to change lives and to support effective and transformational change. We would like to thank everyone who has made our work possible in 2020 – and to invite you to join us in 2021 and beyond.

Alison Tweed

“

In the years to come, we know that together with our partners, we can do much more to support people and communities as they return to learning, rebuild lost businesses and forge new routes forward to a more prosperous, sustainable future.

”

Our partners

Below is a full list of all our overseas partners to whom we sent books directly in 2020. Through our partners, we were able to reach more than 2,400 libraries, schools, hospitals and refugee camps around the world.

We could not do this without the continued support, creativity and passion of our partners and we thank them all for their hard work.

Bahamas

University of Bahamas

Cameroon

Education Information Services International

Ethiopia

British Council

CODE Ethiopia

Ethiopia Knowledge and Technology Transfer Society

Ethiopia Reads

Hope Oromia Development Association

Jesuit Refugee Services

Ghana

AfriKids

Biblioref

Community Action Ghana

Ghana Library Authority

Henry Osabutey Education Foundation

Humanitas

Literacy Boost Organisation

Rainbow Trust

React Humanitarian Network

Teach 2 Teach

The Olinga Foundation

Greece

Action for Education - Chios

Amina Women's Day Centre

Drop in the ocean - Nea Kavala

Echo 100 Plus

Echo

Eleas Project

Intereuropean Human Aid Association

Merimna

Open Cultural Centre

Kenya

African prisons project

AMREF Health Africa

Arise Disabled Person Group

Association for Aid and Relief, Japan

Dandora Dumpsite Rehabilitation group

Dignitas

Kenya Medical Training College

Kenya National Library Service

Lewa Wildlife Conservancy

Library of the Year Award

Lutheran World Services

Resources Oriented Development Initiatives

Windle International Kenya

Lebanon

Assabil Association

Lebanese Board on Books for Young People

Liberia

University of Liberia

We Care

Malawi

African Parks, Malawi

Malawi College of Health Science

Malawi Leaders of Learning

Malawi National Library Service

Save the Children - Malawi

Solar Aid

St John of God College of Medicine

Nepal

Future Faces

Sierra Leone

EducAID

Save the Needy

Sierra Leone Library Board

Street Child Sierra Leone

Institute of Public Administration and Management, University of Sierra Leone

Somalia

Windle International Somalia

Somaliland

Edna Adan University Hospital

Sillaanyo National Library

South Sudan

Finn Church Aid

Ibba School

Mary's College of Nursing and Midwifery

Médecins Sans Frontières

South Univeristy of Medicine Science

St John Catholic University College of Science Technology

St Mary's College

University of Juba

Windle International

Syria

Syria Relief

Tanzania

Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences

State University of Zanzibar

Sumait University

Tanzania Library Services Board

Tanzanian Training Centre for International Health

Zanzibar Library Services

Uganda

African Revival, Uganda

Jango International

Jesuit Refugee Service Uganda

Ma'di debate Society

Masaka Regional referral Hospital

National Library of Uganda

Pearl Integrated Development Agency

SOS Children's Village

Transcultural Psychosocial Organisation

Tusome Africa

Uganda Prison Service

Volunteer Services Overseas

Windle Turst

Woman Empowerment Institute

Zambia

African Revival, Zambia

CELIM

Hope Worldwide Zambia

Lions Club of Mukuba

Mukuba University

Senanga School of Nursing

University of Zambia, Lusaka and Kiwe Campuses

Zambia Episcopal Conference

Health Institutions

Zambia Library Service

Zambia Open Community Schools

Zimbabwe

Bulawayo Book Distribution Committee

Harare Distribution Committee

World Vision

Zambesi Schoolbook Project

With thanks to...

We would like to thank the following supporters in particular as well as those who wish to remain anonymous:

Our book donors and corporate partners

Agency for Legal Deposit Libraries
Aggreko PLC
Al Saqi Bookshop
Alice Dartnell
Amazon.co.uk
BackList Books
Baker Books
Barrington Stoke
BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT
BlackRock
Blackwell's
Bloomsbury Publishing Plc
Bonnier Books
Book Harvest
BookLife Publishing
BookTrust
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Cambridge University Press
Capsules Book
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Class Professional Publishing
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Programme on Poverty
Coordination Group Publications
Daunt Books
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Everymans Library
Gale, a Cengage Company
Golden Oak Press
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Green Bean Books
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HarperCollins Publishers
Heath Educational Books
Human Kinetics Publishing
Kube Publishing
LBA Books
Letterbox Library
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Marylebone Books
Maverick Arts Publishing
McGraw Hill Education
Mending House Publishing Inc
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Quarto Publishing Group
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Royal National Institute of Blind People
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Shared Services Connected Limited
Silver Jungle
Taylor & Francis
Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation
Teeth Relief
The Accenture Foundation
The Reading Agency
The Society of Authors
Tropical Health Technology
Ulverscroft
Usborne Publishing
Walker Books Ltd

Watkins Publishing
Wiley
Willoughby Book Club
Zed Books

Our trust supporters

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Eva Reckitt Trust Fund
Fresh Leaf Charitable Foundation
GMC Trust
Golden Charitable Trust
Heathgate Charitable Trust
Hodge Foundation
Intouch Global Foundation
Kilpatrick Fraser Charitable Trust
Merriman Charitable Foundation
Mona Hatoum Foundation
Montier Charitable Trust
Network for Social Change Charitable Trust
Peacock Charitable Trust
Scotland Community Foundation
The 29th May 1961 Charitable Trust
The Alchemy Foundation
The Allan & Nesta Ferguson Charitable Trust
The Ardwick Trust
The Beit Trust
The Bernard Sunley Charitable Foundation
The Bryan Guinness Charitable Trust
The Earlswood Charitable Trust
The Fulmer Charitable Trust
The Hyne Trust
The Lennox Hannay Charitable Trust
The Michael and Anna Wix Charitable Trust
The People's Postcode Lottery

The Rainford Trust
The Rest-Harrow Trust
The Rhododendron Trust
The Schuster Charitable Trust
The Stephen Cockburn Charitable Trust
The Tony and Audrey Watson Charitable Trust
The Veronica Awdry Charitable Trust
Unwin Charitable Trust
William A Cadbury Trust

Our volunteers, ambassadors and individual supporters

Caroline Burton
Christopher and Gilda Haskins
David Brewer
Diana Hardman
Eleanor and David Holloway
Emma and Graham Defries
Francis Crewdson

Gillian Goss
Harriet Hewitson
Helen Esmonde
Jacobs Ladder Charity Fund
Jane Jewell
Jane Penson
Jane Tappuni
Jess Edwards
Jon Macintosh
Kathy Rooney
Louisa Symington
Matt Nixon
Peter Waller and Erica Zimmer
Philip Walters MBE
Rosie Glazebrook
Rupert and Alexandra Asquith
Sarah McCullough
Sir Mark and Lady Moody-Stuart

And also thanks to

World Book Day
Chris Wormell
Chris Riddell
Cliveden Literary Festival
Danyl Johnson
David Nicholls
Edmund De Waal
Emily Maitlis
Hay Festival
John Simpson
Jonathan Dimbleby
Konnie Huq
Levison Wood
Onjali Q Rauf
Paul Cooper
Rageh Omaar
Sir Michael Palin
Sita Brahmachar
The Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition
Writers' & Artists' Yearbook

In addition to all those named above, we would like to thank all of those who supported us anonymously in 2020.

Patrons, trustees and officials



Patron HRH The Duke of Edinburgh KG KT OM

President Nigel Newton

Vice President Professor Kingo Mchombu

Chief Executive and Company Secretary Alison Tweed

Board

Chair

Lord Paul Boateng

Honorary Treasurer

Nicholas Allen

Trustees

Rosie Glazebrook (left March 2020)
John Macintosh (left July 2020)
Dhivya O'Connor (joined December 2020)
Jonathan Hargreaves (joined October 2020)
Zainab Umar (joined October 2020)
Pam Dix
Charly Nobbs
Robert Sulley

Our fundraising

In 2020 we raised £1,957,351 against an original budget of £1,944,941. Income shortfalls in community, major donor and corporate giving were balanced by increased legacy income and an additional award from players of People's Postcode Lottery of £175,000.

Our standards

We are committed to maintaining the highest standards in our fundraising in line with our Supporter Promise, which is displayed in the footer of every page on our website: bookaid.org.

In 2020, we remained registered with the Information Commissioner's Office and the Fundraising Regulator. We adhere to the standards of both organisations and respond to changes in the regulatory framework. We also maintained our Treating Donors Fairly policy which identifies groups of individuals who may be vulnerable and defines our approach to treating these individuals with respect and care.

We continue to place our donors at the centre of our fundraising programmes, offering flexibility in how they hear from us in line with GDPR regulations. There were no reported data breaches in 2020.

Commercial partners and fundraising agencies

We worked with a range of commercial participators and one professional fundraising agency in 2020. The commercial participators with which we exchanged supporter data included car scrapping (Giveacar), print management (DMP), email marketing (MailChimp), payment processing (including Rapidata, WooCommerce, PayPal, Stripe, JustGiving and Virgin Money Giving), database software (Blackbaud), Gift Aid claims (HRMC) and IT support (Wanstor).

Each of these organisations has a privacy policy, which is available on its website, and we maintain a data processing agreement with each, as required by GDPR regulations.

Fundraising feedback

In 2020 we did not receive any complaints about our fundraising. Two donors unsubscribed from our communications through the Fundraising Preference Service.

Investing in the future

In 2020, donor acquisition activities took place largely through unaddressed media inserts in publications.

Complete return on investment through these campaigns does not occur in the year of the activity, but is based on taking a longer-term view of the lifetime value of each new donor, many of whom continue their support for years.

We also invested in our events programme as part of our relationship-building work with higher level donors and corporate partners. In 2020 we set up a series of online *Books Change Lives* events to continue to engage donors in our work, and these raised almost £2,000.

Managing our finances

We are committed to outstanding financial management that safeguards the money we receive and ensures that our organisation is sustainable in the long term. By providing full details of all our financial management, how we comply with all relevant regulation and how we manage our funds, we aim to ensure that we earn the trust placed in us.

Staff and staffing costs

In 2020, we employed an average of 26 (25.3 FTE) staff who are divided into five teams: Operations, Fundraising, Communications, Programmes and Finance. The numbers include two staff members in Nairobi, Kenya, who are part of our Programmes team.

Staff and staffing costs		
Team	2020	2019
Salaries and wages	£837,686	£816,595
Restricted projects and training	£64,697	£81,834
Fundraising	£50,560	£46,949
Management and operations	£68,121	£60,226
Total	£1,021,064	£1,005,604

Pension liability

We are part of The Pensions Trust scheme, a multi-employer scheme that provides benefits to some 950 non-associated participating employers. The scheme is a defined-benefit scheme subject to the funding legislation outlined in the Pensions Act 2004 which came into force on 30th December 2005. The provision in respect of the deficit repayment plan is £153,000 (2019 £183,000) and this has been recognised in the accounts as required by FRS 102. Please see note 16 on page 46 for more detail.

Reserves policy and actuals

Our Board meets annually to consider the resources that will be required to meet our long-term objectives and fulfil our commitments. The Board also considers the risks we face and sets a minimum free reserves policy at a level it believes would sustain our work while we recovered from any future shortfalls in income or unforeseen expenditure. The reserves have been set to ensure we have the time to adjust to a serious issue or a

drop in funding and are more than required for the management of a closure.

In 2020, the free reserves level set by the Board was between £500,000 and £550,000. Our free reserves were £677,146 (2019: £682,058) thanks to strong individual giving funding and low attrition. The relatively high free reserves is also as a result of the deferment to 2021 of planned 2020 activity that could not proceed due to the pandemic.

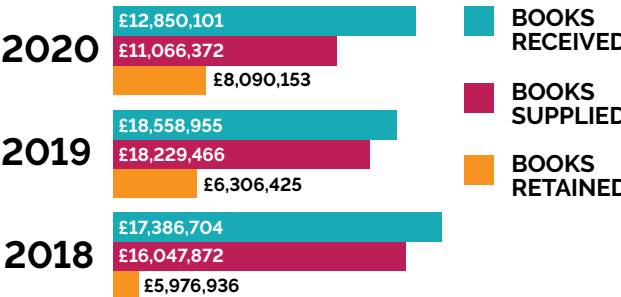
Restricted reserves are not available for general purposes and are for restricted programmes spanning two or more financial years. There was a balance at the end of 2020 of £189,947 (2019: £230,610) after deferring £425,000 funding from People's Postcode Lottery received in December 2020 to the year of expenditure 2021.

Reserves		
Charity Funds	2020	2019
Restricted income	£189,947	£230,610
Fixed assets	£267,502	£251,804
Revaluation reserve	£1,013,000	£1,023,624
Free reserves	£677,146	£682,058
Designated funds	£328,015	£233,015
Value of donated books	£8,090,153	£6,306,425
Total charity funds	£10,565,763	£8,727,536

Donations in kind

In 2020 99.9% (2019: 99.9%) of the books we sent were donated as Gifts in Kind by the UK publishing industry. The following table expresses the value of the books we received, retained and supplied in 2020 compared with preceding years:

Three-year stock



Structure, governance and management

We are a company limited by guarantee, governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association. Our purpose, as set out in our Articles of Association, is to advance education and literacy by:

- procuring and distributing reading and information materials to developing and other countries for educational purposes
- distributing these materials to public and community libraries, universities, colleges, schools, hospitals, youth and children's centres and other charitable institutions according to local needs and priorities
- promoting and supporting any training or other activity which is designed to enhance the use of books, reading and other information material in developing countries.

The Board has considered the legislative and regulatory requirements for disclosing how its charitable objectives have provided benefit to the public and has complied with the duty set out in Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011. The Strategic Report on pages 4 - 23 outlines how our achievements during 2020 have benefited the public, either directly or indirectly.

Our Board of Trustees

The members of the charitable company are also the members of the Board which consists of between five and 15 members. New members with specialist relevant skills and experience are appointed from time to time and their appointment is ratified at a meeting of the Board.

Members serve a three-year term, renewable for up to two further terms by re-election. New Trustees receive an induction and information pack and spend time in the offices and warehouse in London.

Our Trustees bring a range of experience from both the corporate and the not-for-profit sectors and individual members contribute expertise from publishing, finance, fundraising, librarianship, administration and international development.

The Trustees are actively engaged with strategic direction and policy. They discuss and approve a strategic plan every three years, an annual budget

each November and staff report regularly on progress against the plan.

The Board meets quarterly and reviews strategy, finances and the organisation's charitable activities and approves matters reserved for the Board.

These include issues relating to strategy and management, structure of the charity, financial controls, internal controls and risk management, contracts, communication, board membership, remuneration, delegation of authority, corporate governance, policies and any other matters of importance for the charity.

Two committees formed by the Board meet and report back regularly to the Trustees: the Finance and Audit Committee, meeting three times annually to review Internal Controls, the annual accounts, budgets and audit findings and is chaired by the Honorary Treasurer; and the Remuneration Committee, meeting annually to approve salary recommendations and other human resources matters and chaired by the Chair of Trustees.

Our Senior Management Team

Our Senior Management Team consists of the Chief Executive and Heads of Programmes, Fundraising, Finance, Communications and Operations and this team communicates regularly with the Board. The Trustees have delegated the day-to-day operations of the charity to this Senior Management Team, while reserving for itself ultimate decision-making on the matters listed above where deemed necessary.

Salaries for the Senior Management Team are reviewed biennially along with those of other staff and approved by the Remuneration Committee. The Chief Executive is currently the only staff member receiving a salary of between £70,000 and £80,000, with the Head of finance being the only staff member receiving salary between £60,000 and £70,000.

How we assess and manage risk

Our Trustees, led by the Risk Committee, formally assess risks annually using Charity Commission guidelines. Our position is regularly reviewed against this assessment and mitigating actions taken as necessary.

External risks to the charity in 2020 consisted primarily of the impact of the pandemic on the organisation's income and on its ability to deliver its projects and programmes in the context of the widespread closure of libraries and schools in Africa.

Internal risks identified in 2020 included a potential decline in the availability of a wide range of books from publishers whose businesses were affected by the pandemic, and the impact of a freeze on recruitment and of the pandemic on some of the charity's fundraising activities.

The Trustees are satisfied that measures have been put in place to mitigate external and internal risks to the charity as far as possible.

The ongoing impact of Covid in Africa remains a concern for the charity's operations in 2021 and the organisation is monitoring the situation as it develops and adjusting its activities accordingly.

The Trustees are satisfied that appropriate strategies to mitigate these risks are now in place.

Safeguarding vulnerable beneficiaries

We believe that it is always unacceptable for a child to experience abuse of any kind and recognise our responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all children under 18 in contact with our projects. We are committed to practice that protects them and we have robust Ethical Conduct and Child Safeguarding Policies in place. As part of our Child Safeguarding Policy, we require that all project partners sign up to our child safeguarding requirements.

Book Aid International's climate responsibility statement 2020

Book Aid International's core activities include the global shipment of books, international flights and maintaining an office and warehouse in central London. All these activities have an associated carbon footprint.

We recognise our responsibility to address the environmental impact of our work. We are continually assessing these impacts, measuring the

carbon emissions of shipments, flights and our office and warehouse utilities. In 2019 we estimated our carbon emissions to be 121 tons.

In 2020 activity reduced as we lived through a year of pandemic: fewer shipments, no flights and lower levels of staffing in our Camberwell office for much of the year. We anticipate that our carbon emissions will once more average 121 tons as we return to normal activity levels.

We will continue to assess our carbon impact so we can make informed decisions, and we are exploring ways to reduce our emissions in the following areas:

- where possible using shippers that are actively taking steps towards reducing their carbon footprint
- using local trainers to reduce the number of flights from the UK
- using utility companies that have committed to green energy supplies and switching to more energy- efficient solutions
- increasing staff awareness and implementing an in-house environmental code of practice

While the charity's carbon emissions are relatively small we recognise that climate change is a critically important global issue, not least for the communities we serve. We therefore aspire to deliver our work in a way that has minimal negative impact on the climate.

Reference and administrative details

Patrons and officials

Patron	HRH The Duke of Edinburgh KG KT OM
President	Nigel Newton
Vice President	Professor Kingo Mchombu

The following served as members and Board members throughout 2020:

Trustees

Chair Lord Paul Boateng

Honorary Treasurer Nicholas Allen

Trustees

Rosie Glazebrook (left March 2020)
John Macintosh (left July 2020)
Dhivya O'Connor (joined December 2020)
Jonathan Hargreaves (joined October 2020)
Zainab Umar (joined October 2020)
Pam Dix
Charly Nobbs
Robert Sulley

Address and registered office

39–41 Coldharbour Lane
Camberwell
London SE5 9NR

Solicitor

Stone King LLP
Boundary House
91 Charterhouse Street
London EC1M 6HR

Senior management

Chief Executive Alison Tweed

Head of Programmes Samantha Thomas Chuula

Head of Operations Harry Boughton

Head of Communications Emma Taylor

Head of Finance Ade Soremekun

Head of Fundraising Maria Andrews (until March 2020)

Charity number

313869 (England and Wales)

Company number

880754 (England and Wales)

Auditors

Sayer Vincent LLP
Invicta House
108–114 Golden Lane
London EC1Y 0TL

Directors and members

The directors and members of the company are the Board members named on the preceding page.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law, the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, of the charity for the year.

In preparing those financial statements the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of the financial statements and other information included in annual reports may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Auditors

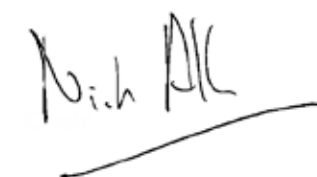
All the current Trustees have taken all the steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any information needed by the company's auditors for the purposes of their audit and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

The Trustees are not aware of any relevant audit information of which the auditors are unaware.

The Trustees' Annual Report, which includes the strategic report, has been approved by the Trustees on 29 June 2021 and signed on their behalf by



The Rt Hon Lord Paul Boateng
Chair



Nicholas Allen
Honorary Treasurer

Independent auditor's report

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Book Aid International (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 December 2020 which comprise the statement of financial activities, balance sheet, statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- Give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2020 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended
- Have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice
- Have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on Book Aid International's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' annual report, including the strategic report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- The information given in the trustees' annual report, including the strategic report, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- The trustees' annual report, including the strategic report, has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' annual report including the strategic report. We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- Adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- The financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- Certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- We have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities set out in the trustees' annual report, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that

are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud are set out below.

Use of our report

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, our procedures included the following:

- We enquired of management and the finance audit committee, which included obtaining and reviewing supporting documentation, concerning the charity's policies and procedures relating to:
 - Identifying, evaluating, and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;

- Detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected, or alleged fraud;
- The internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- We inspected the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.
- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework that the charity operates in, focusing on those laws and regulations that had a material effect on the financial statements or that had a fundamental effect on the operations of the charity from our professional and sector experience.
- We communicated applicable laws and regulations throughout the audit team and remained alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout the audit.
- We reviewed any reports made to regulators.
- We reviewed the financial statement disclosures and tested these to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- We performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud.
- In addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, we tested the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments, assessed whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias and tested significant transactions that are unusual or those outside the normal course of business.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Sayer Vincent LLP

Judith Miller (Senior statutory auditor)
June 29th, 2020

for and on behalf of Sayer Vincent LLP, Statutory Auditor

Invicta House, 108–114 Golden Lane, London, EC1Y 0TL

Audited accounts

Statement of financial activities (incorporating an income and expenditure account) For the year ended 31st December 2020

				2020	2019
		Unrestricted	Value of donated books	Restricted	Total
	Note	£	£	£	£
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	2a	1,124,340	-	763,287	2,248,934
Value of donated books received		-	12,850,101	-	18,558,955
Other trading activities	4	61,177	-	-	21,058
Investments		8,546	-	-	10,266
Total income		1,194,063	12,850,101	763,287	20,839,213
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		487,346	-	47,372	588,962
Charitable activities					
Book provision		611,555	-	220,720	967,057
Value of donated books sent	3a	-	11,066,372	-	18,229,466
Restricted Projects and Training		-	-	535,859	648,081
Total expenditure	5a	1,098,901	11,066,372	803,951	20,433,566
Net income / (expenditure) for the year	7	95,162	1,783,729	(40,664)	405,647
Net movement in funds		95,162	1,783,729	(40,664)	405,647
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		2,190,501	6,306,425	230,610	8,321,889
Total funds carried forward	19a	2,285,663	8,090,153	189,947	8,727,536

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above. Movements in funds are disclosed in Note 19a to the financial statements.

The notes on pages 37-53 form part of these financial statements

Balance sheet At 31st December 2020

	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2020 £	2019 £
Fixed assets:					
Tangible assets	11	1,280,502	-	1,280,502	1,275,428
		1,280,502	-	1,280,502	1,275,428
Current assets:					
Stock - Donated books	12	8,090,152	-	8,090,152	6,306,425
Debtors	13	96,225	97,750	193,975	301,827
Investments	14	301,715	-	301,715	304,082
Cash at bank and in hand	14	880,423	547,685	1,428,108	1,335,210
		9,368,515	645,435	10,013,950	8,247,544
Liabilities:					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	(120,201)	(455,488)	(575,689)	(612,436)
		9,248,314	189,947	9,438,261	7,635,108
Net current assets / (liabilities)					
Net assets excluding pension asset / (liability)		10,528,816	189,947	10,718,763	8,910,536
Defined benefit pension scheme asset / (liability)	16	(153,000)	-	(153,000)	(183,000)
Total net assets / (liabilities)		10,375,816	189,947	10,565,763	8,727,536
The funds of the charity:					
Restricted income funds	19a	-	189,947	189,947	230,610
Unrestricted income funds:					
Fixed assets		267,502	-	267,502	251,804
Revaluation reserve		1,013,000	-	1,013,000	1,023,624
Free reserves	1u	677,146	-	677,146	682,058
Designated funds		328,015	-	328,015	233,015
Total charity funds without stock		2,285,663	189,947	2,475,610	2,421,111
Value of donated books		8,090,153	-	8,090,153	6,306,425
Total unrestricted funds		10,375,816	-	10,375,816	8,496,926
Total charity funds		10,375,816	189,947	10,565,763	8,727,536

Approved by the Trustees on June 29th and signed on their behalf by



Lord Paul Boateng,
Chair of the Board of Trustees

Company number 880754 (England and Wales)

The notes on pages 37-53 form part of these financial statements.

Statement of cash flows

For the year ended 31st December 2020

	Note	2020 £	£	2019 £	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Net (income) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)		1,838,228		405,647	
Depreciation charges		32,345		33,779	
(Gains)/losses on investments		-		-	
Dividends, interest and rent from investments		(8,546)		(10,267)	
(Increase) in stocks		(1,783,727)		(329,489)	
Decrease/(increase) in debtors		107,852		(103,970)	
(Decrease)/increase in creditors		(36,747)		10,292	
(Decrease) in provisions		(30,000)		(23,000)	
Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities		119,405		(17,008)	
Cash flows from investing activities:					
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		8,546		10,267	
Purchase of fixed assets		(37,420)		(11,641)	
Net cash provided by / (used in) investing activities		(28,874)		(1,374)	
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		90,531		(18,382)	
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		1,639,292		1,657,674	
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	14	1,729,823		1,639,292	

The notes on pages 37 to 53 form part of these financial statements.

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 31st December 2020

1 Accounting policies

a) Statutory information

Book Aid International is a charitable company limited by guarantee and is incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office address is 39-41 Coldharbour Lane, Camberwell, London SE5 9NR.

b) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) - (Charities SORP FRS 102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy or note.

c) Public benefit entity

The charitable company meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

d) Going concern

The Trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern.

Key judgements that the charitable company has made which have a significant effect on the accounts include the valuation of donated books as explained below.

The Trustees have reviewed the activities of the charity in light of COVID-19 and have adjusted estimations for uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period. It is the view of the Trustees that the charity will continue to be a going concern for the current year up to and including 2022. It is estimated that the charity will need to utilise an extra £300k of its free reserves in 2021 to meet delayed activities and other ongoing difficulties caused by COVID-19.

e) Income

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and that the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

Income from legacies, entitlement is taken as the earlier of the date on which either: the charity is aware that probate has been granted, the estate has been finalised and notification has been made by the executor(s) to the charity that a distribution will be made, or when a distribution is received from the estate. Receipt of a legacy, in whole or in part, is only considered probable when the amount can be measured reliably and the charity has been notified of the executor's intention to make a distribution.

f) Donated books

Donated books are valued at fair value on receipt. This is determined using Nielsen Bookscan for identifying published prices and then applying a 30% discount from the full RRP to allow for the estimated market discount for third-party commercial buyers. This discount rate is reviewed by an independent expert on an annual basis. Where at year end books could not be opened and scanned into stock, an estimate of the value of these books is made in relation to the type and class of books remaining unopened.

Books held are recognised as expenditure at the point they are dispatched from the Book Aid International warehouse. Books in transit at the year end are accounted for as expensed as it is deemed highly probable that they will reach their intended beneficiaries in good condition. Any material damage or loss of stock would be adjusted in the accounts in the following year. There was no damage or loss of stock in transit at year end 31 December 2020 to be reflected in these accounts.

Donated books held at year end are measured at their fair value using the same measure as explained above. Provision is made where necessary for obsolete, slow moving and defective stock. Where books are not able to be opened and booked into stock by the finalisation of the accounts, the value of these is estimated using averaged price per class of book based on books received and recognised in the accounts.

g) Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

h) Fund accounting

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund.

Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources received or generated for the charitable purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes.

i) Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

- Costs of raising funds relate to the costs incurred by the charitable company in inducing third parties to make voluntary contributions to it, as well as the cost of any activities with a fundraising purpose.
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs of book provision and restricted projects and training undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs.
- Other expenditure represents those items not falling into any other heading

Irrecoverable VAT is charged against book provision.

j) Grants payable

Grants payable are made to third parties in furtherance of the charity's objects. Single or multi-year grants are accounted for when either the recipient has a reasonable expectation that they will receive a grant and the trustees have agreed to pay the grant without condition, or the recipient has a reasonable expectation that they will receive a grant and that any condition attaching to the grant is outside of the control of the charity.

Provisions for grants are made when the intention to make a grant has been communicated to the recipient but there is uncertainty about either the timing of the grant or the amount of grant payable.

k) Allocation of support costs

Resources expended are allocated to the particular activity where the cost relates directly to that activity. However, the cost of overall direction and administration of each activity, comprising the salary and overhead costs of the central function, is apportioned based on staff time and book delivery attributable to each activity.

	2020	2019
Raising funds	20%	22%
Book provision	64%	65%
Restricted projects and training	16%	13%

Governance costs are the costs associated with the governance arrangements of the charity. These costs are associated with constitutional and statutory requirements and include any costs associated with the strategic management of the charity's activities.

l) Operating leases

Rental charges are charged on a straight line basis over the term of the lease.

m) Tangible fixed assets

Items of equipment are capitalised where the purchase price exceeds £1,000. Depreciation costs are allocated to activities on the basis of the use of the related assets in those activities. Assets are reviewed for impairment if circumstances indicate their carrying value may exceed their net realisable value and value in use.

Where fixed assets have been revalued, any excess between the revalued amount and the historic cost of the asset will be shown as a revaluation reserve in the balance sheet.

Freehold land and buildings are subject to a full revaluation every five years. Yearly checks are carried out to ensure there are no market or specific property changes that would have a material effect on the valuation recorded in the accounts.

Depreciation is provided on a straight line basis at rates calculated to write down the cost of each asset to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life. The depreciation rates in use are as follows:

Building	2% per annum on costs	50 years
Fixtures and office equipment	25% per annum on costs	4 years
Plant and machinery	10% per annum on costs	10 years

n) Stocks

Donated books held at year end are valued as explained in policy (f) above. Purchased books are measured at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

o) Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

p) Short-term deposit investments

Short-term deposits includes cash balances that are invested in accounts with a maturity date of between 3 and 12 months.

q) Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

r) Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

s) Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

t) Pensions

The charity contributes to a pension scheme administered by the Pensions Trust, as independent company. The pension cost charge indicated in note 8 represents the contributions payable to the fund for the year, and note 16 gives details of the movements during the year of the agreed deficit repayment plan liability, which has been included as a liability under the requirements of FRS102.

u) Free reserves

The minimum level of free reserves confirmed by the Board of Trustees for 2020 was set at a range between £500,000 and £550,000.

2 Donations

a) Current year

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2020 Total	2019 Total
	£	£	£	£
Charitable trusts and NGOs	51,774	683,409	735,184	733,788
Companies	35,993	45,951	81,944	111,824
Community sources	73,283	882	74,166	126,927
Individuals	963,289	33,045	996,334	1,276,395
Total donations	1,124,340	763,287	1,887,628	2,248,934

b) Prior year

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2019 Total
	£	£	£
Charitable trusts and NGOs	11,481	722,307	733,788
Companies	39,124	72,700	111,824
Community sources	121,787	5,140	126,927
Individuals	1,119,718	156,677	1,276,395
Total donations	<u>1,292,110</u>	<u>956,824</u>	<u>2,248,934</u>

3 Gifts in kind

a) Current year

The table below shows the discounted value of the 867,567 donated books distributed to partner organisations in 2020 (2019: 1,211,423). The process of valuation is described in note (1f) and the total adjusted value of books distributed in 2020 was £11,066,372 (2019: £18,229,466).

	2020 Total number	2020 Total £
Children's and teenagers'	399,867	2,488,700
Leisure reading (fiction, non-fiction & literature)	86,035	767,229
Reference	1,905	19,776
Secondary textbooks	83,749	1,108,974
Vocational skills and development	28,457	311,181
Professional	14,075	435,942
Higher education	46,473	1,719,532
Education and teacher training	16,543	342,450
English as a foreign language	25,943	324,635
Health and medicine	73,120	3,172,776
Law	5,147	185,729
	<u>781,314</u>	<u>10,876,924</u>
Stock adjustments	86,253	189,448
Total expenditure of donated books sent	<u>867,567</u>	<u>11,066,372</u>

Stock adjustments relate to adjustments in shipping cut-off, values and location of individual books.

b) Prior year

	2019 Total number	2019 Total £
Children's and teenagers'	492,134	3,063,056
Leisure reading (fiction, non-fiction & literature)	160,186	1,357,693
Reference	2,177	34,346
Secondary textbooks	144,519	1,534,669
Vocational skills and development	52,417	561,696
Professional	14,757	419,478
Higher education	83,918	3,713,241
Education and teacher training	24,929	428,023
English as a foreign language	20,173	251,272
Health and medicine	138,887	6,450,653
Law	5,875	290,308
	<u>1,139,972</u>	<u>18,104,435</u>
Stock adjustments	71,451	125,031
Total expenditure of donated books sent	<u>1,211,423</u>	<u>18,229,466</u>

4 Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2020 Total	2019 Total
	£	£	£	£
Events	1,757	-	1,757	8,295
UK book sales	13,102	-	13,102	11,143
Other	46,318	-	46,318	1,620
	<u>61,177</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>61,177</u>	<u>21,058</u>

All trading income received in 2020 and 2019 was unrestricted.

5 Analysis of expenditure

a) Current year

	Charitable activities				Governance costs	Support costs	Pension scheme gain/loss	2020 Total	2019 Total
	Raising funds	Book provision	Value of donated books sent	Restricted projects and training	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs (Note 8)	201,228	361,301	-	191,593	-	266,943	-	1,021,064	1,005,604
Other staff costs	9,902	17,778	-	9,427	-	13,136	-	50,243	92,228
Travel and workshop costs	129	6,736		6,728			-	13,593	74,465
Book purchase				15,795			-	15,795	14,045
Value of donated books			11,066,372				-	11,066,372	18,229,466
Overseas project partners (note 6)		7,577		185,507			-	193,083	284,495
Shipping and book disposal						128,685	-	128,685	152,968
Fundraising, PR and design	194,040	13,230		13,229			-	220,499	254,634
Professional fees and irrecoverable VAT						28,873	-	28,873	47,427
Other direct costs						386	-	386	2,295
Other project & training costs	-	11,513		10,045			-	21,557	45,986
Governance cost					10,813		-	10,813	15,476
Support cost						198,260	-	198,260	214,477
	405,299	418,134	11,066,372	432,323	10,813	636,282	-	12,969,224	20,433,566
Support costs	127,256	407,220		101,805		(636,282)	-		-
Governance costs	2,163	6,920		1,730	(10,813)		-		-
Gain/loss on pension scheme	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total expenditure 2020	534,718	832,275	11,066,372	535,858	-	-	-	12,969,224	
Total expenditure 2019	588,963	967,057	18,229,466	648,080	-	-	-		20,433,566

Of the total expenditure, £12,165,273 was unrestricted (2019: £19,488,530) and £803,951 was restricted (2019: £945,036).

b) Prior year								
	Charitable activities							
	Raising funds	Book provision	Value of donated books sent	Restricted projects and training	Governance costs	Support costs	Pension scheme gain/loss	2019 Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs (Note 8)	204,864	346,116	-	189,392	-	265,232	-	1,005,604
Other staff costs	18,789	31,744	-	17,370	-	24,325	-	92,228
Travel and workshop costs	6,080	37,997	-	30,388	-	-	-	74,465
Book purchase	-	-	-	14,045	-	-	-	14,045
Value of donated books	-	-	18,229,466	-	-	-	-	18,229,466
Overseas project partners (note 6)	-	28,075	-	256,420	-	-	-	284,495
Shipping and book disposal	-	-	-	-	-	152,968	-	152,968
Fundraising, PR and design	200,346	27,144	-	27,144	-	-	-	254,634
Professional fees and irrecoverable VAT	-	-	-	-	-	47,427	-	47,427
Other direct costs	-	-	-	-	-	2,295	-	2,295
Other project & training costs	-	26,551	-	19,435	-	-	-	45,986
Governance cost	-	-	-	-	15,476	-	-	15,476
Support cost	-	-	-	-	-	214,477	-	214,477
	430,079	497,627	18,229,466	554,194	15,476	706,724	-	20,433,566
Support costs	155,479	459,371	-	91,874	-	(706,724)	-	-
Governance costs	3,405	10,059	-	2,012	(15,476)	-	-	-
Gain/loss on pension scheme	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total expenditure 2019	588,963	967,057	18,229,466	648,080	-	-	-	20,433,566

Of the total expenditure, £19,488,530 was unrestricted and £945,036 was restricted.

6 Grant payments to project partners

	2020 £	2019 £
Partners	25,096	24,018
Edward Ndlovu Memorial Trust	711	-
College Press	2,298	-
DLIGHT Limited	1,928	-
Gramsol Trading	-	1,841
Africa Educational Trust	-	600
CODE Ethiopia	-	3,523
AfriKids	17,258	600
Malawi National Library Service	-	19,820
Gambia National Library Authority	-	11,494
Zanzibar Library Service	2,688	-
Oldship Enterprise Ltd	4,160	-
Maiden Publishing House and Stationers	790	45,164
National Library of Uganda	7,413	29,108
Ghana Library Authority	-	2,058
Hotels Board of Management - Zambia	1,500	600
EISERVI Education Info Services Int'l	52,133	19,393
Sierrra Leone Library Board	29,730	6,435
Kenya National Library Services	-	600
Tanzania Library Service Board	-	272
Yeukai Chimuka	-	3,706
Priya Education solutions Ltd	5,378	-
Siilaanyo National Library	3,158	-
Solar Aid	26,220	-
Street Children Empowerment Foundation	770	1,370
Zambia Library Services	-	34,918
Grace Rwanda Society	-	24,450
We Care Liberia	6,615	3,656
Windle International Kenya	-	17,554
Transcultural Psychosocial Org.	2,276	14,551
Windle International Uganda	2,067	17,959
African Parks Malawi	893	806
Grants to other institutions		
At the end of the year	193,083	284,496

7 Net income / (expenditure) for the year

This is stated after charging / (crediting):

	2020 £	2019 £
Depreciation	32,346	33,779
Interest payable	9,274	15,992
Operating lease rentals:		
Property	-	-
Other	9,353	10,889
Auditors' remuneration (excluding VAT):		
Audit	10,800	10,700
Other services	-	1,000
Foreign exchange (gains) or losses	176	252

8 Analysis of staff costs, trustee remuneration and expenses, and the cost of key management personnel

Staff costs were as follows:

	2020	2019
	£	£
Salaries and wages	837,686	816,595
Employer's NI contributions	64,697	81,834
Pension contributions	50,560	46,949
Overseas staff costs	68,121	60,226
	1,021,064	1,005,604
	2020	2019
	No.	No.
Average head count	26.0	28.0
Full-time equivalent	25.3	25.8
Number of staff whose emoluments were between £60,000 - £70,000	1	1
Number of staff whose emoluments were between £70,000 - £80,000	1	-

The total employee benefits received by key management personnel were £387,045 (2019 - £372,450).

Trustees received no remuneration during the year (2019: £nil). No trustees received any payments for professional services during the year (2019: £nil).

There were no expenses reimbursed to trustees in 2020 (2019: £nil).

9 Related-party transactions

Aggregate donations from related parties were £1,325 (2019: £11,294).

Ed Bowers was a Director at Pearson Education, and Robert Sulley is a Director at Hodder Education (part of the Hachette Group). These trustee related organisations donated the following to Book Aid International during the year.

Trustee-related organisations	2020 – value of books donated £	2020 – cash donated £	2019 – value of books donated £	2019 – cash donated £
Pearson Education Ltd	-	-	73,992	-
Hachette Group	376,067	-	400,705	-
	376,067	-	474,697	-

10 Taxation

The charitable company is exempt from corporation tax as all its income is deemed charitable and is applied for charitable purposes.

11 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold property £	Plant and machinery £	Fixtures and office equipment £	2020 Total £
Cost or valuation				
At the start of the year	1,275,000	26,533	44,880	1,346,413
Additions in year	-	-	37,420	37,420
Disposals in year	-	-	(19,588)	(19,588)
At the end of the year	1,275,000	26,533	62,712	1,364,245
Depreciation				
At the start of the year	16,000	21,777	33,208	70,985
Charge for the year	16,000	668	15,678	32,346
Eliminated on disposal	-	-	(19,588)	(19,588)
At the end of the year	32,000	22,445	29,298	83,743
Net book value				
At the end of the year	1,243,000	4,088	33,414	1,280,502
At the start of the year	1,259,000	4,756	11,672	1,275,428

The original (1987) cost of the charity's freehold premises in Coldharbour Lane, Camberwell was £230,000. The premises have been revalued four times, the most recently detailed valuation was in December 2018. The revaluations were undertaken by an independent valuer and give current open market valuations of the freehold interest in the charity's property. The Land and Building were valued at £475,000 and £800,000 respectively based on Existing Use value.

All of the above assets are used for charitable purposes.

12 Stock

	2020 £	2019 £
Donated books	8,090,153	6,306,425

At yearend there are unopened pallets of books stored in our warehouses. We endeavour to open as many of these as possible by the time the accounts are finalised. The value of any unopened pallets is estimated by using the average value of pallets for that class of book received and opened in the year. Included in the Closing stock value of £8,090,153 are 366 pallets of books (2019: 195) which could not be opened and booked into stock at year end. These have been estimated using an averaged price per class of book and are valued at £4,567,624 (2019: £2,725,270).

13 Debtors

	2020 £	2019 £
Trade debtors	13,568	3,590
Other debtors and prepayments	50,769	52,268
Gift Aid recoverable	31,888	16,569
Accrued income	97,750	229,400
	193,975	301,827

All the charity's financial instruments, both assets and liabilities, are measured at amortised cost.

14 Bank and short term investments

	2020	2019
	£	£
Cash and bank	1,428,108	1,335,210
	1,428,108	1,335,210
Short-term Investments	301,715	304,082
Total cash and short-term Investments	1,729,823	1,639,292

Short term Investments are funds invested in twelve month fixed term deposit accounts.

15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2020	2019
	£	£
Trade creditors	72,820	68,632
Staff tax and social security	39,224	34,951
VAT payable	-	-
Other creditors and accruals	463,646	508,853
	575,690	612,436

16 Pension scheme

The company participates in the scheme, a multi-employer scheme which provides benefits to some 950 non-associated participating employers. The scheme is a defined benefit scheme in the UK. It is not possible for the company to obtain sufficient information to enable it to account for the scheme as a defined benefit scheme. Therefore it accounts for the scheme as a defined contribution scheme.

The scheme is subject to the funding legislation outlined in the Pensions Act 2004 which came into force on 30 December 2005. This, together with documents issued by the Pensions Regulator and Technical Actuarial Standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council, set out the framework for funding defined benefit occupational pension schemes in the UK.

The scheme is classified as a 'last-man standing arrangement'. Therefore the company is potentially liable for other participating employers' obligations if those employers are unable to meet their share of the scheme deficit following withdrawal from the scheme. Participating employers are legally required to meet their share of the scheme deficit on an annuity purchase basis on withdrawal from the scheme.

A full actuarial valuation for the scheme was carried out at 30 September 2017. This valuation showed assets of £794.9m, liabilities of £926.4m and a deficit of £131.5m.

To eliminate this funding shortfall, the Trustee has asked the participating employers to pay additional contributions to the scheme as follows:

From 1 April 2019 to 31 January 2025: £11,243,000 per annum (payable monthly and increasing by 3% each on 1st April).

Unless a concession has been agreed with the Trustee the term to 31 January 2025 applies.

Note that the scheme's previous valuation was carried out with an effective date of 30 September 2014. This valuation showed assets of £793.4m, liabilities of £969.9m and a deficit of £176.5m. To eliminate this funding shortfall, the Trustee has asked the participating employers to pay additional contributions to the scheme as follows:

Deficit contribution

From 1 April 2016 to 30 September 2025: £12,945,440 per annum payable monthly and increasing by 3% each on 1st April (BAI share of this deficit contribution is currently £34,882 per year).

From 1 April 2016 to 30 September 2028: £54,560 per annum payable monthly and increasing by 3% each on 1st April.

The recovery plan contributions are allocated to each participating employer in line with their estimated share of the Series 1 and Series 2 scheme liabilities.

Where the scheme is in deficit and where the company has agreed to a deficit funding arrangement the company recognises a liability for this obligation. The amount recognised is the net present value of the deficit reduction contributions payable under the agreement that relates to the deficit. The present value is calculated using the discount rate detailed in these disclosures. The unwinding of the discount rate is recognised as a finance cost.

	2020	2019
	£'000	£'000
Present value of provision	153	183
Reconciliation of opening and closing provisions:		
Provision at start of period	183	206
Unwinding of discount factor (interest expense)	2	3
Deficit contribution paid	(35)	(33)
	3	3
	-	4
Provision at end of period	153	183
Income and expenditure impact		
Interest expense	2	3
Remeasurements – changes in assumptions	3	3
Remeasurements – amendments to contribution schedule	-	-
Contributions paid in respect of future service	35	33
Costs recognised on SOFA	51	47

This includes defined contribution schemes and future service contributions (i.e. excluding any deficit reduction payments) to defined benefit schemes which are treated as defined contribution schemes.

	2020	2019
	% per annum	% per annum
Assumptions:		
Rate of discount	0.27	1.13

The discount rates shown above are the equivalent single discount rates which, when used to discount the future recovery plan contributions due, would give the same results as using a full AA corporate bond yield curve to discount the same recovery plan contributions.

The estimated contingent liability for the charity as at September 2019 in the event of withdrawal for the Growth Plan was £505,667 (less the £153,000 provided above). There is no intention at present to cease participation or to wind up the Growth Plan.

17 Detailed comparatives for the statement of financial activities (prior year - 2019)

	Unrestricted	Value of donated books	Restricted	2019 Total
	£	£	£	£
Income from:				
Donations and legacies	1,292,110	-	956,824	2,248,934
Donated books	-	18,558,955	-	18,558,955
Other trading activities	21,058	-	-	21,058
Investments	10,266	-	-	10,266
Total income	1,323,434	18,558,955	956,824	20,839,213
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds	540,276	-	48,686	588,962
Charitable activities				
Book provision	718,788	-	248,269	967,057
Value of donated books	-	18,229,466	-	18,229,466
Restricted projects and training	-	-	648,081	648,081
Loss on pension scheme	-	-	-	-
Total expenditure	1,259,064	18,229,466	945,036	20,433,566
Net income / expenditure	64,370	329,489	11,788	405,647
Transfers between funds	961	-	(961)	-
Net movement in funds	65,331	329,489	10,827	405,647
Total funds brought forward	2,125,170	5,976,936	219,783	8,321,889
Total funds carried forward	2,190,501	6,306,425	230,610	8,727,536

18 Detailed comparatives for the Balance Sheet (prior year - 2019)

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2019
	£	£	£
Fixed assets:	1,275,428	-	1,275,428
Tangible assets	1,275,428	-	1,275,428
Current assets:			
Stock – Donated books	6,306,425	-	6,306,425
Debtors	72,427	229,400	301,827
Investments	304,082	-	304,082
Cash at bank and in hand	885,210	450,000	1,335,210
	7,568,144	679,400	8,247,544
Liabilities:			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(163,646)	(448,790)	(612,436)
Net current assets / (liabilities)	7,404,498	230,610	7,635,108
Net assets excluding pension asset / (liability)	8,679,926	230,610	8,910,536
Defined benefit pension scheme asset / (liability)	(183,000)	-	(183,000)
Total net assets / (liabilities)	8,496,926	230,610	8,727,536
The funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds	-	230,610	230,610
Unrestricted income funds:			
Fixed assets	251,804	-	251,804
Revaluation reserve	1,023,624	-	1,023,624
Free reserves	682,058	-	682,058
Designated funds	233,015	-	233,015
Total charity funds without stock	2,190,501	230,610	2,421,111
Value of donated books	6,306,425	-	6,306,425
Total unrestricted funds	8,496,926	-	8,496,926
Total charity funds	8,496,926	230,610	8,727,536

19a Movements in funds (current year - 2020)

	At 1st Jan 2018 £	Income and gains £	Expenditure and losses £	Transfers £	At 31 Dec 2020 £
Restricted funds:					
Book Links	1,330	7,975	(7,848)	-	1,457
<i>Inspiring Readers</i> Projects	30,058	123,798	(146,038)	6,250	14,068
Impact Assessment Project	5,022	-	(958)	-	4,065
People's Postcode Lottery 2020	-	195,236	(210,172)	14,936	-
Malawi/Zambia/Zimbabwe - BP (SAF BEIT)	74,919	75,000	(74,826)	-	75,093
Zambia - Children's corner	3,064	-	(1,649)	(1,414)	-
Ghana - STEM Hubs - Agrekko	2,479	-	-	-	2,479
Kenya - STEM HUBS	11,153	-	(8,964)	-	2,189
Malawi - Children's Corner	20,496	-	-	(20,496)	-
Ghana - Children's Corner 01	8,106	-	(4,621)	(3,485)	-
Ghana - Children's Corner 02	9,279	-	(8,940)	-	339
Kenya - Mini Solar Homework Project	-	10,700	(4,622)	-	6,078
Kenya - Library in a Camp. Secondary PPL	-	-	(620)	620	-
<i>Pioneer Book Box</i> Projects	6,224	13,713	(18,683)	-	1,254
Kenya - Solar Homework Project 02	789	15,251	(15,341)	(620)	79
Kenya - Solar Buy Back	-	24,298	(8,372)	-	15,926
Uganda - Solar Homework Project Rhino Camp	-	12,671	(2,664)	-	10,007
Explorer Library Projects	49,357	41,750	(84,391)	1,600	8,316
Malawi - <i>Solar Libraries</i> 01	-	32,166	(27,545)	-	4,621
Uganda - <i>Reading for All</i> SEC-Intouch	(2,662)	12,539	(6,600)	-	3,277
Uganda - <i>Reading for All</i> ECD PRIM-PPL	(12,358)	47,389	(31,510)	-	3,521
Malawi - Reading around the Reserve	(17,959)	54,624	(33,876)	-	2,789
Ghana - <i>Reading is Basic</i> - SCEF	3,600	23,787	(35,595)	8,207	-
Tanzania - Quality Schools for All	750	-	-	-	750
Africa & Other Book Provision	29,733	65,890	(63,616)	-	32,007
Children's Book Provision	-	6,500	(6,500)	-	-
Other Legacies/activities	7,230	-	-	(5,598)	1,632
Total restricted funds	230,610	763,287	(803,951)	-	189,947
Unrestricted funds:					
Fixed asset reserve	251,804	-	(12,758)	(12,758)	267,502
Revaluation reserve	1,023,624	-	-	(10,624)	1,013,000
Stock reserve	6,306,425	12,850,100	(11,066,372)		8,090,153
Free reserves	682,058	1,194,063	(1,086,143)	(112,832)	677,146
Designated reserves	233,015	-		95,000	328,015
	8,496,926	14,044,163	(12,165,273)	-	10,375,816
Total funds per balance sheet	8,727,536	14,807,450	(12,969,224)	-	10,565,763
Pension reserve	183,000	-	(30,000)	-	153,000
Total funds adding back pension fund	8,910,536	14,807,450	(12,999,224)	-	10,718,763
Total unrestricted funds (less stock)	2,190,501	1,194,063	(1,098,901)	-	2,285,663
Total funds including pension fund (less stock)	2,604,111	1,957,350	(1,932,852)	-	2,628,610

Projects with negative balances - Funding for these projects is expected in 2021 with applications for funders already sent or being sent in 2020. Failure to receive this funding will result in the projects being funded from unrestricted funds.

2020 Transfers between funds

There were no transfers between Restricted and Unrestricted funds in 2020:

*All transfers are treated within parameters allowed by funders, and any external excess funding transferred to other projects or unrestricted funds will always be agreed with funders.

The total designated funds increased from £233,000 to £328,015 by a net £95k increase as at 31st December 2020 made up of the following:

At the 9th December 2020 Board meeting the Trustees approved a further £35k of designated funds to test a range of options to acquire new regular supporters through digital fundraising activities. Costs associated with the total designation of £93k (£58k was designated in December) include agency and advertising costs. The designated fund will be spent in 2021 and 2022 after which digital donor acquisition will become part of the charity's regular investment in fundraising.

At the 9th December 2020 Board meeting the Board approved a further £95k for the costs associated with planning and delivering options to increase warehouse capacity, thus enabling the charity to increase its operational reach through storing, processing and sending more books. Costs associated with the total designation of £195k (£100k was designated in December 2019) include consultancy, agency, professional fees and equipment and rental costs.

At the 9th December 2020 Board meeting the Trustees approved a £40k designated fund to develop a pilot project designed to support girls' education and access to books in deprived or remote locations. Costs associated with the designation include supplying brand-new books, training teachers in managing book collections and in reading promotion, refurbishment of school libraries or provision of box libraries and monitoring and evaluation of project outcomes.

At the 9th December 2020 Board meeting the Trustees approved the release the of the £75k designation balance for the cost of running an evening shift as the Board intended the evening shift to become a regular part of our activity as a result of the success of the experiment in the preceding two years.

19b Movements in funds (prior year - 2019)

	At 1st January 2019	Income and gains	Expenditure and losses	Transfers	At 31st December 2019
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds:					
Book Links	7,360	-	(6,030)	-	1,330
<i>Inspiring Readers</i> Projects	37,024	55,545	(62,511)	-	30,058
Impact Assessment Project	10,056	-	(5,035)	-	5,022
Uganda - Rural Referral Hospitals	2,383	-	(2,383)	-	-
Uganda - Gilead Medical books	-	-	961	(961)	-
Uganda - Book Havenso1	11,776	10,000	(21,776)	-	-
People's Postcode Lottery 2019	-	500,000	(500,000)	-	-
Cameroon Children's Corner	9,551	-	(9,551)	-	-
Malawi/Zambia/Zimbabwe - Book Provision (SAF BEIT)	74,855	75,000	(74,936)	-	74,919
Zambia Children's Corner	13,347	-	(10,283)	-	3,064
GHANA STEM Hubs	-	24,000	(21,521)	-	2,479
KENYA STEM Hubs	-	11,913	(760)	-	11,153
MAL01 Children's Corner	2,175	15,000	3,321	-	20,496
Ghana - Children's Corner01	-	16,500	(8,394)	-	8,106
Ghana - Children's Corner02	-	9,279	-	-	9,279
Kakuma <i>Reading for All</i> ECD & Primary	6,054	-	(6,054)	-	-
Kakuma <i>Reading for All</i> Secondary	2,819	-	(2,819)	-	-
<i>Pioneer Book Box</i> Projects	18,698	21,512	(33,985)	-	6,224
UGA-Shared Reading 01 - AET	3,846	-	(3,846)	-	-
Kakuma - Solar Homework Club	4,466	-	(3,677)	-	789
Explorer Library Projects	-	75,695	(26,338)	-	49,357
Ghana - Afrikids Open Door School Project	-	-	-	-	-
Rwanda Children's Corner	-	5,000	(5,000)	-	-
Uganda - <i>Reading for All</i> Secondary	-	-	(14,937)	-	(14,937)
Uganda <i>Reading for All</i> ECD & Primary	-	-	(83)	-	(83)
Malawi - Reading Around the Reserves project	-	-	(17,959)	-	(17,959)
Ghana - <i>Reading is Basic</i> Project	-	3,600	-	-	3,600
Tanzania - Quality Schools for all	-	750	-	-	750
Africa & Other General - book provision	-	115,456	(85,723)	-	29,733
N41L-Children Books	-	12,575	(12,575)	-	-
Law Book Provision	-	5,000	(5,000)	-	-
Other Legacies/activities	15,372	-	(8,143)	-	7,229
Total restricted funds	219,782	956,825	(945,035)	(961)	230,610
Unrestricted funds:					
Fixed asset reserve	263,204	-	-	(11,400)	251,804
Revaluation reserve	1,034,362	-	-	(10,738)	1,023,624
Stock reserve	5,976,936	18,558,955	(18,229,466)	-	6,306,425
Free reserves	618,506	1,323,435	(1,259,064)	(819)	682,058
Designated reserves	209,097	-	-	23,918	233,015
	8,102,105	19,882,390	(19,488,530)	961	8,496,926
Total funds per balance sheet	8,321,889	20,839,215	(20,433,565)	()	8,727,536
Pension reserve	206,000	-	(23,000)	-	183,000
Total funds adding back pension fund	9,027,889	20,839,215	(20,456,565)	()	8,910,536
Total unrestricted funds (less stock)	2,125,170	1,323,435	(1,259,064)	961	2,190,501
Total funds including pension fund (less stock)	3,050,953	2,280,260	(2,227,100)	()	2,604,111

Unrestricted income funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the charity's objectives. Unrestricted funds include designated funds, fixed assets and revaluation reserves representing the excess of the net book value of the property at acquisition. The remainder of the unrestricted funds are the charity's free reserves.

2019 Transfers between funds

The total £1k net transfers between Restricted and Unrestricted funds is made up of the following:

Uganda Gilead medical books project was funded through unrestricted funds until sourced funding was received in 2019. The excess funding of £1k has been returned to unrestricted funds.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds 'earmarked' by the Trustees for use against specific future activities and commitments.

Restricted income are subject to specific restrictions imposed by donors or by the purpose of an appeal. Details of all restricted funds held are in note 19a above.

20 Operating lease commitments

The charity's total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases is as follows for each of the following periods

	Equipment	
	2020	2019
	£	£
Less than one year	9,633	8,651
One to five years	11,998	16,227
	<u>21,631</u>	<u>24,878</u>

21 Legal status of the charity

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. The liability of each of the seven members in the event of winding up is limited to £1.



Salam, right, studying with a friend in his parents' store

“

Reading books widens your knowledge. If you don't read the world will keep on advancing and you will be stuck. I want to go to university and be a healthcare scientist or clinical biochemist because I think being in that field could help me contribute to saving lives. This pandemic has inspired me to follow my dreams even more because now the world has lost a lot of resources and lives, and that makes me sad. Books can help me achieve my dreams.

”

Saalam, secondary school pupil, Accra, Ghana

www.bookaid.org

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