

Mahamed Ali Zaylac, student in Somalia.
Photo Credit: Mahamed Cali



Make It Happen: A World of Books

BOOKS FOR AFRICA 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Dear Friend,

2024 has been another groundbreaking year for Books For Africa, and it's all thanks to your incredible support. Together, we've made tremendous strides in addressing the African book famine. Here's a glimpse of what we've achieved together:

Millions of Books Delivered

Books For Africa continues to lead the way as the world's largest shipper of donated books to Africa, having delivered over 61 million books to date. Over the past 36 years, we've reached every single one of Africa's 55 countries. This year, we shipped over 1.6 million books, valued at over \$16 million, to 31 African nations. In addition, we sent approximately one million digital books, stored on 357 computers and tablets. From donors around the world and nearly every state in the United States, we raised over \$2.2 million to ensure these books reached their destinations across Africa.

Recognized for Excellence

We are honored to have received Charity Navigator's highest 4-star rating for the 17th consecutive year, placing us in the top 2% of U.S. nonprofits for accountability and transparency. In addition, we were pleased to receive the Supply Chain Excellence Award in July in Johannesburg, South Africa. We also earned the 2024 GuideStar Platinum Seal of Transparency, further demonstrating the trust you place in our work.

Building Partnerships with Inspiring Leaders

2024 was filled with meaningful partnerships and memorable events. Highlights include:

- Our annual luncheon fundraiser in St. Paul in May, with a keynote by Rwanda's Ambassador to the U.S., H.E. Mathilde Mukantabana.
- A May reception honoring Zambia's Ambassador to the U.S., H.E. Chibamba Kanyama.
- Our June Summit Society event in Washington, D.C., hosted at the Rwandan Embassy, with diplomatic representation from 13 African countries.
- An August Kilimanjaro Society reception in St. Paul with Chad's Ambassador to the U.S., H.E. Kitoko Gata Ngoulou.
- A special meeting with Rotary International and Nigerian health officials in Evanston, Illinois, to discuss medical education initiatives.
- A September fundraising reception in Atlanta with Zambia's Ambassador Kanyama as keynote speaker.
- A November reception co-hosted by BFA in Minneapolis with the Horn of Africa Institute, featuring Djibouti's Ambassador to the U.S., H.E. Mohamed Siad Doualeh, and Somali Ambassador H.E. Dahir Hassan Abdi.

Additionally, nearly 10,000 volunteers from organizations like Delta, Home Depot, UPS, and more helped sort millions of books for shipment to Africa.

Expanding Our Global Reach

Books were shipped this year from locations across the globe, including Atlanta, London, Paris, Montreal, San Francisco, New York, India, and beyond. Our incredible partners—such as Better World Books, Thomson Reuters, Lerner Publishing, Capstone Publishing, Elsevier, Walker Bookstore, Scholastic, Superior Text, and Merck—have been instrumental in ensuring African learners receive the high-quality, relevant materials they need. We are also deeply grateful to the thousands of individuals, schools, universities, and libraries that donated books this year.

New Initiatives Launched

In November, we partnered with the Sir Emeka Offor Foundation, the Nigerian Ministry of Health, Merck, Elsevier, and Rotary International to ship ten containers of new medical books to Nigeria. We're excited to build on partnerships like this in the future. Additionally, we celebrated the shipment of our 150th law library to Africa, with our latest delivery going to the Judicial Institute for Africa in Cape Town, South Africa. Partners in this Law and Democracy Initiative include Thomson Reuters, the American Bar Association, and the Attorney General Alliance.

Our work has also been featured in media outlets like *Global Atlanta*, *Engineering News*, *KSTP TV*, *Atlanta News First*, *Mshale*, *Minnesota Star Tribune*, *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* and the *Northfield News* and others, showcasing the powerful impact of our efforts.

Listening and Learning from Our Partners

We are committed to learning from our recipients. This year, we received feedback from 25 partners across 14 African countries, reinforcing how BFA books are transforming communities. Their stories confirm that our materials are not only of high quality but also essential in addressing the literacy needs of their regions. We also welcomed 25 Mandela Fellows from 19 African countries to our Minnesota warehouse for Mandela Day in July, where we gathered insights into the literacy challenges in their countries.

Together, Bridging the Literacy Gap

In 2024, we've worked hand in hand with partners around the world to deliver millions of books in both print and digital formats. For 36 years, we've been driven by the dream of the late Kofi Annan, who said, "Literacy is quite simply the bridge from misery to hope." Because of you, millions of children across Africa now have the tools they need to learn, grow, and thrive.

Thank you for your unwavering support. Together, we are changing lives—one book at a time.

Sincerely,



Tammie
Tammie Follett
Board President



Patrick J. Plonski
Patrick J. Plonski, PhD
Executive Director



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Ambassador Mukantabana of Rwanda, BFA Board President Tammie Follett, and BFA Executive Director Patrick Plonski at the Embassy of Rwanda. Photo Credit: Embassy of the Republic of Rwanda

Jack Mason Law & Democracy Initiative Co-Chairs

In memoriam

Kofi Annan, *Former U.N. Secretary-General, Founding Co-Chair*

Walter Mondale, *Former U.S. Vice President, Founding Co-Chair*



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Books For Africa Board Members and friends at the 2024 Summit Society Reception. Photo Credit: Books For Africa

Books For Africa has shipped over 61 million books and over one million digital books, serving all 55 countries on the African continent since 1988.

TOP 10 COUNTRIES ALL TIME



COUNTRY	BOOKS SHIPPED
Kenya	6,899,134
Ethiopia	6,061,656
Ghana	5,481,073
Nigeria	4,867,871
South Africa	3,927,851
Tanzania	3,848,048
Uganda	3,636,611
Zimbabwe	2,611,251
Liberia	2,189,033
Sierra Leone	1,721,967



Hon. Alfred Geresomu Musamali, Minister of Information at Inzu Ya Masaaba, opens a container of books in Uganda. Photo Credit: David Mabonga

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



Students of BABE Nursery and Primary School in Uganda. Photo Credit: David Mabonga

Our mission is to end the book famine in Africa.

BFA SHIPMENTS IN FY 2024

July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

BOOKS FOR AFRICA MAILBAG

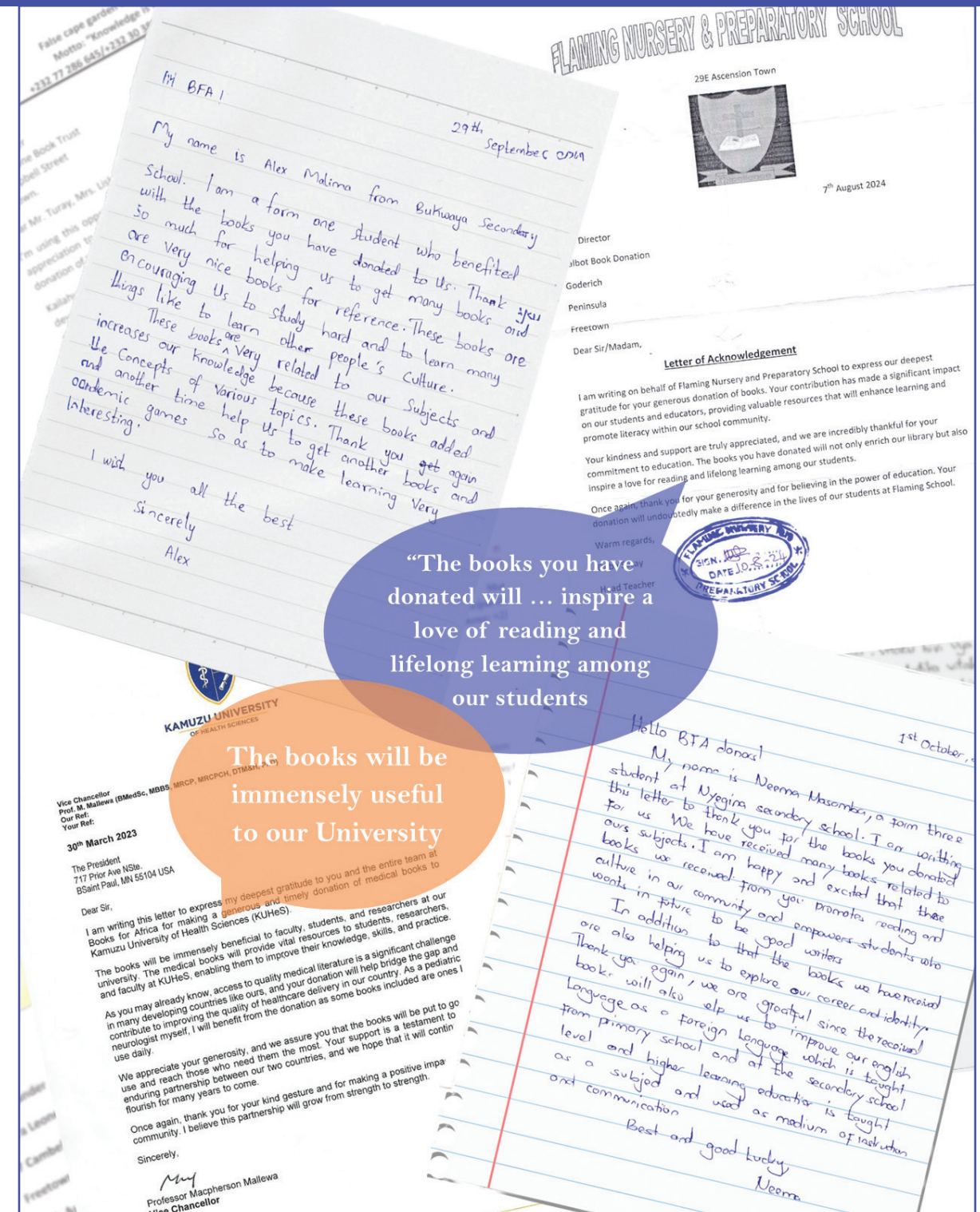
COUNTRY	BOOKS	COUNTRY	BOOKS
Kenya	370,058	The Gambia	44,990
South Africa	184,833	Equatorial Guinea	31,322
Tanzania	161,865	Tunisia	29,575
Ethiopia	127,807	Sierra Leone	27,141
Zambia	100,565	Lesotho	18,075
South Sudan	99,191	Liberia	5,517
Somalia	90,544	Niger	4,917
Ghana	69,910	Ivory Coast	3,372
Uganda	65,192	Chad	2,370
Malawi	63,643	Burkina Faso	1,695
Nigeria	54,518	Benin	1,000
DRC	48,355		

Books: 1.6 million +, Countries: 31,* Container Units: 110, Computers/

Tablets: 357, Law Libraries: 9, Digital Books: 1,092,000

TOTAL VALUE: \$16.2 million

*Eight countries (Angola, Botswana, Central African Republic, Madagascar, Mali, Rwanda, Senegal, and Togo) received books or tablets from Books For Africa outside of a dedicated conventional container unit shipment.



"The books you have donated will ... inspire a love of reading and lifelong learning among our students"

The books will be immensely useful to our University

2024 SHIPPING HIGHLIGHTS



Students at Greenbelt Academy in Bor. Photo Credit: Adormedia Ltd

Students at Greenbelt Academy in Bor. Photo Credit: Adormedia Ltd

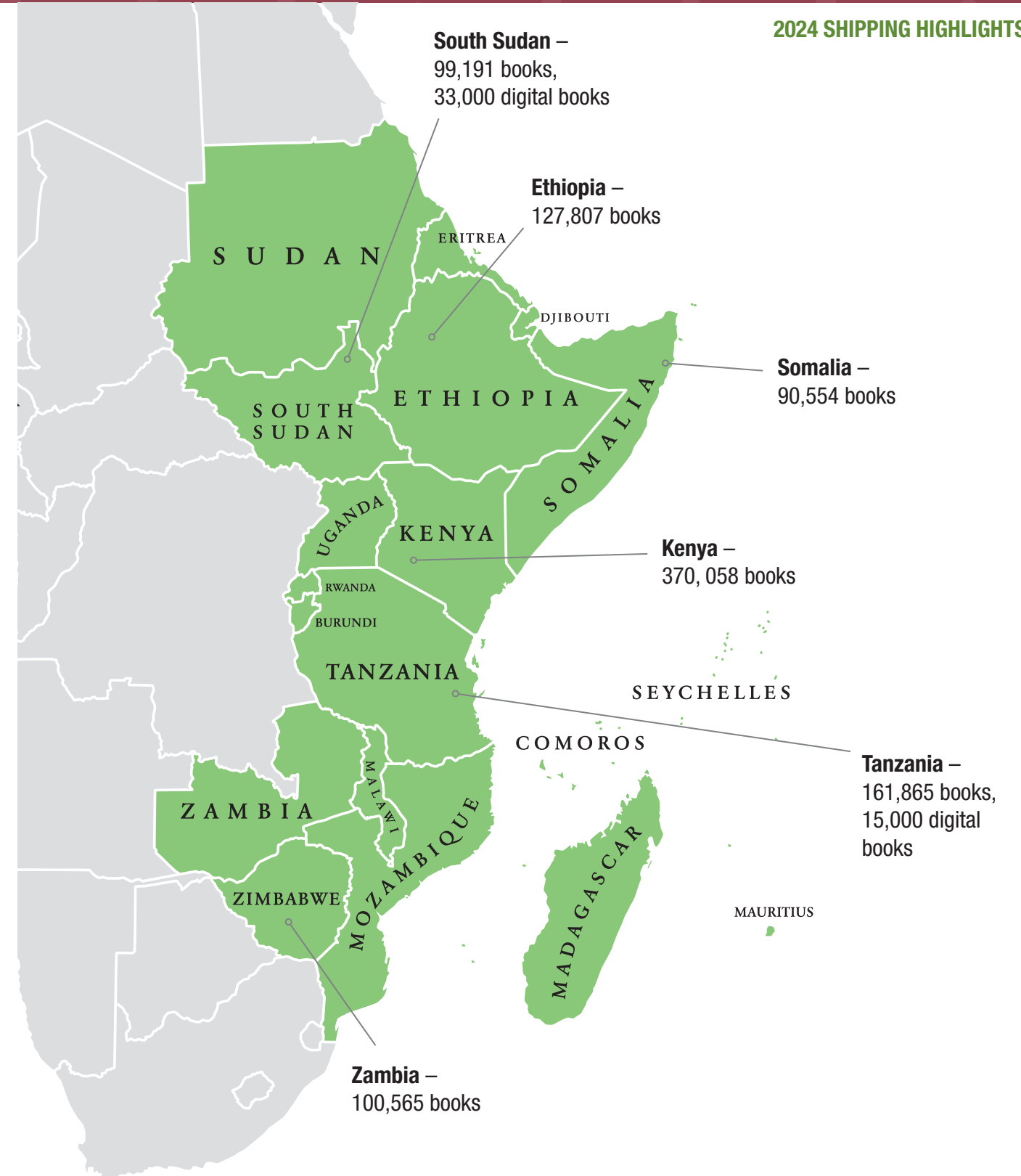
LIGHTING THE PATH TO EDUCATION IN SOUTH SUDAN

This year, Books For Africa shipped 20,000 books and 250 solar-powered lamps to EduPower Youth Foundation in South Sudan! This incredible shipment, made possible with vital support from UNESCO South Sudan, marks another step forward in our mission to end the book famine and empower communities through education.

EduPower Youth Foundation works across South Sudan to improve access to quality education, job creation, and entrepreneurial trainings in Africa's newest country. The books will open new worlds of learning and opportunity, while the solar lamps will extend study hours and improve access to education in areas where electricity is scarce. Together, they represent hope, progress, and brighter futures.



Students at the EduPower Foundation. Photo Credit: Adormedia Ltd



2024 SHIPPING HIGHLIGHTS



Students at Ecole Primaire Tumaini.
Photo Credit: Yannick Mbuyamba



Students and staff at The Bythiah Project.
Photo Credit: Yannick Mbuyamba

BOOKS AS A BIRTHDAY GIFT: ONE WOMAN'S VISION FOR CHANGE

In celebration of her 35th birthday, Niclette Mundabi, a board member of Books For Africa and Atlanta resident, coordinated the shipment of 45,000 French-language books to her home country, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Partnering with Books For Africa and The Bythiah Project in Kinshasa, this initiative addresses the critical shortage of educational materials in the DRC, where many children lack access to French-language books.

Valued at \$268,000, the books were sourced from Books For Africa's French-language partner in Montreal. These books were distributed to schools and libraries, aiming to bridge educational gaps, especially for girls who dropped out of school during the pandemic.



Students and staff at The Bythiah Project.
Photo Credit: Yannick Mbuyamba

This project holds deep personal significance for Mundabi, honoring her grandmother, who valued education but had to leave school as a child. As an avid reader, Mundabi seeks to inspire a love for books among Congolese children, fostering creativity and imagination.

A lifelong advocate for education, Mundabi's commitment to the DRC extends beyond this shipment. She plans to send additional containers and continues her work as director of development for the Eastern Congo Initiative. "It's all hands on deck," she said. "I'm privileged to help where I can."



2024 SHIPPING HIGHLIGHTS



Hajara Idriss, Doreen Asante Wah Mireku, Audrey Atiagao, Tracy Osei, and Patience Mambe Wanjiku, Nursing and Midwifery Students at Wisconsin International University College. Photo Credit: Wisconsin International University College University Media Team

BOOKS FOR AFRICA EMPOWERS NURSING EDUCATION IN GHANA WITH MEDICAL BOOK DONATIONS

Books For Africa continued its mission to foster education and literacy across the continent this year by donating medical and nursing textbooks to the Knutsford Nursing Library in Ghana. This impactful project was led by board member Louis Brownstone and generously sponsored by Merck (MSD), whose support made this vital initiative possible.

The contribution has already made a significant difference for students and educators, as evidenced by their heartfelt testimonies. A nursing student shared how a donated anatomy and physiology textbook would deepen their understanding of the human body. “This book contains detailed illustrations that will go a long way in aiding our learning,” they said.

Another student highlighted the importance of the textbook *Understanding Pathophysiology*, which explores disease mechanisms. “This book is essential for us nurses to better understand illnesses and improve patient outcomes,” they noted.

Specialized texts like *Quick and Easy Medical Terminology* by Peggy Leonard were also celebrated for their practical benefits in enhancing communication among healthcare professionals. “This book teaches the language of medicine, helping us communicate more effectively in clinical settings,” one student expressed with gratitude. This project exemplifies the transformative power of global partnerships in advancing education, literacy, and public health.



Audrey Atiagao and Patience Mambe Wanjiku, Nursing and Midwifery Students at Wisconsin International University College. Photo Credit: Wisconsin International University College University Media Team





Patrick Plonski, Ambassador Mohamed Abdalla Idris and Muhammad Ahmad at the Embassy of Sudan. Photo Credit: Books For Africa



MEDICAL E-READERS TRANSFORM HEALTHCARE IN NORTH AFRICA

Patrick Plonski, Executive Director of Books For Africa, recently visited the Sudanese and Tunisian embassies in Washington, D.C., to donate medical e-readers preloaded with thousands of healthcare resources. These devices, generously donated by Merck (MSD), address critical shortages of up-to-date medical materials in North Africa, offering an innovative solution to improving healthcare education and outcomes.

At the Sudanese Embassy, Plonski met with Ambassador Mohamed Abdalla Idris and Muhammad Ahmad and highlighted the transformative potential of the e-readers for rural clinics and universities.

At the Tunisian Embassy, Ambassador Hanene Tajouri Bessassi was inspired by the donation of e-readers to facilitate an entire shipment of medical books to Tunisia, which will be sent in 2025.

Through partnerships with embassies and international organizations, Books For Africa continues to deliver innovative tools that inspire hope and advance global development.



Patrick Plonski and Ambassador Hanene Tajouri Bessassi at the Embassy of Tunisia. Photo Credit: Books For Africa

Your Support Makes a Difference

50¢ provides a student in Africa with a book

\$100 sponsors 200 books for a classroom

\$500 sponsors a Girls Empowerment Collection

\$1,000 stocks an entire school library — join our Kilimanjaro Society!

\$11,000 provides 22,000 books — a full 40-foot sea container!



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

Statement of Activity

	2023	2024
SUPPORT AND REVENUES		
Contributions	\$2,282,703	\$2,529,772
Interest Earned	\$138,746	\$139,197
Value of Books Contributed	\$31,281,593	\$21,245,370
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUES	\$33,703,042	\$23,914,339
EXPENDITURES		
Program Operating Expenses — Overseas	\$35,894,963	\$18,488,309
General and Administrative Expenses	\$119,052	\$124,318
Fundraising Expenses	\$242,609	\$246,773
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$36,256,624	\$18,859,400
Change in Net Monetary Assets	\$(115,952)	\$(65,908)
Change in Book Inventory	\$1,387,911	\$5,025,009

2024 CONTRIBUTORS

Fiscal Year 2024 donor listings represent contributions received July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024

Individuals

SUMMIT SOCIETY \$125,000

The Ardeth Baxter Estate
\$17,000-\$50,000
 Anonymous
 Frank Babka
 Louis Brownstone
 Richard & Vivikka DeLoach
 Edward Krug
 The Estate of Cheryl Searls
 The Shaw LaBonte Fund at Schwab Charitable
 Rebecca Marr

\$10,000-\$15,000

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Students in Somalia.
 Photo Credit: Mahamed Cali

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Students at Karagwe Secondary School in Tanzania receive books for their library. Photo Credit: Emmanuel Ngambeki

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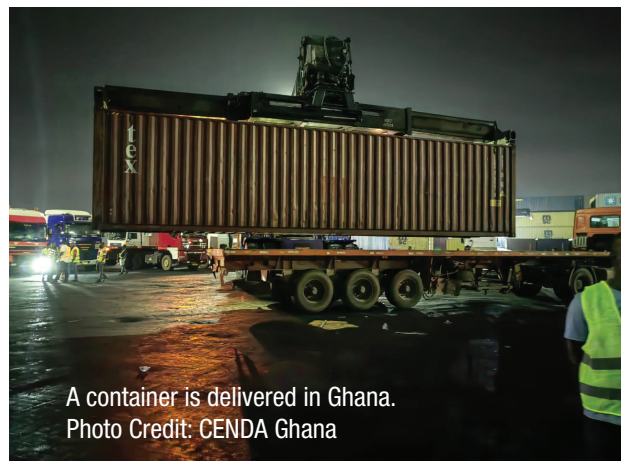


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A student at EduSpots Savelugu in Ghana. Photo Credit: EduSpots



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