



BIBLIONEF

**GIVE BOOKS TO CHILDREN
OPEN THEM UP TO THE WORLD**

“ Why do we offer only new books? Because a new book is received as a gift and arouses an interest in reading. It is also a sign of respect for the beneficiary. Far too often, donations of a huge number of used books which are not adapted to children's needs ruin the good intentions which guided these initiatives.”

Dominique Pace, Executive Director of BIBLIONEF

OVERVIEW

- Hundreds of thousands of children and teenagers over the world remain on the verge of development because they don't have access to books and reading. According to the UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 897 million people are illiterate across the world and still 250 million children do not acquire basic knowledge of reading, writing and arithmetic.



- In developing countries, even if the urgency remains the covering of nutritional and health needs, the children's future depends on their access to education and culture. It is proven that under a literacy rate of 50%, sustainable development can't be reached. Too many people are confronted with a shortage of books which has to be alleviated.
- This is why, for more than 20 years, BIBLIONEF has been working hard to enable thousands of children, each year, to grow up with a book in their hands...

OUR GOALS

GENERAL OBJECTIVE

BIBLIONEF facilitates access to books in the French language for disadvantaged children and teenagers all over the world, helping them to lay a solid foundation of knowledge and awareness and to offer them the keys for their future.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- **Quality books for children who don't have anything**

Since 1992, more than 3 million new books have been brought to 93 French-speaking or Francophile countries in reply to precise projects, developed with many different field partners: school and public libraries, French cultural network, associations, international NGOs...

Each year, around 150 000 new, recent and selected books are provided in countries of Africa, Asia, Central and Eastern Europe, Northern and Latin America, Oceania... But also in France, to alleviate illiteracy.

- **Promotion and dissemination of the French language**

BIBLIONEF participates in the influence of the French language and culture thanks to its new, attractive books, albums, tales, comics, novels, dictionaries, encyclopedias, documentaries... They enable children and teenagers around the world to read and dream in French.

- **International consultancy**

BIBLIONEF shares its experience at the international level through the intervention of its Director, Mrs Dominique Pace, in conferences and seminars. For instance, in October 2014, at the French Assemblée Nationale, during the 4th Seminar of the association Culture Papier; in March 2012, in Universities of Librazhd and Tirana in Albania, on the topic « The book, an access to knowledge and a human adventure », or in November 2009, for the Africa and Indian Ocean General Assemblies organized in Nairobi by the Foundation of French Alliances.

ACTIVITIES

For more than 20 years, **BIBLIONEF** has been committing itself to facilitating access to books, education and French culture for children and teenagers and to help them avoid illiteracy. In order to guarantee the success of projects, **BIBLIONEF** works with competent and reliable partners and follows a precise and proven methodology.

How do we work?

- **Projects' study**

BIBLIONEF identifies needs and implements projects in cooperation with local, well-established structures, capable of ensuring the proper use of books.

- **A diversified and appropriate offer**

BIBLIONEF partners can choose books according to their needs within the inventory of the association, containing around 300.000 new books, in rolling stock, and 1 800 titles. This offer is regularly updated thanks to the contribution of our French publishing partners who give, regularly and on a large scale, their quality surplus stocks to the association.



- **Logistics**

The management of the **BIBLIONEF** warehouse, located near to Strasbourg, is entrusted to the LDE Library – www.lde.fr – in charge of the storage, the preparation of books for each project, before delivering the pallet to the international carrier in charge of shipment.

- **Evaluation and reporting of projects**

For each project implemented, monitoring is achieved thanks to regular reports from beneficiaries, strictly controlled by **BIBLIONEF**. On-site evaluations can be organized as well.

“The project comes to an end but it could substantially develop youth spaces in libraries of the Togolese public reading network thanks to BiblioneF. In a few years, the significant amount of books and the diversity of titles enable us to complete successfully our work towards children.”

Marc Fenoli, in charge of a Public Reading Project in Togo

Some illustrations ...

Since 1992, **BIBLIONEF** has created and supplied libraries in 93 countries.

Some recent examples of these projects can illustrate our work on the ground...

- **South Africa**

In 2015, about 4 000 books made possible the creation of French corners in 40 Secondary and High schools' libraries of Johannesburg and Pretoria. The French Institute of Johannesburg, partner of **BIBLIONEF**, emphasizes what *“the admirable and exceptional support”* this donation brought to their promotion policy concerning books and the French language, also encouraged by South African authorities.



- **Burkina-Faso**

In 2014-2015, **BIBLIONEF** provided 8 000 books to the association, Petit à Petit, in the aim to supply its network of Primary and Secondary schools' libraries. Established in the district of Karankasso-Vigue since 2013, Petit à Petit pursues the objective of improving the education quality of the 12 000 pupils concerned. Ten years of hard work and collaboration between the two associations had been rewarded, in 2013, by the best national rate of admission to the Primary School Certificate (88%).



- **France**



Some French mainland and overseas departments are holding more and more of the attention of **BIBLIONEF** because of their very apparent illiteracy rates. That is the reason why, for many months, the association has implemented projects for reading development in the

French territory. For instance, in 2015, 12 000 books helped create reading corners and libraries in Infant and Primary schools of the region Nord-Pas-de-Calais. 10 000 books were made available to the media library of Le Tampon, on the island of La Réunion, within the scope of the municipal policy "Le Tampon, a City which reads", and 1 600 books to schools and leisure centres of Angers popular neighbourhood, in Maine-et-Loire. Providential donations were used to enhance the local cultural life and lead a public, who feels far from the world of books, to read.

- **Madagascar**

In 2014 and 2015, 12.500 books had been devoted to different literacy projects or French language level improvement actions, in support of the vulnerable young people of the country. Thus, 9.000 books have enriched and renewed the collections of the 29 French Alliances network which are the only public libraries present all over the island.

In some Ursuline Sisters' bush schools, far away from any type of technology, 1.400 books helped pupils discover the pleasure of reading. In the isolated village of Ivohibe, 2.000 books have created the first French collection of the Green Library for Change.



- **Moldavia**



In 2014, 2.050 books were made available to the Media Tech of the Chisinau French Alliance and its district annexes, but also to underprivileged schools where the French language is taught. The donation was really appreciated on-site and will be repeated in the future. In this country, which is one of the last French-speaking bastions in Eastern Europe, the project intends to encourage French to be more attractive

and to promote this language as a personal and economic development vector for the Moldavan youth.

- **Niger**

From 2013 to this day, **BIBLIONEUF** has been dedicating 24.000 books to develop reading and to improve the quality of the education received by Nigerian young people, who often suffer from limited schooling. This action is essential, specifically because of the instability of the Sahelian region, and is led in collaboration with the French embassy, which actively supports the Niger Educative Policy, in Niamey, Zinder, Maradi and Agadez. Moreover, at the request of the French district of *Val-de-Marne*, within the scope of its cooperation policy with Niger, **BIBLIONEUF** has created children reading corners in 15 Secondary schools and 4 public libraries.

- **Dominican Republic**



4.000 books were sent to create children spaces in media libraries of 2 French Alliances and 3 French schools on the island. The poverty of the population, including numbers of francophone Haitian refugees, led French Alliances to apply reduced prices, because they don't have enough profits to buy new books. Thanks to this donation, Alliances have become reference French resource centres for the youth.

- **Tunisia**

In 2014, 5.750 books have brought support to reading projects led by associations working in the governorate of Ariana, supported by the French Institute for necessary training. This donation enables them to create children libraries in 15 Primary schools and organize awards ceremony's. In this country, where books are rare and expensive and where school libraries are lacking, the discovery of beautiful books stimulates children intellectually, opens them up to the world, improves their reading level and their comprehension of French.



BIBLIONEUF keeps implementing activities for facilitating access to culture and education for young people in need. The association needs to develop new partnerships in order to perpetuate its action and offer quality books to a great number of children around the world.

“I keep in mind a strong memory of the extraordinary diversity and quality of books we were lucky to receive when I was in Azerbaijan. They undeniably contributed to develop a great image of France and its actions of cooperation in the field of reading.”

“Thanks to people like you who fight like lions, people like me can find the strength to build such actions which are very expected and appreciated on-site”.

Luc Aubry, in charge of the Cooperation Services Department at the French Institute in Azerbaijan and then in Lithuania

Faithful partners ...

Numerous French publishers contribute regularly to the BIBLIONEF action.

They are aware that new and appropriate books can produce lasting impacts on reading in countries where there's no other way to obtain books. Books' donations, as organized by **BIBLIONEF**, have structuring effects on countries' development and participate in the cultural cooperation policies.

Bayard Jeunesse, Edune, Gallimard Jeunesse, Gründ, Hachette Livre, La Martinière Jeunesse, Larousse, La Joie de Lire, Les Fourmis Rouges, Le Robert, MeMo, Minedition, Milan, Nathan, Nord-Sud, Revue Dada, Scrineo Jeunesse, Thierry Magnier, Univers Poche...

Various institutions, associations, foundations, give support to BIBLIONEF for field projects.

French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, French Ministry of Culture, General Delegation for the French language and languages of France, National Assembly, Senate, General Council of Essone, General Council of Val-de-Marne, Association Ciel des Jeunes, Foundation Aéroports de Paris, Foundation Air France, Foundation AnBer, Foundation Areva, Foundation Auchan pour la Jeunesse, Foundation GODF, Foundation Legallais, Foundation Le Conservateur, Foundation Meeschaert pour l'enfance, Foundation Okworld, Foundation RATP, Foundation SAP, Foundation SNCF, Foundation Un Monde Par Tous...

Who are we ?

BIBLIONEF is an association governed by French Law, a non governmental organization created by Maximilien Vegelin van Claerbergen (†) who was Ambassador of the Netherlands. **BIBLIONEF** is recognized by the UNESCO, the UNICEF and the Council of Europe.

BIBLIONEF is an original member of the *Books' Donation Charter* which acts as a code of conduct between donors and beneficiaries and defines books' donations as a part of cooperation policies for development.

BIBLIONEF independant associations and foundations also exist in Netherlands, in South Africa, in Surinam and in Belgium.

"The idea of Biblioneef came to me when I was confronted to children living in unhealthy cities or isolated in the jungle. They wanted to live and learn but they lacked everything, they lacked books. A dream was born from this encounter: a sailing boat bringing books to children and young people who need it all over the world. The sailing boat remained a dream but the books' delivery became reality thanks to the creation of the association Biblioneef"

Maximilien Vegelin van Claerbergen, Ambassador of Netherlands (†)



Executive Director

Since its creation in 1992, **BIBLIONEF** has been directed by Dominique Pace, Chevalier of the Order of Academic Palms and Chevalier of the National Order of Merit

In 2015, she received the Diploma of European Worth and Prestige for the action of **BIBLIONEF** as a Great International Cause supported by the Committee of Europe.

Dominique Pace manages the daily running of the association, researches partnerships, selects projects and ensures monitoring in cooperation with local partners. She is helped in her tasks by a project manager.

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Writer, publisher and founder of the *Cherche Midi*

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FOR MORE INFORMATIONS...

BIBLIONEF website

www.biblioneef.com

A quarterly newsletter is available on the website.

Website of BIBLIONEF in the Netherlands

www.biblioneef.nl

Website of BIBLIONEF in South-Africa

www.biblioneftsa.org.za

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