

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 UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 897 millions of people are illiterate across the world and still 250 millions of children do not acquire basic knowledge of reading, writing and arithmetic.

In developing countries, even if the urgency remains the cover of nutritional and health needs, children's future necessarily 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 shortage of books which has to be alleviated.

That's 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 for disadvantaged children and teenagers all over the world, helping them to lay a solid foundation of knowledge and awareness for their future and offering them keys for their future.

Specific objectives

Quality books for children who don't have anything

Each year, around 150.000 new and recent books are provided in Africa, Asia, Central and Eastern Europe, Latin America, Oceania... Since 1992, more than three millions of new books have been brought to 90 countries. Beneficiaries are libraries, schools, cultural centres, French Alliances, or local associations and foundations, which work closely with BIBLIONEF to identify their needs.

Promotion and dissemination of the French language

BIBLIONEF participates in the influence of the French language and culture thanks to its 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 participation of its Director, Mrs Dominique Pace, in conferences and seminars. For example, 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. In order to guarantee the success of projects, BiblioneF works with competent and reliable partners and follows a precise and well-experienced methodology.

How do we work ?

Projects' study

BIBLIONEF selects projects submitted by local partners who have to clearly identify their needs. Books' donations are implemented in cooperation with 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 and 1.500 titles. This offer is regularly updated thanks to the contribution of our publisher partners. Around 150.000 books are delivered every year all over the world, in response to specific projects.



Logistics

The management of BIBLIONEF warehouse is entrusted to the LDE library in Strasbourg (www.lde.fr), in charge of the storage, the preparation of books and the relationship with the international carrier in charge of the shipment.

Evaluation and reporting of projects

For each project implemented, monitoring is done thanks to regular reports from beneficiaries, strictly controlled by BIBLIONEF. On-site evaluation missions 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...

BIBLIONEF has created and supplied libraries in more than 90 countries. Some recent examples of projects can illustrate our work on the ground...

Albania : In September 2013, 5.500 books were provided to privileged partners of the French Embassy in Tirana for the promotion and teaching of the French language: bilingual sections of general and professional high schools, colleges, French Schools, universities and French Alliances. In this country with francophone tradition, these donations meet the significant demand from students and teachers, who have very limited access to libraries and French books.

Democratic Republic of Congo : Since 2010, BIBLIONEF works with the congregation of the Salesians of Don Bosco. In this country where books are rare and considered as treasures, the congregation offers to children, for more than 100 years, a quality education in its institutions.



In early 2014, 5.200 books have supplied, in Lubumbashi, the new library of the Imara College, the Kitulizo school in a very poor district and the Salama Technical Institute. The bush school of Kipushya has also received a donation. These books are unexpected gifts, used to improve education of more than 8.000 children and developing their thirst for reading.

Dominican Republic: In August 2013, 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, with not enough profits to buy new books. Thanks to this donation, Alliances become reference French resource centres for the youth.



France: By the end of 2013, 4.000 books were provided to the *association pour l'animation dans le Parc naturel régional des Boucles de la Seine Normande*, combating illiteracy for more than 30 years in this rural area. The association and its partners (libraries, nurseries, cultural and social centres...) are now able to develop aloud reading, tales' reading, theatre activities... Providential donations used to enhance the local cultural life and lead a public, who feels far from the world of books, to read.

Ivory Coast: In early 2014, 5.000 books have equipped schools and the third Bibliobus of the Foundation Children of Africa, presided by Dominique Ouattara, First Lady, with whom BIBLIONEF works since 2008. This bus meets thousands of children in Yopougon, in the district of Abidjan, and offers them a first quality contact with books.



Niger : In 2013 and 2014, around 24.000 books were dedicated to projects developing access to reading and education, essential in the specific context of instability in the Sahelian region. Some 16.000 books sent to the French Institute have supplied 11 Youth Centres, 11 secondary schools and 4 French Alliances in Niamey, Zinder, Maradi and Agadez. Moreover, at the request of the French district of *Val-de-Marne*, 8.000 books were donated to its partner, the city of Zinder, to create children libraries in 15 secondary schools and 4 public libraries.



Palestinian Territories : 4.500 books have recently supplied libraries of the French cultural network in Jerusalem, Gaza, Ramallah, Naplouse, Bethlehem and Hebron, with which BIBLIONEF works since 2010. "Reading corners" were established in 22 schools in Gaza to make students discover pleasure books in French. A Bibliobus meeting more than 9.000 isolated children in the Gaza Strip now serves 20 schools thanks to its enriched collection.

South Africa : In July 2013, more than 4.700 books were made available to French Alliances, secondary schools where the French language is taught, public libraries, universities and associations of refugees from French-speaking African countries. The French Institute of Johannesburg, partner of BIBLIONEF, emphasizes on *“the admirable and exceptional support”* this donation brought to their promotion policy concerning books and the French language, encouraged by South African authorities.



Tunisia : In 2014, 5.000 books have brought support to reading projects led by associations working in the governorate of Ariana, supported by the French Institute for necessary trainings. This donation enables them to create children libraries in 15 primary schools and organize awards' ceremony. 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 French level.

BIBLIONEF keeps implementing activities for facilitating access to culture and education for young people in need. The association has to develop new partnerships in order to perpetuate its action and offer quality books to a greatest 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.”

Luc Aubry, in charge of the Cooperation Services Department at the French Institute in Vilnius, Lithuania

Faithful partners

A lot of French publishers contribute regularly to 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 get books. Books' donations, as organized by BiblioneF, have structuring effects on countries' development and participate in the cultural cooperation policies.

- *Bayard Jeunesse, Gallimard Jeunesse, Gründ, Hachette Livre, La Martinière Jeunesse, Larousse, Le Robert, MeMo, Minedition, 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 Essonne, General Council of Val-de-Marne, Foundation Air France, Foundation AnBer, Foundation Areva, Foundation Ciel des jeunes, Foundation GODF, Foundation Legallais, Foundation Meeschaert pour l'enfance, Foundation Okworld, 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 van Claerbergen (†) who was Ambassador of the Netherlands. BIBLIONEF is recognized by the UNESCO, UNICEF and the Council of Europe.

Our association is an original member of the *Books' Donation Charter* which acts as a code of conduct between donors and beneficiaries, makes propositions to put the recipient at the heart of the transaction, and defines books' donations as a part of cooperation policies for development.

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

"The idea of BiblioneF 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 BiblioneF."

Maximilien Vegelin van Claerbergen, former Ambassador of the Netherlands (†)

Executive Director

Since its creation in 1992, BIBLIONEF is directed by Mrs Dominique Pace, Chevalier in the Order of Academic Palms and Chevalier in the National Order of Merit.

She manages the association in the daily life, looks for partnerships, selects projects and ensures monitoring in cooperation with local partners.



Board of Directors

President: M. Jean Orizet, writer, publisher and founder of the *Cherche Midi Éditeur*

Directors:

M. Thierry Bidal d'Asfeld, Executive Director of the company SCI Forty

M. Laurent de Gaulle, writer, photographer, President of the association *Culture Papier*

Mrs Dominique Fox-Rigaud, consultant

Mrs Souad Hubert, General Curator, former Director of international relations for the Public Library *Georges Pompidou*

M. Pierre Passot, advertising man and writer

M. Philippe Plantade, lawyer

M. Jocelyn Rigault, Executive Director of the *Editions la Martinière*

Mrs Muriel Vandeventer, in charge of the Book Department for the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs

FOR MORE INFORMATION...

Biblioneef website: www.biblioneef.com

A quarterly newsletter is available on the website

Website of BIBLIONEEF in the Netherlands : www.biblioneef.nl

Website of BIBLIONEEF in South Africa: www.biblioneefsa.org.za

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