

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 and 122 millions of school-age children grow up without receiving any basic education.
- 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.

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 and Latin America. Since 1992, more than three millions of books have been brought to 90 countries. Beneficiaries are libraries, schools, cultural centers, 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 many 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, Biblioneef works with competent and reliable partners and follows a precise and well-experienced methodology.

How do we work ?

1. Projects' study

BIBLIONEF selects projects submitted by local partners who have to identify clearly their needs. Books' donations are implemented in cooperation with well-established structures, capable of ensuring the proper use of books.

2. A diversified and appropriate offer

Then, BIBLIONEF partners can choose books according to their needs, within the inventory of the association, containing more than 300.000 new books. This offer is updated regularly 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.



3. 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.

4. 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.

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

Some illustrations...

Since 1992, BIBLIONEF has been creating or supplying libraries in more than 90 countries.

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



- **The Democratic Republic of Congo:** In February 2012, 36.250 books sent to the French Institute in Kinshasa were distributed to a hundred of experimental school libraries in provincial areas and the capital city, for a project led by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Thus, beneficiary schools could enhance the teaching and the use of the French language in DRC.
- **Lebanon:** BIBLIONEF carried out several donations for 5 schools directed by the Maronite Sisters of Saint Theresa. In Beirut and three small cities in North Lebanon, they welcome more than 3.500 children, from nursery school to high school. This project raised awareness of teachers about impacts of reading on children's fulfillment and cultural development.



- **The Palestinian territories:** In 2012, BIBLIONEF delivered 5.300 new books to the French cultural network in Bethlehem, Gaza, Hebron, Jerusalem, Nablus and Ramallah, in cooperation with the French Institute in Jerusalem. BIBLIONEF also strengthened the collection of the Bibliobus, a French-German project which brings books to isolated villages and refugees' camps in the Gaza Strip.
- **Tunisia:** BIBLIONEF participated in the emergency aid organized after the revolution's events in January 2011, in order to help damaged Tunisian public libraries. 12.000 books were provided for 30 itinerant libraries.



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

"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."

- **Hungary:** BIBLIONEF and the Cultural Services Department of the French Embassy have been cooperating for about 15 years. Hungarian schools have received thousands of books, in order to make children discover the joy of reading in French.
- **Laos:** In early 2012, with the French Institute in Vientiane, 2.000 books supplied bilingual classes over the country, providing an attractive offer to 13 schools and 3 provincial centers.
- **Colombia:** Over the past two years, 14.000 books have enriched the documentary holdings of dynamic French Alliances, involved in the promotion and teaching of the French language around the country.



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.

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 Biblioneef, have structuring effects on countries' development and participate in the cultural cooperation policies.

- *Editions Nord-Sud, Editions Thierry Magnier, Gallimard Jeunesse, Hachette Livre, La Martinière Jeunesse, Larousse, Le Robert, MeMo, Minedition, Nathan, Revue Dada, Univers Poche...*

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

- *French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, French Ministry of Culture, French Ministry of Education, General Delegation for French language, National Assembly, Senate...*
- *Air France Foundation, AnBer Foundation, AREVA Foundation, "Ciel des jeunes" Foundation, SNCF Foundation, "Un Monde Par Tous" Foundation...*

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.

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

"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."

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*

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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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