

Summary

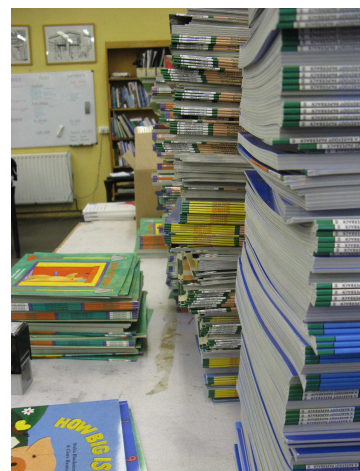
Everyone at Book Aid International is enormously grateful to Barefoot Books for the 750 beautiful books they donated through their online promotion in November 2010. These books - *Cleo's Counting Book*, *Bear at Home*, and *How Big is a Pig?* - were shipped to almost all of the 12 countries in which we work in sub-Saharan Africa. These are now proudly displayed on the shelves of school and community libraries where we modestly estimate each one will be read by at least five children.

The need

Latest statistics estimate that 69 million children around the world will wake up today with no prospect of attending school.¹ Each of these children will never know the inside of a classroom, will never read a book and will never know the care of a good teacher. Book Aid International works to support our partners in ensuring children in rural and urban areas are able to access high-quality books.

Progress

In 2010, Book Aid International provided 341,734 books aimed at children and teenagers to partner organisations in 12 countries across sub-Saharan Africa² and the Occupied Palestinian Territories. From primary school libraries in Namibia to donkey-drawn mobile libraries in rural Zimbabwe, our children's book provision programme served more than 2,000 libraries over the course of the year. In 2011, we also worked with some of our partners to create children's book corners in 24 public libraries across Kenya and Tanzania. As well as supporting them with high quality books, we provided small grants for refurbishment and to purchase books locally.



Barefoot Books ready for packing in our London warehouse



Children's corner, Kenya

The earlier children start to read, the greater the effect on their education and we hope that these projects will encourage families and children to visit their local library and develop a love of reading.

Below are just two examples of the difference that children's books provided by Book Aid International have made to our library partners and the librarians, parents and children they serve. This has only been made possible thanks to the support of companies such as Barefoot Books and we are extremely grateful for this worthwhile partnership.

¹ *Back to School? The worst places in the world to be a school child in 2010*: Global Campaign for Education, 2010

² Cameroon, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Namibia, Somalia (Puntland, Somaliland), Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and the Occupied Palestinian Territories

"I arrived at the school and found a building labelled 'library' that was an empty unused space. Through a friend I found out that the National library in Windhoek distributes books so, I acquired over 300 Book Aid International books for my school and established a library for fun, interactive learning.

My students have absolutely loved using this library. I was pleasantly surprised when I marked their work and saw new words or references to stories in the books they had read. It's sobering to think that such a fundamental part of the learning process had been denied to these children up until now. Their lives have been truly enriched by these books."

Ayoola Kellar, Teacher, Oukongo Primary School, Namibia

"Friends, I would like to tell you we are happy with our school and the beautiful beloved books which are in our school library. We spend much time in our good library, reading the books you sent us. We have explored most parts of the world using the books. So the only thing I would say is thank you a thousand times!"

Beatrice Mbabazi, Florence Murungi, Moreen Nsungwa, and Albert Busobozi, pupils at Kasiisi school, Uganda



**Many thanks to everyone at Barefoot Books for your support of Book Aid International.
We very much look forward to working with you again.**