



**Bibliothèques  
Sans Frontières**  
Libraries Without Borders

# 4 YEARS OF THE IDEAS BOX

EDUCATION | COMMUNITY-BUILDING | CREATIVITY

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# OVERVIEW

FEBRUARY 2014 - FEBRUARY 2018



**Patrick Weil**  
Libraries Without Borders Chairman

*By providing substantive educational opportunities and promoting psycho-social skills like resilience and self-reliance, the Ideas Box transforms the lives of thousands of people around the world each and every day.*

*Since launching our first Ideas Box in February 2014, we have been able to test and iterate upon best practices to generate impressive results. As we near the millionth visit to the Ideas Box this spring, we welcome you to join us in looking toward the future and the global scale-up of our programs.*

[> Read the full article](#)

946k

Visits to the Ideas Box  
worldwide

72k

Registered users  
worldwide

**79** Ideas Box projects  
implemented in **20**  
countries

**28k+** resources  
available in **20**  
languages

**500+** partners  
operating the Ideas  
Box everyday

# AREAS OF INTERVENTION

Using technology to expand access to information & empower vulnerable populations



**REFUGEES AND DISPLACED POPULATIONS**



**FORMAL AND INFORMAL EDUCATION**



**POST-CONFLICT AND PEACEBUILDING**



**DIGITAL, HEALTH AND LEGAL LITERACY**



**EMPLOYEMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP**



**E-ADMINISTRATION AND PUBLIC SERVICES**

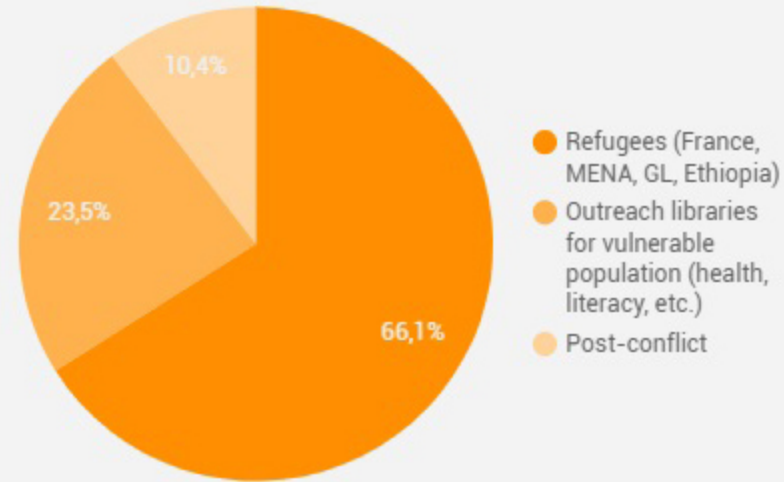
# 360° IMPACT

## GLOBAL REACH

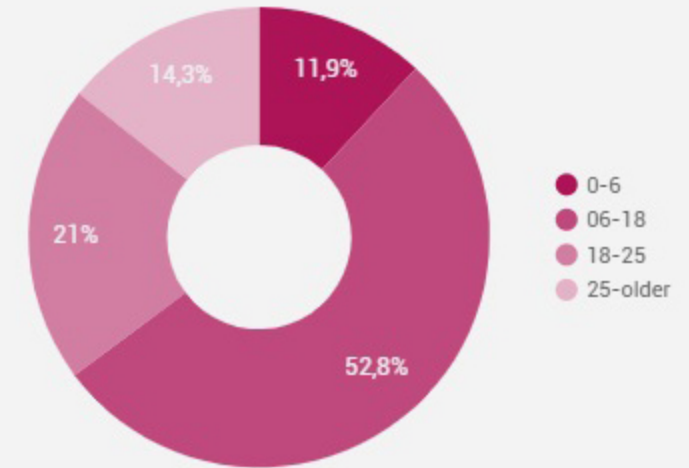
Visits (globally)  
**946 920**

Registered users (globally)  
**72 277**

## CONTEXTS OF INTERVENTION



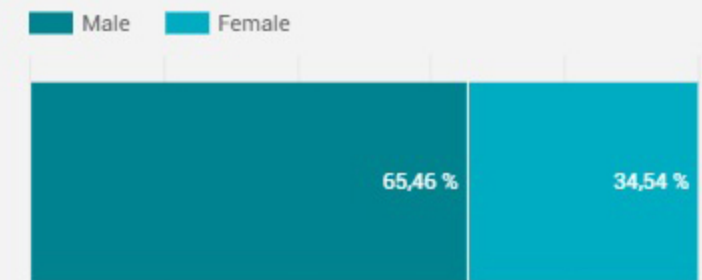
## AGE GROUPS



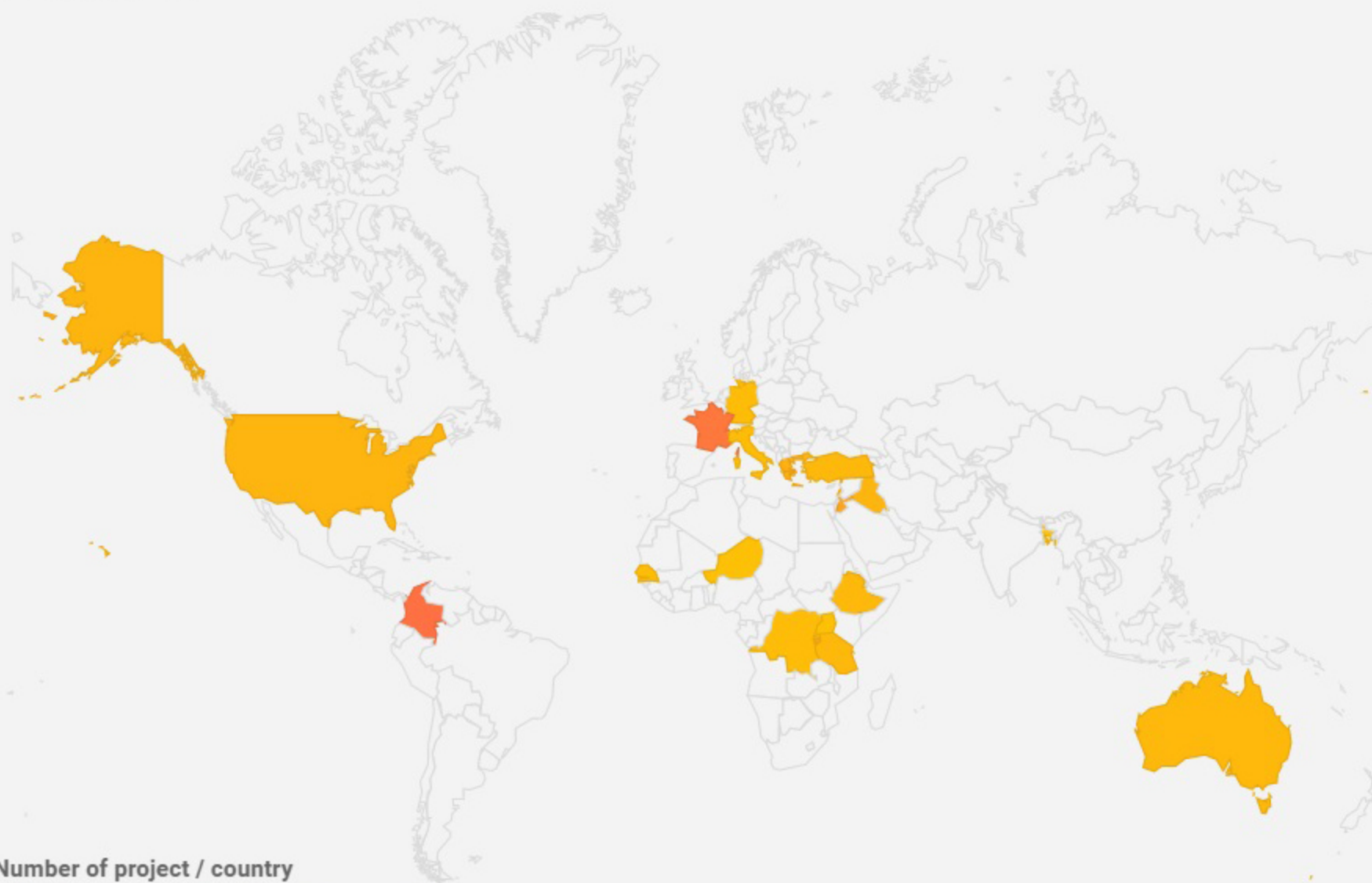
## 4 YEARS OF EVOLUTION



## GENDER



## GLOBAL REACH



Number of project / country

0 20

\* : Countries with 0 projects are planned initiatives.

### Libraries Without Borders regional Offices :

- > **Paris** (HQ, France) & **Brussels** (Belgium) - North Europe
- > **Athens** (Greece) - South Europe
- > **Washington DC** (U.S.) - North America
- > **Amman** (Jordan) - MENA
- > **Bujumbura** (Burundi) - Great Lakes
- > **Bogota** (Colombia) - Latin America

### Main projects under discussion for 2018 :

- > **Jordan** : bringing the Ideas Box to 84 primary and secondary schools (Ministry of Education / World Bank)
- > **Niger** : launching 100 Ideas Box kits to provide access to public services in remote areas (Ministry of ICT, Smart Village Initiative / World Bank)
- > **Colombia** : leveraging libraries for peace-building efforts in 150 villages
- > **Bangladesh** : conducting assessments to determine impact of operating an Ideas Box program in Rohingya refugee communities
- > **Uganda** : extending the Ideas Box initiative to serve refugees in Ugandan camps

# 1

## ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE & LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Qualitative and quantitative evaluations demonstrate that the Ideas Box has a positive impact on the academic performance of children and youth in refugee and IDP camps, as well as in rural and urban settings in low to middle and high income countries around the world. It offers a safe and stable environment where children from all walks of life can feed their curiosity and engage in creative activities.

Humanitarian Education Accelerator



Libraries Without Borders is a fellow of the Humanitarian Education Accelerator's 2nd cohort. This will support the M&E skills of the organization and conduct external evaluation of 2 Ideas Box projects in Jordan.



+23%

Ideas Box **increased the academic performance of students** in Congolese refugee camps\*.

Learning Environment

Ideas Box **creates a safe, creative and dynamic learning environment** that fuels curiosity in children.\*

Graduate Studies

By partnering with Coursera, we provided **refugees in Burundi with access to university coursework**. The 1st cohort of 15 students graduated in November 2017.



### Academic Achievement in Non-Emergency or Post-Conflict Contexts

30%

**30%** of the students who participated in the Ideas Box winter school in Detroit **increased their math test scores** after 2 weeks in the program.\*\*

Non-Traditional Outreach Spaces

In Detroit, there are few public spaces where educational programs can take place. To address this reality, we leveraged the dynamic nature of the Ideas Box to transform non-traditional spaces into places where children and adults could learn a variety of topics and skills.

#### SOURCES:



\* : Reinforcing the Quality of Education in Emergency Situations: How the Ideas Box Increases Academic Performance by 23% | Internal Research | 2015

[> Read the report](#)



\*\* : Ideas Box: The Detroit Impact Report | Internal Research | 2015

[> Read the report](#)

#### ALSO READ:



Promising Practices in Refugee Education | Save the Children, UNHCR, Pearson | 2017

[> Read the report](#)

## 2 SOCIAL SKILLS

### PEACE-BUILDING & SELF-RELIANCE



An external evaluation of our Ideas Box program in Colombia demonstrated a positive impact on the social skills of participants in peace-building contexts

**+26%**

Ideas Box **increases participation in collective activities by 26%**.

**+15%**

Ideas Box **increases conflict resolution by 15%** among adults.

**+31%**

Ideas Box **strengthens youth leadership by 31%** & bolsters positive feelings about the future by **20%**.

**+26%**

Ideas Box **increases community cohesion by 26%** among teenagers.

Qualitative studies in refugee camps have shown similar results\*\*

#### RESILIENCE AND CONTROL OF POST-TRAUMATIC DISORDERS

*"The Ideas Box meets refugee needs and starts a process of recovery from their traumatic state. It enhances resilience to overcome their stress and apprehensions to plan for the future."*

#### A SAFE SPACE FOR PEACE-BUILDING

*The Box allows for many refugees to calm post-conflict anger and violence and therefore can act as a social regulator. The Box is a "home" where the tensions, fears and torments from the outside world do not penetrate.*

#### SOURCES:



\* : "Evaluación del proyecto Bibliotecas de la paz en Colombia", Centro Nacional de Consultoría de Colombia | External evaluation | 2017.

[> Watch the results in video.](#)



\*\* : "Ideas Box, an innovative protection and psychosocial tool for emergency situations", Christian Lachal | External evaluation | April 2015

[> Read the full report.](#)

#### INFORMATION SECURITY

*Refugees have access to verified information through the Ideas Box, from computers or tablets connected to the Internet as well as from peer-lead debates and information sessions. It appears as an effective instrument to fight against misinformation.*

# 3 BRIDGING THE INFORMATION GAP

Assessments show that Ideas Box creates "information bridges" between traditional educational and informational players and vulnerable populations, in particular in remote locations or when social barriers are strong.



## Libraries outreach

By bringing libraries in places familiar to people, Ideas Box is a **bridge between existing libraries and remote or vulnerable population\***. On a territory like Sarcelles in Paris suburbs, 70% of the population who attended Ideas Box activities never have visited the library before.

## Essential skills

Ideas Box **multiplies the traditional impacts of libraries by addressing highly vulnerable populations**. It empowers population by increasing their essential skills as reading and writing, numeracy, digital literacy, expression, etc\*\*.

## Creating local hubs

Ideas Box creates local hub where partners work together to address the need of the territory. **It connects players that usually do not work together.**

## TRANSFORMING PROFESSIONAL PRACTICES AND REINVENTING PUBLIC SERVICES

The Ideas Box does not only offer new services to final users, it is a great lever for the transformation of professional practices, the prefiguration of new services and the reinvention of the way of thinking public services in the 21st century\*.

### SOURCES:



\* : *Les Ideas Box en France : de l'idée à la réalité*, Pascal Sanz | External research | 2016

[> Read the full report.](#)



\*\* : *Ideas Box in the Bronx : impact report*, Stéphane Tonnelat | External Research | 2015

[> Read the full report.](#)

### ALSO READ:



*Evaluation de l'Ideas Box et du dispositif la France s'engage | Upcoming research |*

[> More information here.](#)



# TOP STORIES



**"Just being a kid again"**  
In Grande-Synthe refugee  
camp, France.

[> READ THE STORY](#)



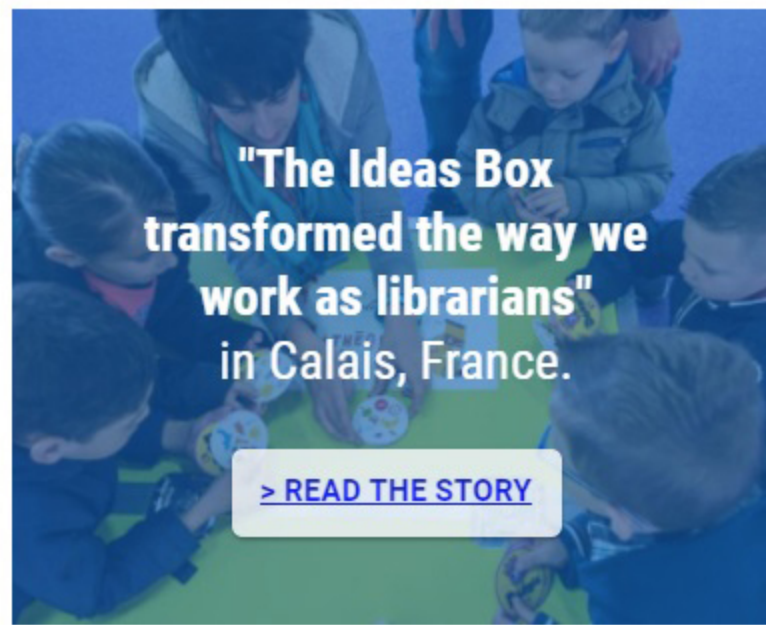
**"The library, my first  
memory of peace"**  
in post-conflict Colombia.

[> READ THE STORY](#)



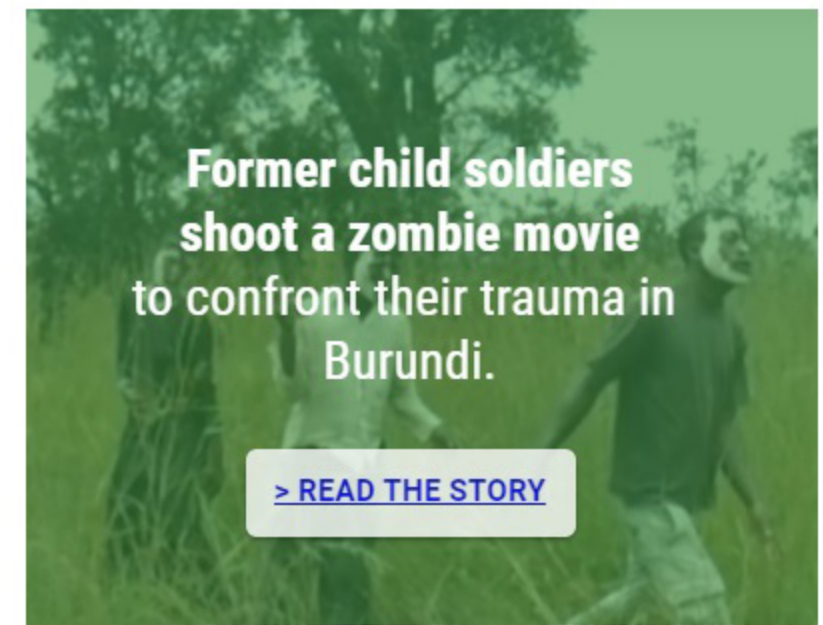
**Bringing international  
universities to Congolese  
refugee camps with  
Coursera.**

[> READ THE STORY](#)



**"The Ideas Box  
transformed the way we  
work as librarians"**  
in Calais, France.

[> READ THE STORY](#)



**Former child soldiers  
shoot a zombie movie  
to confront their trauma in  
Burundi.**

[> READ THE STORY](#)

# WHAT'S NEXT?



## SCALE-UP

1.000 Ideas Box for 5M+ people by 2022

1. Scale-up strategy focuses on 2 directions :

VERTICAL	HORIZONTAL
Intensification of existing programs and field of intervention with multiplication of projects (Southern Europe, France, MENA, Great Lake, Colombia, etc.)	Opening of new fields of intervention (Bangladesh, Central Africa, Western Africa, etc.)

2. Scale-up strategy also relies on state-wide partnerships with governments and agencies to increase impact and efficiency of projects.



## SCALE-DEEP

Toward a global community of practice

1. Develop the contents and activities database in order to support the implementation of new activities inside the box (health, entrepreneurship, employment, civic engagement, legal literacy, digital literacy, etc.)
2. Creation of a multilingual e-learning platform for the community of managers and facilitators around the world.
3. Design of a chatbot for off-field support, maintenance and data collection.
4. Instigation of a consortium of EdTech and libraries to develop a global standard for internet offline apps and contents.
5. Build passive data collection services inside the Ideas Box to ease monitoring and evaluation.



## ECONOMIC MODELS

Creating sustainable and scalable models

In 2017, BSF deeply refined the Ideas Box economic and operating models in order to make it more sustainable and scalable.

The 3 main models are :

1. Partnerships with government and local authorities (through direct sale, service contract or leasing).
2. Shared services model in refugee camps for which the Ideas Box acts as a hub for NGO that pay as they use the service.
3. Partnerships with NGO (through grants) with co-creation of projects and co-management of the Ideas Box.

# AWARDS & PARTNERS

## FOUNDING PARTNERS



## GLOBAL PARTNERS



## PRIZES & AWARDS

