



**Bibliothèques
Sans Frontières**
Libraries Without Borders

Bringing access to **knowledge** where it's most needed

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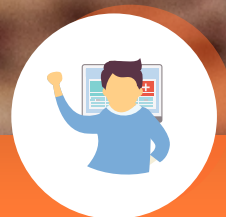
TOOLS

Designing tools to address inequalities in access to information and educational opportunities



RESOURCES

Creating and curating content to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable and underserved communities



FACILITATORS

Training facilitators to transform spaces into places of learning, creativity and entrepreneurship



Édito

PATRICK WEIL

President of Bibliothèques Sans Frontières

Over the past 12 years, Bibliothèques Sans Frontières (BSF) has worked to bring knowledge and information to those who need it most all around the world. As inequality in access to information, education and culture is one of the greatest injustices of our world today, we work in 50 countries to provide each and every one with the capacity to become self-reliant and to flourish thanks to open access to the world and its countless resources.

From young Rohingya refugees to indigenous populations of Guyana, from homeless children in Burundi to adolescents in the northern districts of Marseille, from villages in Colombia to laundromats in the United States, our organization has changed the lives of more than 6 million people. The principal goal of our work is to be able to provide resources which meet the needs of the right people, at the right time. We work towards this goal in 24 languages and have selected more than 30,000 resources to strengthen the capacities of populations facing the most prominent challenges today in the fields of education, health, employment, citizenship, disability and digital literacy.

BSF is an organization unlike all others; our work stands halfway between a humanitarian NGO, intervening in the most challenging situations, and a social enterprise, which supports states and local institutions in diffusing knowledge throughout their countries. This diversity of work gives us our strength and pushes us to innovate more every day in the effort to provide everyone with the capacity for freedom and the opportunity to make decisions which further their ambitions.

18 years

IS THE AVERAGE AMOUNT OF YEARS THAT REFUGEES HAVE SPENT IN CAMPS*

750 million

IS THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO DON'T KNOW HOW TO READ OR WRITE IN THE WORLD**

49%

OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION DOESN'T HAVE ACCESS TO THE INTERNET***

Sources * UNHCR; ** UNESCO; *** UN

Our 3 pillars

OF ACTION

TOOLS TO BRING LIBRARIES TO THE MOST VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

With the Ideas Box, a media center in a kit, that can be implemented in many different contexts, or the Ideas Cube, an autonomous server which brings the Internet to disconnected areas, BSF create libraries where none exist.

Libraries outside walls in poor neighborhoods and rural areas

Community centers in humanitarian crises and post-conflict areas

Connected spaces giving access to public, cultural, social and educational services in remote areas in developing countries

CUSTOMIZED CONTENT TO CHANGE LIVES

Our primary expertise lies in the selection and the diffusion of educational resources and informational services that respond to the needs of the populations. With 28,000 curated resources in 24 languages, we can work in many contexts, from the employability of young adults in West Africa to increasing digital literacy skills of senior citizens in France, to facilitating artistic workshops for young Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh.

INFORMATION EXPERTS TO STRENGTHEN PEOPLE'S CAPACITIES

Over the last 12 years, we have trained more than 7,000 librarians, professors and facilitators across the globe in education and cultural projects. We provide them with the support they need in order to become entrepreneurs and agents of change whose actions have a transversal impact on their communities. From welcoming non-native language speakers to teaching digital literacy in rural areas and refugee camps, facilitators are essential in allowing vulnerable populations to create solutions to problems which they are facing.

The ambition to have a library that can reinvent and adapt itself to respond to the greatest challenges facing society today.



OUR VISION

ACCESS TO KNOWLEDGE ALLOWS THE EXERCISE OF CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS, PROMOTES SOCIAL INCLUSION AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND OFFERS UNIVERSAL EMANCIPATION

OUR MISSION

BRING ACCESS TO INFORMATION TO THOSE WHO NEED IT MOST

OUR VALUES

SHARING, RESPECT, FLEXIBILITY, INNOVATION, CULTURAL DIVERSITY

TOPICS

Education

Health

Strengthening of libraries

Literacy and fighting against illiteracy

Digital literacy

Social cohesion

Reception and integration of migrants

Psychosocial support and protection

Information for the population

A look at some of our projects... IN FRANCE

REDUCING HEALTH-RELATED SOCIAL INEQUALITY

In 2017, BSF developed its first topic-based Ideas Box in the Boulonnais urban community: the Health Ideas Box - CNP Assurances. It provides preventative health activities for children, teenagers and young adults. Offering customized content, it allows them to better understand and manage the physical and emotional upheavals they experience on a daily basis, from addiction to sexual relations. Workshops also allow them to create content (videos, theater plays...) that they can share with their friends. In 2019, the city of Sarcelles became the second city to set up a Preventive Health Ideas Box.

FIGHTING ILLITERACY IN RURAL AREAS

In the norther Hauts-de-France region, more than one person in 10 is illiterate. This is twice the average rate of illiteracy in France. To address this situation, the non-profit Mots et Merveilles set up an Ideas Box program in 2018 in order to reach populations in rural areas, which are most affected by illiteracy. They are working to identify and prevent illiteracy from a young age, as well as to raise awareness among relevant actors, such as job centers, teachers and doctors. By facilitating art, educational and digital workshops, they can provide individual support to adults and children towards ever greater self-sufficiency.

STRENGTHENING DIGITAL LITERACY AND DIGITAL SKILLS

How does one use a computer? Or create an email address, secure their private data and identify fake news? Since 2014, the Digital Travelers program has been helping people to acquire basic computer skills and master everyday digital tools. To do so, they created a large content library to support facilitators in their work to familiarize the public with digital tools. For over a year, they travelled across France with their Digital Ideas Box — from urban community festivals to rural villages, from cafés to municipal media libraries — to build educational workshops in partnership with local structures and actors, to adapt their solutions to new users and to the needs of the general public.

BOOK COLLECTION

For 12 years, BSF has been collecting books from institutions, editors and individual donors in France. In our collection center in Epone, our team and volunteers sort and list them. They are then sent around the world to provide our programs with quality resources. On our online database, more than 90,000 books are listed, which are available to libraries and partners. Some others are sold on the second-hand market or during monthly solidarity clearances to fund our program

4M books collected since 2007

ADVOCACY

OPEN LIBRARIES MORE OFTEN

In 2014, BSF launched a national campaign for the opening of libraries in the evenings, during weekends and school holidays. In 2017, with the Association des Bibliothécaires de France, we challenged presidential and legislative candidates to recognize the essential role of libraries in public policies

THE CHALLENGE : To have open and accessible libraries for all

While progress has been made, the effects in the field remain limited. However, providing necessary financial resources to librarians remains essential so that they can act in the field. We are making sure of that!

Visit the website formation.bsfcampus.org

...and INTERNATIONALLY

BURUNDI RAISING AWARENESS ABOUT SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

By setting up Ideas Cubes in 25 community youth centers, BSF is providing access to quality resources on sexual and reproductive health to young Burundians, especially teenagers. To do so, we trained several local partners in setting up mediation and awareness workshops based on the customized content selected by our team. Using cameras, the users can also create their own content and share it with their friends.

IRAQ STRENGTHENING THE PSYCHOSOCIAL WELL-BEING OF YOUNG STUDENTS

In 2019, by setting up Ideas Cubes in six schools in the cities of Dohuk, Zakho and Summel in the Kurdistan region, BSF improved access to education and psychosocial well-being for children aged 6 to 14 —refugees, displaced persons and Iraqis. Facilitators, trained by BSF, hold awareness-raising activities on self-esteem, inter-generational relationships, respect and tolerance with the goal of strengthening the resilience of the most vulnerable young people.

UNITED STATES

In 2016, LWB launched the Wash & Learn Initiative to turn laundromats across the country into libraries. By equipping laundromats with laptops and tablets, the Wash & Learn Initiative provides people with low-income living in underserved neighborhoods with books and digital resources — online classes, ebooks, videos. Three years later, the Wash & Learn Initiative has expanded to many cities such as Detroit, Baltimore, Minneapolis-St. Paul and San Antonio,



BANGLADESH SETTING UP MEDIA LIBRARIES IN ROHINGYA REFUGEE CAMPS

In 2019, BSF implemented six Ideas Boxes in Rohingya refugee camps and host communities nearby. Workshops were set up for Rohingya children and teenagers, such as the creation of an interactive map of the camp services or the collection of traditional Rohingya stories into a book. Those libraries, physical and digital, provide an opportunity for refugees and local population to come and learn every day, to meet, to play and to express themselves both individually and collectively.

COLOMBIA BUILDING PEACE THROUGH CULTURE

After the peace agreement ratification in 2016 between president Juan Manuel Santos' government and the rebels, 20 Ideas Boxes were set up in demobilization and transition areas, where FARC have now laid down their weapons to reintegrate into society. By creating community spaces for people to gather, those libraries contributed to the initiation of the peace-building process. The Ideas Boxes encouraged exchanges between people and participated in restoring trust between impacted communities.

BELGIUM NEW LEARNING AND TEACHING METHODS

BSF provides the Khan Academy platform to French-speaking schools, homework tutoring centers, associations and libraries. 700 teachers, educators and academic advisors were trained by our team to use the platform. In 2018, more than 250,000 people used it in Belgium. Our goal is to double this number by 2021. BSF also put together the Cyber Hero pedagogical kit, which adapts the Digital Travelers' activities to young people and tackles cyber security issues as well as digital citizenship.

ADVOCACY THE URGENCY OF READING

In 2012, BSF launched the international call to action 'The Urgency of Reading', which received the support of more than a hundred intellectuals, including eight Nobel Prize winners. This campaign was relayed to international organizations and states.

THE CHALLENGE : Prioritize the at-risk intellectual dimension of human beings within emergency assistance work

In December 2018, 181 UN member states approved the Global Compact for Migration, which identifies a set of commitments to improve protection and access to educational services for refugees and migrants. We can only rejoice!

AROUND THE WORLD

They tell the stories of Bibliothèques Sans Frontières

"The library is a cultural space, full of opportunities."

It's a space open to the world, to help improve one's future. It makes us stronger. Many books help us improve our situation, especially when it comes to managing our income from our agricultural activities. The Santa Maria Library has created and recreated trust between people. In just one year, we have seen impressive changes, especially with the children. The seeds we planted at home have already borne fruit! For them, the library is a second home and the librarian a second mother.»

WALTER, COLOMBIE - Active member of the Group of Friends of the Library in Santa Maria

"During an activity in the camp, some Rohingya had to imagine and draw their ideal community space."

The drawings may be different, but all of them have the essentials: computers, kitchen areas, badminton courts and TV rooms! The women drew lots of flowers, inspired by traditional embroidery. Some of them did not stop drawing. I had to come back the next day because they did not want to put down their pencils. This activity created a strong drive to overcome differences between people who did not know each other. They imagined a place to live together, not thinking of just their desires but those of the community.

ANNA, BANGLADESH - Consultant

"Before the arrival of the Ideas Box, I had acceptable grades at school."

Then I started coming weekly to the Ideas Box to practice math and English. Thanks to this library, I managed to become one of the best students in my class. This year, I hope to be the best!

BOSCO, TANZANIA - Burundian refugee

"I spend my day outside, walking and counting every hour that separates me from the gym opening."

Finding human warmth in the evening around a deck of cards is a bit of a reward. In these moments in the evening, I'm in a bubble, I forget everything. It's stupid, but the domino parties are helping me with my insomnia...*

HAQIM, FRANCE - Shelter regular

* From article by Anaïs Moran, Libération

"This library is a bit like life. Sometimes you want to learn and work, sometimes you just want to laugh with your friends."

Thanks to the Ideas Box, I have formed new relationships that I never thought I would have. It's an open place that doesn't emphasize differences. We are all equal here. Gambians, Guineans, Ivorians, Senegalese, Cameroonians, Nigerians, Malians...When we play together, there are no more nationalities! I would like to have this kind of library in my country. So many people want to study but do not have the opportunity. These libraries should be opened everywhere."

ANSOU, ITALY - Senegalese migrant in Palermo

"In rural areas, the public is not mobile."

The Ideas Box will allow us to approach people that are usually difficult to reach, especially through digital means. The digital space can obviously be scary but it isn't shameful to not have mastered it. Not knowing how to read or write is seen as a failure, a taboo, a burden. Digital resources allow us to reach more people, since it's easier to express interest in learning to use them. This gateway allows learners to then work on mastering basic knowledge along the way.

CAROLL, FRANCE - Director of the Mots & Merveilles association

"In Batase, there is no access to the Internet or to newspapers."

The closest library to the village is located in Kathmandu, reachable by two days of hiking. Thanks to the Ideas Cube, the Batase library now provides Wi-Fi connection without a need for Internet access. We can find videos to raise awareness among villagers about the issue of human trafficking and its consequences. Since textbooks are not enough, the library also has a thousand books in Nepali and English, as well as 45,000 ebooks that promote a better connection to the rest of the world. It's a safe place to read, learn, share and dream.»

CHRISTINA, NEPAL - Australian student in charge of the project

KEY NUMBERS

7 000
TRAINED LIBRARIANS,
FACILITATORS AND
PROFESSORS

6,2M
BENEFICIARIES
OVER 12 YEARS

50
COUNTRIES OF
INTERVENTION

90
EMPLOYEES AROUND
THE WORLD

ZOOM BSF AROUND THE WORLD

HEADQUARTERS

- France

OUR BRANCHES

- LWB US
- LWB Belgium

OUR OFFICES

- Amman in Jordan (Middle East)
- Bujumbura in Burundi (Great Lakes Africa)
- Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh (Asia)

Afrique du Sud, Allemagne, Angola, Australie, Azerbaïdjan, Bangladesh, Belgique, Bénin, Brésil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroun, Colombie, Comores, Côte-d'Ivoire, États-Unis (+ Porto Rico), Éthiopie, France et Outre-mer (Guyane, Mayotte), Gabon, Géorgie, Grèce, Guinée-Conakry, Haïti, Inde, Irak, Italie, Jordanie, Kenya, Liban, Madagascar, Mali, Maroc, Mauritanie, Népal, Nicaragua, Niger, Pérou, République Centrafricaine, République Démocratique du Congo, République du Congo, Rwanda, Sénégal, Sri Lanka, Tanzanie, Tchad, Togo, Tunisie, Turquie

Have you heard of the **IDEASBOX** ?



A MEDIA LIBRARY KIT THAT CAN BE SET UP IN 20 MINUTES!

**Boxes full of resources and creativity
for places without libraries.**

The Ideas Box is a mobile media library kit, which can be set up in less than 20 minutes to create a cultural space of 100m². With an Internet connection, 20 computers and tablets, e-books, paper and a portable cinema, it is a great toolbox to which children and adults can come to build their futures.

Designed by Philippe Starck, it was originally designed to reconnect families and strengthen education in emergency and post-conflict situations. Today, it is also deployed in underserved or rural areas in France, in aboriginal communities in Australia, or in shelters for homeless people.



Augustin Trapenard

Being involved with Bibliothèques Sans Frontières is a great honor. To support its creativity and tremendous potential, get involved too!

PATRON OF BIBLIOTHÈQUES SANS FRONTIÈRES



**The Lab, innovation in service of
people in the field**

Created in 2018, The Lab merges different innovation divisions of our organization. At the heart of our approach is research and development of tools and technologies to provide access to knowledge around the world.

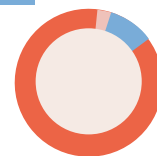
**I WANT TO CONTRIBUTE to
providing access to knowledge to
those who need it most.**

Solidarity days, skill-based sponsorships, donations, book collection...for all questions, **contact us at :**
barnabe.louche@bibliosansfrontieres.org

OUR FINANCIAL ENGAGEMENT

87% of collected funds
go to our projects

10% Administrative costs
3% Research funding



REAL ESTATE TAX

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WWW.BIBLIOSANSFRONTIERES.ORG

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PARTNERS FOR PUTTING THEIR FAITH IN US**

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of the Ideas Box



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