



**Bibliothèques  
Sans Frontières**  
Libraries Without Borders

# Bringing knowledge to those who need it most

BIBLIOTHÈQUES SANS FRONTIÈRES  
**ANNUAL REPORT** 2019/20



# Summary

Annual Report 2019/20  
Bibliothèques Sans Frontières

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# 50

**countries where we operate**

# 6.3M

**beneficiaries in 13 years**

# 100

**global employees**

# 10,000

**librarians, facilitators, and teachers trained**

A library of

# 35,000

**resources**

in 

# 25

 languages

# 380,000

**books distributed worldwide**



# Foreword from the President

Patrick Weil

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*"The light, I wished it were mine  
In the street, in my house,  
would it shine.  
Let my heart be enlightened,  
Let my nation be brightened."*

Dear Supporters,

These lines were composed in an Ideas Box in September 2019 by Assan, a street child from Bujumbura in Burundi. For thirteen years, we have fought to provide access to knowledge to all those who need it, giving them the means to free themselves and seeing them light up in turn. Every day, Assan would go to the Ideas Box in the Buterere neighborhood to learn how to read, write and build his future.

Writing this report during the Covid-19 pandemic has been particularly troubling, reminding us how much culture, information, and of course, education are essential building blocks to create stronger and more resilient societies and individuals during times of crisis. Our team at Libraries Without Borders embodies these values in 50 different countries, whether facing humanitarian crises in Bangladesh or peace-building in Colombia, not to mention the disadvantaged northern districts of Marseille in France. In 2019, we helped nearly 150,000 people through our programs. We now have over six million Khan Academy users and we've donated more than 50,000 books to libraries and our partner institutions in France and worldwide.

Our project operations in France have seen an exceptional increase in activity, mainly due to the nationwide roll out of the Digital Travelers program. As for our international operations,

we've focused on greatly increasing our presence in Asia - including a large project in Bangladesh to support Rohingya refugees - while at the same time winding down our activities in several other regions. Notably, we have closed our branches in Greece and Italy opened in 2015 in response to the emergency caused by the influx of refugees to Europe's coastal regions. Colombia's operations have also been closed following the successful handoff of 20 Ideas Box kits in conjunction with the peace agreement with former FARC fighters.

These closures should not be seen as losses; in fact, quite the contrary. We are very proud that these projects continue to run without the physical presence of LWB. For us, it's the best way to demonstrate the importance of our mission: not to replace local providers but to support them and give them the necessary means, providing tools, information and training to operate without us.

2019 was also an opportunity to undertake the important task of organizing our sectors of expertise around the nine themes that are outlined in this annual report. Providing these services demonstrates our willingness to tailor our approach to our partners' requirements in order to have a greater impact on these areas of intervention.

This year has been particularly interesting as we have developed large institutional partnerships and coalitions. This includes the Digital Travelers project with the support of the European Union, developing a partnership with the Agence Française de Développement; Belgian and Dutch cooperation initiatives; and the development of the coalition for Internet Offline. These are all signs that international recognition of our work continues to grow stronger. However, this does not mean that we will stop continuing to form robust partnerships with local organizations, associations, and governments.

We have also seen important advances in our research and development, specifically in the field of offline internet, where we received MIT Solve prize funding in October and the Économie culturelle et solidaire prize from the Franco-German Chamber of Commerce and Industry at the beginning of 2020. These rewards have motivated us to go further in creating new and even more innovative solutions for the most vulnerable people in precarious situations.

### *Strategic investments*

2019 was a foundational year during which we invested a lot in our future. For the first time in our history, LWB has borrowed money in order to generate equity to finance our innovation policy, our growth and to give us more independence. The areas of investment are focused on both developing our book-selling operations and enlisting more donors.

We have taken some bold steps in developing equity for the association by updating our book collection center in the town of Epône and modernizing the way we sell second-hand books. For this we have partnered with Label Emmaüs and its online sales platform, taking a different approach to standard online sales and to promoting a more responsible way of shopping while reducing the larger costs of our logistics base.

The growth of our community of monthly donors through street fundraising (nearly 2,000 new donors signed up in 2019) has also been a key step in ensuring that we have diversified sources of funding and to give our finances more visibility and flexibility.

We have also created the social enterprise Kajou, an ambitious and innovative approach that may become a new source of funding for the association during the next few years.

Finally, we created the Foundation for Sharing Knowledge (FPC) under the umbrella of the Caritas Foundation which allows us to collect gifts and bequests as well as donations to continuously recruit more people to join our cause.

### *Our ambitions and international presence*

During the last few years, we have endeavored to increase our international operations by creating national associations in new countries. During the extraordinary General Meeting on 26 February 2020, we adapted our regulations and adopted a partnership agreement in order to improve the coordination and structure of this ever expanding international network.

In 2019, the national associations in Belgium and the United States had unprecedented operational and financial successes. These two organizations have strong growth potential, developing recognized programs that are suitable for each country's individual needs. They currently have surplus budgets, giving us room to redistribute funds within our network. From this position of strength, LWB plans to begin operations in Canada at the end of 2020.

Finally, over a period of several months the association has been creating a new strategic plan for 2020-2025. This process currently involves all the association's stakeholders in setting our goals for the next five years.

\* \* \*

2019 has therefore been a very fulfilling year for LWB. In recent months, I have been remembering my extraordinary encounters with young Rohingya refugee girls in the Kutupalong camp in Bangladesh, with adolescents in Marseille who proudly showed me their videos telling the stories of their grandparents, and with mothers and their children in laundromats in Baltimore. I think about the conversations I had with our loyal partners during our annual dinner at the Hôtel de Ville in Paris. I can still hear the voices of our writer friends resonating in the nave of the Panthéon before an audience of hundreds.

I was often lucky to share these encounters with our incredible sponsor Augustin Trapenard, whom I cannot thank enough for his dedication over the past two years. 2019 was a year of non-stop travel in France and all over the world to spread the word about our association, accompanied by our journalist friend Louis Villers.

I would also like to thank all our volunteers and employees, as well as our generous donors and partners. You are all part of the big and beautiful LWB family and we are proud and honored to have you. I am deeply touched by your confidence in us, demonstrated day by day over the last thirteen years.

Sincerely,

*Patrick Weil*



# An interview with Jérémie Lachal

Executive Director of LWB and  
President of the social enterprise Kajou

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*Libraries Without Borders creates Kajou, a social enterprise*

## *What is Kajou?*

Kajou is a social enterprise created by Libraries Without Borders in 2019. It provides access to media content for people who have no or poor internet connection. Access to digital content for training, educational, information or leisure requirements, is more important than ever, even though around half of the global population does not have access to a reliable internet connection.

With Kajou, SD cards are preloaded with a huge range of different types of content such as video, audio, text or internet sites. The card is inserted into a phone, transforming it into a pocket-sized library or even a virtual campus. All this can be done without needing an internet connection!

## *Why has LWB created this social enterprise?*

LWB has been working on the concept of offline or asynchronous internet for almost six years. Whenever I present the Ideas Cube server (Editor's note: this is a nano server that allows a Wi-Fi hotspot to be created and broadcasts content locally in areas where there is no internet) at a conference or to our partners, I am frequently asked the following question: "where can I buy it?" If someone asks, it is often not on behalf of a school or a health center but rather for their own home. This is because

some people do not have a reliable internet connection to access online content such as educational resources for their children, self-study, or even just for browsing.

We created Kajou to address this need. It has the same ambition as LWB more generally: bringing access to knowledge to those who need it most. However, the purpose is different. With Kajou, our rationale is commercial and we do not have to rely solely on traditional aid or development funding. This gives us the ability to work with governments, NGOs and businesses in a different way. In reality, when you speak with public or private organizations in Sub-Saharan Africa, you realize that they all have very pressing needs when it comes to how they communicate information with their users. We have been made all the more aware of this due to the COVID-19 pandemic, school closures, and disruption to whole sections of public services and the economy.

*With internet access being made available everywhere and to everyone, isn't this project a bit outdated?*

This is a question we are asked frequently and to which we can answer on two different levels. Firstly, even if internet access for everyone is rapidly progressing, the most disadvantaged people are the last ones to benefit from it. In Europe and the United States, 20% of the population does not have a home internet connection. In France, we have some of the cheapest internet available in the world so we have a representation bias on this subject. **In Sub-Saharan Africa, even if 4G internet progresses rapidly, in 10 or 20 years the poorest 20% of the population will still have no or limited access to it.**

Besides, Kajou was not developed in order to compete with the internet, but to complement it. The truth is, saying that half of the world's population does not have reliable internet access does not capture the extent of the issue. The majority of people actually have poor and intermittent access to the internet. This is because they do not have the means to pay for a whole month of data so they can only access it through a Wi-Fi hotspot at their workplace or university. They can connect in cities but not in villages or the bandwidth is too weak to watch videos and so on. There are many users and the majority of these people drift between online and offline use.

This is why we have created Kajou; to be the bridge between online and offline. Kajou is therefore first and foremost a way to provide quality content no matter how it is accessed whether it be by using an SD card, cloud services, or connected directly in exchanging content with others. It is precisely because Kajou can draw from LWB's fantastic media catalog, now available in 25 languages, that it can provide tailor-made and high-quality content.

“Kajou, these are cards SD full of content - videos, texts, audio, websites, etc. - which are inserted in the telephones to convert them into libraries.”

### *What are the next steps?*

Kajou launched in 2020 using the latest technology thanks to the support of Capgemini and initial capital raised with Business Angels. We'll soon see the roll out of the first projects, primarily in West Africa. Of course, the LWB team is involved in this fantastic adventure, although we make sure that we keep operations separate for ethical and legal reasons. In any case, we are passionate about this project, which highlights again Libraries Without Borders's exceptional ability to adapt and innovate to achieve its goals.



## IN FEW WORDS

# Our three pillars of action



## Providing tools to bring libraries to people without access

LWB can create libraries where they are lacking with the Ideas Box, a portable media library that can be used in various different situations, or the Ideas Cube, a stand-alone server that gives places without internet access the ability to connect to digital resources:

*Open-air libraries in disadvantaged neighborhoods and rural communities.*

*Community and educational centers in humanitarian crises and post-conflict situations.*

*Digital workspaces that provide cultural, social, and educational services to people in remote areas of developing countries.*



## Delivering life-changing, tailor-made content

We are experts in selecting and distributing educational and informative content and services to meet the needs of communities. Today we operate in a wide range of different situations, building our programs from the 35,000 content items available in 25 different languages in our library. Our activities vary from promoting youth employment in West Africa, to helping senior citizens develop computer skills in France, to facilitating artistic workshops for young Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh.



## Championing information to strengthen communities

Over thirteen years, we have provided training in educational and cultural media to nearly 10,000 librarians, teachers and facilitators around the world. We help them become real agents of change who can have a strong impact on their societies and communities. From making libraries a welcoming place for speakers of all languages, to teaching computer skills in rural areas and refugee camps, their roles as facilitators are critical for giving people in the most vulnerable situations the ability to create solutions to their problems.



*Our vision*

Access to knowledge will allow the exercise of human rights, social inclusion, and emancipation

*Our mission*

Bringing access to knowledge to those who need it most

*Our values*

Sharing, respect, agility, innovation, and cultural diversity

## Our Expertise

- 1 Education
- 2 Healthcare information
- 3 Supporting libraries
- 4 Improving literacy
- 5 Fostering digital literacy
- 6 Strengthening social bonds
- 7 Helping immigrants resettle
- 8 Psychosocial support
- 9 Information sharing





# Our Programs and Tools

## The Ideas Box



The Ideas Box is a portable media library kit which can be set up in less than 20 minutes to create a cultural space of 100m<sup>2</sup>. Equipped with an internet connection, twenty computers, tablets, e-books, paper books and a cinema, it provides a welcoming working space where children and adults alike can build their future. Designed by Philippe Starck in 2014 to reconnect families and improve education in emergency and post-conflict situations, Ideas Box kits are today used in low-income neighborhoods and rural areas in Europe, the United States, and Australia.

→ [www.bibliosansfrontieres.org/ideas-box](http://www.bibliosansfrontieres.org/ideas-box)



## The Ideas Cube



Created in 2015, the Ideas Cube enables Libraries Without Borders to provide an ultraportable and autonomous digital library to some of the most remote places, without the need for an internet connection. The Ideas Cube creates a Wi-Fi hotspot where users can connect to the internet using a smartphone, tablet, or computer, and where they can access thousands of educational, cultural, and training resources.

In libraries, schools, and medical clinics in rural areas, it shares content in the form of texts, videos or online courses and can facilitate approximately forty simultaneous connections. When connected to the internet, the Ideas Cube can be updated. Users' data and frequency of use are recorded and collected in order to better understand and respond to their local requirements.

→ [www.bibliosansfrontieres.org/ideas-box](http://www.bibliosansfrontieres.org/ideas-box)

## LWB Campus



The training that librarians and cultural entrepreneurs receive is a key element of ensuring that libraries play a successful role in development and social transformation. To secure their success, in 2015 Libraries Without Borders created LWB Campus, a free online training platform for French-speaking librarians. It provides access to dozens of hours of online courses including videos, media content and exercises, allowing learners to gain accreditations in subjects ranging from public reception to cultural mediation. During the past five years, more than 5,500 people have received training through the LWB Campus.

→ [www.bsfcampus.org](http://www.bsfcampus.org)

## Khan Academy



Founded in 2006, Khan Academy is an online learning platform available to anyone that provides access to free and high quality education. It provides resources and educational tools that enable personalized and interactive learning from elementary school level up to college level. Libraries Without Borders has been adapting and translating the Khan Academy platform into French since 2013. Our team has translated nearly 6,000 video lessons in mathematics, scientific subjects, as well as tutorials and tens of thousands of exercises for students and teachers. Since its launch, 13 million people have connected to the French language version of the platform.

➔ [fr.khanacademy.org](https://fr.khanacademy.org)

## Digital Travelers



Created in 2014 by Libraries Without Borders, the Digital Travelers program aims to raise public awareness of digital issues and to equip users with a better understanding of the internet and digital tools. To do this, a large library of resources has been set up to help digital skills instructors teach their students to become more digitally savvy.

How do you use a computer? How do you create an email address, secure your personal data, or look for a job? How do you get information from the internet and detect what is fake news? The Digital Travelers program helps the general public improve their computer skills, whether it be acquiring basic knowledge or mastering everyday software. Understanding the risks involved when using new technologies leads to improving skills and protecting identities.

➔ [www.voyageursdunumerique.org](http://www.voyageursdunumerique.org)

## Book Donations

Since 2007, Libraries Without Borders has been collecting books from institutions, publishers and individuals in France. The books are sorted and cataloged by our team and volunteers at our collection center in the French town of Epône. They are then supplied to our projects and libraries around the world, ranging from refugee camps in Burundi to rural areas in France. Over a period of 13 years, 380,000 books have been sent to 30 different countries.

More than 30,000 books are referenced in our online catalog and made available to libraries and partners of the association. Other books are sold through the second-hand market or at monthly charity jumble sales, providing us with income to finance our projects.

In 2018, Libraries Without Borders changed its approach by joining forces with the online charity shop Label Emmaüs, supporting this powerful alternative to standard online sales. While the level of service remains unchanged, consumers can make a meaningful choice as a responsible act of citizenship. There are now 75,000 books for sale on the online platform, with profits going to the association.

➔ [www.label-emmaus.co](http://www.label-emmaus.co)



# LWB Around the World



## Africa

South Africa  
Angola  
Benin  
Burkina Faso  
Burundi  
Cameroon  
Comoros  
Côte-d'Ivoire  
Ethiopia  
Gabon  
Ghana  
Guinea  
Kenya  
Madagascar  
Mali  
Morocco  
Mauritania  
Niger  
Central African Republic  
Republic of the Congo  
Democratic Republic of the Congo  
Rwanda  
Senegal  
Tanzania  
Chad  
Togo  
Tunisia

## Asia & Oceania

Australia  
Azerbaijan  
Bangladesh  
Georgia  
India  
Nepal  
Sri Lanka

## America

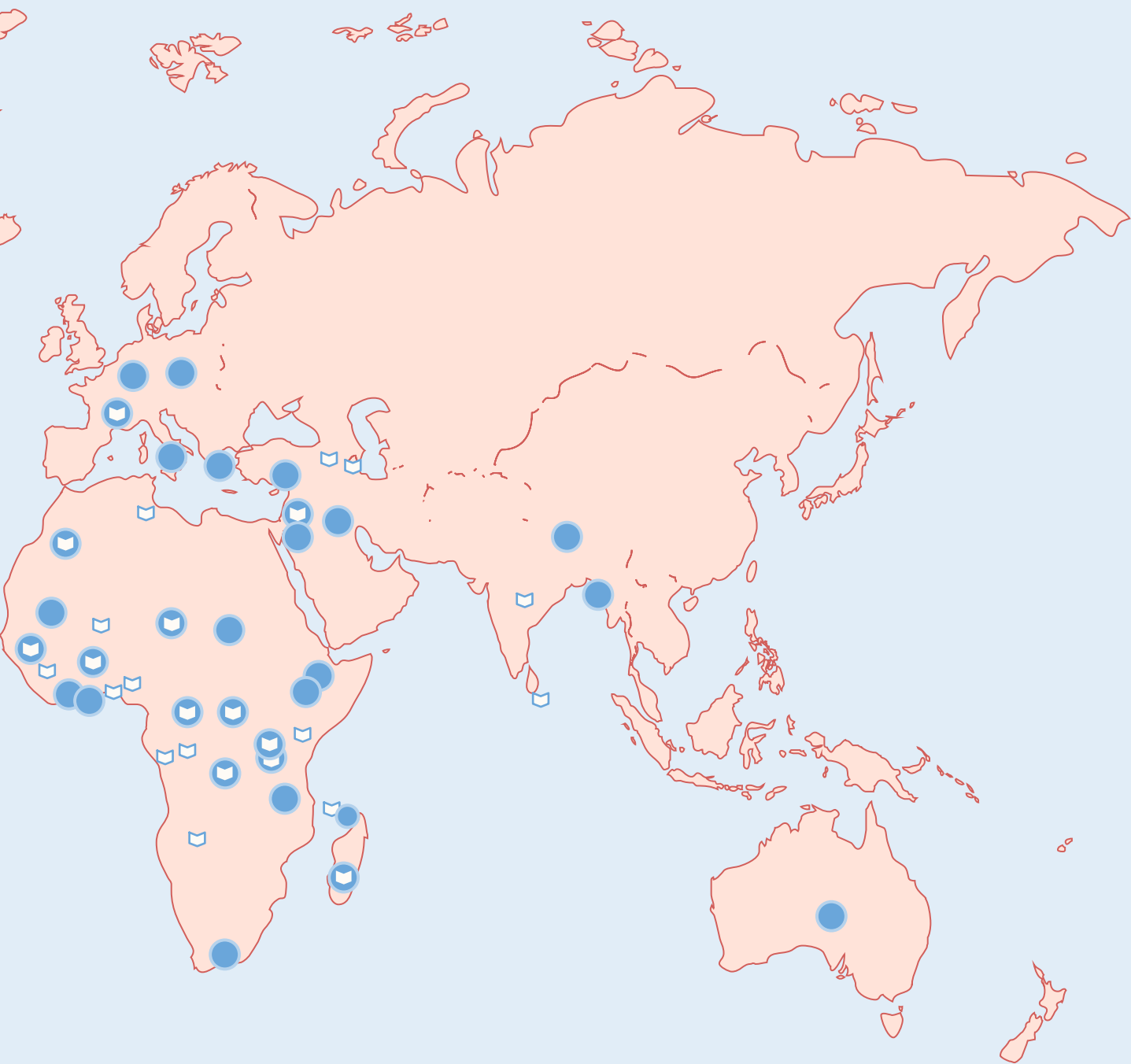
Brazil  
Colombia  
United States of America  
(+ Porto Rico)  
Haiti  
Nicaragua  
Peru

## Europe

Germany  
Belgium  
France (+Guyane, Mayotte)  
Greece  
Italy

## Middle East

Iraq  
Jordan  
Lebanon  
Turkey



INTERNATIONAL HEAD OFFICE

- France



NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- BSF USA
- BSF Belgium
- BSF Switzerland
- BSF Canada

OUR LOCAL OFFICES

- Jordania (Middle East)
- Burundi (Africa of the Great Lakes)
- Bangladesh (Asia)

● Country of operation    📖 Book Collection Mission



## EVENTS

# 2019-20 Highlights

HLI s\_pw



**My Bag of Books,  
books to welcome  
migrant children**

Dc` ps\_pw



**Digital Travelers  
spin-off in Belgium  
with Cyber Heroes**

K \_paf



**Ideas Box Health  
launch with CNP  
Assurances**

? sesqr



**Strategic  
investment in  
refurbishing the  
warehouse**

K \_w



**The Great  
Library of the  
Panthéon**



My Bag of Books



Ideas Box Health

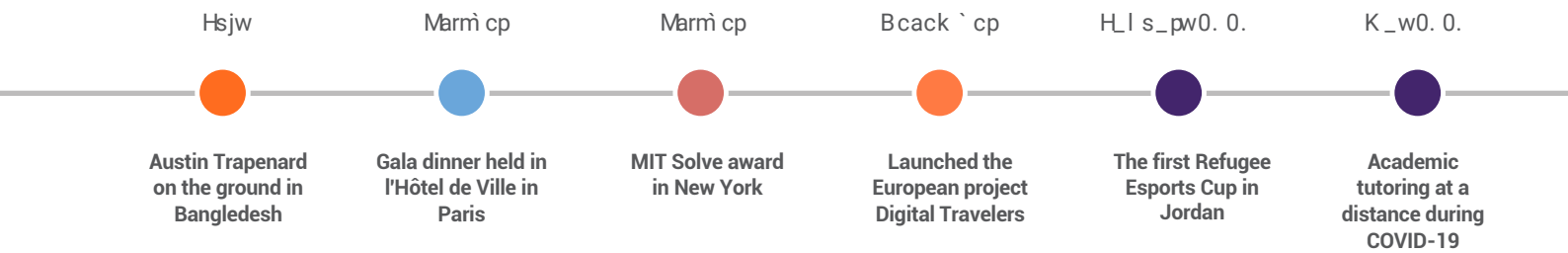


Bangladesh



Annual Dinner





Warehouse of books



Panthéon



The futur is off-line



Refugee Esports Cup



# The Lab: Fulfilling our Ambition Through Innovation

Pré St Gervais – Sept2019 ©Vincent Colin

## What is the Lab?

For 13 years, Libraries Without Borders has continuously strived to give people in the most vulnerable situations the ability to act for themselves. Our ambition is to provide everyone with the means to make informed choices and to understand the world in order to make it a better place. Research and development of innovative tools and technologies have always been at the heart of our approach and the Lab is where we make this happen.

In 2014 we created the Ideas Box, a media library kit designed by Philippe Starck, followed in 2015 by the Ideas Cube, a standalone server that brings an off line internet to areas with no connection. We developed the Offline Internet to ensure that everyone, no matter their circumstances, can have access to information. This technology allows digital content to be accessed locally and is regularly updated and synchronized. We are also exploring the possibilities of using artificial intelligence to offer secure access to a wide range of information that promotes cultural diversity.

*"Nowadays, human development faces an array of challenges such as becoming computer literate, fighting against gender inequality, giving asylum seekers' access to justice or public health resources. We select and create specific awareness-raising content around these key issues for the people who need it the most. We also offer training courses to our partners working in the field in order to provide them with the right training to deploy our tools in humanitarian contexts, developing countries, or disadvantaged neighborhoods and rural areas at home in France."*

**Muy-Cheng Peich, Director of Resources, Education and Training**





“Research and the development of innovative tools and technologies have always been at the center of our program: the Lab is the incarnation of this vision.”

A library of  
**35,000**  
ressources  
in  
25  
languages

### how do we do it?

With the help of our partners, our team selects new media content such as videos, books or podcasts every



day and creates new and different types of activity sheets for our projects worldwide. The content selection



criteria are based on each program's objectives as well as the users' needs, and goes through a systematic review and approval process by our



partners before being circulated. We now have a catalog available which is constantly being updated thanks to contributions from new creators



and distributors. Content may also be specifically created by the association according to a project's requirements.



### FOCUS | Ideas Box 4 Women

After noticing that girls and women are less likely to use or frequently attend Ideas Boxes, Libraries Without Borders joined forces with Fondation CHANEL to address this issue. Together we have created the program 'Ideas Box 4 Women' which focuses on improving the skills and capabilities of girls and women in order to help them develop independence.

With the assistance of our local partners, we designed kits for our project facilitators featuring a number of different topics. These topics include: maternal and infant health; financial independence and entrepreneurship for women; leadership and influencing strategies; and prevention of violence towards women based on their gender.

The kits contain tailored content for in-person and online training, as well as activities aimed at helping make girls and women feel welcome at the Ideas Box.

Training was organized at the beginning of 2020 in Burundi and Jordan by our project managers, facilitators, and field partners. This gave them the opportunity to raise awareness about gender inequality and about the issues facing those trying to fight it alongside boys and men.

**Our objective is to increase Ideas Box usage by women and girls to 20,000 users so that they will eventually represent 50% of users worldwide. This will be achieved with help of several partners who have played a part in creating the various resources.**

# Offline Internet: Connecting people without an internet connection to the digital world

## THREE QUESTIONS FOR I Grégoire Pouget, Chief Digital Officer of LWB

*In what way is Offline Internet  
a key element of LWB's fight  
against inequality?*

For seven years now, LWB has been working on using technology to provide digital content to people who don't have access to the internet. Thanks to technology, there are unprecedented ways to transmit, save and use information. Although modern technology is allowing access to new opportunities to more and more individuals and communities, many people still live in regions where internet access is scarce, insufficient, or nonexistent. This creates a digital divide that prevents the cultural, economic and social development of these people, as well as access to education.

Schools, training centers, libraries, medical clinics and others are penalized by a lack of relevant and easily accessible teaching resources. Digital technology provides a great opportunity to deliver the right training but a lack of equipment and internet connection or a faulty communication system continue to be barriers to access. Finally, people living in remote or difficult to access areas are not

always able to take advantage of the services offered by aid organizations.

*Why did LWB help create the  
Offline Internet Consortium in  
2018?*

There are a growing number of organizations and individuals who want to help provide access to digital information where there is no or inadequate internet connection. Although everyone is working toward the same goal, we are working separately. At the moment there are not many opportunities for them to learn from each other's experience and technical development.

*some facts*

**49%**  
of the world's population  
does not have access  
to the internet

in Africa, this figure is  
**75%**

Burundi – ©Astrid Bellon





For this reason, we helped create the Offline Internet Consortium in 2018. It brought together more than 20 different organizations to work together to develop customized solutions and shared content. In February 2020, everyone participated in the second international Offline Internet summit, which took place in the United States in the university library in Tempe, Arizona.

### *What is the OLIP platform?*

The OLIP platform was conceived by LWB and piloted by the Offline Internet Consortium. It allows people who take part in our projects - either the Ideas Box or the Ideas Cube - to have access to thousands of apps and educational and cultural resources offline by using their smartphone browser, tablet, or computer. They will be able to access online courses, apps, texts, videos, and so on.



“Research and the development of innovative tools and technologies have always been at the center of our program: the Lab is the incarnation of this vision.”

The goal is to further develop this platform and to get even more partner organizations to support this collective project. This has to go beyond LWB. Other organizations facing the same challenges as ours have to get on board. OLIP should be shared with as many organizations as possible. This will eventually be a highly political project,, a mechanism to protect the right to privacy and to fight against censorship. For example, in countries where authoritarian governments block content, the inhabitants will still be able to keep informed.



# Covid-19: Taking action during lockdown

**The COVID-19 pandemic continues to highlight social inequalities on a global scale. With this in mind, it is more than ever necessary to prioritize access to information, education and cultural resources for people in the most vulnerable circumstances during this catastrophic public health crisis. Our teams have had to adapt accordingly and rise to the challenge, both at home and in the field. What actions have LWB taken during the lockdown period in France and worldwide?**



Sarcelles – ©Aldo Sperber

“ In a period of crisis, it's vulnerable people who end up the most deprived of access to information and cultural resources. For them, it's a twofold punishment.

That's why, now more than ever, we have to make sure that access to information is not marginalized: it must be classed as a fundamental right for all and considered a priority for humanitarian response.

**Benjamin Gausset, Regional Coordinator for the African Great Lakes region**

## FRANCE

### Books for shelters and prisons

During the lockdown period, our team at the book collection center in Epône worked every day - while adhering to hygiene regulations - to provide supplies and upload a catalog of 20,000 books now accessible to our partners.

The association Aurore asked for our help to create a library and devise a cultural program for the occupants of its three shelters in Paris. The association Lire pour en Sortir (Read to Succeed), which works with prisons and supports prisoner rehabilitation through reading, also made the most of our catalog of books to create book exchanges in the exercise yard of La Santé Prison in Paris. Other associations that have benefited from book donations are the French Red Cross, Coallia and Emmaüs Solidarité. In total, more than 4,000 works were selected and distributed to our partners, with literature, comic books and non-fiction being the most popular choices. This emergency operation was made possible due to the support of the French Ministry of Culture, the Fondation de France and the Fondation Vinci.



## FRANCE

### Tutoring for refugee children

The pandemic and subsequent lockdown have had profound consequences for the care and support of people living in hostels and shelters in France. Not only was their access to legal and social services disrupted, they had to share a small space with several people during the two-month lockdown period.

School closures have had a huge impact on children, some of whom were in the midst of learning French as a foreign language and attending remedial classes. The inequality of access to digital, educational and cultural resources - which rely on several different institutions for distribution - and a lack of equipment or stable internet connection has further put them at a disadvantage. In many cases, parents did not have the ability to help their children in the way they would like to due to a lack of knowledge and skills. The level and knowledge of French amongst parents was a particular drawback.

Drawing from our expertise in project management and in educational and cultural intervention, we supported

a telephone mentoring scheme by creating the content for it and managed the organization of the scheme. This allowed approximately 100 volunteer mentors to support 400 children, from elementary school up to high school age. The objective of this was to ensure that mandatory teaching could continue without replacing the national education system.

From the beginning of May until the end of June, each child received 3.5 hours of tutoring support per week. Every week we provided 100 tutors with teaching resources, new ideas for activities and guidance and tips for distance learning, as well as providing individual support from our team members. Finally, we will be organizing poetry workshops for children living in shelters, resulting in a collection of poems to be published.

This was all made possible thanks to the support from our partners INCO, Google.org, and the Fondation du Crédit Mutuel.

## FRANCE

## A library 100% digital and 100% free

During the first lockdown (March-May 2020), Libraries Without Borders transformed itself into a library that is 100% online and freely accessed. During this unprecedented situation, our French and Belgium teams offered daily support to students, parents, and teachers. They provided free cultural and educational activities that could be done either alone or as a family to assist with home schooling, prevent the spread of fake news, undertaken for entertainment and self-development.

How do you structure your day? How do you learn through play? What about keeping healthy? During the two-month lockdown period, we curated and created different resources for all sorts of people to help improve their daily lives. On our Facebook page, Libraries Without Borders' Director of Education Muy-Cheng Peich, hosted a different guest every day such as a teacher, researcher, or friend of the association. We offered topical cultural and educational activities for parents, students, and teachers. These lectures were viewed 500,000 times in two months.



## BELGIUM

## Online education during the crisis

With children spending more time online during the lockdown period, we have repurposed the 'Cyber Heroes' teaching kit to ensure that the COVID-19 pandemic does not leave children exposed to the dangers of the internet. This kit - initially provided to teachers to help them discuss the subject of digital citizenship in a simple and straightforward way - has been transformed into an activities kit called 'Cyber Heroes in the Family'.

Covering subjects such as online security, cyber bullying, and acceptable online behaviour, digital education can now take place at home. During this period of crisis, it is more crucial than ever for everyone to use the internet securely and be able to explore its huge range of opportunities with confidence.

*Focus on: Homeschooling with the Khan Academy*

The closures of schools and implementation of lockdown measures due to the COVID-19 pandemic have caused a huge spike in users of the Khan Academy all over the world: traffic to the platform increased by 250% during the month of March in 2020, compared to the same period in 2019. For example, in Belgium's French-speaking community, the number of students registered increased by 130%, reaching 55,000. In one month, the number of parents registered on the site doubled. There are now 580,000 French-speaking users and 46,000 regular teachers who make use of the site..

In Belgium, educators received training through distance learning to ensure that there would be no disruption to their continuing professional development. We hosted webinars and live streaming dedicated to the Khan Academy on our social media platforms, which were watched and shared by thousands of people.

## BANGLADESH

### Digital content and activities with our Ideas Box kits

In Bangladesh, we have been working with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in Rohingya refugee camps. We organized activities to raise awareness of practicing preventative measures and equipped our field teams with a number of different communication tools to help educate about how to prevent the spread of the virus. We also updated the servers used in our Ideas Boxes and by our mobile teams and partners.



## BURUNDI

### Raising awareness and preventing the spread of Covid-19 through workshops

In Burundi, one of the few countries where the inhabitants have not been subject to lockdown measures, we implemented hygiene and protective procedures in our projects. Working in conjunction with the Giryujia association, we organized sessions for street children to help them understand COVID-19 and prevent the spread of it. In the Ideas Box in Buterere, in the outskirts of Bujumbura, we also held theater, poetry, and drawing workshops to encourage the community's young people to freely express their feelings about the situation.







# Offering expertise and support

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At the core of the greatest injustices found in the world today lies the inequality of access to information, education, and cultural resources. We work in 50 different countries to give each and every person the ability to be independent and develop through open access to the intellectual world.

Libraries Without Borders has helped change the lives of more than six million people from backgrounds as diverse as young Rohingya refugees, disadvantaged adolescents in Marseille, street children in Burundi, and laundromat users in the United States.



THEMATIC 1

# Education

**Whether providing informal education or professional training, we work to improve the quality of education for each and all, from Belgian students to street children in Burundi. We offer customized support to professional teachers, facilitators, and educators, thanks to the use of technology and innovative teaching methods.**





## THE ISLAND OF SAINT-MARTIN: 'Culture for all' in schools

The purpose of the 'Culture for all' project is to improve the quality of access to education and information for the inhabitants of Saint-Martin, whose lives were greatly affected when Hurricane Irma hit the island two years ago. 15,000 books in French, English and Spanish were specially chosen and donated to

the reference centers of the island's 14 kindergartens and elementary schools to provide additional resources. Ideas Cubes kits were set up in each of Saint-Martin's 19 schools to give educators the ability to hold workshops with their classes. Two Ideas Boxe kits were also set up with the help of local associations, giving children and adults a space where they can learn, play, and meet.

## GHANA: Improving teaching and learning in the country's northern regions

Libraries Without Borders has been working in collaboration with Oxfam Ghana since 2018 with the financial aid of Oxfam IBIS. We work together on a project to improve education for children, particularly for girls, in the districts of Kpandai and Sawla located in the north of the country.

Two girls-only Ideas Box kits were set up in September 2019 in two different "schools of excellence" with the support of Oxfam. Four Ideas Cube kits have also been set up in co-educational schools. An initial then supplementary training was run by two experts from LWB for Oxfam workers involving teachers from all of the schools. The purpose of the training was to ensure that everyone can use the tools and resources - both physically and technically - and empower everyone to integrate the available content into their everyday activities.

## JORDAN: Support for school dropouts

In 2018, LWB and the NGO Jordanian Hashemite Fund for Human Development (JOHUD) joined forces to set up an Ideas Box in the center of Marka, to the east of Amman. This informal education center, authorized by the Ministry of Education, has welcomed more than 300 child and adolescent school dropouts, of whom the majority are urban refugees.

Every day, these new students participated in workshops devised by both our team and by teachers, who helped to make the courses and activities held at the center more relevant. Since the mobile media center's arrival, our team has trained several of the center's facilitators and worked collaboratively with teachers, which has led to thinking about new teaching methods. The Ideas Box is not only used by teachers, who integrate the tools and resources into their own courses, it is also used to host 'clubs' based around subjects chosen by the adolescents themselves. For example, there is now a science club and one that is focused on writing comic books and creating animation films.







## **BURUNDI: Fostering the development of young community leaders**

In 2019, UNICEF called on Libraries Without Borders to launch and grow its UpShift program in Burundi in the village of Mayengo in Rumonge province where there are 50,000 climate migrants. A program focused on social innovation and entrepreneurship for young people, UpShift is designed to develop skills and increase the opportunities of young people considered to be disadvantaged, whether due to poverty, gender disability, ethnic identity, or any other reason.

So far we have helped 50 people aged between 18 to 25 to identify the challenges faced by their

communities and work together to create innovative solutions that will lead to improvements in their community, economy, or environment. The solutions that they create also contribute to fostering peace and social cohesion.

UNICEF has trained several of the LWB team on their UpShift program methodology and they are now considered to be mentors for the program. LWB has also been able to draw from their own expertise drawn from the experience of the LWB Campus program. LWB Campus aims to improve libraries in French-speaking African countries and to support 33 young leaders from Cameroon, Senegal and Côte d'Ivoire to create their own innovative library projects. This program has led to the implementation of several initiatives including a seed library, a digital library

for hair salons, and an audio library for the blind and partially sighted.

Although our support program in Mayengo finished in December 2019, young people continue to develop innovative solutions by using the content that was specifically chosen by our teams and uploaded onto the Ideas Cube server. LWB has now created a strategy document in collaboration with UNICEF to help young people develop their knowledge about specific issues such as ecology, market gardening, computer skills, and personal development, as well improve their core skills in areas such as math and French.

## **BURUNDI AND THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO: Supporting vocational development and formal certification**

Since 2019, Libraries Without Borders and the Belgian government development agency ENABEL have supported teaching and formal certification of vocational skills by using modern technology, with an aim to give Burundi's young people more independence.

The country has more than 200 vocational training centers (VTC) that offer technical and professional training to young people in Burundi. A variety of subjects are available such as hospitality, dressmaking, tourism, car mechanics, agriculture, and electrician qualifications. Although a VTC may have the



right textbooks for each course, the lack of additional teaching resources including videos, tutorials, and other informal content, can limit the ability to provide comprehensive teaching.

With this in mind, we have set up Ideas Cube kits in 13 VTCs. Each kit contains an Ideas Cube server loaded with content tailored to the local context of each center, 10 tablets, a projector, a charging module and a computer. A kit has also been set up in the central base of the Ministry of Education and Professional Training. With our partner's help, our team has selected different multimedia resources to complement textbook learning about various subjects including administration, French language, carpentry, computer programming, photography, video creation, gardening, management, marketing, and plumbing.

In order to ensure that the project is sustainable and that VTCs are modernized, we have trained each center's staff on how to use the tool, taking into consideration both the technical and

cultural aspects. Educators are now able to plan their classes and workshops autonomously.

LWB has supported 300 educators and in less than six months, the VTCs have held more than 150 user sessions that have been attended by more than 1,000 people. Based on observations of the initial project success in Burundi, ENABEL has renewed its support of LWB to run the same type of project in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 2020 in 15 vocational training centers in the provinces of Kisangani, Kasai, Sud-Ubangui, and Katanga.



## **BELGIUM:** **Khan Academy** **delivers free** **and informative** **education**

In Belgium, reducing social and educational inequality poses a huge challenge. Schooling makes little difference to the performance gap between students from lower socio-economic backgrounds and their better-off classmates. To face this challenge, LWB Belgium provides concrete solutions to teachers through pedagogical tools that are adapted to

suit students' different learning levels and different learning contexts.

We deliver this through the Khan Academy to French-speaking schools, tuition centers, associations, and libraries. We provide resources for mathematics and sciences subjects that have been adapted for the Belgian curriculum and give schools access to the online learning platform, and we offer a free and personalized service to different users.

In 2019, we trained more than 450 people through the program including parents, teachers, educators,

and trainers. 303,000 users have connected at least once during the year, with 42,000 new users registered on the platform. This is an increase of 60%, of which 36,000 are students and 6,000 are teachers or coaches.

In 2020, our goal is to train even more people but also to increase public awareness of the Khan Academy so that the platform becomes more widespread and there is continuous growth in user numbers.

## THEMATIC 2

# Health

From Sarcelles to Bujumbura, we train health professionals, facilitators, and teachers to run health awareness and prevention programs among populations in vulnerable circumstances using customized contents and innovative pedagogic methods.

In some countries, the lack of resources on health-related subjects is glaring and dangerous : the Ebola virus, reproductive and sexual health, and more. And nearby support systems, when they exist, are not always well supplied to respond effectively to the needs of the population.

In France, the obstacles to health education are still many: inequalities of access to care, timidity to speak, fear of judgement. In supporting access to quality health information, we seek to fight social inequality, often the function of the distance of some groups from centers of education and prevention. The role of play on developmental psychology has long been established; our tools put this dimension at the heart of learning with children and adolescents who rarely have the occasion to talk about subjects that trouble them.

Our goal is not to compete with but to support existing institutions and to reinforce existing plans by bringing new keys to understanding to youths, to make them actors in their own health care and capable of behaving responsibly.



Sarcelles - ©Aldo Sperber



## Sarcelles: Reducing social inequalities linked to health

IN 2019, in response to a call for projects, the town of Sarcelles welcomed our second Health Awareness Ideas Box. Developed in 2017 thanks to the support of the Fondation CNP Assurances, and first installed in the Boulonnais community, this thematic Ideas Box supports activities of health awareness and prevention among children, adolescents, and young adults. By proposing contents adapted to their needs, the Ideas Box allows them to learn more about health in this formative period of their lives. Workshops also turn them into artists and content creators (video, theater) then show to their friends and family.

Our teams selected six themes on which to intervene: emotional and sexual relations; well-being and ill-being; prevention against drug consumption; food; physical activity and sleep; and access to healthcare for the handicapped.

In 2020, a third call for projects for districts and associations will bring a third Health Awareness Ideas Box to the community for the youth of the city's Municipal Priority Districts.

A Health Awareness Kit will also be created in 2020 to be used by facilitators, teachers, school nurses, librarians, and

partner organizations, everywhere in France, to support a first encounter with health issues. Users will be able to find contents organized by theme, activity sheets, and training tools. Within the Ideas Box and the Ideas Cube, the kit will allow us to make use of some of the activities developed in the Health Awareness Ideas Box. Much contention on prevention and awareness of Covid-19 will also be available in the kit.

Finally, we will launch this year an appeal to a scientific commission that will have for its principal mission to define the broader strategic and technical stakes of the project, and to approve of the pedagogic resources in the Health Prevention Ideas Box and the kit. This commission is composed of experts in the fields of inequality of access to health and the themes outlined above.

## CENTRAL AFRICAIN REPUBLIC: Helping care better for HIV positive patients

Since 2013 the Central African Republic has been faced with a complex and chronic crisis of security, a political, and a humanitarian crisis with serious consequences for the lives of people, especially their access to primary services, including healthcare. In the countries that experience an HIV epidemic, the access to short and long-term care by HIV patients has become very difficult.

In 2019, the French Red Cross asked LWB to be part of a project of nutritional and psychological support of people living with HIV in the Center of Ambulatory Treatment and the Nutritional and Data Section on HIV (UNIV) of Bangui.

LWB selected specific digital contents, complementing the resources developed by the Red Cross, that were integrated into an Ideas Cube Kit. Installed at the heart of UNIV in November 2019, this kit allows health workers and volunteers,



Training of CTA staff on the uses of the Ideas Cube

all trained by LWB, to gain access to relevant documents and to perfect their professional practices caring for persons living with HIV.

## BURUNDI: Becoming better informed about reproductive and sexual health

In Burundi, access to specific services for youth and adolescents for sexual and reproductive health is limited, as is access to reliable and quality information. This has serious consequences for the lives of young people. School drop outs following unwanted pregnancies and early marriage result, often halting all hopes of education, opportunities, employment, and economic autonomy.

Contributing to the struggle against this condition, LWB will soon launch 25 Ideas Cube kits in several schools, youth and community centers, and health clinics, to support access to quality information on sexual and

reproductive health among the young Burundis, especially adolescents.

In close collaboration with the ministry of Health and our local partners, our team selected many resources in French and Kirundi on sexual health and other themes drawn from the local context : art and culture, history and geography, but also nutrition, computer programming, hygiene, fight against malaria

We will soon launch a new local partnership for the creation of

awareness workshops based on the contents of the Ideas Cube. Thanks to the video and still cameras, users can also create their own contents and share them with friends and family



Burundi\_ Rutegama Youth Friendly Health Center

## THEMATIC 3

# Supporting Libraries

More than a collection of books, the library today has an enormous impact on society, and on the struggle against social inequalities and the development of professional skills of populations in vulnerable situations. The library is at once a space of personal development, of creation, and of emancipation. That's why we work incessantly to amplify the impact of libraries everywhere in the world, extending and reinforcing their educational and cultural programs for their most vulnerable audiences.

Whether in France or the United States, the Central African Republic or Jordan, we always work in close relations with local actors to develop programs that reinforce their work. Creating novel tools and methods, we share the task of reinventing libraries in their form and their missions as well as the ways they are perceived and used by populations in a state of precarity. Across the globe, we've put into place programs with libraries, associations, and schools, that show how our tools like the Ideas Box and Ideas Cube are powerful levers to make libraries accessible and to extend them beyond their walls.





## **LOIR-ET-CHER: Making use of the collections of the Direction de la Lecture Publique of the Conseil départemental of Loir-et-Cher**

In June 2018, in the framework of a CTL in Blaisois - Pays de Chambord, the department of Loir-et-Cher acquired an Ideas Box. At first used by the libraries on the perimeter of the CTL that wished to develop activities and different partnerships with local audiences and actors, the Ideas Box helped to gain access to the resources of the DLP, especially the easy-to-read and digital tools sections.

Thus accessible across the department, and supported by volunteers, communities borrow the Ideas Box to present performances and workshops beyond the walls for audiences distanced from books and reading.

The project affirms the relevance of collaborations among departmental councils and our association. Our participation in the annual conference of departmental libraries, « For

a network of public reading that is equitable and durable,” organized in September 2020, will allow us to further develop our connections.



## **GRAND PARIS SUD: Two Ideas Box kits to guarantee public services**

In summer 2019, LWB deployed two Ideas Box kits to Grand Paris Sud, in Évry-Courcouronnes and Combs-la-Ville. In 2020, they will help assure a continuity of public services during the rebuilding of the médiathèque of La Coupole, at Combs-la-Ville, that is scheduled to start in Spring 2020. A similar logic and benefits for the médiathèque of l'Agora d'Evry-Courcouronnes, which is likely to close soon because of the renovation of the Arènes. Other local actors, like schools, nursing homes,

municipalities and others have shown themselves to be interested, and could benefit in the future from other Ideas Box kits.

This project is at the heart of a set of measures and plants to develop access to culture for everyone. It's a response to the will of local actors who wish to make Grand Paris Sud an attractive and inclusive region.

## **SOPHIA ANTIPOLIS: An Ideas Box to reinforce public reading**

In the framework of an 18 month contract, the networks of médiathèques of the Communauté d'Agglomération of Sophia Antipolis acquired an Ideas Box at the end of 2019 to reinforce and extend services of public readership over the whole of the territory, especially in the less well equipped zones.

Trained in the spring of 2020 to use the Ideas Box, and accompanied in the launch of activities by our team, volunteers from the network will facilitate the médiathèque-in-a-kit in the

communes of the agglomeration of Moyen et Haut Pays, which have no public facilities for reading, as well as the district of Coeur de Ville - Hauts de Vallauris, with priority given to the commune of Vallauris.

Four strategic axes were defined for this project : to reinforce the attractiveness of the médiathèques ; develop and use the collections on all platforms; guide the public in the mastery of digital tools; and to develop access to knowledge for younger audiences.



## CAEN LA MER: **Two Ideas Box kits for programs without walls**

In a public contract, three communal libraries of the network of libraries of the Communauté Urbaine Caen la Mer - Caen, Hérouville-Saint-Clair and Iles - together acquired an Ideas Box in 2019. The Ideas Box allows all library personnel, trained by our teams to use the tool, to develop performances and workshops outside the walls for audiences distant from the world of books and reading. It also helps in the development and sharing of best professional practices of each institution

with others and to shed light on the many resources and new media services in the district.

At the end of 2020, a second Ideas Box will be welcomed, to develop and consolidate the activities of different partners, audiences, and regional actors.

## BURKINA FASO: **Supporting the creation of a library at Saaba**

In 2019, Suzanne Tasse, a philanthropist active in the Burinabe association Gangr Nooma, supported the library that she had financed at the center of professional development in Saaba, a suburb of Ouagadougou. Bangr Nooma now offers regularly training and awareness workshops for all the surrounding villages around women's health issues - especially genital mutilation - and infancy.

From the diagnosis of needs and expectations of readers, to the selection of documentary resources, to the adoption of training materials for future libraries, our teams have supported the association's use of this space as a center of quality resources and encounters, which can best respond to the needs of users.



## AUSTRALIA: **An Ideas Box to support an isolated community**

In June 2019, the state library of New South Wales sought out our expertise to install an Ideas Box in Wilcannia, a small isolated community near Broken Hill, west of Sydney. In this isolated village of 600 inhabitants, many foundational problems structure daily life: poverty, high school drop-out rates, addiction, unemployment.

Soon to be installed at the heart of the village, this Ideas Box will permit, in strict collaboration with several local actors, a mitigation of these problems, in the absence of a library, serving as a point of access to information, education, and culture. Our goal? To reinforce the professional and educational skills of the population, as well as its well-being, and to reduce the great disparities of equipment among libraries across the territory, especially between the East and West of Australia.

## THEMATIC 4

# Reading, Writing & Fighting Illiteracy

Around the world, 750 million people - most of them in sub-Saharan Africa and southern and western Asia - cannot read or write. Europe is hardly immune to problems of poor literacy and illiteracy. In France, poor literacy affects 2.5 million people, or 7% of the population between 18 and 65 years of age. The fight against low literacy, which was designated a “Major National Cause” in 2013, is increasingly mobilizing government bodies, private companies, and organizations.

This is why it is more essential than ever to give every single person the means to learn in order to be free and to make informed choices. To achieve this goal, we are training our partners—teachers, librarians, and facilitators s—to use our tools so that they can better help these populations achieve autonomy, gain a better grasp on the world, and contribute to it in return.



## HAUTS-DE-FRANCE REGION: Fighting low literacy rates in rural areas

In the Hauts-de-France region, poor literacy affects one out of ten people. In order to combat this issue, the organization Mots et Merveilles ("Words and Wonders") has had an Ideas Box on site since 2018 in order to reach the people in rural areas who are affected by poor literacy. Their activity includes

detection and prevention from an early age, as well as raising awareness among local professionals, such as teachers, doctors, and agents of the Pôle Emploi (Employment Center). By implementing artistic, educational, and digital workshops, we can support adults and children individually in increasing their autonomy.



## ITALY: Integrating young migrants in Palermo

In 2018, Libraries Without Borders set up an Ideas Box in Sicily in partnership with the Ministry of Culture and the mayor of Palermo in order to work with different local groups to promote the settlement of young exiles. The digital tools, board games, and books selected from the Ideas Box were particularly useful in helping them to learn Italian and find employment.

Every day, the Ideas Box brings together around thirty young migrants, primarily from Guinea, Gambia, and Burkina Faso—and the projects are growing: they include a workshop on the representation of migrants in the European press, the production of a short film, and a tourist map of Palermo.

Run by a team from the organization Boog, trained by Libraries Without Borders, the Ideas Box is situated in the rehabilitated brownfield site Cantieri Culturali della Ziza, where the Institut Français, the Goethe Institute, the Academy of Fine Arts, and the city's only public cinema are also located.

## BURUNDI: Ideas Boxes for children living in the streets

In partnership with the organization Giriya, we have implemented an Ideas Box in the Buterere and Kabondo neighborhoods in Bujumbura, allowing more than 300 young people to have access to high-quality educational tools and content in a safe place—all of which was selected by our team and discussed at length with our local partners and beneficiaries.

In addition to allowing psycho-social assistants to more easily identify the most vulnerable children so that they can better help them in their academic reintegration and provide appropriate psychological aid, Ideas Box kits are also excellent tools for social cohesion. When the neighboring schools finish in the afternoon, the students and the children living in the streets meet up to play with their tablets, watch television, or compete to build the largest Jenga tower. This provides reintegration into the community, while simultaneously challenging negative stereotypes and distrust.

With the help of the facilitators, some of whom also used to live in the streets as children, activities are organized every day to teach math using the tablets, or to teach reading and writing. In 2019, thanks to the Ideas Box in Buterere, 600 children and adolescents were able to return to school.

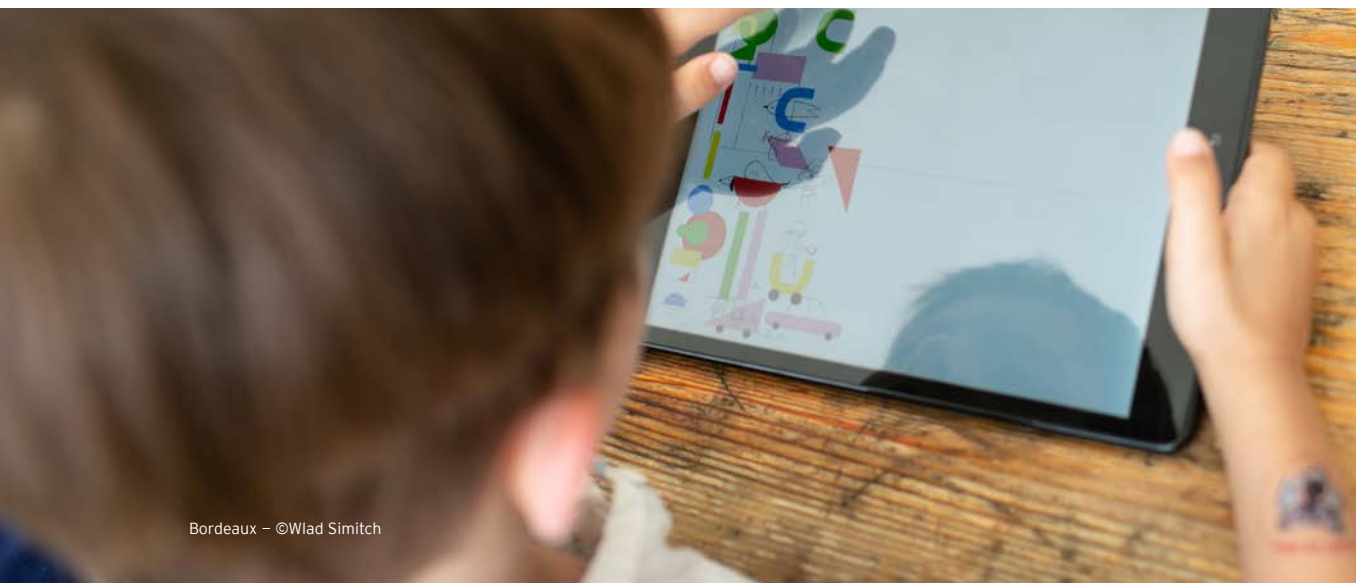


# Digital Literacy

In an increasingly connected world where the role of digital technology continues to grow in our social and professional lives and the digitalization of interactions between users and administrators is expanding, digital illiteracy deepens the gap of social inequality. The internet has become not only a place for sharing information, but also a space for communicating and holding public debate. Today, lacking the basic skills and underlying digital technology further isolates those who are already the most vulnerable, particularly in rural areas where 19% of households in France do not have an internet connection. The challenge of finding the right training program, the right job, or the right information can pose real problems, and may even be impossible for those without a good support system.

In France, digital exclusion affects 13 million people. Although numerous groups are working towards the democratization of digital technology use in order to help include people in the most situations, studies show that 40% of people in France are not completely autonomous in their digital activity. Furthermore, the glaring lack of resources on digital-related subjects is notable: local organizations are not sufficiently equipped to effectively meet the needs of their citizens.

This is why we created the Digital Travelers program in 2014, which strives to introduce as many people as possible to digital literacy, from mastering basic tools to digital training and programming. In order to do this, we train and assist librarians, educators, teachers, employees, activity leaders, and volunteers in digital outreach so that they can help the most remote citizens to gain the necessary resources to become internet-savvy and active, capable of making their voice heard and fully participating in democracy.





## Reinforcing digital skills with Digital Travelers

How to use a computer, create an email address, keep one's personal information safe, and detect fake news? Since 2014, the Digital Travelers programs has helped the general public acquire basic digital skills and master everyday digital tools. In order to achieve this, they have built a large online resource library that is based around three pillars—digital access for everyone; digital citizenship; and technological programming, workarounds, and innovations—to support digital aids in helping the public.

Since July 2018, with the support of the FDJ Foundation, the Digital Travelers were able to open their large library during their Tour de France, neighborhood festivals in town squares, and cafés in city media libraries. They also offered educational workshops to librarians and activity leaders adapted to the needs and issues of their audiences. After more than a year on the road,

57 stops, and training 30,000 people, Digital Travelers ended their Tour de France in September of 2019 in Le Pré-Saint-Gervais in the Parisian suburbs.

In 2019, the Digital Travelers were also recognized as one of the 12 winners of the Digital Civic Engagement awards, launched by Facebook, which supports projects against harassment, hate speech, and promotes critical thinking. Thanks to this award, four hackathons were organized in France in order to create tools and fight cyberbullying. E-learning curricula and content on digital identity, cyberbullying, fake news, and media education were also created. In 2020, with funding from the Ministry of Culture, we will also co-create new content on the subjects of inclusion and digital creativity.

Throughout France, our team regularly leads training sessions with local communities as well as in non-standard locations—such as cafés, grocery stores, and malls—and for specific audiences, including young volunteers for the organization Unis-Cité. Alongside the

organization Familles Rurales (“Rural Families”), which won 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Jury Prize for the Google Impact Challenge in 2019, the Digital Travelers will also train digital aids and support the development of 100 digital mediation locations to connect 200,000 rural inhabitants to the internet throughout France and support them in their online activity so that they can become autonomous users of digital technology.

Finally, the Digital Travelers will also travel around France with an Ideas Box dedicated to digital technology in order to develop educational workshops for organizations and participants, with the intention of adapting their work to the new uses and questions of the general public.

## EUROPE: Digital Travelers are going European!

In 2020, Libraries Without Borders is joining five other organizations—LWB Belgique, Fundacja Rozwoju Społeczności Informacyjnego, KB nationale bibliotheek, Public Libraries 2030, and Suomen kirjastoseura—in order to enrich and expand the content of Digital Travelers in multiple national library networks in Europe.

These resources, which will be available soon on an online platform, will benefit close to 50,000 people without access to digital technology in multiple EU countries, including France, Belgium, Finland, the Netherlands, and Poland.



➔ Find soon the Digital Travellers website online

## UNITED STATES: Transforming laundromats into libraries

In 2016, LWB US created the program Wash & Learn and transformed multiple laundromats around the country into libraries. This initiative allowed people living in underprivileged and low-income neighborhoods to access a number of books, portable computers, tablets, and digital resources—including online classes, e-books, and videos—while waiting for their laundry. Four years later, the program has continued to grow, and multiple cities have now taken part in the initiative, including Detroit, Baltimore, Oakland, and San Antonio.

In Baltimore, the program focuses specifically on digital education, from access to online tools to the necessary skills to use them. The goal is to help residents become well-informed, engaged, and supported during the digital transformation in order to better understand the world around them. In San Antonio, virtual reality helmets give residents the opportunity to fight zombies, explore haunted houses, or travel around the world. In Oakland, English courses for refugees are organized at the laundromats. In partnership with the Oakland Public Library, the “Wash and Read” program organizes storytime for children. Legal resources and information on preventive healthcare will also be made available soon.



## IRAQ: Strengthening young people's skills and involvement

While there are more than 1.5 million displaced people living in Iraq, opportunities for young people under 30—who make up two thirds of the population—remain extremely limited. In partnership with Acted and Recoded, Libraries Without Borders will begin a project at the beginning of 2020 that aims to strengthen the skills and involvement of young people in the Governorate of Duhok in order to make them more employable.

An Ideas Box will be established soon in a local Youth Center, allowing young people to gain access to a wide variety of resources and content that will help them improve creativity, self-confidence, and communication. It will also give them the opportunity to build project proposals that they would like to carry out. Training sessions will be offered to all young people, with special emphasis placed on acquiring digital skills, which have now become indispensable in most careers. Introductory computer programming and graphic design workshops will also be organized, and participants who wish to continue will be invited to apply to more long-term training programs.



## BELGIUM

### 1. Media education with Cyber Heroes

In response to the lack of training for teachers on issues related to online safety, cyberbullying, and adopting good online practices, we developed an educational kit known as “Cyber Heroes” in 2018. Created in partnership with cybersimple.be, we offer teachers a kit of turnkey

activities to address the subject of digital citizenship in class in a way that is simple and fun. In doing so, we want to equip children from 8 to 14 years old with the necessary skills for safely navigating everything it has to offer with confidence.

Between January 2019 and February 2020, we trained 403 teachers in 82 Belgian schools. In total, over 20,000 students were educated in the Cyber Heroes’ practices.

In 2020, we hope to increase our impact among young people and expand our activity into Flanders, Wallonia, and Brussels, in both French and Dutch. We will also offer more in-depth and personalized support to teachers, while including parents more in the process.



### 2. Supporting the transition to digital

In Belgian schools, our team organizes themed workshops for students and teaching staff, with the help of the Digital Travelers. We selected three series of in-class activities that take an average of ten hours to complete aimed at sparking students’ interest in technology and developing their creativity, critical thinking, and digital citizenship. Using these, we train teachers to give these workshops with their students before lending them the necessary materials. Over a period of two weeks, teachers test the digital technology in class while we remain available in case they need more personalized support.

This workshop design offers an introduction to simplified material for the teachers, and allows them to break down the digital barriers at their schools.

Between January 2019 and March 2020, 50 teachers and 386 students across ten schools and two youth centers benefited from this program. This is the equivalent of 105 hours of workshop facilitation. It is clear that the majority of teachers, once they feel reassured by the support provided, choose to implement the longest and most complex activity series.

The goal for 2020 is to continue along this path and directly impact 90 teachers and 2,250 students, in



addition to 250 teachers and 6,250 students via our online training platform.

### 3. Digital workshops designed for women over the age of 55

In 2019, LWB Belgique launched the program Les Voyageuses du Numérique (“Digital Traveling Women”), workshops designed for women over 55 years of age who have been excluded in the digital transformation. The goal is to strengthen their digital skills and

overcome the isolation that results from digital exclusion, as well as giving them more confidence in themselves. These training programs are done at the same time as the “digital breakfasts” reserved for women to create an atmosphere that promotes trust and sharing.

Since the launch of this project, five Espaces Publics Numériques (Digital Public Spaces, or EPNs) and libraries have hosted these breakfasts, attended by 36 “traveling women.”

Each participant takes part in a series of ten workshops, giving each woman the opportunity to progress and develop new digital skills each week, creating a link between each one.

In 2020, we hope to continue to promote the digital inclusion of all women by continuing to hold these digital breakfasts in ten Francophone libraries.



## THEMATIC 6

# Strengthening social Bonds

**To promote a dialogue among communities and generations, we created meeting spaces for social exchanges where everyone could express themselves freely. For example, in refugee camps in Tanzania and Bangladesh, libraries help ease tensions between refugees and host communities. We train and support our partners in the use of our tools to undertake activities that uplift refugees' voices and restore confidence.**





## PARIS: Encouraging the autonomy and integration of highly vulnerable populations

In 2016, the city of Paris acquired two Ideas Box kits for the Pacte Contre la Grande Exclusion (Pledge Against Large-Scale Exclusion). Since then, librarians in the French capital have offered regular activities in housing centers the Parisian suburbs run by the Centre d'Action Social de la Ville de Paris (City of Paris Social Action Center, or CASVP) and by partner organizations including Emmaüs Solidarité and the Aurore Association. This project aims to strengthen interactions between librarians and highly vulnerable populations in order

to raise awareness about the services offered by the public library network.

Every winter during the Winter Emergency Plan, the city of Paris also requisitions gymnasiums to house people experiencing homelessness. They are given a cot, a warm meal, and a shower. For the past four years, at the invitation of the CASVP, we have also offered cultural entertainment and activities at Ideas Boxes: each night, people from shelters, volunteers, and locals play board games, read, watch movies, and use computers from the media library kit -- a cultural interlude to take their mind off of their daily stresses.

## MARSEILLE: A documentary series to promote an intergenerational dialogue

Produced in partnership with the association ACELEM and sponsored by Interdepartmental Committee for the Prevention of Crime and Radicalization, the group Entre Générations ("Between Generations") is a documentary project that aims to promote intergenerational dialogue, sharing different points of view, and dismantling stereotypes and prejudices about Marseille's disadvantaged neighborhoods. In order to give new prestige to their city, their cultures, and their religions, approximately fifty young residents of Marseille filmed and interviewed elderly residents in their neighborhoods in order to imagine the France of tomorrow.



Under the creative direction of photographer Jean-Pierre Vallorani, these videos examine identity, the feeling of belonging to our shared history, our place in society, and the way we relate to one another.

In 2020, the Between Generations program will continue to produce videos.

## FRENCH GUIANA: Improving access to education in Quartiers de la Politique de la Ville (Municipal Priority Districts)

The organization Réseau Canopé has been a Libraries Without Borders partner since 2018, and has acquired an Ideas Box for its workshops in French Guiana. Réseau Canopé, an educational content publisher for teachers, promotes its digital books, games, and apps in the Ideas Box during its off-site events. The media library kit also allows Canopé to strengthen its educational activity by training teachers and students on the fundamentals and of French and how to teach it, since a large section of the population does not speak French. The facilitators travel to some of the most remote towns, such as Maripasoela and Camopi, to lead workshops about books and reading or digital technology with students from academic institutions.

In French Guiana, more than 53% of the educated population is still illiterate. The problem is particularly critical in the Municipal Priority Districts, where the unemployment rate is approximately 34%. To respond to the urgency of this situation, the French Ministry of the Overseas, the Prefecture of French Guiana, and local authorities hope to carry out an ambitious operation with Libraries Without Borders by collaborating with new local representatives in 2020. In order to do this, two Ideas Boxes will be set up in the Municipal Priority Districts of the city of Cayenne and Remire-Montjoly in order to reinforce the academic support and educational activities provided by AMAPO and Cultimathèque.

## RWANDA: Towards better inclusion of Congolese refugees

In the Nyabiheke Refugee Camp, Libraries Without Borders, Handicap International (Humanity and Inclusion), and the Rwanda Development Board have partnered together with the goal of strengthening the inclusion and access to services in host communities for Congolese refugees suffering from certain psychological and mental disorders.

Thanks to the Ideas Box, activities for raising awareness



about disabilities and mental health take place regularly. The primary objective is to build fundamental skills for empowering users, thereby giving them a better chance to pursue their academic studies and professional development.

## UNITED STATES: After Hurricane Maria, the resilience of Puerto Rico's residents

In 2017, Hurricane Maria violently made landfall on the island of Puerto Rico, killing nearly 3,000 people and destroying thousands of homes, hospitals, and public buildings. LWB US traveled to the Caribbean island for an exploratory mission, aiming to evaluate the situation and the damages on the ground. Following this visit, and with the help of the island's inhabitants, small businesses, and local organizations, we implemented an Ideas Box kit for two communities, Loiza and La Perla.

By equipping the residents with the necessary tools and resources to rebuild themselves after the storm, the Ideas Box quickly became a space where locals could borrow electric tools to repair their broken furniture or get help with administrative processes. Workshops were also offered regularly on various topics, including virtual reality, social entrepreneurship, the environment, and 3D printing. By providing access to information and essential services the Ideas Box strengthened both social ties among communities, as well as local resilience.

## JORDAN: The first eSport tournament in a refugee camp

In early 2020, in cooperation with the UEFA Foundation for Children, we organized the first eSport tournament for Syrian refugees in Zaatari, Jordan: the Refugee eSport Cup! Twenty kilometers from the Syrian border, 70,000 refugees currently live at this camp, nearly 40,000 of whom are children and adolescents. This tournament brought together 146 players from 10 to 18 years of age, allowing participants to escape their daily lives as well as create social ties, cultivate values related to sports, and develop their interpersonal skills. Approximately 100 young people and parents gathered in the camp's cinema, where the tournament was broadcast live on the big screen.



At the end of 2020, a second tournament is planned in the Rohingya refugee camp in Kutupalong, Bangladesh.

## THEMATIC 7

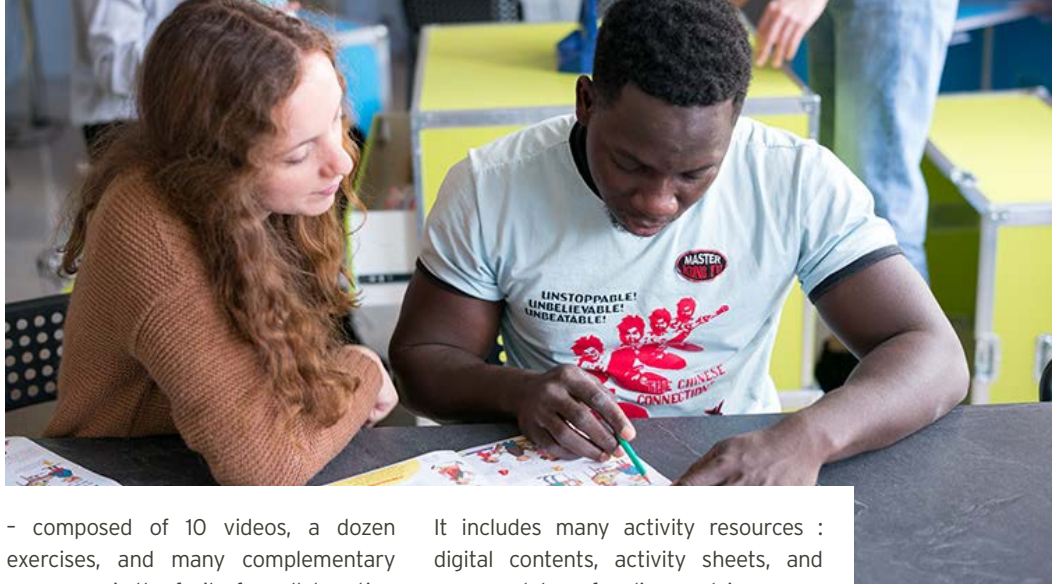
# Welcoming and resettling immigrants

A refugee spends on average of eighteen years in a camp. Eighteen years without being informed, reading, or learning. That's why we work so that these women, men, and children – from the Rohingya in Bangladesh to the Burundese in the Tanzanian camps – can reconnect with the world, resist boredom, and find resources to nourish their resilience and to think about their future. Thanks to our tools and to an easy access to quality information, they can construct solutions to the problems that confront them.

In France, several of our activities are designed for people in situations of migration, notably in the centers of emergency accommodation or even in libraries. These last welcome today more and more migrants and refugees. Different challenges arise : welcoming of migrants, access to quality contents in their maternal language, learning French. Responding to many queries of librarians, we offer an ensemble of services, training, and support in the improvement of the reception of these users. The goal is to give to each person the means to become active citizens, fully integrated and participating in democracy.







## To better respond to migrant audiences in the libraries

In France, libraries welcome today more and more people in migratory situations. Different challenges arise: the welcoming of migrants, access to quality contents in their maternal language, learning French. Responding to many queries of librarians, BSF proposes to support them in a dedicated training, "Welcoming Migrants in Libraries." Thanks to the support of the Valentin Ribet Foundation and the Minister of Culture, this training package

- composed of 10 videos, a dozen exercises, and many complementary resources, is the fruit of a collaboration among libraries, associations, and researchers.

In the service of 16,000 libraries in France, the training package is part of the BSF Campus platform, which today offers eight packages of free, certified training for actors in the Francophone library world.

The renewed support of our financial partners has allowed us to extend the training with a welcome kit designed for library professionals and volunteers.

It includes many activity resources : digital contents, activity sheets, and new modules of online and in person training. The kit is being used in several médiathèques and on site, and specific training has been given on this theme to those involved in the public support of reading.

## Mon Sac de livres : Books to welcome migrants

As a pilot project imagined by Libraries Without Borders, with the support of the Ecole Alsacienne and in partnership with the Samu Social de Paris and Emmaüs Solidarité, Mon Sac de Livres offers to migrant children backpacks containing a personalized selection of books to wish the child welcome in France and give them a taste of reading.

At the Third Night of Reading organized by the Minister of Culture in January 2019, 130 backpacks were distributed to the children housed by the Samusocial of Paris and Emmaüs Solidarité at the médiathèque Françoise Sagan, in Paris. The backpacks contained books given by the students at the École Alsacienne, new books as well as travel games. This welcome kit helped to anchor and support learning French and the discovery of the host country all the while valuing their experiences and cultures of each person.

Still in a pilot stage, this project could scale to the greater Paris region and to French territory, in collaboration with public partnerships and public libraries.



## ÎLE-DE-FRANCE: An Ideas Box to support the resettlement of migrant publics

In Île-de-France, Libraries Without Borders has been collaborating over the last four years with several associations - Aurore, Emmaüs Solidarité, Samusocial de Paris, etc. - to facilitate the resettlement and integration of asylum seekers and refugees. In the Centres d'Hébergement d'Urgence in Ivry-sur-Seine and Nanterre, for example, two Ideas Box kits were installed over the period of two years, facilitated by our teams. Every day, they proposed to residents pedagogic and artistic workshops so that they might better learn the cultural codes of their host

country and facilitate their learning. Of French. Since 2016, thanks to the support of the Fondation d'Entreprise La Poste, Libraries Without Borders and le Samusocial de Paris also created library spaces in the residences in Paris and in several communes of Île-de-France : the Bibli'Hôtels.

In line with these actions, thanks to the support of the FNAC and of Un rien c'est tout, an Ideas Box will make a tour of l'Île-de-France in 2020, in the welcoming institutions for people in migratory situations - centers of urgent housing, foyers, "social hotels," etc. Events and activities surrounding the book and reading will be organized with the goal of reinforcing the public's knowledge about access to rights, to lodging, or to healthcare.

## COLOMBIE: An Ideas Box for Venezuelan children and teens

In the department of Arauca, in Arauquita, Libraries Without Borders and Save the Children come to the aid of more than 700 Venezuelan children and teens in supporting their access to educational materials as soon as they arrive in Colombia. The goal: to improve the coexistence between the refugees of the Arauca region, its inhabitants, and Colombians displaced by the civil war. So that children can be in safe spaces, we created « espacios amigables, » places where they can play and read with an Ideas Box, whose contents were selected according to the needs of each community. Everyone can use the spaces to share and exchange information and life experiences.



## GREECE: A multilingual space for refugees and Greek citizens

In June 2018, Libraries Without Borders and the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) began a program of assistance to asylum seekers and migrants at the JRS center in the Victoria neighborhood of Athens. Lasting a year, this project sought to eliminate barriers linked to language, to culture, and to local environment, to fight against loneliness and boredom of young exiled persons.

The goal was to encourage them to take part in the reconstruction of their new life and to support their inclusion in the host country.

Thanks to the Ideas Box, around 30 people a day, adults and children, have used a noo cost books and computers, notably for learning basic skills in the sciences and computer technology, and have taken part in awareness or CV workshops.

## THEMATIC 8

# Psycho-social Protection

From Mossoul to Cox's Bazar, Libraries Without Borders intervenes often in situations of emergency and extremely difficult conflicts. Traumatized, sometimes persecuted, the communities with which we are and our partners work together are extremely vulnerable. That's why it is essential to create safe and attractive spaces to promote psycho-social well-being of these groups, where each person can be free to express themselves individually and collectively. Thanks to the proposed activities, these spaces also allow mediators whom we have trained and our partner psycho-social assistants to identify more easily the most vulnerable people in order to better support them in any necessary psychological treatment that helps their recovery.



Irak - ©Abbie Traylor-Smith



## MAYOTTE: Fighting against the social exclusion youth

In 2020, the French Red Cross and Libraries Without Borders will install an Ideas Box in the overseas territory of Mayotte in the fight against the social exclusion and idleness of young people aged 13 to 12, especially the most isolated among them.

In creating a space for exchanges and trust with the Ideas Box, these youths

can be oriented towards a social and sociocultural support system. To encourage the expression of self and creativity, specialized teams of the French Red Cross organized activities on different themes, including the prevention of risky practices and computer initiation.



## IRAK: Reinforcing the psycho-social support of young children

In the governorship of Dohuk, Libraries Without Borders and the French Red Cross are working together to improve access to education for young children aged six to fourteen. Together, thanks to the installation of an Ideas Cube, they support the well-being of students in ten schools, organize awareness activities around self esteem, living together, and emotional expression.

In July 2019 and in January 2020, we trained teams from the French Red Cross to use our digital library, to plan and facilitate work so as to best respond to the psycho-social needs of young children.



Irak - ©Abbie Trayler-Smith

THEMATIC 9

# Information Sharing

**In emergency situations of crises and conflicts, the most vulnerable populations can be confronted with rumors, disinformation, and fake news. That's why BSF tries to create safe spaces, where everyone can come to get informed, to have access to verified materials, and to interact with qualified facilitators.**

**Facilitating access to quality information, we provide the means to construct solutions to the problems with which people are confronted.**





## Ideas Cube kits to access information and to protect the rights of asylum-seekers.

The Association Coallia, in the framework of its missions of support and lodging asylum seekers or those benefiting from an international protection in France, will initiate in 2020 an ambitious partnership with Libraries Without Borders. Forty institutions, lodging centers (CADA et HUDA) and welcoming centers for asylum seekers (SPADA), spread

across the territory, will be equipped with our offline server, the Ideas Cube. These will allow the users of the spaces to freely consult, without the need for an internet connects, diverse numerical contents that correspond to their needs, in terms of languages and themes, following two principal axes:

- Information about the administrative, juridical and social condition of asylum seekers and those benefiting from an international protection in France;
- Culture and play (social ties, integration, relaxation).

## BANGLADESH: Media centers in the Rohingya refugee camps

The district of Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh has seen the arrival of almost 700,000 Rohingya refugees in 2017, a Muslim minority historically the subject of discrimination in neighboring Myanmar. Most of these refugees are concentrated in the Kutupalong camp, a veritable town with its wood and bamboo houses, where literacy rates are under 40%.

In 2019, BSF installed six Ideas Box kits and Ideas Cube servers in the Rohingya refugee camps and in the host communities around them to allow access to information and education. Several activity workshops were put into place for Rohingya children and teens, including making an interactive map of



the camp's service, or a collection of histories and traditional stories of the Rohingya. These libraries, physical and digital, give refugees and local populations the possibility of being informed every day, and of finding themselves, playing, learning new skills, and expressing themselves individually and collectively.

## SENEGAL: "Seeds of Knowledge" Kajou in healthcare centers

In 2019, Libraries Without Borders created the social enterprise Kajou to diffuse its quality digital contents offline among people not connected to the internet in sub-Saharan Africa. In Senegal, Kajou servers were installed in two healthcare clinics of Air Liquide. This experiment tested an all-in-one healthcare bundle, in which pedagogic resources selected by our team were used to complement the medical material and oxygen therapy offered by Air Liquide in several healthcare clinics in the suburbs and the countryside. These servers

contain, notably, resources for professional training for medical personnel and entrepreneurs of Air Liquide, but will also be put at the disposition of patients.

Our long-term goal? To allow populations to be better prepared for sanitary crises created by the absence of information, concerning sanitary habits, and to support the skills of healthcare workers.





### UNITED STATES : **Legal Literary and the support of people in the juridical procedures**

In 2017, LWBUS launched the “Legal Literacy” program to support people in their legal undertakings, meeting people where they were in schools, community

centers, or churches. Partnering with libraries and associations, we have assembled, simplified, and made available juridical resources that correspond to the different needs of different communities. This program was tested in Washington, D.C., Providence, RI, and other towns in the United States.











# Our Actions

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We're proud of how we have helped change the lives of some six million people in 50 countries. With one hundred staff members and the help of many volunteers around the world, we can bring resources that correspond to needs, the right people at the right time.

LWB is not like other organizations: we work as a humanitarian NGO, intervening in the most challenging situations; and as a social enterprise that helps states and local institutions diffuse knowledge in their jurisdictions. This diversity of actions is our strength that pushes us each day to continue to fight for personal freedom and autonomy.

# LWB International

The organization has restructured its international network :

## The international associations of the network :

The United States association LWB US has eight staff, a very active board, and many volunteers who support their activities.

Created in 2017, the Belgian association LWB BE has eleven staff, and is focusing on the development of the Khan Academy programs in French, the Cyber Heroes and the Digital Travelers programs, but also on advocating for LWB at the UEuropean Union.

In 2020, LWB created the Canadian association LWB CA/ LWB CA based in Montreal.

## The regional bureau

LWB has created over the last few years regional bureau to better manage its interventions

- **Amman Bureau in Jordan for the Middle-East**
- **Bujumbura bureau in Burundi for the African/Great Lakes – East Africa.**
- **Cox's Bazar bureau in Bangladesh.**

The bureau of Athens (Greece), Palermo (Italy), and Bogota (Columbia) were closed in 2018 and 2019.

Trained by our teams and autonomous from here on in, they remain our local partners - libraries, teachers, and mediators - who facilitate the daily activities of our Ideas Box kits.



## Committed teams and motivated volunteers

Libraries Without Borders has 100 staff throughout the world. We are committed to citizen engagement in welcoming and guiding volunteers doing civic service, especially in the domains of mediation, the creation of activity sheets, and the facilitation of the Ideas Box on the ground. Finally, LWB relies since 2017 on skills-based philanthropy, by which a business makes available to an association some of its staff without charge.

On site, volunteers help our teams in different projects of the association, such as during the events of the Annual Dinner or the Great Library of the Pantheon. Some are teachers in the Digital Travelers program, others support our teams on site during activities with the Ideas Box. More than sixty volunteers regularly help the logistic team of Epone with the collection and triage of books. Finally, volunteers also undertake translation missions, training, and help us select contents for the projects.



## Augustin Trapenard, a committed patron, and writers at our side

A cultural journalist on France Inter et Canal + (Boomerang, Le Cercle et 21cm), Augustin Trapenard became in March 2018 the first patron of Libraries Without Borders. Since then, he's been one of the best spokesperson for the association. During his many trips, he met our teams and discovered our projects in Bangladesh, Burundi, Jordan, Italia, Columbia, and all over France.

Many writers and artists have also joined the association, as friends and ambassadors during many events. Among them, we note Leïla Slimani, David Foenkinos, Tatiana de Rosnay, Yasmina Khadra, Laurent Gaudé and the singers Brigitte.



For me, literature is without boundaries. To become involved with LWB gives me great pride. »

I've always seen my relation to books as one of sharing. It is very important to me to share this joy of reading and the enrichment from which I've experienced. I realize that I would have never been open to other identities than mine if I hadn't ever read. The book has this virtue of opening other lives, endlessly. Lives other than mine.

I admire the values that the association stands for, its immense potential and its amazing creativity. For me, it was the occasion to leave my recording studio and confront the expressions of other cultures in all their multitudes. It changed my life.

**Augustin Trapenard**

## New donors

In 2018, LWB organized for the first time a face-to-face solicitation fundraiser in the streets of Paris. This campaign allowed us to enlarge our monthly donor base and helped as well to gain visibility. Following the success of this first campagne, we returned to this mode of solicitation in 2019: five campaigns were organized in Île-de-France and in Lyon, helping us to recruit close to 2000 monthly donors.



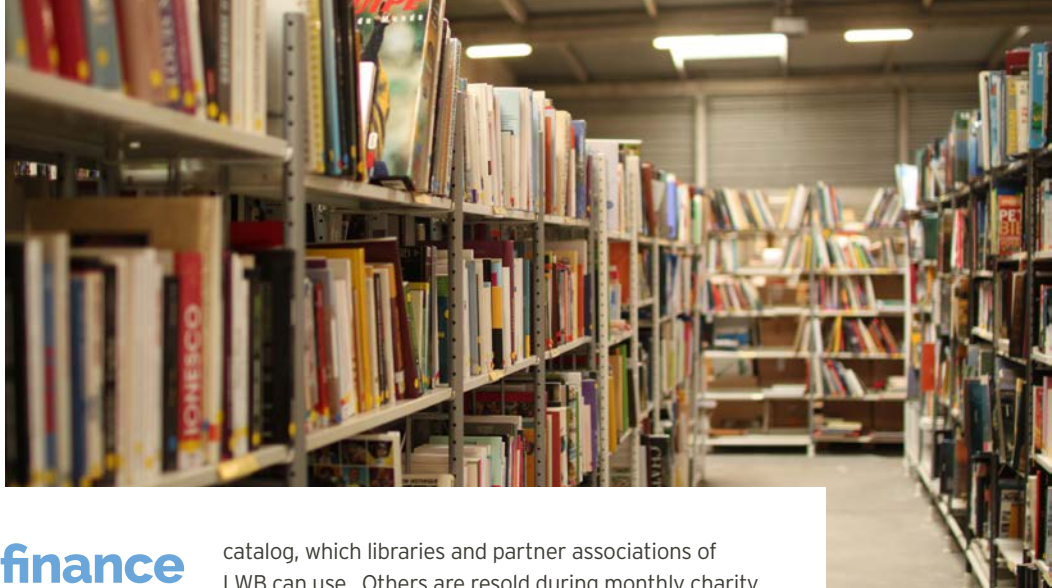
I'm quite moved by the innovation and creativity of LWB as well as the sustainable character of their activities.

It's now been a year that I've been donating and I am proud to be able to contribute to their struggle, which seems primordial to me. I am convinced that access to education, to information, and to culture allows us to fight against social determinism and to discover other horizons: one's self, but also the world around us.

I think that the Ideas Box kits are creative and innovative, and I believe that they will have a big impact in the neighborhoods and towns where they're installed.

**Zoé Cazals, monthly donor**





## New means to finance book collections

Since 2007, we collect books from institutions, editors, and individuals in France. Sorted and catalogued by the team and volunteers at our collection center in Epone, they feed our library projects everywhere in the world. More than 30,000 books can be found on our online

catalog, which libraries and partner associations of LWB can use. Others are resold during monthly charity markets or on the used book market, allowing us to finance our activities.

In 2019, we acquired an application for online listings on digital marketplaces to develop our capacity to sell books. This investment is showing its first results with a substantial increase in the business of book sales.

## Advocacy campaigns

Libraries can't play their role in social change without a serious investment in their human resources and the ecosystem of actors with whom they work. Beyond the library as it's usually known, alternative spaces of access to information, to training, and to educations are many: fablabs, digital spaces, socio-cultural or learning centers. Nor do we forget the shifts of the profession and mission of librarians, especially their training in digital technologies. For these, LWB supports the transformations that touch the entire profession by giving them tools to reinforce their impact especially among people in vulnerable situations.

Civic petitions, direct appeals to elected officials and political candidates, mobilization of the media, implication of our visible partners: LWB helps give voice to library users, to librarians, but also to the public, a voice that they wouldn't have in their goal of getting political leaders to get involved.



## OUVRONS + LES BIBLIOTHÈQUES

LWB launched a national petition in 2014 calling for libraries to open in the evening, weekends, and school vacations.

In 2017, with the Association des Bibliothécaires de France, we have called on candidates in the presidential and legislative elections to recognize the indispensable

role of libraries in public policy. François Fillon, Benoît Hamon, Emmanuel Macron and Jean-Luc Mélenchon responded to us. More than 300 candidates for the legislative elections also signed our Engagement Charter « The Libraries : At Stake for France » and agreed to defend and promote libraries while serving in the National Assembly. Thirty-five of them are today deputies from all parties.



### *Open and accessible libraries*

We've gotten results, but they are still limited, especially on the ground. It's indispensable to give the financial means necessary so that librarians can act in their communities. We shall continue the mission!

## THE URGENCY OF READING

In 2012, LWB launched the international call "The Urgency of Reading," supported by more than 100 intellectuals, including eight Nobel Prize winners. The campaign was relayed by international organizations and states.



### *Make the intellectual dimension of human beings in danger a priority of humanitarian aid*

In 2019, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted the World Agreement on Refugees, which considers a variety of engagements to improve the protection and access to services for refugees.

In the framework of the first World Forum on Refugees, which took place in Geneva in December 2019, the HCR

invited states, NGOs, and businesses to get involved in the implementation of the Pact with concrete contributions. LWB, partnered with a cortium of educational and humanitarian actors, made a plea for the opening of open access resources destined for use in educational activities for refugee populations.

## 360° Partnerships

Everywhere we work, LWB grounds its operational strategy on partnership and collaboration. We never “replace” but support actors in the fields : they know more about the local context and will be their in a sustainable way.

Our logic of intervention is anchored in the transfer of competency, in the role of catalyzer, of facilitation for local communities, associations, authorities, or even state institutions. It's an approach that requires the support of partners, their training and the construction of relations of trust. The impact in the long term will only be a multiplied and the actors on the ground will be stronger to follow, pursue, and extend their activities.

LWB follows the same logic in working with financial partners, public or private, who over the last thirteen years have trusted us with ambitious projects of the organizations. We know that businesses, foundations, or public funders have their own agendas, constraints, and goals. We know as well that the projects that we construct are stronger and more enduring when our goals meet the expectations of our partners. That's why

we hold to heart the construction of 360o partnerships that are custom made and tie us together for the long term. LWB proposes different ways of upholding the activities of businesses, from rounding up at the register with the Common Cents social enterprise or the Lagardere Travel Retail group or the rounding up salary with the Thales business.

Every year, LWB benefits as well from gifts, goods, and external services, appealing to a philanthropy of skills (legal services, humanitarian solidarity days) or a philanthropy in kind (furnishing, digital information, or books).

Working group during the Ideas Box Remix Workshops with the Cultura Foundation – July 2019 ©BSF





## The creation of the Foundation for the Sharing of Knowledge

To enlarge our association, at the initiative of Patrick Weil, we created in 2019 the Foundation for the Sharing of Knowledge



under the aegis of the Fondation Caritas France. These support our activities in relation to the creation and reinforcement of libraries, work to give a

second life to books, and help develop innovative educational solutions for populations in vulnerable circumstances.

In 2018, l'Impôt de Solidarité sur la Fortune (ISF) was replaced by l'Impôt sur la Fortune Immobilière (IFI), which can be converted to a gift. It is thus now possible to make a donation to the Foundation for the Sharing of Knowledge and to benefit from a 75% reduction of the IFI. It is equally possible to bequeath a part or the entirety of an inheritance or library to the Foundation for the Sharing of Knowledge to allow us to continue our activities, everywhere in the world, and to raise culture to a fundamental human right.

## Highlights

### THE ANNUAL DINNER

On 15 octobre 2019, LWB organized its second Annual Dinner and Fundraiser. In the halls of the Hotel de Ville of Paris, we brought together partners, private donors, and some thirty writers of evening anchored by Augustin Trapenard. The participants that evening were invited to dine at a table of a writer or an artist, like Pénélope Bagieu, David Foenkinos, the singing group Brigitte, or Laurent Gaudé, for an evening dedicated to books and to the presentation of LWB's projects. The evening allowed us to collect 150000 Euros for access to knowledge and opened conversations about interesting partnerships.



Thanks to the partners who supported us in the organization of this second dinner : Anne Hidalgo, the city of Paris, Fleurs de Mets, the Fondation Club Med, Philippe Starck, Baccarat, Cultura, Fugue, Les Saints-Pères, Petit Bateau, and Singulart.

### THE GREAT LIBRARY OF THE PANTHEON

On May 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019, LWB transformed the Panthéon into a large library. For two days, under the peristyle, Parisians and other visitors were invited to donate one or several books in exchange for free entrance into the Panthéon.

In the context of the Quartier du livre festival, a humanitarian fair was held that week-end in the interior courtyard of the Mairie of the 5th arrondissement

of Paris. Saturday night, in the nef of the Pantheon, following a lecture entitled "Can Culture Save the World?," we organized a literary outing with seven writers, accompanied on the violin by Karen Brunon, including Arthur Dreyfus, Colombe Schneck, Éric Reinhardt, Geneviève Brisac and Karine Tuil. It was the occasion to discover or to return to the great texts of their choice, from Simone Weil to Jean-Jacques Rousseau.





# Financial Report

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**7.7 million**

euros of combined budget in 2019

**87%**

of funds used for social missions  
5% for fundraising and 7% for operations

**4 million**

euros of private funds



# Treasurer's Note

Julien Séguinac

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**2019 was a decisive year for the Libraries Without Borders network.**

**The total budget was € 7,701,000: € 6,322,000 for France, € 669,000 for the United States, and € 710,000 for Belgium.**

The Belgian and American divisions represent a growing portion of the combined budget, indicating excellent financial health. For the French association, the Board of Directors set ambitious goals in 2020 to build its future and ensure the development of its organizational funds.

First, the association borrowed €700K from three banking institutions in order to finance capital development through selling used books and developing a community of 2,500 monthly donors through on-the-street fundraising. These investments showed their first effects in 2019, but their success will be measured over the next three years.

Next it was decided to found the Foundation for the Sharing of Knowledge under the auspice of the Caritas Foundation, through LWB Founder and President Patrick Weil. This foundation, which is able to receive donations and legacy gifts, has a mission of supporting access to information, education, and culture among the most vulnerable in France and around the world.

Finally, there was the establishment of the social enterprise Kajou, an impact-driven enterprise owned 100% by LWB. A capital-raising effort through Business Angels will be made in 2020, once the technology is developed, and a second round is planned for 2021. Kajou is aiming for strong growth in the upcoming years, and its dividends could become a source of income for the association.

These strategic decisions to diversify our income sources (in recent years concentrated in too few large private contributors) are a great bet for the future.

At the same time, the end of the cycle of large private financing and the timeline of major, multiyear projects resulted in a significant decrease in LWB France's resources (-1.4 million euros, or around 20%). On the other hand, the American and Belgian associations are experiencing strong growth, +122% and +38% respectively. For France, this downturn creates a deficit of €460K for 2019; however, that is absorbed by bringing our stock of books into the organization's accounting for the first time this year. The association's reserves remain stable (around €120K), though they are still insufficient and must be developed.

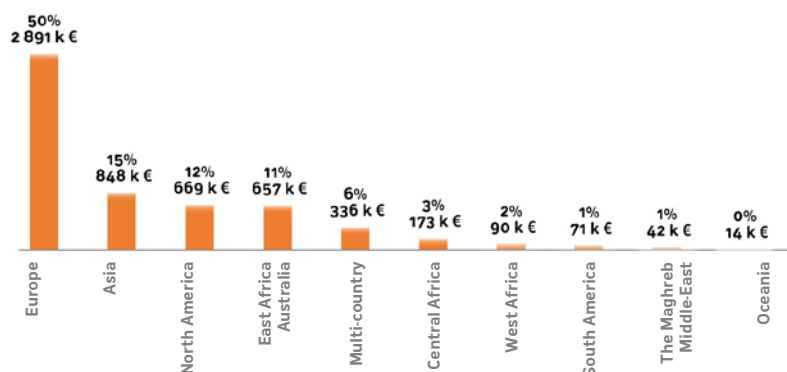
Most importantly, the French association made the necessary efforts to reorganize itself over the last two years, following an intense period of growth. Through this the support functions have been largely streamlined and the necessary technologies developed in order to ensure more rapid and economical production and deployment of our tools (Ideas Box, Ideas Cube, etc.) so they can be distributed at a larger scale. This reorganization created notable progress in the efficient use of funds: per 100 euros spent, 87 went to social missions (compared to 84 in 2018), 5 to fundraising, and 7 to operations. All of the associations in the network showed a similar level of efficiency.

The year 2020 will be significant for the LWB network as a chance to validate the success of the strategic choices and investments made this year. Above all, it is important for the French association to return to a path of growth, with an increased budget after 2020 and an ambition to multiply our volume of operations fivefold in five years.

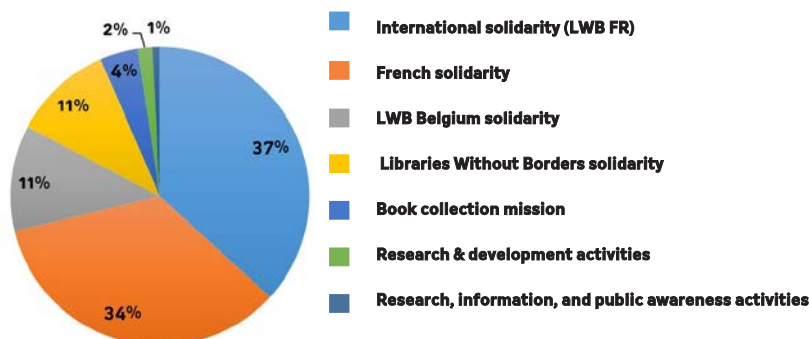
I invite you to read the document covering LWB's financial report for more details.

# Summary of finances

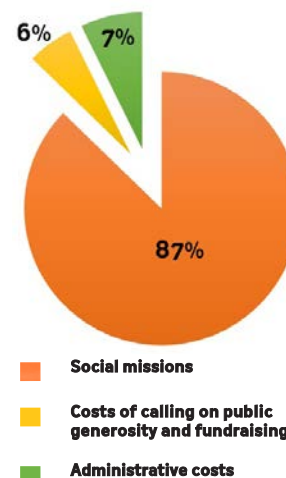
## Geographic distribution of solidarity work



## Social missions



## Distribution of finances



→ For more information on the finances of Libraries Without Borders

France, we invite you to read the entire financial report, which is also available on our website.

Working group at the LWB France seminar – June 2019 ©BSF



A big thank you to all who trust us!

## Founding partners Ideas Box



## Global partners Ideas Box



## Partners Voyageurs du Numérique





## Partners Lab



## Private partners





## Institutional Partners





# Public Partners



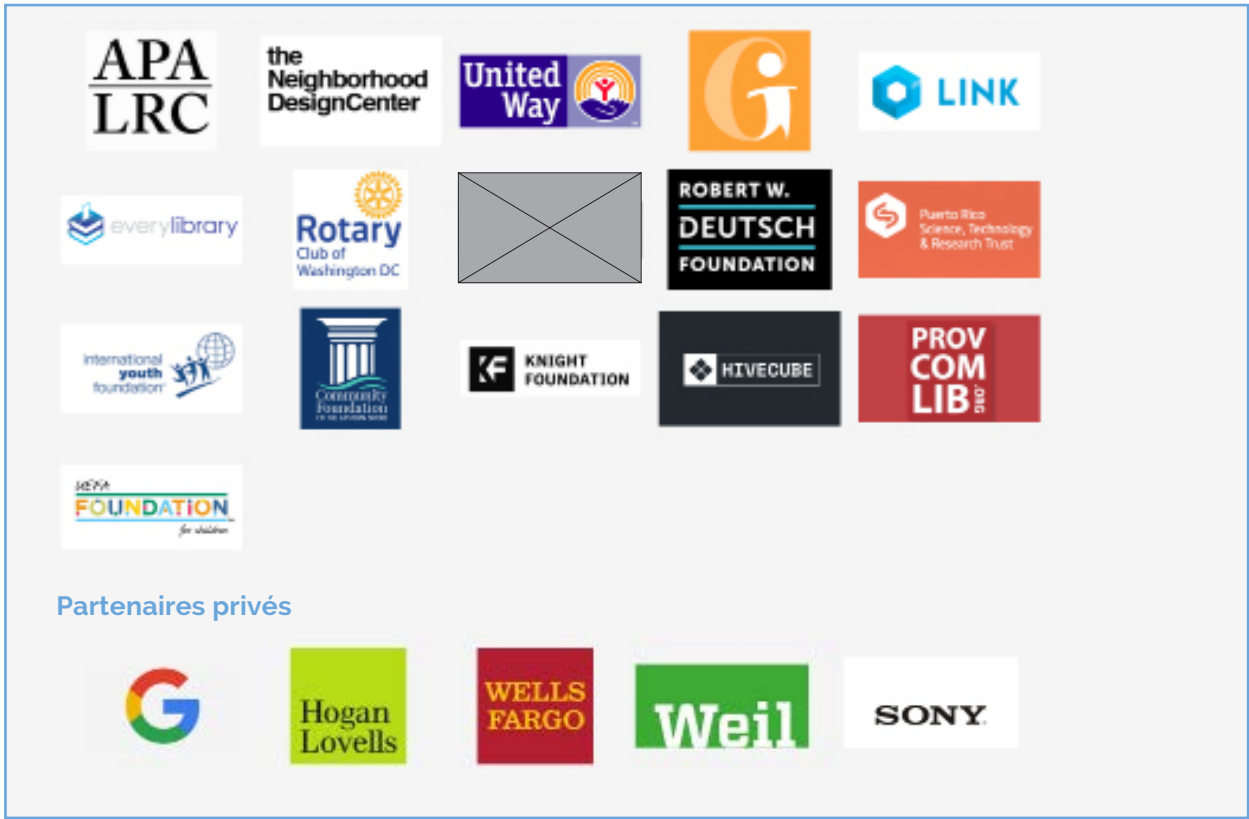
## Associative partners



# Partners Belgium



# Partners USA



...And thank you to all our donors...



## Awards & Distinctions



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Editorial

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