



**Libraries  
Without Borders**  
Bibliothèques Sans Frontières

# Access to knowledge is a fundamental right

LIBRARIES WITHOUT BORDERS  
**ANNUAL REPORT** 2020-21







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# Foreword from the President

**"Creating a world of learning, a world of inclusion, a world of discussion, a world of reflection."**



Patrick Weil

The year 2020 was particularly challenging for schools and education in general. It started with a health crisis that kept 1.6 billion children out of school for many months, with lasting consequences to be expected for the most vulnerable children. In France it ended with the terrible murder of Samuel Paty, a teacher in Conflans-Sainte-Honorine, killed because he taught his students freedom of expression.

Our teams spared no effort to limit the impact of the health crisis on the most vulnerable people. During the first lockdown, we set up a distance learning tutoring program in record time for 200 children housed in emergency shelters and produced dozens of educational videos for young people made to stay at home. To prevent students from dropping out of school, we set up Educational Emergency Ideas Boxes in low-income areas in Marseille and Bordeaux and have made the free online teaching platform Khan Academy widely available, which we adapted into French. In refugee camps in Bangladesh and Burundi, we reconfigured our Ideas Boxes to turn them into virus prevention centers. In the United States, we distributed backpacks containing computers and tablets to families from disadvantaged communities.

But beyond the emergency situation, it seems to me that 2020 has also been a pivotal year for LWB, which is truly reaching the age of maturity. The fight we have led for the past

14 years for access to education, information and culture for all has demonstrated its relevance and significance in the face of the current challenges. The quality of our work is demonstrated by the confidence that leading donors show in us (such as the European Union and French Development Agency) with whom we have launched large-scale programs.

Finally, we were able to take the time to create our five-year strategic roadmap with all the organization's stakeholders. Faced with our assessment of the world's considerable needs in terms of access to knowledge, we are aiming for systemic impact through the trilogy of: do more, do it better, and stay informed.

None of this would be possible without the extraordinary work that LWB's employees and volunteers do, the tremendous involvement of our sponsor Augustin Trapenard, and the constant support of our donors and partners. I would like to thank them all because they are the reason that LWB can build a little more every day, even during adverse times, the world that we want: a world of learning, a world of inclusion, a world of discussion, a world of reflection.

I hope you enjoy reading this report.

*Patrick Weil*

President of Libraries Without Borders



# What we do

Libraries Without Borders is an NGO that empowers vulnerable people by providing them with access to education, culture and information. For the past 14 years, LWB has been creating spaces for culture and education and inventing innovative solutions to enable people affected by crises and instability to learn, have fun, connect with others and build their future.

## HOW WE WORK

We support local organizations working in the social and cultural arenas - associations, NGOs, libraries, local authorities, schools - by helping them develop strategies for disseminating knowledge in their regions and to their communities.



**We create tools that give everyone a chance to learn, have fun, and rebuild their lives in low-income areas, rural areas, places affected by humanitarian crisis, and post-conflict situations.**



**We curate and develop tailor-made content in collaboration with local partners to meet the needs of their communities as well as to project manage the distribution.**



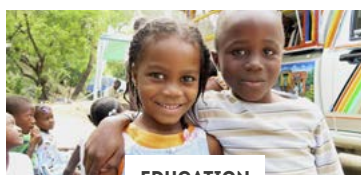
**We train facilitators, librarians, and teachers to increase the impact they have on their audiences and communities.**





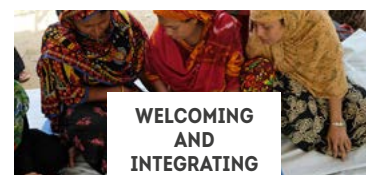
## AREAS OF FOCUS

The content used in our projects, the methodologies and the training we deliver to operational partners are always tailored to the local context. We focus on providing support in the following areas



### EDUCATION

Provide and empower access to quality education for everyone



### WELCOMING AND INTEGRATING REFUGEES

Provide support to migrants and refugees at every stage of their journey



### CITIZENSHIP AND SOCIAL COHESION

Promote communication and create connections between communities and generations



### LITERACY AND PREVENTING ILLITERACY

Provide support for learning to read and write and enable social integration



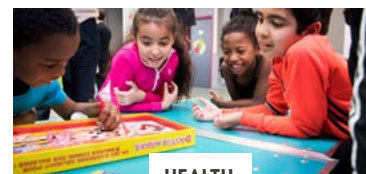
### DIGITAL LITERACY

Strengthen the skills of digitally-excluded people and encourage their autonomy



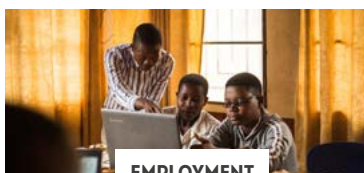
### SUPPORT FOR LIBRARIES

Bring libraries out into the open to reach people who don't use them



### HEALTH

Reduce inequality of access to information about health-related matters



### EMPLOYMENT

Increase the employability of young people who have few opportunities for work



### PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT AND PROTECTION

Protect people at risk and support their psychological well-being



### SHARING INFORMATION

Strengthen the resilience of vulnerable people in crisis



# Our tools & platforms

© Sarah Lenoir - Knock Knock Prod

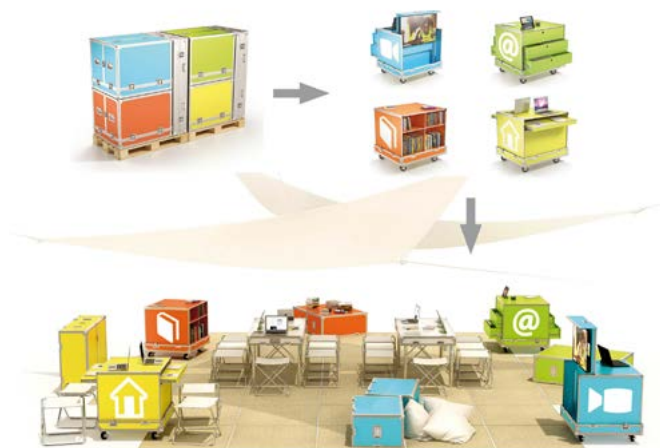
## INNOVATIVE TOOLS



### ▾ Ideas Cube

The Ideas Cube is a free-standing digital library that provides access to information without the need for an internet connection to even the most remote places. It creates a Wi-Fi hotspot where users can connect to the internet using a smartphone, tablet, or computer to access thousands of educational and cultural resources.

🔗 To find out more: [www.bibliosansfrontieres.org/ideas-cube](http://www.bibliosansfrontieres.org/ideas-cube)



### ▾ Ideas Box

The Ideas Box is a portable media library kit designed by Philippe Starck for LWB. It can be set up in less than 20 minutes to create a cultural and educational space of 100m², accommodating 50 people. Equipped with computers, tablets, games, books, and a TV (or television), it provides children and adults alike in situations of emergency, crisis, and post-conflict a space where they can learn, connect, and build their future.

🔗 To find out more: [www.bibliosansfrontieres.org/ideas-box](http://www.bibliosansfrontieres.org/ideas-box)



## THEMATIC PLATFORMS



### Khan Academy

Since 2013, LWB has been officially responsible for adapting the free teaching platform Khan Academy for the French-speaking world, from elementary to high school level. 6,500 video lessons have translated and adapted by our French and Belgian teams. Tutorial tools and tens of thousands of exercises are also available to support students and teachers from elementary through to high school.

en savoir plus : [fr.khanacademy.org](https://fr.khanacademy.org)

### BSF Campus

BSF Campus is a free online training platform for librarians and entrepreneurs in the French-speaking world. It provides access to dozens of hours of online courses, helping learners to improve their skills on a number of topics such as welcoming migrants in libraries, mediation, or cultural project management.

en savoir plus : [www.bsfcampus.org](https://www.bsfcampus.org)

### BSF Thema

In 2020, LWB launched the BSF THEMA platform, making all our activity sheets available free of charge. Staying healthy, literacy, digital skills... it provides an opportunity for librarians, teachers, and facilitator, whether or not they are partners of the association, to lead activities covering several key areas.

en savoir plus : [www.bsftHEMA.org](https://www.bsftHEMA.org)

### Digital Travelers

The Digital Travelers platform was created as part of the program of the same name, which aims to help the general public acquire basic computer skills and master the digital tools used in everyday life. Aimed at associations, local authorities, companies, and libraries, it is based on three themes: digital skills for all/digital citizenship/programming, hacking and new technology. Our teams regularly provide training to help digital assistants work with their audiences

en savoir plus : [www.voyageursdunumerique.org](https://www.voyageursdunumerique.org)

## FOCUS ON

## Book Donations

Since LWB was established in 2007, it 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 in the Yvelines region and are supplied to our projects all over the world. Some are provided to libraries, schools and partner associations that do not have the means to acquire them through the traditional channels. When the books do not meet the needs of our projects, they are resold on the second-hand market and contribute to LWB's profit. This profit gives us the means to buy books from publishers and local booksellers in the countries where we work.



# Our Impact



*"Libraries are cultural spaces which can deliver opportunities, a place open to all the world to improve its future. The Ideas Box in Santa Maria has built and rebuilt trust between people. It makes us stronger."*

Walter, COLOMBIA

Member of the Group of Friends of the Library in Santa Maria

136

Ideas Box  
set up

100

employees  
in 9 countries

36 000

resources in 26 languages

## SINCE 2007...



52

countries of operation



1.5M

people helped



16 500

facilitators and teachers trained



400 000

books sent to 33 countries  
through the donation project



## The Americas

Brazil  
Colombia  
Haiti  
Nicaragua  
Peru  
United States (inc. Puerto Rico)

## Europe

Belgium  
Finland  
France (inc. Guyana, Mayotte, Saint Martin)  
Germany  
Greece  
Italy  
Netherlands  
Poland

## Middle East

Iraq  
Jordan  
Lebanon  
Turkey

LWB International headquarters in France

## Africa

Angola  
Benin  
Burkina Faso  
Burundi  
Cameroon  
Central African Republic  
Chad  
Comoros  
Côte-d'Ivoire  
Democratic Republic  
of the Congo  
Ethiopia  
Gabon

Ghana  
Guinea-Conakry  
Kenya  
Madagascar  
Mali  
Morocco  
Mauritania  
Niger  
Républic of the Congo  
Rwanda  
Senegal  
South Africa  
Tanzania  
Togo  
Tunisia

## Asia & Océania

Australia  
Azerbaijan  
Bangladesh  
Georgia  
India  
Nepal  
Sri Lanka

5

### National Associations



- Belgium : *Bibliothèques Sans Frontières BE*
- Canada : *Bibliothèques Sans Frontières CA*
- United-States : *Libraries Without Borders US*
- Italy : *Biblioteca Senza Frontiere IT*
- Switzerland : *Bibliothèques Sans Frontières SU*

4

### Operational offices



- Jordan (Amman)
- Burundi (Bujumbura)
- Bangladesh (Cox's Bazar)
- Senegal (Dakar)



# The Lab: Innovation serving our communities

## The Research & Development arm of LWB

Over eight years, the Lab has developed solutions based on internet offline technology, delivering digital resources that meet the needs of people who live in areas without internet access.

In 2018 we took part in helping to create the Offline Internet Consortium: 20 organizations who are working together today to develop customized solutions and shared resources to the benefit of vulnerable people.



49%

of the world's population does  
not have access to the internet  
(source: UN)

© Vincent Colin

## What is the OLIP platform?

"Many people live in remote regions where internet access is scarce, insufficient, or nonexistent. This creates a digital divide that constraints cultural, economic, and social development for these people, as well as limiting access to education.

OLIP (Off-Line Internet Platform) was conceived by LWB and piloted by the Offline Internet Consortium. It gives Ideas Box and Ideas Cube users access to thousands of educational and cultural resources without an internet connection by using their smartphone browser, tablet or computer.

Courtesy of OLIP, Rohingya refugees living in camps in Bangladesh have easy access to music, films and books in Burmese, Rohingya, and English. In France, asylum seekers housed in reception centers run by the Coallia association can freely access content in several languages, become better informed of their rights and learn French."

**Grégoire, LWB's Chief Digital Officer**



# Kajou : LWB's social enterprise

Created by LWB in 2019, Kajou provides access to useful digital content to people who have no or poor internet connection. SD cards are preloaded with learning and cultural resources, covering subjects such as education, health, and agriculture. The card is inserted into a phone, transforming it into a library. *All this can be done without the need of an internet connection!*



## KEY INFORMATION

LWB owns almost  
**90%**  
of Kajou

With the help of LWB's content library, Kajou offers a catalog of

**36000**  
RESSOURCES  
in  
**26**  
different  
languages

After a year of development, Kajou has started operating in Senegal, Burundi and Cameroon.



## KAJOU IN SENEGAL

Kajou will soon be distributing 5,000 cards to students at the Virtual University of Senegal so that they can have access to content relevant to their courses, which are mostly held online. In West Africa, Kajou cards are also made available to farmers and market gardeners in the Thiès region. They will be able to access many resources in the Wolof language about agriculture, climate change, and farming practices.



Kajou has the same ambition as LWB: providing access to useful information to as many people as possible. Setting up a commercial enterprise was the most suitable arrangement to raise the funding needed to develop the technology and set up a system of distribution to businesses and individuals.”

Jérémy Lachal, Executive Director of LWB



# 2020 highlights

JANUARY



First Refugee eSports cup tournament in Jordan

MARCH



Lockdown: Facebook Live sessions held

APRIL



COVID-19 awareness campaign in Bangladesh and Burundi

MAY



Distance learning tutoring program

JUNE



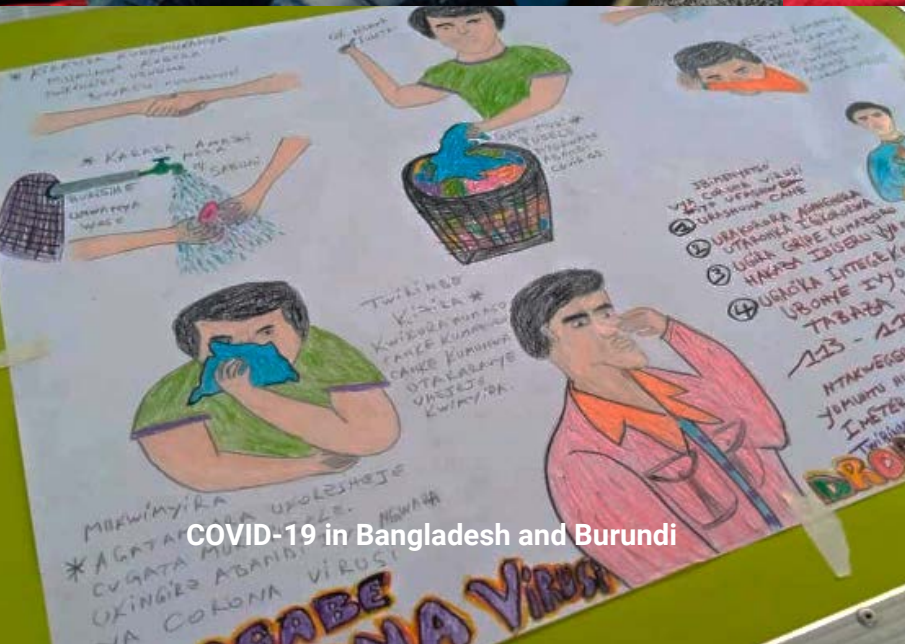
Creation of the BSF Canada association



Refugees Esport cup



Distance learning tutoring program



COVID-19 in Bangladesh and Burundi



Creation of BSF Canada



JULY



Inauguration of the Educational emergency Ideas Box in Marseille

AUG



Roddenberry prize awarded to LWB

SEPT



Release of BSF Thema, an activity library for librarians, teachers, and facilitators

OCT



411 000 books collected through the Fnac Great Collection initiative



Educational emergency in Marseille



Fnac Great Collection initiative



Roddenberry prize awarded to LWB



BSF Thema



# Covid-19 : Coping with the crisis

Over the past year, our teams have been active both at home and in the field to raise awareness, prevent illness and support those most at risk during the pandemic. Here is a look at some of the principal ways we supported refugees, students, prisoners, and school dropouts.



Pexels

## BELGIUM

### Homeschooling with Khan Academy

Following the closure of schools, LWB Belgium has been providing distance learning on Khan Academy throughout the year for parents and students alike. We hosted specialized webinars on social media platforms which were watched and shared by thousands of people.

## UNITED STATES

### ConnectED Tech Kits for people from low-income neighborhoods

In April, LWB US teams distributed ConnectED backpacks containing a laptop, a Wi-Fi dongle, and educational resources to hundreds of families in Baltimore, San Antonio, and Puerto Rico to help them get through the first lockdown.



## FRANCE

## A 100% digital library made available for free to help get through lockdown

During the first lockdown, the LWB teams curated and distributed cultural, entertaining, and educational content to allow everyone to continue learning at home, have fun and enrich their knowledge, either on their own or with their family. Every day we hosted a live gest on our Facebook page who ran activities relevant to current events for students, parents, and teachers. These sessions received 500,000 views in two months.

## A remote tutoring program for the most vulnerable students

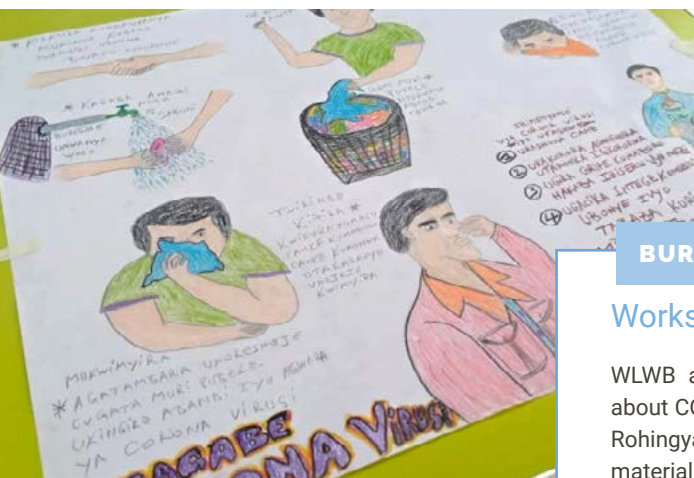
LWB created a distance-learning tutoring program and supported 200 children living in reception facilities in the Île-de-France and Meurtheet-Moselle regions. For two months, students ranging elementary to high school level had regular access to personalized telephone support. One hundred tutors were involved and were individually supported by our teams. All children were back in school in September for the new school year.

## Right outside the housing blocks in the northern suburbs of Marseille

To limit the risk of dropping out of school, LWB and the association ACELEM set up an Ideas Box in the northern suburbs of Marseille so that young people could stay entertained and continue learning. Activities were held all throughout the year including workshops for writing and poetry, introductory lessons to computer programming, and reading sessions.

## Books for shelters and prisons

LWB provided books to several associations whose beneficiaries were particularly affected by lockdown. Emmaüs Solidarité, Aurore, the French Red Cross, and Coallia all set up libraries in several emergency shelters and hostels in the Paris region. The association Lire pour en Sortir used this time to create book exchanges in the exercise yard of La Santé prison in Paris.



## BURUNDI &amp; BANGLADESH

## Workshops to raise awareness of COVID-19

WLWB and the association Giriya organized activities to raise awareness about COVID-19 for street children in an Ideas Box in Buterere, Bujumbura. In the Rohingya refugee camps in Bangladesh, our teams provided a large amount of material about how to protect against the virus. They also organized numerous activities to teach people how to detect fake news to address any rumors circulating in the camp.







A photograph of a group of children in a rural, dusty environment. In the foreground, a young child looks directly at the camera. In the middle ground, several other children are gathered, some looking towards the camera. One child is wearing a light-colored head covering. In the background, another child is walking away on a dirt path. The right side of the image is covered by a large, solid orange vertical bar. The text "OUR AREAS OF EXPERTISE" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters on the orange bar.

# OUR AREAS OF EXPERTISE





# Education

PROVIDE AND EMPOWER ACCESS TO QUALITY  
EDUCATION FOR EVERYONE

Access to education is a fundamental right that must be categorically defended. Education, offers people the possibility of creating connections, finding freedom and imagining a future for themselves. It reduces inequality, promotes conversations and tolerance between different social groups and leads to more peaceful and inclusive societies. LWB is an advocate for education and provides support to teachers and students by means of innovative technology and pedagogical methods so that each child can grow without limitation and continue to dream, wherever they are.

## Why we take action

### 265 M

**Number of children and adolescents worldwide who are not in school** due to armed conflict, poverty, or natural disasters (source: UN)

### 3%

**Percentage of the global humanitarian budget** allocated to education (source: European Commission)

### x2

**Children from wealthy backgrounds** have mastered twice as many words in kindergarten as those from poorer ones (source: Betty Hart and Todd Risley)





### Confronting climate change

#### FRANCE ~ SAINT-MARTIN

In 2017, Hurricane Irma destroyed the media library and many of the school libraries on the island of Saint Martin. In no time, LWB donated 15,000 specially selected books to supplement the reference centers of the island's 14 kindergartens and elementary schools. In response to the delayed reconstruction of public buildings, we deployed two Ideas Boxes and 19 Ideas Cube servers to help schools and local associations carry out their educational activities.



### Find the will to learn again

#### BURUNDI

Alongside PLAY International and UNICEF, LWB is supporting the Ministry of National Education and Scientific Research to implement the Transitional Education Plan (TEP). Funded by the Global Partnership for Education and the French Development Agency, the Twige Neza program aims to improve several decentralized learning spaces by deploying 25 Ideas Cubes and three Ideas Box kits. Providing equipment and training to the facilitators of youth centers will give children who don't attend school the chance to rediscover a love of learning and find a way back to school. In school networks, training teachers to use digital tools in the classroom will help make the way teaching is delivered more flexible, limiting the number of students dropping out of school.

©Kibuuka Mukisa Oscar AFD

### Encouraging integration of newcomer students

#### FRANCE ~ GUIANA

LWB will soon set up an Ideas Cube kit in an elementary school in Cayenne for 275 children ages 6-8. Known as "digital school", mainly receives newcomer students who do not have a good level of French. With training delivered by our team, the school's teachers will be able to draw from the digital library's resources to teach the students how to read and write, improve their digital skills, and help them to integrate.





# Welcoming & integrating refugees

PROVIDE SUPPORT TO MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES  
AT EVERY STAGE OF THEIR JOURNEY

From the moment they leave their country of origin until they fully integrate in their host country, LWB provides migrants and refugees with the means to cope with the difficulties encountered along the way. In camps, our tools give them the opportunity to continue to learn, counteract boredom, and keep believing in their future. In host countries, we work with emergency shelters, community centers, and libraries so that migrants and refugees can learn about the local language and culture and have access to all the information they need to exercise their rights, find housing, or find a job.

## Why we take action

### 17 years

Average time a refugee spends in exile (source: UNHCR)

### x2

Increase in the number of displaced people (refugees, exiles, or other) in the world between 2010 and 2020 (source: UNHCR)

### 85%

Percentage of the 28.5 million refugees worldwide who are hosted in developing countries (source: Amnesty International)





©Louis Villers

### A bag of books for dreaming and integration

#### FRANCE ~ ILE-DE-FRANCE

LWB and the school l'École alsacienne handed out backpacks filled with books to 200 children housed in three emergency shelters and hostels run by Samusocial de Paris and Emmaüs Solidarité in the Île-de-France region (Paris). Each bag contained books chosen and donated especially for them by children of the same age who attend the school, as well as specially selected new books purchased by our teams. This was an opportunity to help these children to develop an interest in reading, learn French, and learn more about their host country.

### Encouraging the integration of migrants

#### FRANCE ~ PARIS

With the support of the association Un Rien C'est Tout, LWB set up an Ideas Box in the Poniatowski reception and integration center, managed by the Aurore association in Paris, to facilitate the integration of refugees. Every day, our teams organized activities for the residents to help them learn French and increase their knowledge in terms of access to rights, housing, and employment.



### Ideas Cube helping to provide asylum seekers with access to rights

#### FRANCE

In 2020, Ideas Cubes were set up in 44 emergency shelters and initial reception centers run by the Coallia association throughout France. These digital libraries gave asylum seekers the ability to freely access content curated by our teams in five different languages (Arabic, English, Pashto, Dari, and Farsi) as well as French. The content covered topics that are crucial to their integration: administrative procedures, learning the French language, and the fundamentals of French culture.





# Citizenship & social cohesion

PROMOTE COMMUNICATION AND CREATE CONNECTIONS  
AMONG COMMUNITIES AND GENERATIONS

A library is more than just a collection of books - it also plays a part in fueling discourse in society. It is a socially diverse place that is open to everyone and spans generations, a place where citizens can become critical thinkers. By creating spaces for meeting, trust and sharing in difficult or emergency situations, LWB encourages people to speak out and allows everyone to express themselves freely. Our teams offer activities that empower fighting against all forms of violence and discrimination and contribute to easing tensions between people.

## Why we take action

40%

Percentage of homeless people in France who suffer from psychological disorders (source: Insee)

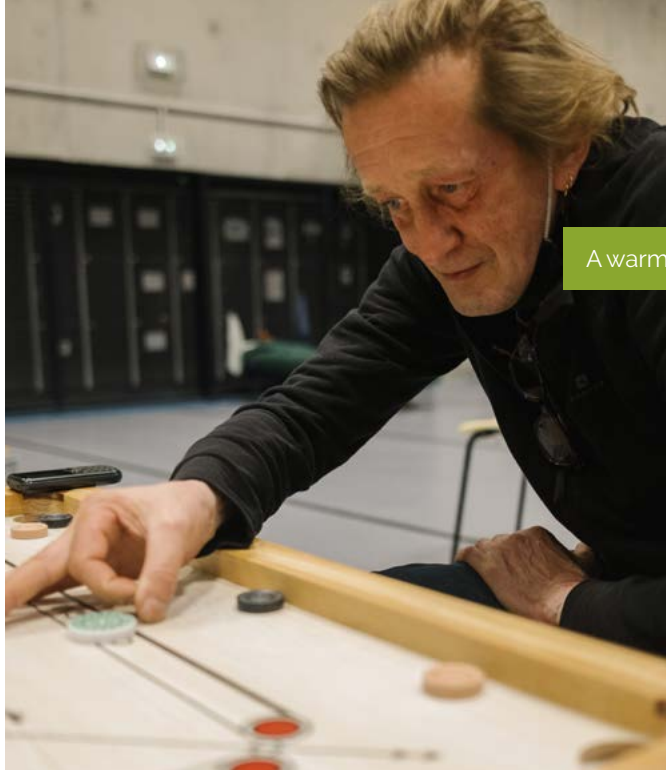
52%

Percentage of people in France from low-income backgrounds who do not feel like they belong to a national community (source: IPSOS)

37%

Percentage of people in France who believe that intergenerational links will weaken in the next 30 years (source: La France Mutualiste)





A warming break for the homeless

**FRANCE ~ PARIS**

Every winter, several sports complexes in central Paris open their doors to homeless people. There, they can eat a hot meal, shower in the changing rooms, and sleep on camp beds. LWB sets up an Ideas Box and offers cultural activities three times a week. The residents can use this time to entertain themselves, play games, watch films, or take care of administrative tasks required to get reestablished. This cultural interlude brightens their day and recreates social ties.

| @Gabriel Gauffre



A documentary series encouraging intergenerational discussion

**FRANCE ~ MARSEILLE**

Started in 2019 in Marseille, Between Generations is a documentary project supported by the Inter-ministerial Committee for the Prevention of Delinquency and Radicalization that promotes intergenerational discussion between residents sharing a neighborhood. The project's goal is to encourage young people to film their elders and ask them questions about their history, the concept of identity, and the feeling of belonging. This gives them the opportunity to learn how to produce a report and conduct an interview. New Between Generations videos will debut in several regions of France in September 2021.

The first eSport tournament held in a refugee camp

**JORDAN ~ ZAATARI**

In partnership with the UEFA Foundation for children, LWB organized the very first eSport tournament: the Refugee eSport Cup! Located 20 kilometers from the Syrian border, the Zaatari refugee camp is home to 70,000 Syrian refugees, including nearly 40,000 children and teenagers. Lasting for a month, 146 from 10 to 18 years old took part in the tournament, strengthening social cohesion between the participants. The competition provided them with a good opportunity to come together around the values of sports and to forget about their daily lives. The final matches were broadcast live on a big screen and brought together around 100 young people and their parents in the camp's cinema. A second tournament is planned for 2021 in the Rohingya refugee camp of Kutupalong, Bangladesh.





# Literacy & preventing illiteracy

PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR LEARNING TO READ AND WRITE  
TO ENABLE SOCIAL INTEGRATION

Literacy is integral to the right to education for life. Learning to read and write is an essential condition for understanding the world around us, making informed choices, and self-actualization. LWB provides training to its partners to better use their tools so that they can best help illiterate people to become autonomous. This enables them to face the problems they must deal with to better integrate into society and fully participate in democracy, becoming active participants in the world around them.

## Why we take action

### 773 M

**Number of people in the world who cannot read or write** (source: UNESCO)

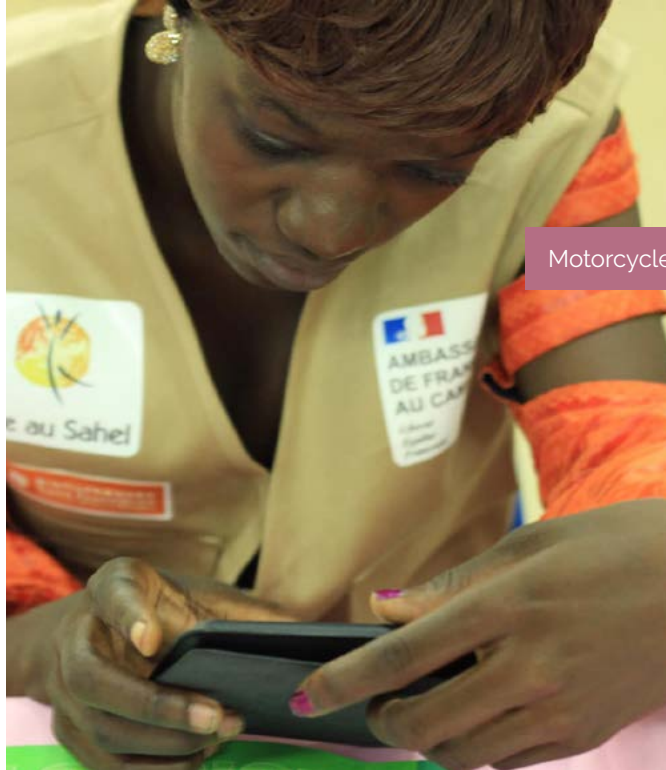
### 2/3

**Number of illiterate people in the world are women** (source: UNESCO)

### 2,5 M

**Number of illiterate adults in France, 7% of the population** (source: Insee)





Motorcycle libraries in the Maroua region

**CAMEROON ~ MAROUA REGION**

LWB and the association Lire au Sahel have been operating a motorcycle library project since 2020 in the region of Maroua called Moota Andal, 'vehicle of knowledge', in the Fulfulde language. This involved the renovation of several motorcycles to accommodate a collection of documents and an Ideas Cube server. The physical and digital contents of these mobile libraries were selected locally, with an emphasis on improving literacy. The Lire au Sahel facilitators received training for library skills and for using the Ideas Cube. They will soon travel throughout the region and offer activities to the inhabitants based on their needs.



Discovering culture and encouraging creativity

**FRANCE ~ REUNION ISLAND**

In 2021, LWB and the French Red Cross (CRF) will set up an Ideas Box in two low-income areas of Saint-Denis to improve the access residents have to culture. It will provide them with an opportunity to meet up, learn, and have fun. LWB will provide training to the CRF personnel who will be frequently operating the media library and organizing educational and fun activities to discover the region's mixed culture and encourage creativity. They will be taking care to ensure their activities are adapted to include people who can be sometimes difficult to reach, especially those who are illiterate.





© Wlad Smitch-FDJ

# Digital literacy

## STRENGTHEN THE SKILLS OF DIGITALLY-EXCLUDED PEOPLE AND ENCOURAGE THEIR AUTONOMY

At a time when administrative procedures and social relations are increasingly taking place online, an inability to navigate the digital world and use computing devices can lead to many issues in everyday life. Elderly and disadvantaged people can lose their autonomy, become isolated, and be more easily exposed to false information. For young people, there can be a greater risk of cyberbullying and searching for a job is made more difficult. LWB provides support for such people towards digital inclusion so that they can be active and informed citizens capable of making their voices heard.

### Why we take action

# 74%

**Share of the population in France without qualifications** who do not consider themselves competent in using computers (source: ARCEP)

# x7

**Older people** share seven times more false information on Facebook than younger people (source: Science Advances)

# 59%

**Percentage of American teenagers** who say they have experienced online bullying (source: Pew Research Center)



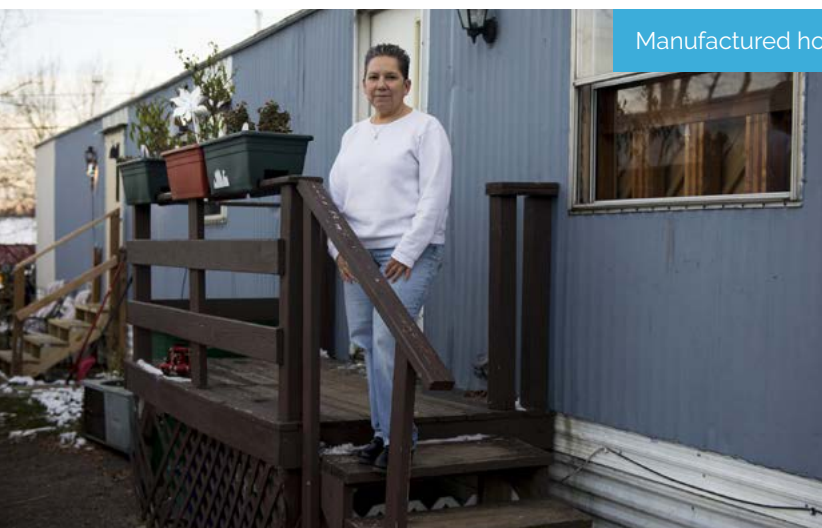
## Digital travellers

### EUROPE ~ POLAND, NETHERLANDS, BELGIUM, FINLAND

In 2020, LWB partnered with five associations - LWB Belgium, Fundacja Rozwoju Społeczeństwa Informacyjnego (Poland), KB nationale bibliotheek (Netherlands), Public Libraries 2030 (Belgium), and Suomen kirjastoseura (Finland) - to create a digital aid platform for training librarians across Europe. The platform will give librarians access to a wide range of training materials and enable them to organize awareness-raising workshops to promote digital inclusion for tens of thousands of people.



## Manufactured housing initiative



### UNITED STATES ~ MINNESOTA

LWB US and the Park Plaza Cooperative have established a community library in a disadvantaged suburb of Fridley, in the state of Minnesota. This digital inclusion lab gives local residents the chance to have access to computers, iPads, educational resources, and art materials right on their doorstep. The residents are given an opportunity to gain basic computer skills with the help of facilitators trained by our teams. The Anoka County Library gave several book donations and also organized regular online reading sessions for residents. Following from the program's success, it will soon be extended to several rural areas in Minnesota.

## Media literacy with Cyber Heroes

### BELGIUM

In 2019, LWB Belgium developed the Cyber Heroes teaching kit to address the lack of training for teachers about issues related to staying safe online and cyberbullying. This activity kit is provided to teachers to help them address issues relating to digital citizenship in the classroom in a fun way. In 2020, we reached nearly 8,000 students ages 8 to 14, and trained more than 4,200 teachers in 55 schools in Brussels, Flanders and Wallonia regions. During the first lockdown, we turned the Cyber Heroes kit into the Cyber Heroes in the Family activity kit so that the pandemic would not result in children being further exposed to the dangers of the internet and its uses.





©Louis Villers

# Support for libraries

## BRING LIBRARIES OUT INTO THE OPEN TO REACH PEOPLE WHO DON'T USE THEM

Convinced of the essential role of libraries in society, LWB participates in making them accessible to all. To this end, we are reinventing libraries, both in their form and in their missions, and in the way they are perceived and appropriated by users. All over the world, we work with librarians to amplify the impact of their actions on audiences beyond books and reading. With our tools, librarians can reach these audiences more easily, especially in rural areas and priority neighborhoods.

### Why we take action

# 11M

**Number of French people** who do not have a public reading place in their in their commune - i.e. 55% of the communes (source: Ministry of Culture)

# x2

**A public library in a city** with a population of more than 100,000 has twice the number of open hours as a library in the rest of the country (source: Ministry of Culture)

# 10%

**Percentage of French people registered** at public libraries in France in 2020 (source: Ministry of Culture)





Acting beyond the walls in an underserved communities

#### FRANCE ~ CAEN LA MER

Within the framework of a public contract, the three libraries of the Urban Community's library network (Caen la Mer - Caen, Hérouville-Saint-Clair and Ifs) have purchased two Ideas Box kits. They allow library staff, trained by our teams, to organize workshops outside the library walls for people who are far from books and reading. It is also an opportunity for these libraries to share their good professional practices and their resources related to cultural mediation.

Supporting an isolated community

#### AUSTRALIA ~ WILCANNIA

At the request of the State Library of New Wales, LWB installed in 2020 an Ideas Box in Wilcannia, a small, isolated community near Broken Hill, west of Sydney. This village of 600 inhabitants is plagued by many structural difficulties: poverty, school dropout, drug addictions and unemployment. The Ideas Box is housed at Wilcannia Radio River, a dynamic and committed community radio station, and helps build the professional and educational skills of the population



Reinforce digital inclusion

#### FRANCE ~ PAS-DE-CALAIS

The Public Action 2022 program, launched by the government, aims at the dematerialization of 100% of administrative procedures within one year. In 2020, LWB trained and accompanied thirteen librarians from Pas-de-Calais in the creation of a best practices guide for digital caregivers. Entitled Pas-de-Calais "tous connectés!", it lists several tools and contents to enable facilitators to strengthen their skills on three key themes: targeting, securing, and orienting.





©Aldo Sperber

# Health

## REDUCE INEQUALITY OF ACCESS TO INFORMATION ABOUT HEALTH-RELATED MATTERS

Health education, especially for young people, is a crucial lever for improving equal opportunities. Being well informed about these issues allows one to better care for oneself, to protect oneself, and to protect others. LWB supports health actors, teachers, and facilitators in the implementation of awareness-raising actions for the most vulnerable groups. Our tools facilitate access to all prevention information, encourage exchanges, and put young people in a position to take responsibility for their health.

### Why we take action

# 7 years

**The gap in life expectancy** between a manager and a worker in France at age 35. (source : INSEE)

# x4

**Children of workers** are four times more likely to be obese at age 10 than children of managers. (source: Drees)

# x14

**The maternal mortality rate** is 14 times higher in developing countries than in developed countries. (source : ONU)





©Aldo Sperber

### The Health Ideas Box in underserved communities

#### FRANCE

With the CNP Assurances Foundation, LWB has been developing Health Ideas Box programs since 2017 to strengthen the quality of health-related information among adolescents and young adults. The greater Boulonnais community, the city of Sarcelles, and the Île-de-France Regional Center for Information and Prevention of AIDS and Youth Health (Crips) regularly deploy them in disadvantaged neighborhoods.

The Health Ideas Box kits facilitate the implementation of awareness-raising activities on the themes of emotional and sexual life, prevention of alcohol and drug abuse, and healthy living. With the help of a scientific committee, a health prevention kit has also been created for facilitators, teachers, school nurses, and librarians who are partners in our projects in France. They can find content by theme, activity sheets, and training tools to organize workshops for their audiences.

### Break the taboo of sexuality

#### BURUNDI

In 2019, LWB installed twenty-five Ideas Cube servers in several schools, associations, and community centers in the country in order to facilitate access to information on sexual and reproductive health for youth and adolescents. Selected with the Ministry of Public Health and AIDS Control, 1,250 items are now available in French and Kirundi. Several themes have been also been selected: maternity, HIV prevention, family planning, the fight against unwanted pregnancies and the prevention of gender-based violence.

So far, we have trained 126 facilitators, health professionals, teachers and local partners in the implementation of mediation workshops in six provinces of the country. With the support of the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, an additional 130 Ideas Cube will be installed throughout the country in 2022, with the goal of reaching 100,000 youth.



### Reinforce health prevention inland

#### FRENCH ~ GUIANA

In 2021, LWB will deploy ten Ideas Cube to facilitate the work of health actors in the interior territories of French Guyana, Bas-Maroni, and Haut-Maroni. Trained by our teams, they will use the resources of the digital libraries, selected with experts, to lead awareness-raising workshops and strengthen the health knowledge of isolated populations.



# Employment

INCREASE THE EMPLOYABILITY OF YOUNG PEOPLE WHO HAVE FEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR WORK

Having a job is essential to ensure independence and freedom. To this end, LWB strengthens the knowledge and skills of young people who are excluded from education and the labor market so that they can have confidence in themselves and prepare for their future. Thanks to our innovative tools, young people have access to resources and facilitators that help them prepare for interviews, rewrite their CVs, and strengthen their digital skills.

## Why we take action

### 1,5M

**Number of young people** out of work, out of school, and out of training in France at the end of 2020 (source : Insee)

### 1/3

**In sub-Saharan Africa, one third of young people** do not complete primary school and lack work skills (source : UNESCO)

### 20M

**Number of jobs that need to be created each year** over the next 20 years to absorb new entrants to the labor market in Sub-Saharan Africa (source: IMF)(source : Fonds monétaire international)





### Support the emergence of young leaders

#### BURUNDI

With UNICEF, LWB is developing the UpShift social entrepreneurship program in ten provinces across the country. Thanks to the digital content of four Ideas Cube servers and the support of 3,000 Kajou cards, we are supporting 50,000 teenagers and young adults between the ages of 18 and 25 to give them the means to acquire professional skills around various thematic such as ecology or the fight against poverty.

How to make water drinkable, create a business, or an urban vegetable garden? Training workshops are regularly organized by partner facilitators so that they can identify the challenges of their communities and create sustainable and innovative solutions to the problems they face.

### Support technical apprenticeships in learning centers

#### DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

In partnership with ENABEL, LWB supports apprenticeships in four provinces of the country: Kisangani, Kasai, South Ubangi and Katanga. To this end, we have installed Ideas Cube servers in fifteen technical education centers to strengthen the knowledge and skills of workshop teachers and improve the quality of the training provided.

The content of these digital libraries was selected and created by our team and partners according to the

specificities of each center: hospitality, sewing, tourism, agriculture, electricity, administration. More transversal contents have also been identified, such as learning French, health awareness health awareness, ecology and music. In 2021, we will organize animation and training sessions for and training sessions for the center teams to encourage empowerment of young adults.



### Reinforce the skills and engagement of youth

#### IRAQ

To promote the employability of Iraqi youth in the Dohuk governate, LWB and Acted and Recoded have installed an Ideas Box in a Youth Center. The media kit gives them access to a wide variety of content to work on their creativity, self-esteem, and digital skills. Training courses are regularly offered, such as introduction to computer programming or graphic design. Participants who wish to specialize are invited to apply for longer training courses offered by our partners.





# Psychosocial Support & Protection

© Abbie Traylor-Smith

PROTECT PEOPLE IN DANGER AND SUPPORT THEIR PSYCHOLOGICAL WELLBEING

The populations LWB works with are very often fragile, traumatized, and even persecuted. It is essential to create safe places where they can escape their psychological suffering for a moment and express themselves freely. The activities proposed allow our teams and partners to easily identify the most vulnerable people. They can then be supported by an adapted psychological treatment in order to start their recovery.

## Why we take action...

### 30%

Percentage of asylum seekers in France who suffer post-traumatic stress disorder  
traumatic stress disorder  
(source : France terre d'asile)

### 1/5

Share of refugees from Lesbos, Chios and Samos in Greece who say they have tried to commit suicide (source : International Rescue Committee)

### 47,2%

Youth unemployment rate in Mayotte  
(source : INSEE)





### Supporting the social integration of youth

#### FRANCE ~ MAYOTTE

In 2020, LWB and the French Red Cross installed an Ideas Box in Mayotte to promote the social integration of young people, accompanied by the educators of specialized prevention in the communes of Koungou, Dembéli, Bandré, and Sada. The media library in kit form supports the educational action of the CRF teams, trained by LWB, and an opportunity for the youth to act and express themselves freely. Regular activities are organized there: notably, a project of expression and testimonies of young people on the demolition of their neighborhood that was initiated at the end of 2020.



### Reinforcing the autonomy of refugees and hosts

#### BURUNDI, IRAQ, LIBANON

With the support of the French Development Agency (AFD), LWB is currently implementing a vast project to support refugees, displaced persons, returnees, and hosts in three countries. Although the contexts of intervention are different, the objectives are shared:

- to strengthen the quality of and access to education and training programs
- to contribute to the protection and psychosocial well-being of users, especially the youngest
- to promote social cohesion and peace building for exiled and host populations.

To do this, LWB and its local operational partners will deploy Ideas Boxes with several target audiences: 15,000 children, 5,000 youth, 7,000 adults, and 500 facilitators and community members involved. Workshops on rights awareness, teaching French as a foreign language (FLE), and education linked to school curricula in the three countries will be offered regularly.





# Sharing information

## REINFORCING THE RESILIENCE OF COMMUNITIES MADE VULNERABLE IN CRISIS

In crisis and conflict situations, rumors and the dissemination of false information can have devastating effects on already fragile communities. By creating safe and attractive information spaces, LWB gives refugees the means to build solutions to the challenges they face. In refugees camps, these spaces allow everyone to have access to verified content, to exchange with qualified facilitators, to reconnect to the world and to rebuild their lives in confidence.

### Why we take action...

50%

Refugees are half as likely to have a phone connected to the Internet than the general population (source : UNHCR)

21%

Percentage of refugees, asylum seekers, and returnees in Niger who report accessing information about their situation and needs through humanitarian organizations (source : UNHCR)

47%

Percentage of refugees, asylum seekers, and returnees in Côte d'Ivoire who say they need to know more about their rights and responsibilities (source : UNHCR)





Learning and getting informed in refugee camps

**BANGLADESH**

©Louis Villers

The Cox's Bazar district of Bangladesh is home to 860,000 Rohingya, a Muslim minority that has been discriminated against in Myanmar for several decades. The majority of these refugees are now concentrated in the Kutupalong camp, where the literacy rate is below 30%.

Since 2019, LWB has installed eight Ideas Box kits in the camps and surrounding villages. They allow exiles and Bangladeshis to meet in safe places where they can express themselves freely. Due to a lack of space in the schools in the camps, many children and teenagers meet there to learn to read and write alongside our facilitators. Writing, embroidery, and photography workshops are also regularly organized. In order to reach out to those who do not frequent community spaces, our teams travel to the camps with the Ideas Cube whose content has been selected with the help of local translators. Music, films,

and books in Burmese, Rohingya, and English are made available.

Since 2020, LWB and its partners have developed a new approach that aims at the active participation of Rohingya youth in the Ideas Box. Several groups of young people have been created and structured to reflect together on improving their daily lives, to seek educational solutions, and to produce audiovisual, informative, and recreational content. This approach allows for a stronger community anchoring and guarantees a greater sustainability of the project in the camps.









# OUR MEANS OF ACTION

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# Take action with us

© Kibuuka Mukisa Oscar AFD

For the past 14 years, LWB has been committed to building strong, tailor-made and long-term relationships with its partners and its community. Whether you are a company or an individual, there are many ways to contribute to LWB's actions.

## GET YOUR COMPANY INVOLVED!

### Financial support



Each year, several of LWB's "major partners" commit themselves in the long term by providing financial support. This is the case, for example, of the Open Society Foundation, the Cultura Foundation, the Fondation Aéroport de Paris, and the CNP Assurances Foundation. Thanks to their loyalty, LWB can invest in the long term in improving its impact by financing research and development projects

### Sponsorship of skills or in kind



Each year, companies contribute to LWB's programs through :

- **sponsorship in kind:** donation of supplies, computer equipment or books,
- **sponsorship of skills:** making available employees to provide specific services (legal support, accounting, IT development, project management) for periods ranging from a few days to several years..

**Any financial donation, in kind or in skills received by LWB gives the right to a tax deduction for the sponsoring company, up to 60% of the amount for the part of the donation inferior or equal to 2 million €, and 40% of the amount for the part superior to 2 million €.**





## Rounding off of salaries

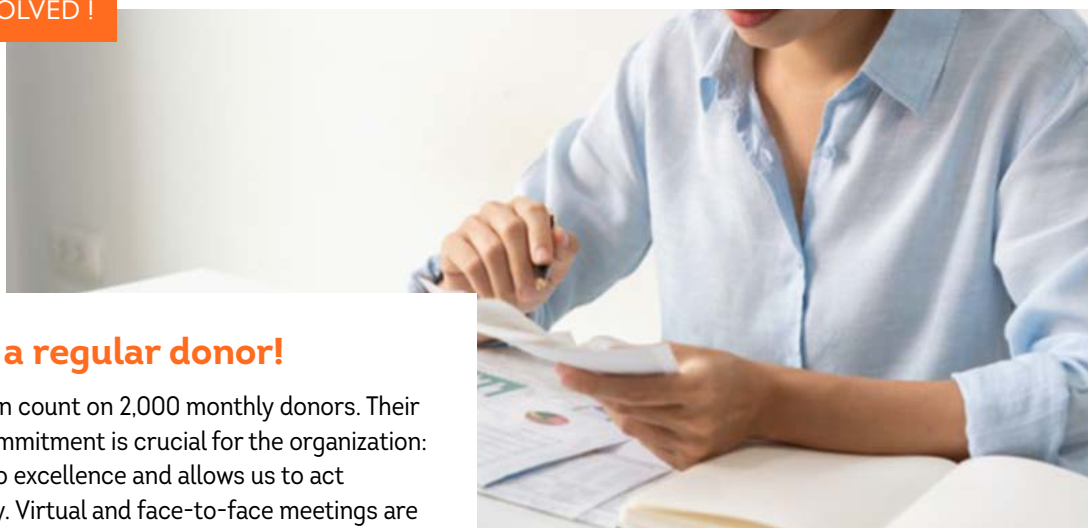
For the past five years, Thalès employees have been contributing to the financing of certain LWB projects thanks to the mechanism of rounding up their salaries. This system, which is very simple to set up thanks to our partner Microdon, has made it possible to finance numerous programs supporting the education of the most vulnerable communities in Marseille and Bordeaux



## Shared product

A shared product is a product for which a portion of the sale price is donated to an association. In 2020, the publishers Robert Laffont and Pocket collaborated to publish the book *Lettre à ce prof qui a changé ma vie - Enseigner la liberté*. In this book, forty writers and personalities share their memories of going to school. All profits were donated to LWB!

GET INVOLVED !



## Become a regular donor!

Today LWB can count on 2,000 monthly donors. Their long-term commitment is crucial for the organization: it pushes us to excellence and allows us to act independently. Virtual and face-to-face meetings are regularly organized to keep our donors informed of our news, our strategy and our upcoming projects.



**Make a donation to support LWB's actions and deduct 66% of the amount of your donation from your on your income tax.**



### A LABEL OF TRUST

LWB is a recipient of the IDEAS label which attests to a good level of compliance of our association with the Good Practice Guide which covers the themes of "governance", "management and financial transparency," and "effectiveness of action".

## The Foundation for Sharing of Knowledge

Connaissance (Foundation for the Sharing of Knowledge) supports actions related to the creation and reinforcement of libraries throughout the world, including projects led by LWB.



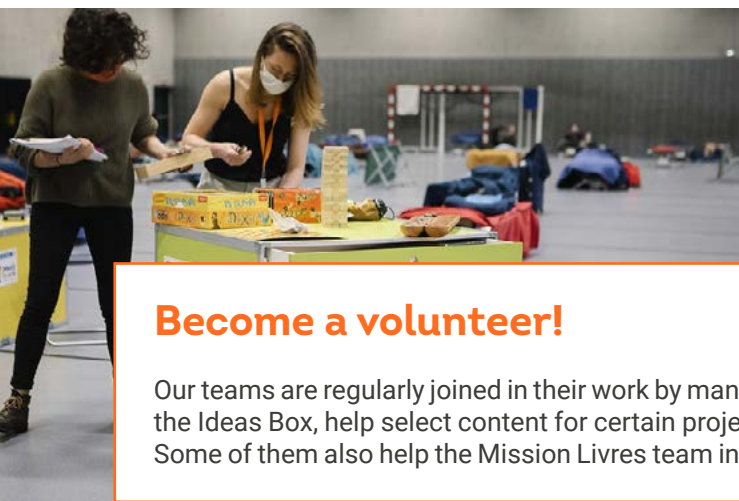
**If you pay the IFI tax, consider a donation to the Fondation for the Sharing of Knowledge and benefit from a tax deduction of 75%, up to 50 000 €.**



*"Every day since I was sixteen, in my radio studio or on a television stage, I say that culture saves the world. It's one thing to say it, it's another to see and witness it. Over the last three years, alongside LWB, I can witness it with words from those whom I've encountered. It's changed my life."*



Augustin Trapenard,  
cultural journalist and ambassador of LWB



@Gabriel Gauffre

## Become a volunteer!

Our teams are regularly joined in their work by many volunteers. Volunteers can help with activities in the Ideas Box, help select content for certain projects, and provide translation and training services. Some of them also help the Mission Livres team in Epône with book collection and sorting activities.

## Give your books to LWB!

Every year, LWB organizes a big national collection in partnership with Fnac during the sustainable development week. For three weeks, all Fnac stores in France become book collection points for the association: Come and give a second life to your books!



en savoir plus : [www.bibliosansfrontieres.org/2020/08/28/grande-collecte-solidaire](http://www.bibliosansfrontieres.org/2020/08/28/grande-collecte-solidaire)

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE TO LWB'S ACTIVITIES?

For more information, please contact

Edouard Delbende

Director of Development and Communication

[edouard.delbende@bibliosansfrontieres.org](mailto:edouard.delbende@bibliosansfrontieres.org)



# Financial report

**16.5**

euros in net balance

**78%**

of budget for social missions

10% for fundraising  
and 12% for administration

**4 millions**

euros of private funding



# A Word from the Treasurer

Julien Sérignac

**Despite the difficult situation, the year 2020 was a year of consolidation for Libraries Without Borders. Our efforts to control expenses and diversify the association's resources have been successful, resulting in an overall positive balance of 16.5 k€ and a current balance of 263 k€, the highest since the creation of LWB.**

**"At the same time, the level of operating grants increased by 13%, reflecting the importance and legitimacy of LWB's mandate."**

The year 2020 was particularly difficult for LWB: the impact of the health crisis on project operations and the strain on financial resources resulted in the cancellation of fundraising events and the postponement of certain projects.

However, the overall level of activity has been maintained, and the management of fixed costs, coupled with the diversification of the association's financial resources, has continued.

Thanks to this effort, LWB has recorded a current balance of 263 K €. The investments made in the previous years have been productive, since the donations collected by the street campaigns have increased by 40% between 2019 and 2020, and the sales of books have almost doubled.

At the same time, the level of operating grants increased by 13%, reflecting the importance and legitimacy of LWB's mandate. The use of funds remains very effective, since out of 100 euros spent in 2020, 78 euros were spent on

social missions, 10 euros on fundraising, and 12 euros on the functioning of the association. The positive balance in 2020 should be seen in the context of the extension and consolidation of LWB's international network.

The associations in Belgium and the United States are also generating net surpluses. An association has been created in Canada, and development prospects are being explored in Eastern Europe. Partnership contracts have been signed between the entities of the international network to coordinate their operations and actions.

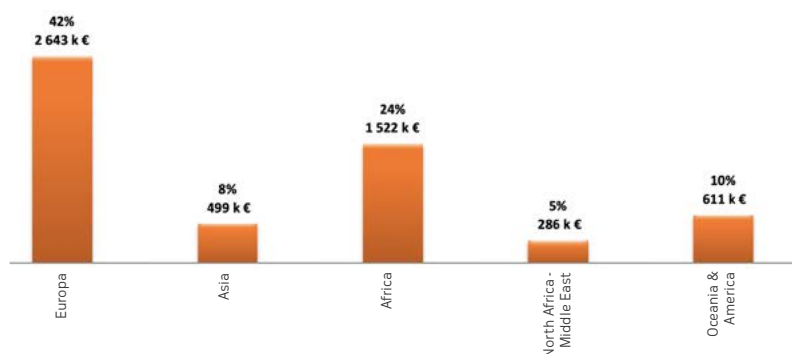
At the same time, the social enterprise Kajou, in which LWB is the main shareholder, has started its activities, with a first capital raising of 200 K € and deployments on the field in Burundi, Cameroon, and Senegal.

The year 2020 thus lays a solid foundation for the growth perspectives that LWB has set for itself in the medium term.

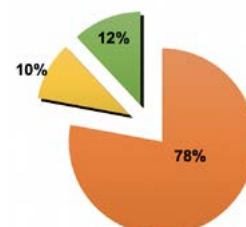


## Essential elements of the financial report

### Geographic Distribution of Solidarity Missions

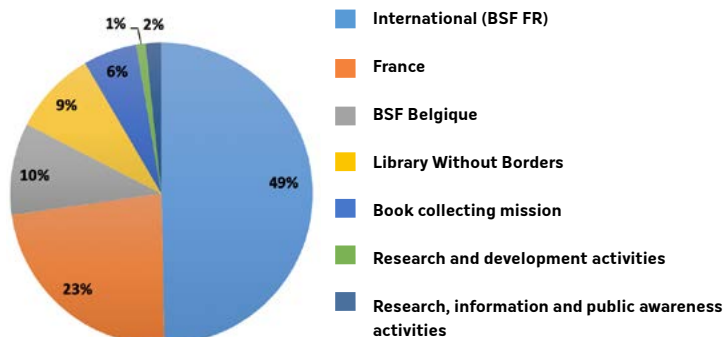


### Staff Distribution



- Social missions
- Public appeal and fundraising expenses
- Administrative costs

### Social Missions



➔ For more information on the financial accounts of **Bibliothèques**

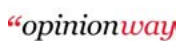
**sans frontières, France**, we invite you to **read the complete financial report**, also available on our website : [www.bibliosansfrontieres.org/](http://www.bibliosansfrontieres.org/)

© Kibuuka Mukisa Oscar AFD – Burundi





## Private partners





## Associative partners





## Public partners





## Ideas Box Founding Partners



*Agir pour le  
développement humain*  
FONDATION PIERRE BELLON

S+ARCK®

## Main partners BSF Belgium

Google.org



SAMSUNG

telenet

Degroof  
Petercam  
Foundation

Up Monizze



innoviris  
.brussels  
we fund your future

FONDATION Up

Wallonie

## Main partners LWB US



Google Fiber



FONDATION  
UEFA pour l'enfance

## Awards and distinctions



SOLVE

Fonds pour  
le civisme en ligne  
de facebook

share.it.[a]



wise awards  
winner 2016

LITERACY  
AWARDS  
LIBRARY  
OF CONGRESS



FFE  
Fondation  
la France s'engage

Google  
Impact Challenge





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Cover picture: ©Kibuuka Mukisa Oscar AFD

Printed on recycled fiber

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