



**Bibliothèques  
Sans Frontières**  
Libraries Without Borders

# OPEN KNOWLEDGE, OPEN POSSIBILITIES

---

ANNUAL REPORT  
21/22



# CONTENTS



OUR ACTION	PAGE 07
OUR TOOLS	PAGE 11
OUR IMPACT	PAGE 15
2021-2022 CRISES: OUR MOBILIZATION FACING EMERGENCY	PAGE 12
2021 HIGHLIGHTS	PAGE 14



THE MEANS OF ACTION PAGE 39



OUR PROJECTS  
PER AREA OF EXPERTISE PAGE 23

- Education & Core Skills
- Access to Cultural Resources for All
- Citizenship & Social Cohesion
- Health Prevention
- Employment & Entrepreneurship



FINANCIAL REPORT PAGE 43





# Looking Back on 20 Years of Action

"Building, everyday, a more open and peaceful world."



PATRICK WEIL

Dear friends,

Bibliothèques Sans Frontières has been active for fifteen years now. What a long way we have come since the day we created this association with the aim of "reinventing book donation". At the time, we realized that while many associations were collecting and redistributing books, few were doing so with a real concern for the quality of the books donated and their relevance to the needs of the beneficiary populations. We thus decided to collect recent books in good condition from public and private actors of the book world - but also from individuals - and then to open our list of titles to schools, universities, associations or libraries that do not have the means to acquire them through traditional channels. This way, we enable our beneficiary organizations to increase their impact tenfold by letting them choose the books they need. In order to support the cultural production of the countries where we operate, we have also made a commitment to systematically buy a quarter of the books supplied to our partners locally. The book collection and donation activity carried out by BSF's "Book Mission" has since grown considerably and we have even managed to balance its economic model thanks to the resale of collected books that do not match to the needs of our projects. The Book Mission has played a central role in BSF's projects in recent months by donating several thousand books for refugee children in France ("My Book Bag" project), by providing our "Micro-libraries" which recreate social bonding in fragile territories, and also by mobilizing extremely quickly to create "emergency libraries" dedicated to psychological support and to welcoming Afghan and Ukrainian refugees.

BSF's first major change occurred in Haiti, after the terrible earthquake of 2010, when the local partners we were working with before the tragedy called for our help. In the field, we discovered that if means existed to cover the primary needs of the victims, nothing was planned to help them recover psychologically and intellectually.

The extraordinary success of our "book kits" created in the emergency with UNICEF made us realize how culture, education and information could also concretely "save lives". With this conviction, we launched two years later the advocacy campaign "The Urgency of Reading" to ensure that international institutions responsible for helping disaster victims recognized access to knowledge as a fundamental right. To make this ambition a reality, we created in 2014 our kit-multimedia library "Ideas Box". A real design feat conceived with Philippe Starck, the Ideas Box makes it possible to create in post-crisis contexts - but also for isolated or underprivileged communities - a mobile cultural and educational center containing books, board games, creative materials, computers, tablets and a cinema.



The creation of the Ideas Box marked a real turning point for BSF: in three years, our association was awarded the Google Impact Challenge, the Ashoka fellowship network, the Fondation la France s'engage fellowship and the World Innovation Summit for Education fellowship, and our activities experienced a very strong growth. **Today, in 24 countries, our 150 Ideas Box receive nearly one million visits per year**, and dozens of new Ideas Box are deployed each year in a wide variety of contexts. In recent months, they have played an important role in protecting and informing Ukrainian refugees at the country's borders, but also in facilitating access to reading in low-resource neighborhoods in France.

"Our tools act like bridges between the most vulnerable and the global knowledge society."

BSF then continued its exploration of the most efficient ways to share knowledge, setting itself the goal of reaching the 50% of the world's population with little or no internet connection. The organization thus embarked on the adventure of "The Offline Internet" and developed mobile and rugged tools to bring quality digital content to disconnected areas. After years of development, field testing, and the creation in 2017 of the "Offline Internet Consortium" now bringing together more than twenty organizations, tens of thousands of people are now seeing their lives transformed on a daily basis thanks to the resources they can access by connecting to our Ideas Cube servers, or by using in their phones the micro-SD cards developed by our social enterprise "Kajou". Whether they are used to fight against school dropout in Senegal, to improve the quality of care in medical centers in Burundi or to promote the autonomy of Rohingya refugee women in Bangladesh, **our tools act like bridges between the most vulnerable and the global knowledge society**, as well as prospects for better futures.

In parallel to the development of our expertise in digital tools, we invested heavily in the creation of a real know-how in the selection and content curation and creation. Our goal is to be able to select - and even create when necessary - the most relevant content to meet the needs of our beneficiaries, regardless of the subject matter or the language of the target audience. This is how we adapted the free science teaching platform Khan Academy into French, which now boasts 11 million users. Similarly, as part of the "Digital Travellers" project, we created thousands of practical information sheets to help people who are not familiar with digital technology get started. Finally, in the aftermath of the 2015 Charlie Hebdo attacks, we produced a mini-series entitled "Questions-réponses sur la laïcité" (Questions and Answers on Secularism) to help teachers and educators address this topic clearly with their audiences. The large library of content collected and created by BSF over the years now includes more than 50,000 references in 36 languages, on the following themes: Education & Core Skills; Access to Cultural Resources for All; Citizenship & Social Cohesion Health Prevention; Employment & Entrepreneurship. It is enriched every day with new knowledge, thanks to the projects we carry out throughout the world.

**2021 has undoubtedly been a pivotal year for BSF.** From an operational perspective, this year saw the launch of large-scale projects, which will become strong markers of our action in the years to come, whether in France ("Microlibraries" to rebuild social cohesion in underprivileged communities, "Pro'Pulsion" to fight against youth unemployment or "Digital Cafés" to fight against the digital divide), or abroad (Global Partnership for Education in Lebanon, Burundi and Iraq or Health Ideas Cube in the Great Lakes region of Africa).



From an organizational perspective, 2021 was also very rich. We have crystallized our vision and ambitions in the "Horizon 2030" strategic plan, whose implementation began in 2021 with the adoption of a new, more modern and dynamic brand identity, and continues in 2022 with a major fundraising round to finance the tripling of our operational volume by 2030. At the root of this ambition is the belief that our tools and methodologies can truly change the world when implemented on a massive scale. And above all, the desire to ensure that this is indeed the case, thanks to the multiplication of our fields of intervention and the strengthening of our advocacy actions.

**"At the root of this ambition is the belief that our tools and methodologies can truly change the world when implemented on a massive scale."**

I would like to thank warmly all the people who work everyday to make BSF what it is: employees, volunteers, administrators, members, our ambassador Augustin Trapenard, and of course our partners and donors. **It is thanks to this extraordinary community of talents and wills that BSF builds, every day, despite the contrary winds, a more open and peaceful world.** It is also thanks to all these people that I am convinced that the next fifteen years of our organization will be just as daring and exciting as those that have just passed.

Patrick Weil  
President of Bibliothèques Sans Frontières



©Manon Levet

# OUR ACTION

**“** *Co-designed with field actors working in the social, humanitarian and cultural sector, BSF projects enable vulnerable communities to learn, dream, connect and build their future.”*

**JÉRÉMY LACHAL**, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF BSF



## OUR METHOD OF INTERVENTION

**Bibliothèques Sans Frontières** empowers people in vulnerable situations by giving them access to education, cultural resources and information

### 1. WE CREATE TOOLS

to give everyone the means to learn, to have fun and to rebuild their lives in far flung communities, humanitarian crises or in the aftermath of conflicts.



### 2. WE SELECT AND DEVELOP CONTENT

tailored to the needs of the beneficiaries and even create content ourselves when necessary.



### 3. WE TRAIN MEDIATORS

at our partner operators' (NGOs, associations, public libraries, etc.) to maximize their impact on the populations through an optimal use of our tools.



## OUR DOMAINS OF INTERVENTION

Based on a library of **56,000 physical and digital resources in 36 languages**, BSF's projects are organized around five main themes:



EDUCATION & CORE SKILLS



ACCESS TO CULTURAL RESOURCES FOR ALL



CITIZENSHIP & SOCIAL COHESION



HEALTH PREVENTION



EMPLOYMENT & ENTREPRENEURSHIP





# OUR TOOLS

“BSF is constantly innovating to create the tools and digital platforms which will help share knowledge with communities who are deprived of it.”

JÉRÉMY LACHAL, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF BSF





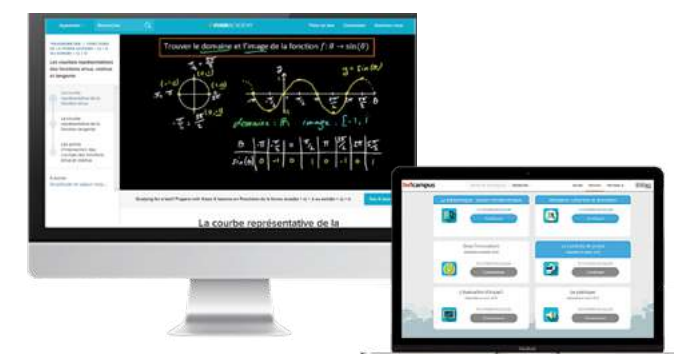
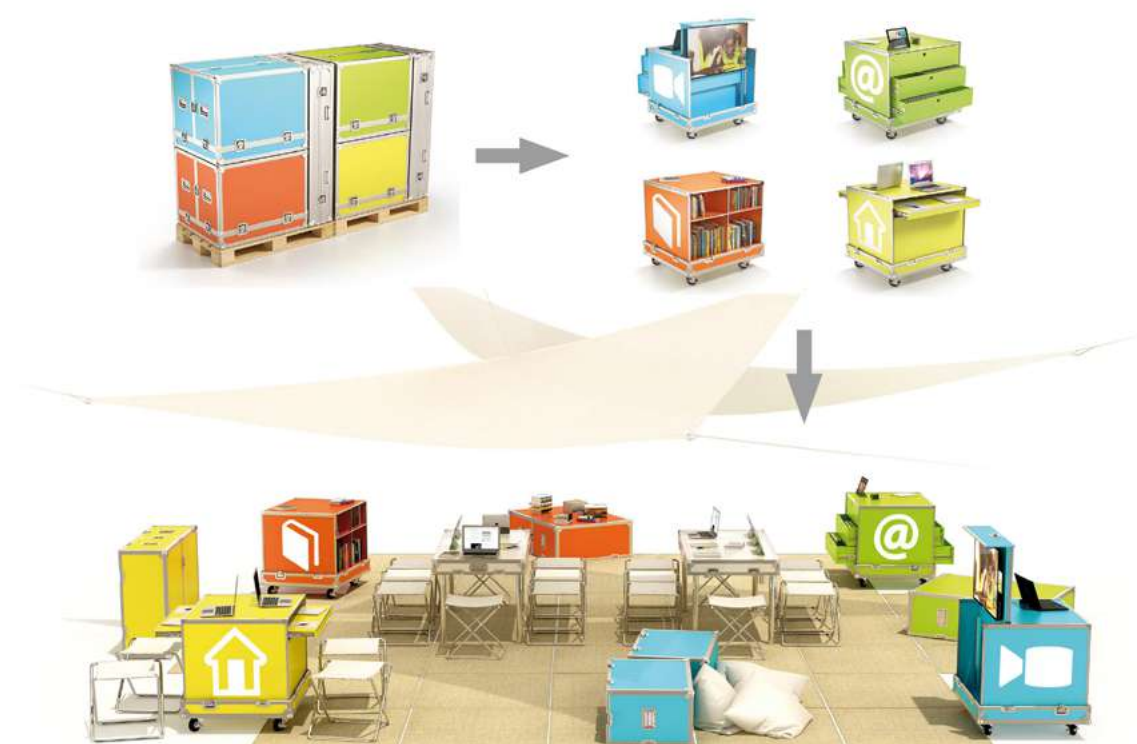
## DO YOU KNOW THE IDEAS BOX?

Designed by Philippe Starck for BSF, the Ideas Box is a kit-mobile multimedia library that can be deployed in less than 20 minutes. With its books, games, computers, tablets, creative material and cinema, it creates a hub of knowledge and can accommodate up to 50 people. In emergency, crisis and conflict situations, as well as in low-resource or far-flung communities around the world, the Ideas Box enables children and adults to learn, connect and build their future.

→ Learn more:  
[www.librarieswithoutborders.org/ideasbox](http://www.librarieswithoutborders.org/ideasbox)



Today, 150 Ideas Box are deployed worldwide, including 35 in France. The content of each Ideas Box is selected according to the needs and the language of the beneficiaries, but also according the objectives of our operational partners.



## OUR DIGITAL PLATFORMS

### BSF THEMA

BSF Thema gives access freely to all of BSF's activity sheets. It enables librarians, teachers and mediators to conduct activities with their audiences in a wide array of domains (literacy, digital inclusion, health prevention...).

→ Learn more: [www.bsfthema.org](http://www.bsfthema.org)

### DIGITAL TRAVELLERS

This platform is intended for associations, communities and public libraries that wish to help their users acquire basic computer skills and master the digital tools of everyday life.

→ Learn more:  
[www.voyageursdunumerique.org](http://www.voyageursdunumerique.org)

### KHAN ACADEMY

BSF has been adapting and translating into French the American learning platform Khan Academy since 2013. Entirely free, the platform supports French-speaking students and teachers with thousands of exercises and video lessons on math and science, from elementary to high school.

→ Learn more:  
[www.bibliosansfrontieres.org/khanacademy](http://www.bibliosansfrontieres.org/khanacademy)

### BSF CAMPUS

BSF Campus offers French-speaking librarians and cultural entrepreneurs online courses to strengthen their skills (welcoming migrant audiences, mediation, management of cultural projects, etc.).

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

### THE IDEAS CUBE

The Ideas Cube is a battery powered digital library. It works without an internet connection and provides access to thousands of educational and cultural contents in the most remote areas.

→ Learn more:  
[www.librarieswithoutborders.org/ideas-cube](http://www.librarieswithoutborders.org/ideas-cube)



### BSF'S « BOOK MISSION »

Each year, BSF collects nearly 800,000 books from cultural institutions, book professionals and individuals in France. Sorted and referenced by the team and volunteers at our collection center in Épône, nearby Paris, they are then sent all over the world to our projects, or are donated destined to libraries, schools and non-profits that do not have the means to equip themselves through the traditional channels.

When they do not meet the needs of our projects or our partners, the books are sold by BSF on the second-hand market, notably via the solidarity platform Label Emmaüs. Profits made contribute to the financing of BSF's activities and allow us to buy books locally in order to contribute to the local book economy.





#### « THE LAB », BSF'S RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER

BSF's Lab develops solutions based on *Offline Internet* technology to bring digital content to populations living in disconnected areas.

In 2018, BSF participated in the creation of the Offline Internet Consortium. Twenty organizations are now working together to find tailored solutions and develop specific content to serve communities who do not have access to the Internet.

# 1/3

Share of the population who have never used the internet  
(source: ITU)



#### KAJOU, BSF'S SOCIAL BUSINESS

Kajou distributes digital information and educational content to populations with little or no Internet access, in local languages and without requiring any internet connection.

Kajou has developed an innovative solution of micro SD cards full of educational and cultural content (education, health, agriculture, etc.) that can be inserted into phones and transform them into digital libraries or campuses **without the need for an Internet connection**

*"Kajou's ambition is the same as BSF's: enabling as many people as possible to have access to useful content to improve their lives. The means, however, are slightly different: to raise funds for product development and allow for the direct distribution of cards to businesses and individuals, setting up a private company made more sense..."*

JÉRÉMY LACHAL, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF BSF

→ Learn more: [www.kajou.io/en](http://www.kajou.io/en)

#### KAJOU'S KEY FIGURES

**42 079** Kajou users in 2021  
for **10 810** cards in circulation

Following the fundraising in 2021,  
Kajou is **52%** owned by BSF

In 2021, Kajou cards were mostly  
distributed in Senegal **(70%)**  
and Burundi **(28%)**

**58%** of Kajou users are teenagers  
and young adults between 15 and 25  
years old

**46%** of Kajou users are women

# OUR IMPACT

“Libraries are places where opportunities arise, where the world can be accessed and changed!”

MUY-CHENG PEICH, BSF'S DIRECTOR OF  
EDUCATION AND CONTENT

# 03





**58**  
countries  
of intervention  
Since 2007



**150**  
employees  
in 9 countries



**1,6M**  
beneficiaries  
Since 2007



**442 500**  
books sent by the  
"Books Mission"  
In 33 countries since 2007



#### BSF INTERNATIONAL HQ (Montreuil, France)

#### 5 NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS:

- BSF Belgium
- BSF Canada
- BSF Italia
- BSF Switzerland
- LWB US

#### 5 OPERATIONAL OFFICES DEPENDING FROM BSF INTERNATIONAL:

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

#### AMERICAS

Brazil  
Colombia  
United States  
Haiti  
Nicaragua  
Peru

#### MOYEN ORIENT

Middle East  
Iraq

Jordan  
Lebanon  
Turkey

#### EUROPE

Germany  
Belgium  
Finland  
France  
Greece  
Italy

Moldova  
Netherlands  
Poland  
United Kingdom  
Ukraine

#### AFRICA

South Africa  
Angola  
Benin  
Burkina Faso

Burundi  
Cameroon  
Comoros  
Côte d'Ivoire  
Djibouti  
Ethiopia  
Gabon  
Ghana  
Guinea-Conakry  
Kenya  
Madagascar

Mali  
Morocco  
Mauritania  
Niger  
Uganda  
Central African  
Republic  
Democratic  
Republic of  
Congo  
Republic of  
Congo

#### ASIA & OCEANIA

Rwanda  
Senegal  
Tanzania  
Chad  
Togo  
Tunisia

Australia  
Azerbaijan  
Bangladesh

Georgia  
India  
Malaysia  
Nepal  
Sri Lanka

## OUR AMBITION: HORIZON 2030

The relevance and quality of BSF's action are today attested by the numerous projects carried out in partnership with the largest French and international agencies and organizations. Through its « Horizon 2030 » strategic plan, BSF intends to accelerate its development in order to trigger a systemic change in favor of access to knowledge for the most vulnerable, in the face of increasing social, cultural and economic divides.

BSF's "Horizon 2030" plan is based on four pillars:

### 1 Reach

Increasing the number of people reached by our actions around the world

### 2 Systemic change

Becoming catalysts for a global change in favor of educational and cultural inclusion

### 3 Innovation

Inventing and deploying new tools to connect the most vulnerable to the global knowledge society

### 4 Sustainability

Developing a fully sustainable model from an environmental, economic and social perspective

## NEW IDENTITY, SAME FIGHT

In 2021, BSF opened a new chapter. With the help of FutureBrand Paris, we crystallized our identity and ambition in a new brand identity, which conveys more clearly the values of commitment, optimism and innovation. While our mandate remains unchanged, it is now reflected in a new signature:

**Open knowledge,  
Open possibilities**



CRISES 2021-2022

# Our mobilization facing emergency

Complementary to primary needs, the protection, orientation and psychological support of refugees fleeing conflict must be top priorities. BSF gives refugees the means to face the difficulties encountered on the road and help them create solutions to the challenges they face, to help them recover their psychological and intellectual integrity.

## 17years

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

## x2,5

Increase in the number of refugees and internally displaced people in the world since 2010  
(source: UNHCR)

## Protecting and welcoming refugees

### 1 PROVIDING PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT

People fleeing war can be psychologically vulnerable, or even traumatized. By creating safe and attractive places, BSF gives them the opportunity to escape their psychological suffering for a while, to resist boredom and to keep faith in the future. The activities offered in our spaces enable refugees express their traumas, so they can be taken care of appropriately by professionals.

### 2 FIGHTING MISINFORMATION

Rumors and the dissemination of false information can have devastating effects on already fragile populations. BSF allows refugees to access verified content, reconnect to the world and make the right decisions at the most critical moments.

### 3 EASING INTEGRATION IN HOST COUNTRIES

In host countries, BSF works in emergency shelters, socio-cultural centers and public libraries to help refugees familiarize with the local language and culture. Animated by qualified mediators, our libraries provide access to all the information refugees need to exercise their rights, access housing or find a job.

## UKRAINE: RESPONDING TO THE EMERGENCY

# 30%

Percentage of refugees who may be suffering from mental health disorders or post-traumatic stress disorder  
(source: IOM)

The Russian offensive in Ukraine, which began in February 2022, has thrown millions of Ukrainians onto the roads. In this unprecedented context, BSF quickly deployed Ideas Box libraries on the Ukrainian border, in Poland and in Moldova, to support and guide refugees in emergency and transit centers.

The Ideas Box libraries, run by local actors, provide families with novels and children's books in Ukrainian, board games, creative materials, a television and computers to offer them a moment of relief in the midst of their hardships.

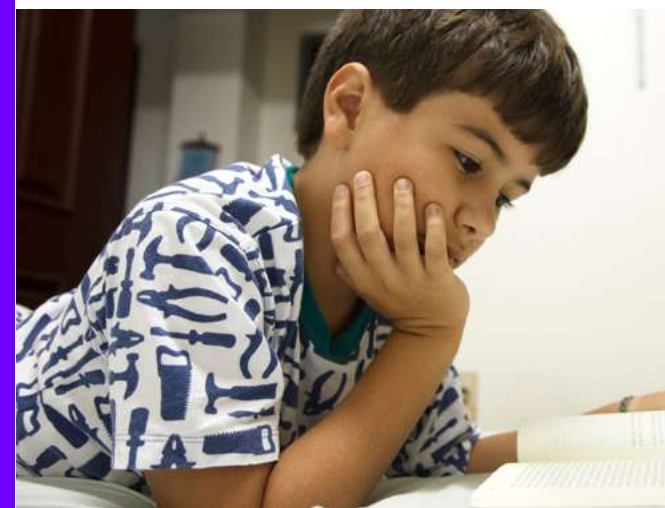
Thanks to the generosity of its partners and community, BSF has raised more than two million euros to respond to the Ukrainian emergency. In addition to the ten Ideas Box deployed on the borders of Ukraine, BSF also:

- **Set up « emergency libraries »** in refugee shelters in France, Belgium and Italy to help with psychological reconstruction and language learning.
- **Created specific resources** for teachers, volunteers and mediators accompanying the integration of Ukrainian refugees in Western Europe.
- **Developed a mobile application** to teach French to Ukrainian refugees, based on the "Kajou" technology.

# “

*"In the face of the horrors of war, our Ideas Box allow women and children to escape a daily life that no longer makes sense."*

MANON TANGUY, PROJECT CONSULTANT  
AT BSF



## AN EMERGENCY LIBRARY FOR AFGHAN REFUGEES

Following the takeover of Kabul by the Taliban in Afghanistan in August 2021, BSF created in record time an emergency library in a hotel south of Paris housing 450 Afghan refugees. More than a thousand books and games were selected by our teams, mainly for children. Set up in partnership with the association France terre d'asile, in charge of managing the hotel, this project helped families fight stress and start learning French. Alongside psychologists and educators, families also received help with their asylum-seeking administrative process.



# 2021 Highlights

## JANUARY

« My Book Bag » project:  
Handover ceremony with  
refugee children in the  
Paris Area

## FEBRUARY

Senegal: opening of  
BSF's operational  
office in Dakar

## APRIL

Italy: Creation of the  
national association  
BSF Italia

## SEPTEMBER

Set up of an « Emergency  
Library » in a Parisian hotel  
hosting Afghan refugees

Announcement of the first  
15 « Microlibraries » call  
for projects laureates

## OCTOBER

300,000 books collected  
during the « Great  
Solidarity Book Drive »  
in Fnac stores

## NOVEMBER

First Solidarity Design Jam  
in the salons of the Paris  
City Hall

Unveiling of the new BSF  
brand identity

## DECEMBER

Reading is a French  
« Great National Cause »:  
BSF joins the Alliance for  
Reading

Launch of the « Creating  
is Resisting » campaign



BSF's First « Design Jam »



« My Book Bag » Project

©Manon Levat



A « Microlibraries » call  
for projects laureate



Opening of BSF's Dakar Office



The « Great Solidarity Book Drive » in Fnac Stores



Launch of the « Creating is Resisting » campaign



Creation of the BSF Italia association



Reading is declared « French National Cause »

©Mary Lou Mauricio





# OUR PROJETS

PER AREA OF EXPERTISE

# 04



# Education & Core skills

©Aldo Sperber

WE PROVIDE MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES WITH QUALITY EDUCATIONAL SOLUTIONS

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. BSF 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.

## FRANCE

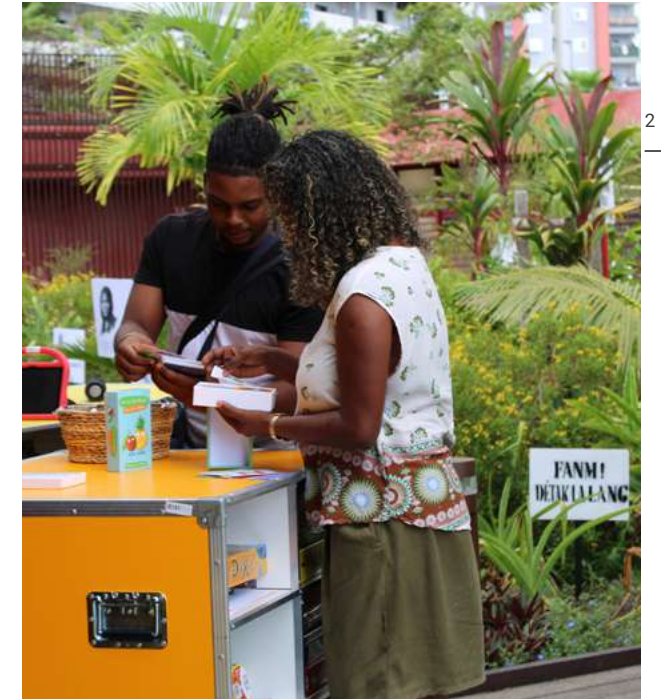
### Fighting against illiteracy on the Reunion Island

The French Red Cross, accompanied by BSF, is deploying an Ideas Box in two low-resource neighborhoods and in residential facilities in Saint-Denis. The teams of the CRF offer educational and playful activities to promote cultural expression and sharing between participants.

Actions and activities are also adapted to include residents with a handicap or with reading difficulties.

# 23%

Percentage of the population on the Reunion Island in a situation of illiteracy (source: Prefecture of La Reunion)



©Ingrid Varon-Croix-Rouge



**WHAT ABOUT « ILLECTRONISM »?** Illectronism is the difficulty or impossibility for a person to use basic digital tools. According to INSEE, this phenomenon affects 17% of the French population, i.e. 13 million people.

At a time when administrative procedures and social relationships are increasingly carried out on the Internet, not mastering digital uses and computer tools has many

consequences. The elderly and the underprivileged people are particularly affected by illectronism, which threatens them to lose their autonomy, become isolated and expose them to misinformation. For the youth, risks lie in their exposure to cyber-harassment and difficulty to find a job. BSF focuses on these specific target groups to help them become -or stay- fully active and empowered digital citizens.

### Promoting digital autonomy and community binding in rural coffe shops

With the support of the FDJ Foundation, BSF is setting up digital workshops in several cafés in Haute-Garonne to facilitate the digital inclusion of residents. How to create an email address? How to avoid being hacked? How to do your administrative procedures online? Every week, Capgemini mediators trained by BSF accompany the cafés' customers so that they can become autonomous in the use of digital tools, surf the web safely and be fully integrated in today's society.

# 3/4

Share of the population with no degree in France who do not consider themselves competent to use a computer (source: ARCEP)



*"We too often tend think that illectronism only affects the elderly. Although they do account for the majority of our « Digital Cafés » guests, young people also frequently come to look for answers to their administrative problems, get help for writing a CV and apply for jobs. The audience is definitively inter-generational!"*

**PAULINE GADÉA**, COORDINATOR OF THE "DIGITAL CAFÉS" PROJECT





# 9%

Share of 15-year-olds in OECD countries who are able to distinguish between a "fact" and an "opinion" in a simple text (source: PISA)

## FRANCE

Help public librarians raise awareness about media and information literacy

BSF accompanied thirty librarians in Loiret, Loir-Et-Cher, Haute-Garonne and Hérault in the creation of an educational kit about Media and Information Literacy (MIL). Aimed at public libraries, this kit offers free resources and activity sheets adapted to the needs of their public to raise awareness on this topic. Thanks to the renewed support of the French Ministry of Culture in 2022, the kit will be enriched with new themes - such as scientific misinformation - and structured in courses to facilitate the handling of activities.



@Programme Ceres /IECD

## MADAGASCAR

Improving the quality of education for middle school students in rural areas

In rural areas, only 1% of Malagasy youth of the same age group reach the baccalaureate level. To improve the quality of education in the country, BSF deploys an Ideas Box on the university campus of Fianarantsoa and five Ideas Cube in several boarding schools in the region, run by the IECD and the PROMES association. Trained by our teams, teachers and educators use our tools and contents to improve their teaching practices and fight against school dropout.

## BELGIUM

Promote STEAM materials in schools

Belgium is lagging behind when it comes to number of graduates in STEAM ("Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics"): only 17% of young Belgians have a degree in these subjects, compared to 26% at European level. To meet this challenge, BSF Belgium created, in partnership with Samsung, the series "Les Questionnautes", a program of educational videos for students aged 8 to 12 years old to promote STEAM disciplines, stimulate curiosity and create vocations.



# Access to Cultural Resources for All

WE CREATE OFF-SITE LIBRARIES TO REACH AUDIENCES THAT DO NOT USE THEM

The fight for a universal access to cultural resources is also a fight for emancipation and strengthened dignity of the most marginalized. Convinced that libraries have an essential role to play in this struggle, BSF helps them become accessible to the many. To do this, we help libraries reinvent their shape, mission, and the way they are perceived by the public. All over the world, we partner with librarians, mediators and teachers to amplify their impact on communities who have little access to books and reading.





©Mary-Lou Mauricio

### Setting up libraries in public housing projects

« **New Chapters** »: BSF created a library in a public housing project in Malzéville, in the Nancy area, to foster social cohesion between the residents of the neighborhood. Every week, families and residents meet there to spend a convivial moment, read and play together.

**52 %**

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

Animated by BSF, the library has an Ideas Cube that complements the book collection and gives users access to hundreds of digital contents. In partnership with local actors, BSF also organizes thematic activities such as « book hunts », writing games and « book hunts » workshops. BSF also created 3 libraries of this kind in the suburbs of Longwy.

### A bag of books for dreaming and integration

« **My Book Bag** »: BSF 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...

Thanks to the support of the Ministry of Culture, thousands of refugee children recently enrolled in « non-French speaking classes » in the Paris and Amiens Academy will be able to benefit from this project in 2022.

## FRANCE

### « Micro-libraries » to recreate links in under-resourced areas

To give as many people as possible access to books and reading and build social cohesion in France's underprivileged areas, BSF, the Cultura Foundation and the Ministry of Culture support the creation of several « micro-libraries » throughout the country. Following a call for projects, fifteen winning structures have each received an endowment of 1,500 books from the BSF catalog and personalized support to help them run their micro-library. The winners will work in synergy with local partners and public libraries to complement the existing cultural offer.

**11 M**

**Number of people in France who do not have access to public reading facilities in their municipality** (source: Ministry of Culture)

In 2022 and 2023, new awardees will consolidate this collective of micro-libraries.



©Manon Levat

### Reaching out to new audiences in Avignon

Avignon's public library network acquired and Ideas Box to strengthen its public reading policy. The Ideas Box enables the staff of the local libraries, trained by our teams, to set up workshops outside the library walls for people with limited access to books and reading. This project is also an opportunity for these libraries to share their experiences and to showcase their resources and expertise in mediation services of the territory.



**READING, A GREAT NATIONAL CAUSE** BSF and sixty-eight other associations, organizations and federations, gathered in the « Alliance for Reading » have been awarded the « Great National Cause » label by the French Prime Minister in 2021.

**The Alliance aims at demonstrating the power of reading as a catalyst of social inclusion and social cohesion, everywhere in France.**

## CAMEROON

### Motorcycle libraries to fight against obscurantism



In Maroua, two motorcycle libraries are traveling the roads to meet the inhabitants in areas where the terrorist movement Boko Haram is active. Supported by BSF and the local association Lire au Sahel, this project - called Moota Andal, "vehicle of knowledge" in Fulani - helps inhabitants access books reading material in a region marked by the absence of libraries and by a record illiteracy rate (more than one young person out of four can neither read nor write). On board these tricycles: an Ideas Cube and several hundred books selected according to the places visited, their audiences and the activities proposed.

*"Reading must regain a central place in the lives of people. We need to reach out to them, directly where they live, provide access to books in isolated neighborhoods, in schools and in markets."*

**DAVID WANEDAM, PRESIDENT OF LIRE AU SAHEL**



# Citizenship & social cohesion

WE 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 communication 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, BSF 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.



@Gabriel Gauffre

## FRANCE

### Supporting the reintegration of homeless people in 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. BSF 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. In 2022, the Ideas Box was deployed in a former shopping center at the Porte de Saint-Cloud, which was converted into a shelter during the winter.

# 90%

Percentage of homeless people who feel their primary needs are human contact and being listened to (source: La Cloche)



### Promoting the youth's social inclusion in Mayotte

BSF and the French Red Cross are deploying an Ideas Box to strengthen the youth's social inclusion in Koungou, Dembéni, Bandréle and Sada. Supporting the Red Cross' educational actions, the Ideas Box gives young people the means to express themselves, to understand each other and to build self-confidence.

# 47,2%

Youth unemployment rate in Mayotte (source: INSEE)

### Encourage dialogue between the youth and their elders

# 91%

Share of French people who believe that intergenerational ties are essential for personal development (source: La France Mutualiste)

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. In 2022, new videos will be produced in several cities: Villepinte, Toul, Arcachon, Marseille and Koungou in Mayotte.





## PORTO RICO

### Restoring confidence in communities

Since hurricane Maria hit the island, Libraries Without Borders US has been working alongside residents in Puerto Rico to help rebuild the island and have communities connect again. After deploying an Ideas Box in 2018, our teams created three connected education centers to give young people access to quality digital content. In these secure spaces, they can learn how to read, join educational activities and find sustainable solutions to the issues they face (agriculture, tourism, mental health, etc.).



## BURUNDI, IRAQ, LEBANON

### Reinforcing the autonomy of refugees and hosts



**40 %**

Percentage of children among the global refugee and displaced population (source: UNHCR)

With the support of the French Development Agency (AFD), BSF 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
- Contribute to the protection and psychosocial wellbeing of users, especially the youngest
- Promote social cohesion and peace building for exiled and host populations.

To do this, BSF and its local operational partners are deploying three Ideas Box in Lebanon, one in Irak and nine in Burundi, aimed at various audiences. Workshops on rights awareness, teaching French as a foreign language (FLE) and education in relation to the school curricula of the three countries are regularly offered. To date, the project has benefited nearly 40,000 people: children and youth aged 8 to 25, adults, leaders and members of the communities involved, education and protection professionals, etc.

## BANGLADESH

### Safe spaces in Rohingya refugee camps

In the Rohingya refugee camps of Cox's Bazar district, BSF deploys eight Ideas Box and thirty Ideas Cubes. These libraries enable children and teenagers to learn how to read and write, in a context where illiteracy affects 70% of the population. Local mediators also regularly organize writing, theater and photography workshops for the Rohingya and Bangladeshi communities.

In 2022, BSF and the UEFA Foundation for Children organized the second edition of the "Refugees eSport Cup" in the Kutupalong camp, the only eSport competition in a refugee camp. About 50 young Rohingya girls and boys participated in the event.

*"Video games help players meet, bond, and escape temporarily from a difficult daily life. They stimulate the players' imagination and have them dive in other worlds, just as books and films do. Above all, it helps them gain self-confidence, a necessary first step to rebuild their lives..."*

**SYED AREFIN BAYAZID**, BSF MISSION OFFICER IN BANGLADESH



©Aldo Sperber

# Health Prevention

WE REDUCE INEQUALITIES IN ACCESS TO INFORMATION RELATED TO HEALTH

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. With its tools, BSF supports health actors, teachers and mediators in the implementation of awareness-raising actions with the most vulnerable publics.





©Aldo Sperber

# 7 years

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

## FRANCE

### Health awareness-raising in underserved communities

With the CNP Assurances Foundation, BSF has been developing Health Ideas Box programs since 2017 to strengthen the quality of health-related information among adolescents and young adults. The greater Bouloonnais 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.



*"The Health Ideas Box promotes a universal access to health prevention messages, encourages speaking out and sharing experiences and can have an impact on people's behaviors. It helps fight stereotypes and build youth's self confidence during this crucial stage of their life."*

**ISABELLE MILLET**, GENERAL MANAGER OF THE CNP ASSURANCES FOUNDATION

### Strengthening preventive health care in French Guiana

BSF deploys seven Ideas Cube to facilitate the work of health actors in the Lower and Upper Maroni. Teams from AIDES and the Perinatal Health Network of French Guiana use the contents of the digital libraries to carry out their awareness-raising activities and to strengthen the health knowledge of isolated populations. With the renewed support of the Nehs Foundation, BSF will continue to support mediators in the field in 2022.

## BURUNDI

### Breaking the taboo of sexuality

With the support of the Dutch Embassy, BSF is deploying 155 Ideas Cube and 8,000 Kajou cards in youth centers, associations and community centers throughout the country to facilitate access to sexual and reproductive health information for 100,000 youth and adolescents. In total, 1,250 resources were selected with the Ministry of Public Health and AIDS Control and made available in French and Kirundi.

Accompanied by BSF, many mediators and health professionals use this content to set up workshops on various themes: maternity, HIV prevention, family planning, the fight against unwanted pregnancies and the prevention of gender-based violence. Resources on entrepreneurship and innovation are also available.



## CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

### Supporting victims of gender-based violence

To improve the care of women victims of gender-based violence, the French Red Cross asked BSF to deploy an Ideas Cube for the staff and volunteers of the Central African Red Cross. Thanks to the resources of the digital library, they can strengthen their knowledge and skills on the subject, improve the reception and support of victims and set up awareness-raising workshops for the inhabitants of Bangui.

# 69%

Increase of reports of  
injuries to women and  
children in the Central  
African Republic since the  
beginning of the Covid-19  
pandemic (source: UN)





# Employment & Entrepreneurship

WE INCREASE THE EMPLOYABILITY AND FINANCIAL AUTONOMY OF MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES

Having a job is essential to ensure independence and freedom. For this reason, BSF strengthens the knowledge and skills of young people excluded from the education system and the job market, so that they can have confidence in themselves and prepare for their future - regardless of their gender or socio-economic background. In our spaces, young people have access to resources and mediators who help them prepare for interviews, rewrite their CVs and strengthen their digital skills to support their integration.

© Kibuka Mukisa Oscar AFD

## FRANCE



Accompanying young people towards employment in rural areas

With the support of the Ministry of Solidarity and Health, BSF is deploying Ideas Box Pro'pulsion to welcome and guide young people who dropped out of school and are unemployed in several departments: Côte-d'Or, Guyana, Meurthe-et-Moselle and Haute-Garonne. In these friendly, connected spaces, young people can discuss their aspirations and career plans with local mediators - trained by our teams - and get some information about available trainings and job opportunities. They are offered tailor-made courses to help them remobilize and widen their horizons.

# 1,5 M

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

*"Games, educational activities, but also entrepreneurship, health, life skills or digital modules: the Pro'Pulsion Ideas Box is a powerful instrument to promote equal opportunities."*

**NIELS PLANEL**, CITY COUNCILOR IN CHARGE OF SOCIAL INCLUSION AND DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY IN SEMUR-EN-AUXOIS

Facilitating the integration of migrants in Paris

Thanks to the support of FNAC and Un rien c'est tout, BSF deploys an Ideas Box to promote the social inclusion of refugees hosted in the Poniatowski refugee shelter, managed by the Aurore association. Activities are organized daily to help them learn French, better understand French culture and habits, and to reinforce their knowledge on access to rights, housing or employment.

## BURUNDI, UGANDA & BENIN

Fostering the emergence of young leaders

Together with Unicef, BSF deploys the UpShift social entrepreneurship program in several sub-Saharan African countries. By providing them with four Ideas Cube and 3,000 Kajou cards, we are accompanying nearly 50,000 adolescents and young adults aged 18 to 25 to give them the means to acquire professional skills in various areas: agriculture, crafts, etc. Facilitators set up training workshops so that young people can identify the challenges in their communities and create sustainable and innovative solutions to the problems they face.







## DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

### Supporting the quality of training in educational centers

In partnership with ENABEL, BSF supports apprenticeships in four provinces of the country: Kisangani, Kasai, South Ubangi and Katanga. To this end, we 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.

# 1/3

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



## SENEGAL

### Strengthening access to education and employment for the youth

In Senegal, educational institutions' lack of means is a major cause of youth unemployment. In response to this situation, BSF and its social enterprise Kajou are implementing an ambitious program to support education, employment and entrepreneurship for 9,500 young people in the regions of Dakar, Saint-Louis, Kolda and Ziguinchor.

# 35,2%

**Success rate in baccalaureate in Senegal in 2018**

(source: Ministry of Education in Senegal)

BSF and Kajou distributed 1,000 Kajou cards to high school students in the Dakar suburbs, 2,000 to young entrepreneurs and 6,500 to students of the Virtual University of Senegal (UVS). The latter also have access to Ideas Cube in the physical sites of the UVS in Kolda, Podor, Bignona, Ziguinchor and Keur Massar.

Thanks to these tools, young people benefit from thousands of school, awareness and information resources related to the Senegalese context (advice on preparing for the baccalaureate, job descriptions, brochures presenting university courses, etc.).

# THE MEANS OF ACTION





# Take Action with Us

For the past 14 years, BSF has been committed to building strong, tailor-made and longterm relationships with its partners and its community. Whether you are a company or an individual, there are many ways to contribute to a smarter, more open and peaceful world!

## ENGAGE YOUR COMPANY!



### Financial support

Each year, several of BSF's "major partners" commit 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 Chanel Foundation. Thanks to their loyalty, BSF can invest in the long run in improving its impact by financing research and development projects



### A label of trust

BSF has held the IDEAS label since 2015, which attests that it applies the highest standards in terms of governance, financial management and impact assessment.

### Sponsorship of skills or in kind

BSF regularly benefits from external donations, thanks to partner companies that provide:

- **In-kind sponsorship:** donation of supplies, computer equipment or books,
- **Skills sponsorship:** 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 BSF gives the right to a tax deduction for the sponsoring company, up to 60% of the amount of the donation, within the legal limits.**



### The Solidarity Design Jam

In 2021, BSF organized its first "Solidarity Design Jam" in the salons of the Paris City Hall. During one day, the employees of several partner companies imagined - alongside designers, inspiring guests and BSF operational staff - the new projects that will make knowledge accessible to all tomorrow. In view of the success of this first edition, BSF has decided to perpetuate the operation.



### Payroll donation and year-end campaign

The employees of some of BSF's partner companies contribute to the financing of the association's projects by setting up salaries « rounding up » mechanisms and end-of year fundraising campaigns. These operations, which are very easy to implement thanks to our partners Microdon and Benevity, have contributed to the financing of numerous projects, in France and abroad.



### « Shared Product »

A shared product is a product for which a part of the sale price is donated to a cause. In 2021, the Flammarion publishing house and the stationery brand « Le Papier fait de la résistance » collaborated with BSF in this sense with *La bibliothèque des écrivains* and a solidarity notebook *Jamais sans mon carnet*.

## GET INVOLVED!

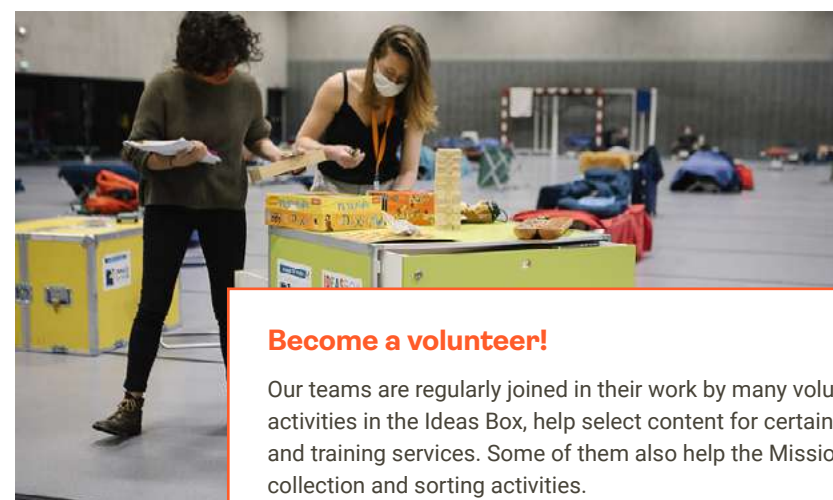


### Become a regular donor!

Today, BSF 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 BSF's actions and deduct 66% of the amount of your donation from your on your income tax.**



### 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.



### Foundation for Sharing of Knowledge

Created at the initiative of BSF's President Patrick Weil, the Knowledge Sharing Foundation supports actions related to the creation and strengthening of libraries throughout the world, including projects led by BSF.



**If you are subject to the IFI, make a donation to the Fondation pour le Partage de la Connaissance and benefit from a tax deduction of 75% of your donation, up to 50 000 €.**



© MaryLou

### BSF's Friends' Book Club

In 2021, BSF created the "Cercle littéraire des amis de BSF", a series of aperitif-dinners which brings together every three months the major donors and the closest supporters of the association around a guest author.

Moderated by Augustin Trapenard, the discussion addresses the writer's career path, as well as her vision of the role of culture in the face of societal issues. Leïla Slimani, Marc Dugain and David Foenkinos were the first guests.



### A major annual book drive in Fnac stores

Each year, BSF organizes a major national book drive in partnership with Fnac. For three weeks, between the end of September and the beginning of October, all Fnac stores in France become book collection points for the association: everyone can drop off their books to benefit our actions.



© Pierre Duyckaerts

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE  
TO BSF'S ACTIVITIES?**

For more information, please contact  
Clémence Bocel

[clemence.bocel@bibliosansfrontieres.org](mailto:clemence.bocel@bibliosansfrontieres.org)

# FINANCIAL REPORT



## A WORD FROM THE TREASURER

Julien Sérignac

In 2021, Bibliothèques Sans Frontières recorded a positive net income for the second consecutive year, at the historic level of 159K€. This performance is explained by the significant development of the association's activities, which demonstrates the relevance of its actions and underlines the success of the efforts made over the past three years to diversify resources while controlling expenses.

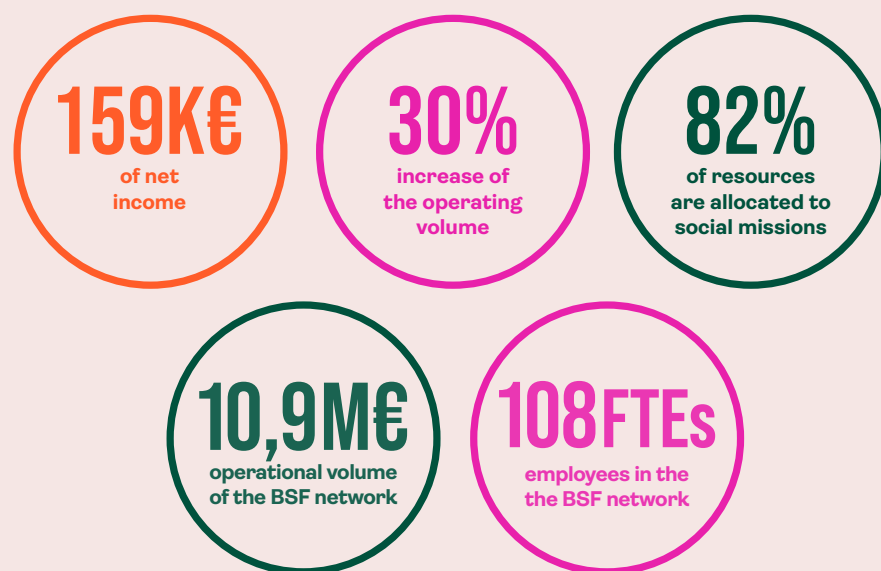
The gross income is up by 30% compared to 2020 and amounts to 8.5 million euros. In particular, operating grants, which represent 65% of BSF's funding, have increased by the same amount, notably thanks to the conclusion of important partnerships in Burundi, Bangladesh and Madagascar. For the first time since its creation, the book sales activity has also recorded a surplus result, with a total amount of sales of 724K€ in 2021 against 537K€ in 2020.

BSF's growth continues to extend to its entire ecosystem, with the creation in 2021 of a new association in Italy and a rapid pace of development of the activities of the Belgian and American associations, which recorded results of 9K€ and 208K\$ respectively. The social enterprise Kajou, of which BSF is the main shareholder, has also raised 1013K€ in capital, which will allow the company to secure its development for the next 2 years and to intensify its deployment in West Africa...

**"This strong development continues to be based on a sound use of resources, of which 82% are directed to BSF's social missions."**

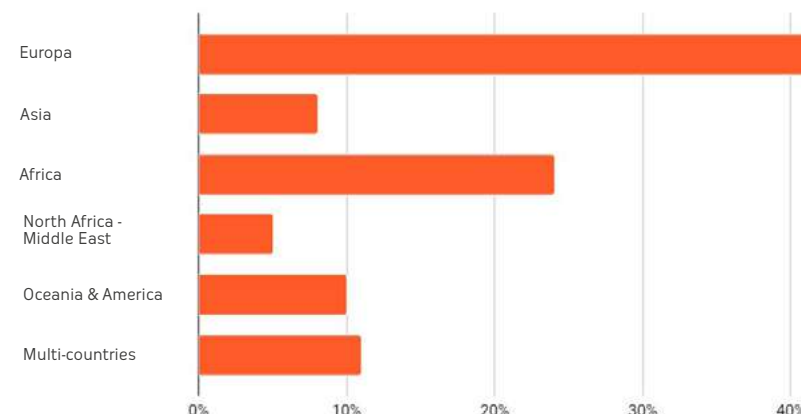
This strong development continues to be based on a sound use of resources, of which 82% are directed to BSF's social missions, while fundraising represents 6% of this use and the association's operations 12%.

If the year 2020 had laid a solid foundation for BSF's growth, the 2021 result confirms this trend. It also secures BSF's growth objective for the years to come. Indeed, 2021 marks an important turning point in the development of the association, which has raised more than 2 million euros in associative securities. In this context, the positive financial results for the year 2021 foreshadow the changes expected within the framework of the implementation of the 10-year growth strategy which aims at tripling its budget in order to reach 3 million beneficiaries and better respond to emergencies.

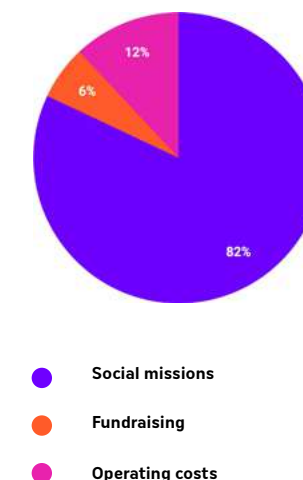


## FINANCIAL REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

### Geographical distribution of solidarity missions



### Distribution of resources



### Social missions



-> For more information on Libraries Without Borders accounts

France, we invite you to read [the financial report](#) also available on our website.









PUBLIC PARTNERS

OPERATIONAL PARTNERS

Abubef  
ACELEM - Association Culturelle d'Espaces Lecture et d'Ecriture en Méditerranée -  
ACTED  
AFDG  
Aides  
AMEL  
Apprentis d'Auteuil  
Ashoka  
Association des Guides du Burundi  
Aurore  
Auxfin  
Care  
Caritas Bangladesh  
Caritas Germany  
Centre seruka  
CFIBD  
COBRACED  
Collectif Yaga  
Consortium Jeunesse Sénégal  
Cordaid  
CRIPS Ile-de-France  
Croix-Rouge Française  
DRC  
Ecole Alsacienne  
Ecole Belge du Burundi

Emmaüs Solidarité  
Familles rurales  
Fédération Léo Lagrange  
Fondation Caritas  
Fondation Ocalenie  
Fondation Stamm  
Fondation Terre des Hommes  
France Terre d'Asile  
FVS Amis des enfants  
Giriyuja (asbl)  
GIZ au Bénin  
GVC  
Handicap International  
Ibby  
IECD  
IFLA - International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions  
IRC  
Jimbere (asbl)  
JRS  
Khan Academy  
La Fokal  
La Halle des Douves  
Label Emmaüs  
Lihowa (asbl)  
Lire au Sahel  
Messo

Mots et Merveilles  
NRC  
Nturengaho (asbl)  
Partnership For Public Access  
PEAB (asbl)  
Play International  
Population Media Center  
PSI  
Recoded  
Réseau des Femmes pour les Droits et la Paix (RDC)  
Réseau périnatal de Guyane  
RNJ+  
Samu social de Paris  
Save The Children  
Secours Catholique - Caritas France  
Sharenet  
Solidarité Laïque  
Soprad  
Synergie Psychosociale  
Communautaire (RDC)  
Tangram  
Umunyinya (asbl)  
UnisCité  
War Child Holland

AWARDS & DISTINCTIONS





**COORDINATION**

Edouard Delbende

**EDITORIAL**

Quentin Chevalier

**DESIGN**

Manuella Bitor  
Coline Plançon

Cover photo: Bibliothèques Sans Frontières  
© Bibliothèques Sans Frontières - V1122022





# **Bibliothèques Sans Frontières**

Libraries Without Borders

info@bibliosansfrontieres.org  
8-10 rue de Valmy, 93100 Montreuil, France

**WWW.BIBLIOSANSFRONTIERES.ORG**

