



**Bibliothèques
Sans Frontières**
Libraries Without Borders

2023 RE- PORT

**Open knowledge
Open possibilities**

Contents

Foreword from the President	01
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01

Presentation	03
---------------------	-----------

About us.....	04
What we do	08
The BSF network	14
Our impact.....	16

02

Where we act	19
---------------------	-----------

In crisis contexts.....	20
In developping regions.....	24
To promote equal opportunities	30

03

Our commitments	35
------------------------	-----------

Building a sustainable model.....	36
Supporting us	38
Our partners.....	42

04

Financial highlights	47
-----------------------------	-----------

A word from the Treasurer	48
---------------------------------	----



“ We may not be able to stop wars, but together we can prepare for peace”.



Foreword from our President

Patrick Weil,
President and founder of Bibliothèques Sans Frontières

Dear Friends,

Once again, there were many crises in 2023, and once again, Bibliothèques Sans Frontières staff adapted to new contexts and provided assistance to the most vulnerable people around the world.

In Türkiye and Morocco, after the deadly earthquakes, in Ukraine, alongside those affected by the war, but also in Afghanistan, Niger and the Democratic Republic of Congo, **we took action to ensure that every child, woman and man could continue to have access to culture, education, and information.**

Every programme we run in these particularly demanding contexts reinforces the conviction that we have had for 16 years: **access to knowledge in all its forms is a unique way of encouraging resistance, emancipation, resilience and peace.** The difference between life and survival is reflected in the capacity of each human being to cultivate themselves.

Despite growing political instability, this year we also opened our second regional hub in West Africa, with an ambitious project involving our offline internet technology for the Senegalese Ministry of Education. In Ivory Coast, fifteen Ideas Box will soon be available to provide young people with careers' guidance in employment agencies.

And in France, where we continue to implement a quarter of our activities, **the role of access to knowledge in the struggle against economic, social, educational and territorial inequality** is as relevant as

ever. This is why we have made media and information literacy a priority, training and equipping those involved in the culture, education and mediation sectors.

Our flagship programmes to promote reading for all have also continued to develop with, for example, the opening this year of our first micro-libraries - 'microbiblis' - in the French overseas territories!

2023 was also the tenth anniversary of the French version of Khan Academy, which we adapted. This fun-to-use, free American platform gives French-speaking teachers, pupils, educators and parents access to thousands of lessons and exercises in science and mathematics. **So that success is within everyone's reach!**

In the same spirit, given the growing use of artificial intelligence in education, BSF has positioned itself in favour of inclusive and frugal innovation, because, as Aristotle said, 'Progress is only worthwhile if it is shared by all'.

We can be proud of these achievements. They are the result of our collaborators' unfailing commitment on the five continents, as well as that of the volunteers, friends and partners who trust and support us day in and day out. Our warm thanks to them all.

We may not be able to stop wars, but together **we can prepare for peace.** Bibliothèques Sans Frontières will always be present on the ground to do our part.



Part I

PRESENTATION

1.
About us

2.
**What we
do**

3.
**The BSF
network**

4.
**Our
impact**

About us

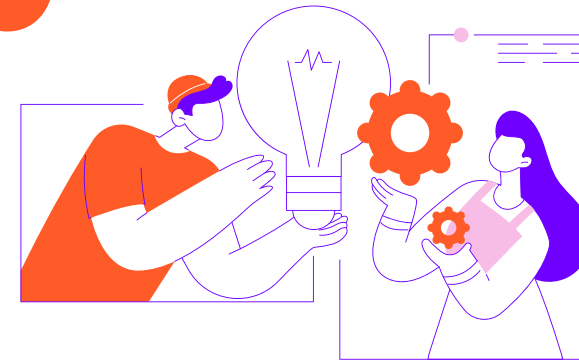
Bibliothèques Sans Frontières has been promoting universal access to knowledge since 2007.

Our innovative projects promote culture, education and information as **vectors of resistance, resilience and emancipation**. Thanks to our innovative tools, our thousands of resources in 27 languages and our expertise in mediation, we work with people in crisis and development contexts, and in situations where there are major inequalities, in 22 countries, including France.

We provide our expertise in a wide range of areas, including:



Through our work, we contribute to achieve eight of the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals established by the United Nations.



INNOVATIVE TOOLS

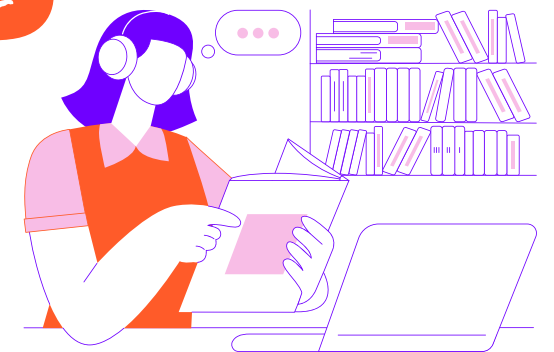
We design innovative tools that can be used by people even in the most complex environments. We use technology and design to increase their social impact by breaking down the physical and economic barriers that limit access to knowledge.

We campaign for frugal and inclusive innovation that leaves no one by the wayside.

We also give priority to 'open source' solutions so that anyone can contribute to them and help to build an open and inclusive knowledge-based society.

We place beneficiaries' needs at the centre of our project designs.

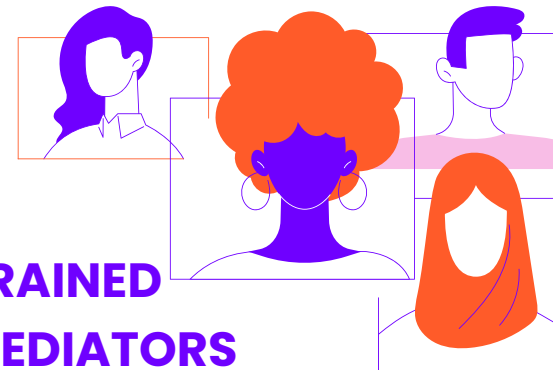
From the initial assessment to the impact assessment, via decisions about library content, co-building and iteration with the field are central to our approach.



TAILORED CONTENTS

We continue to update a library of 60 000 physical and digital resources in 27 languages to meet the needs of the people we support, depending on the context and our partners' objectives.

3



TRAINED MEDIATORS

We identify and train 'information champions'. We help librarians, educators and facilitators to use our tools and resources so that they can continue to implement our projects autonomously in the long term.

We are convinced that it is not enough to share our resources, and that it is also necessary to know how to use them. That is why, in addition to access, the issue of accessibility is central in our projects.

By training mediators, who then, in turn, will be able to transmit their knowledge to others, we feed into a virtuous circle that gets richer and stronger.

Our story

2007

Creation of *Bibliothèques Sans Frontières*

2008

Opening of the BSF book warehouse near to Paris and first international shipments of books to Georgia

2010

Set up of emergency libraries in Haïti

2009

Creation of *Libraries Without Borders* in the United States 🇺🇸

2012

International advocacy campaign, *The Urgency of Reading* calling for the intellectual dimension of human beings to be considered a priority in emergency aid contexts

2013

BSF produces the French version of the American teaching platform, *Khan Academy*

2015

- Creation of the *Ideas Cube*, BSF's library of digital resources, which can be accessed even without an internet connection
- BSF wins the *Google Impact Challenge* with the *Ideas Box*

2014

- The *Ideas Box*, designed by Philippe Starck is deployed for the first time in refugee camps in Burundi
- The *Ouvrons + les bibliothèques* campaign calls for libraries in France to be opened in the evenings, on Sundays and during school holidays

2016

- Following the migration crisis caused by the war in Syria, BSF conducts operations along migration routes in Europe
- Creation of the web series *Questions-réponses sur la laïcité* following the 2015 terrorist attacks in France

2017

- Twenty *Ideas Box* deployed in Colombia in the context of the peace process between the Colombian government and the FARC
- Creation of *Bibliothèques Sans Frontières Belgique* 🇧🇪

2020

Covid 19: awareness raising, tutoring and live broadcasts on social networks

2019

Creation of *Kajou*, BSF's social enterprise

2018

- The journalist Augustin Trapenard becomes BSF's ambassador
- BSF conducts operations in the Rohingya refugee camps in Bangladesh

2021

Creation of *Biblioteche Senza Frontiere* in Italy 🇮🇹

2022

- War in Ukraine: emergency mobilisation of BSF in Europe
- Creation of *Karibu*, a free application for learning everyday and professional French using our learners native languages (Ukrainian, Arabic or Pashto)



Jérémie Lachal,
CEO of BSF

“2023 was the first year that we fully implemented our ‘Horizon 2030’ strategic plan. Significant investment allowed us to develop quickly and make progress towards our objective: allowing 3 million people to have access to knowledge within 7 years.

To achieve this, and to bring about genuine systemic change, all our energy, expertise and capacity to innovate is geared towards a sustainable economic, environmental and social model”.

What we do

Bibliothèques Sans Frontières creates tools, applications and digital platforms that make knowledge available to those who do not normally have access to it.

THE IDEAS BOX

Designed by Philippe Starck for BSF in 2014, the Ideas Box is a mobile ‘pop up’ multimedia library. It can be set up in twenty minutes, creating a colorful, welcoming and safe space of approximately 100 m², with, of course, books, but also games, computers and tablets, creative equipment, and a ‘cinema’. The content of each Ideas Box is unique as it is adapted to the needs of the beneficiaries, depending on their age, language, disabilities, etc., and the objectives of our operational partners.

“When you have lost everything, when you have nothing left, the only thing that can't be taken from you is the ability to dream”.

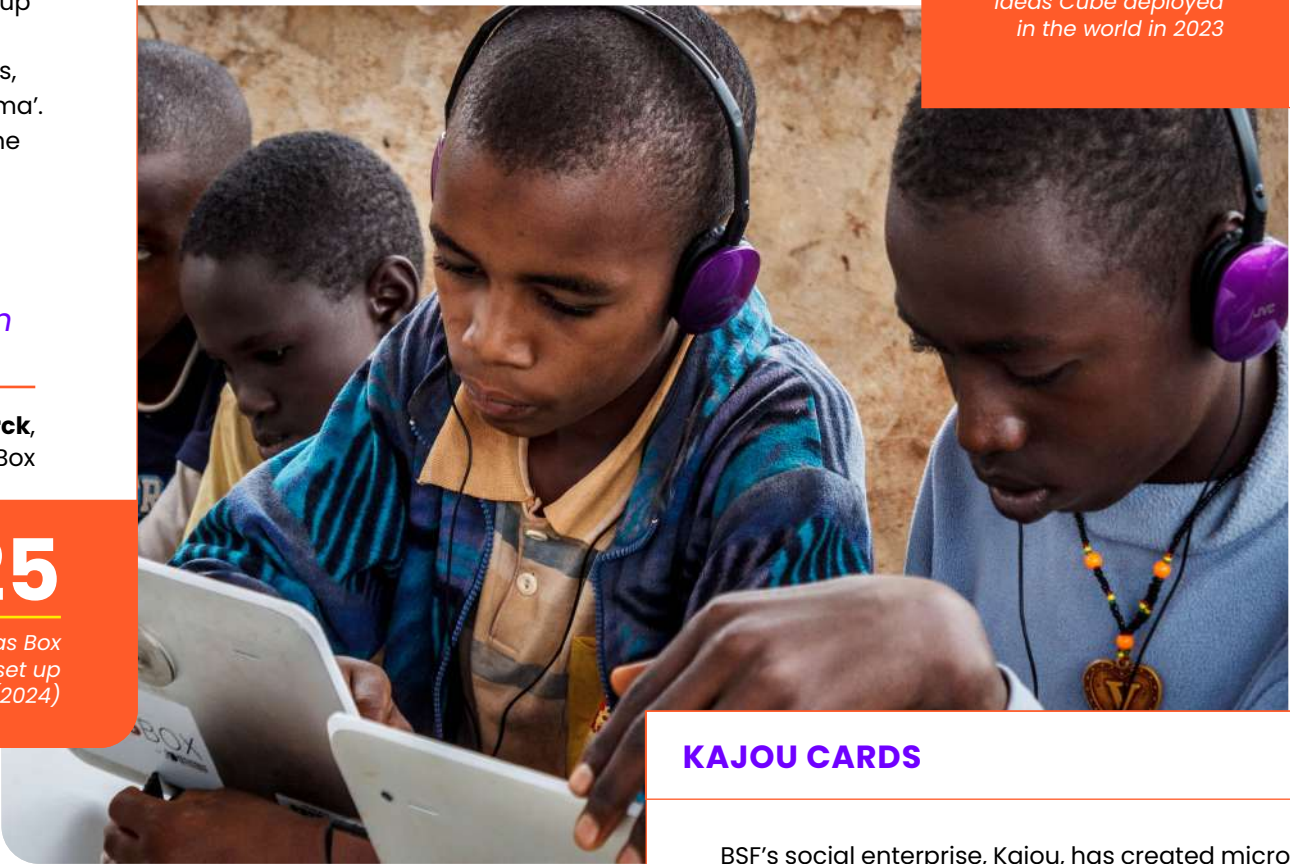
Philippe Starck,
designer of the Ideas Box

173

Ideas Box deployed
throughout the world
(2024)

25

countries where Ideas Box
have been set up
(2024)



THE IDEAS CUBE

The Ideas Cube is a small computer server that contains a digital multimedia library. Once it is set up, it provides access to thousands of resources and training courses from the BSF catalogue, without needing an internet connection.

169

Ideas Cube deployed
in the world in 2023



KAJOU CARDS

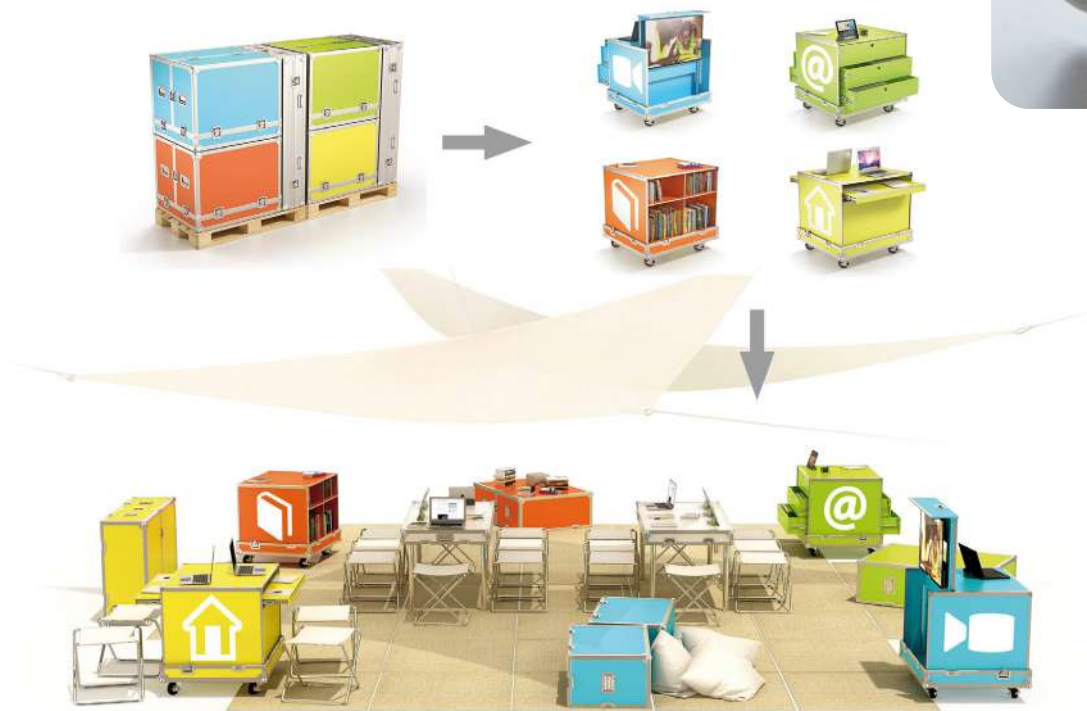
BSF's social enterprise, Kajou, has created microSD cards containing educational content which can be directly inserted into mobile phones to transform them into thematic libraries without the need for an internet connection and without using mobile data.

43 800

Kajou cards in use

3 million

resources viewed in 2023



KARIBU

Created by BSF in 2022, initially for Ukrainian refugees, Karibu is a free smartphone application to help people learn French quickly and autonomously with explanations in Arabic, Pashto or Ukrainian. Having been developed with teachers, it helps users to communicate on everyday subjects (administrative procedures, finding a job, etc.) and introduces them to French culture. Its unique approach, with explanations in the learner's native language, make it a simple tool to use which complements face-to-face French classes.



Scan to download
< from Google Play
from the App store >



10 000

users of Karibu

83%

did not speak French
before using Karibu

92%

state that they have
improved their oral
comprehension of French
thanks to Karibu

KHAN ACADEMY

Since 2013, BSF has produced a French version of the American teaching platform, Khan Academy. The platform is free and provides thousands of exercises and video lessons on mathematics and science, from primary to high school level. It currently allows hundreds of thousands of French-speaking pupils to make progress at their own pace. Since 2023, BSF Belgique has also produced a Dutch version of the platform.

<https://fr.khanacademy.org>

52M

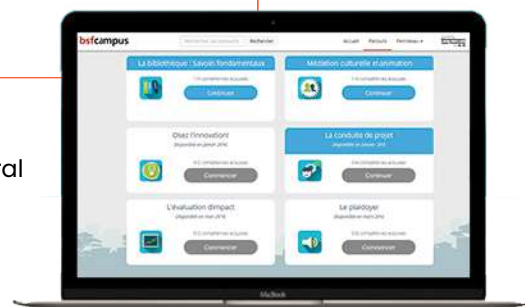
views of the French
version since 2013



BSF CAMPUS

BSF Campus provides French-speaking librarians and cultural actors with free online courses on working with migrants, cultural mediation, project management, etc.

www.bsfcampus.org



'QUESTIONS-RÉPONSES LAÏCITÉ'

In collaboration with legal experts, teachers and historians, BSF created a web series, a book and a toolkit to help educators understand, explain and defend the origins and principles of secularism in France.

questions-reponses-laicite.fr

12

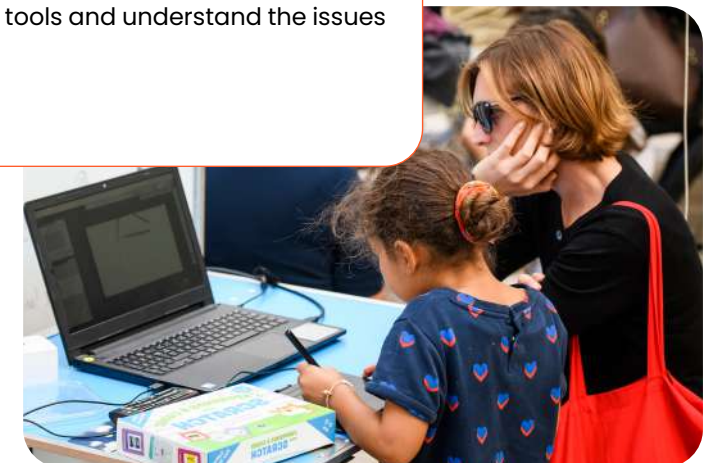
Question & Answer
videos



DIGITAL TRAVELLERS

The 'Digital Travellers' platform ('Les Voyageurs du Numérique') provides hundreds of activities aimed at associations, local authorities and libraries who want to help people learn to use everyday digital tools and understand the issues at stake in relation to digital literacy.

www.voyageursdunumerique.org



BSF THEMA

All of BSF's activity files are available in several languages, for free, on BSF Thema. They can be used by librarians, teachers and mediators to facilitate activities: literacy, media literacy, radio, etc.

www.bsfthema.org

1 366

activity files on BSF
Thema

FOCUS ON

BOOKS COLLECTION MISSION

Every year, BSF collects 800 000 books from cultural institutions, book industry, companies and the general public in France. These books are then sorted by volunteers and staff at BSF's social enterprise, Solibri, within the collection centre near Paris.

Since
2007

535 000

books sent to 38 countries

615

beneficiary organisations
in the world

In
2023

30

regular volunteers
involved
in sorting books

> 40

companies involved in the
collection and sorting
of books, during
our 'Solidarity days'

Where do the books donated to BSF go?



The books in too poor condition to be given a second life are recycled.

What we do



3 QUESTIONS TO

Julien Morali

BSF Tools and Digital Services Director

Given that a third of the world's population doesn't have access to the internet, what is BSF doing to reach these people?

"The fact that there is little access to the internet in certain remote regions inevitably creates a digital divide that hinders economic and social development, and limits access to education. BSF's Research and Development department develops technological solutions to share educational and cultural resources with the people living in areas where there is little or no access to internet".

What were the biggest projects for the Digital Services department in 2023?

"With support from ShareIT, our staff worked on the redesign of our Off-Line Internet Platform (OLIP). This platform, which was created by BSF, allows users of our tools to gain access to thousands of digital resources via the browser on their smartphone, tablet or computer, thanks to the lightweight web server (Raspberry Pi) used to deliver the resources. In parallel, we also made changes to the ergonomics of the Ideas Cube to make it more robust and easy to use, while enhancing its performance in terms of battery life, management of simultaneous connections and technical stability".

What are the prospects for the coming years?

"From now till 2030, our work will be focused on three main objectives:

- We will continue to develop the Off-Line Internet Platform, particularly on the Ideas Cube server, so that it can be independent of the related technical solution - so that any device used by the general public can be transformed into a lightweight server, whether it's a phone, a tablet or a laptop, for example.
- We also want to make our catalogue of resources, which is currently limited to our partners, open to all, so that everyone can add new resources and contribute to sharing knowledge widely.
- And with the opening of new operational offices in the world, we need to help make our colleagues in the field as autonomous as possible, so we are working on new tools to support them".

Viewing artificial intelligence as an opportunity!

Convinced that the artificial intelligence revolution could allow more equitable access to knowledge throughout the world, BSF is collaborating with a consortium of experts to design ethical solutions that meet the learning and training needs of our beneficiaries.

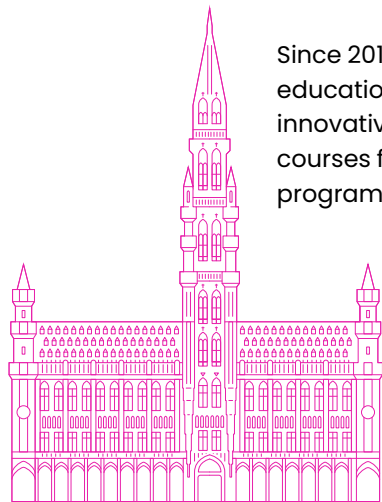
"There is a risk that artificial intelligence will become a luxury beyond the reach of the least well-off, pushing them further still from the global knowledge economy and creating a new digital divide".

Op-ed by Jérémy Lachal,
Pierre-Carl Langlais and Anastasia
Stasenko published in *Le Monde*
(26 December 2023)

The BSF network

BSF International has a number of 'sister' organisations who help us to promote universal access to knowledge, based on the specific situation in their countries.

BSF Belgique : learning about and using digital technology



Since 2017 in Belgium, our staff have focused their efforts on reducing educational and social inequality and the digital divide. They have created innovative educational resources and have provided tailor-made training courses for teachers, mediators and citizens in connection with different programmes.

- ▶ 'Les Cyber Héros': training courses for parents and teachers, events for children, and educational resources to tackle issues to do with digital citizenship in an informal manner: online security, cyber-bullying, etc.
- ▶ 'Khan Academy': translation and adaptation to the Belgian context, training and promotion of the platform among teachers and their pupils.
- ▶ 'Les Questionnautes' : activities and a light-hearted educational web series on science to stimulate the curiosity of young people and inspire them to go further.

www.bibliosansfrontieres.be

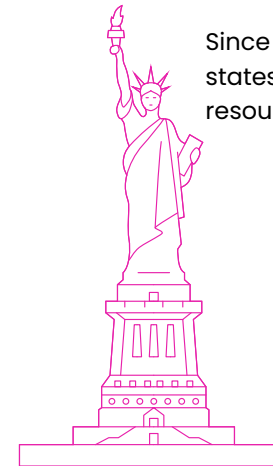
BSF Suisse : the network is expanding!

Officially launched in 2023 with an initial book collection event, BSF Suisse contributes locally to promote equal access to knowledge. Thanks to a dynamic Board of Directors, the first micro libraries should be launched soon!

www.bibliosansfrontieres.org/bsf-suisse-fr



LWB US: promoting access to information



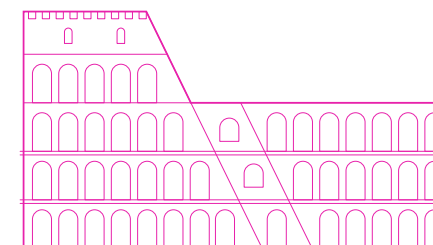
Since 2014, Bibliothèques Sans Frontières US has set up programmes in several states to provide disadvantaged communities with innovative educational resources. In 2023, it specifically focused on:

- ▶ Providing public libraries with support to ensure that inhabitants, and particularly those in isolated areas, had sustainable access to essential resources and information.
- ▶ Improving access to information about mental healthcare among the black community in Baltimore by distributing educational resources in hairdressers and beauty parlours.
- ▶ Working with communities in Loiza, Puerto Rico, to enable the documentation, preservation and transmission of their cultural heritage.

www.librarieswithoutborders.us

BSF Italia: helping to integrate the most vulnerable people

Since its creation in 2021, BSF Italia has promoted the education and socioprofessional integration of the most vulnerable people. For example, it has created educational and cultural spaces to help migrants integrate and rebuild their lives.



- ▶ Emergency micro-libraries in refugee centres in Turin to allow the people staying there to rest and plan for the future after the war and the trauma of exile.
- ▶ Multi-lingual micro-libraries to tackle the problem of children dropping out of the multicultural schools in the suburbs of Milan, Rome and Turin.
- ▶ The 'Check IT OUT' programme to help pupils in the fight against disinformation implemented in school libraries in four regions of the country.

www.bibliotechesenzafrontiere.it

Our impact

Present on all five continents through a network of associations and teams working with local partners, BSF works with as many beneficiaries as possible in the hope of achieving a more systemic impact.

22

countries where we were present in 2023

497 504

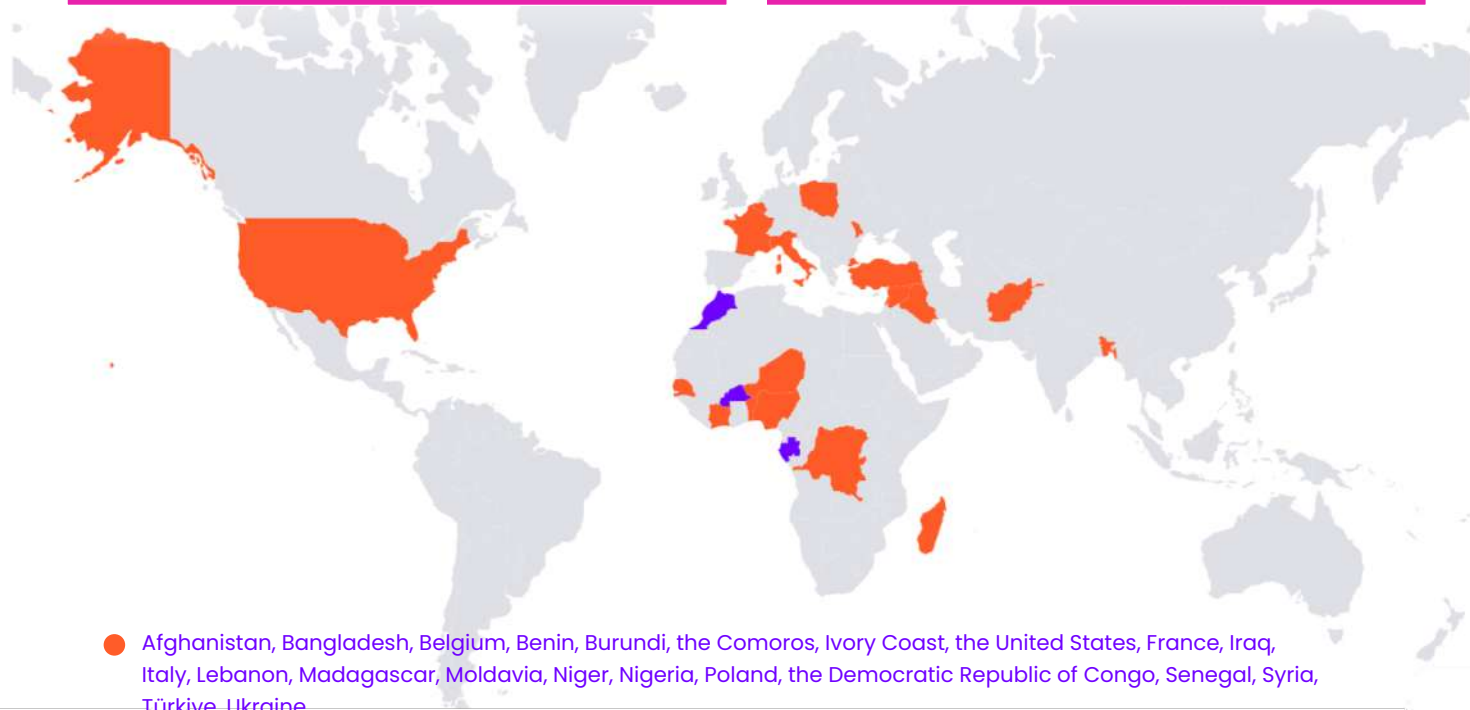
beneficiaries in 2023

178

staff in 16 countries in 2023
+ 20 staff for Kajou + 13 staff for Solibri

3 651

partner librarians, mediators and teachers trained in 2023



BSF International Headquarters in France (Montreuil)

11 operational offices
attached to
BSF International

- Bangladesh (Cox's Bazar)
- Burkina Faso (Ouagadougou)
- Burundi (Bujumbura)
- Ivory Coast (Abidjan)
- French overseas territories (Guyane)
- Jordan (Amman)
- Moldavia (Chişinău)
- Nigeria (Maiduguri)
- Democratic Republic of Congo (Kinshasa)
- Senegal (Dakar)
- Ukraine (Lviv)

5 national associations

members of
the BSF
network

- BSF Belgium
- BSF Canada
- BSF Italy
- BSF Switzerland
- LWB United States

Highlights of 2023



February

- Opening of the new West African Regional Office in Senegal (photo)



March

- Second edition of 'Au Bonheur des lettres', the literary show that supports BSF's actions for girls and women (photo)
- Opening of the new office in the Democratic Republic of Congo



July/August

- The Ideas Box is part of an exhibition about survivors of conflict-related sexual violence at the United Nations headquarters in New York (photo)



June

- A world record! BSF supports the 'Grande Dictée des Champs-Élysées' event (photo)



September

- 10th anniversary of the French version of Khan Academy, adapted by BSF
- 252 000 books are donated to BSF via the 'Grande collecte solidaire Fnac' (photo)
- Creation of the association BSF Suisse
- Oksana Boiarynova of the Ukrainian Library Association comes to Paris



October

- Opening of the BSF office in Ivory Coast
- Launch of the 'Art de lire' line of products developed by Sézane and Octobre to raise funds for BSF (photo)



November

- The third edition of the charity 'Design Jam' at the 'Hôtel de Ville' in Paris (photo)
- BSF is present at major fairs in the autumn ('Salon des maires', 'Salon du livre et de la presse jeunesse', 'Salon des professionnels de l'innovation éducative')



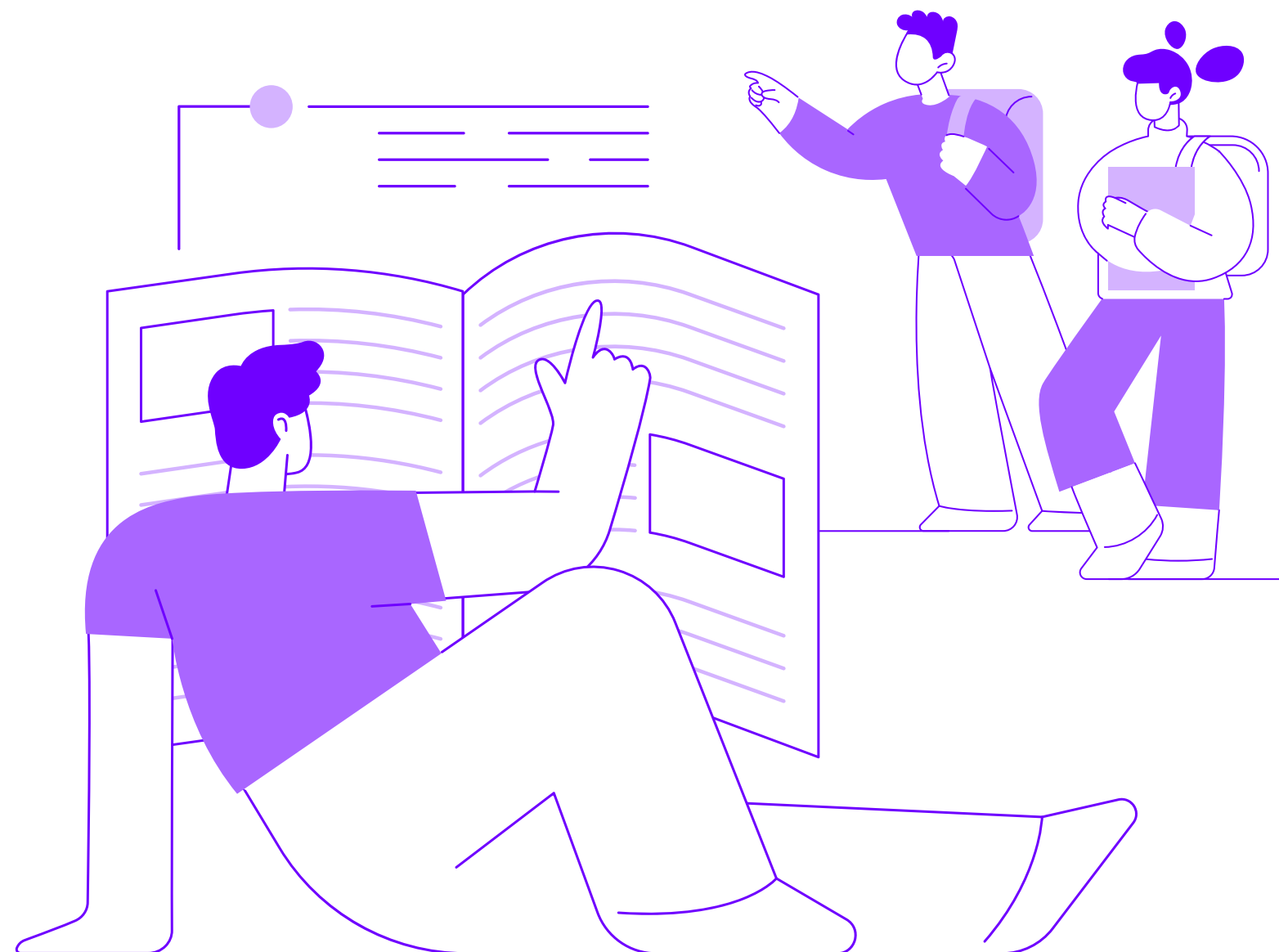
Part II

WHERE WE ACT

1.
In crisis contexts

2.
**In developping
regions**

3.
**To promote equal
opportunities**



In crisis contexts

In crisis contexts, there are usually numerous organisations providing assistance to meet people’s vital needs – and this often lasts for several years. But too often, the intellectual dimension of human beings is overlooked. Vulnerable, or even traumatised, these people want to live rather than just survive.

This is why BSF creates welcoming and safe spaces where children and adults can escape for a while, express themselves and envisage a better future.

BURUNDI

‘ÇA BOUGE À KAVUMU!’: WHEN ART CHANGES THE WORLD!

Inside Out

Photos

As part of the photography project “Inside Out”, created by the French artist JR, BSF organised an exhibition in Kavumu refugee camp, where the very first Ideas Box was installed in 2015. Fifty portraits of women, men and adolescents were hung on the walls of the camp library. The objective was to shed light on the people who too often remain unseen behind statistics.



AFGHANISTAN

ENCOURAGING THE SOCIAL INTEGRATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs

Ideas Cube & Ideas Box

After the Taliban took control of Kabul in 2021, BSF and its partners set up one Ideas Box and nine Ideas Cube in a number of community centres in the country. Adolescents and young adults go to these places to develop new skills, learn about digital technology, express themselves and regain confidence.

8.6million

Number of Afghan children who have difficulty in gaining access to education (Source: UNICEF)

MOROCCO

CREATING MICROLIBRARIES AFTER THE EARTHQUAKE

French Development Agency & Groupe Société Générale

Ideas Box & books

Following the earthquake that took place in the west of the country in September 2023, BSF and its partners will help to ensure that young people’s education continues and will work towards the social and economic reintegration of the affected communities. With this objective in mind, two Ideas Box and twelve micro-libraries will soon be set up in the territories that have been most affected by the disaster.

530

Number of schools damaged by the earthquake (Source: Moroccan Ministry of Education)

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

HELPING SURVIVORS OF CONFLICT-RELATED SEXUAL VIOLENCE TO REBUILD THEIR LIVES



The L'Oréal Fund for Women



Ideas Cube & books

In Bukavu, in the province of South Kivu where there are violent armed groups, BSF has supported the work of the Maison Dorcas, created by Dr Mukwege's Panzi Foundation, which assists women and children who have been victims of sexual and psychological violence. An Ideas Cube and a library mean that there are more resources available to the mediators who provide survivors with social and educational activities.



TURKEY

SUPPORTING DISPLACED PEOPLE AFTER THE EARTHQUAKES



Fondation de France



Ideas Box

In February 2023, a series of earthquakes hit Turkey and Syria. With hundreds of thousands of people still living in 'container cities', BSF and the International Blue Crescent deployed an Ideas Box in Kirikhan in order supporting displaced people, preserve access to education for children and adolescents and contribute to the psychosocial support they receive.

UKRAINE

REBUILDING LIVES DESPITE THE WAR



French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Première Urgence Internationale & the L'Oréal Fund for Women



Ideas Box & Ideas Cube

In Ukraine, Poland, Moldavia, France, Belgium and Italy, BSF and its partners deploy Ideas Box and Ideas Cube libraries so that people who have been displaced by war can forget their daily ordeals for a while. In schools, reception centres and health centres, we create reassuring spaces where adults and children can relax, get to know the language and culture of their host country, inform themselves about their rights, find accomodation or find a job.



5.9million

Number of Ukrainian refugees in Europe, which is 13% of the Ukrainian population (Source: UNHCR)

ITALY

BOOKS THAT HELP TO SAVE LIVES AT SEA



SOS Humanity



Books

BSF has installed a library of 160 books and games in Arabic, English and French on board the SOS Humanity's rescue ship which patrols the Mediterranean sea to save migrants from drowning. The crew organises a lot of cultural activities to help survivors overcome trauma, fight boredom and regain their humanity.

In developing regions

In many countries, poverty, a lack of educational and cultural infrastructure, shortages of qualified teachers and disparities between rural and urban areas are so many obstacles to gaining access to knowledge.

To overcome these, BSF works with its partners and local communities to create dynamic and inclusive learning spaces and methods.

BURUNDI

SUPPORTING ACADEMIC MOBILITY AND THE EMPLOYABILITY OF YOUNG PEOPLE



European Union



Ideas Box & Kajou cards

In partnership with the Burundian Ministry of Education, BSF and the association Jimbere are reinforcing the university education system thanks to the deployment of 3 Ideas Box and 4 500 Kajou cards in the universities of Bujumbura, Gitega and Ngozi. These resources allow 5 000 students to learn languages and acquire general knowledge and digital skills to find a job or study abroad.

BURUNDI

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY FOR BURUNDIAN TEACHERS



French Development Agency



Ideas Cube

BSF and its partners have deployed twenty Ideas Cube in a number of schools in the Gitega, Ngozi and Kirundo provinces to help 900 teachers. Working in partnership with the Burundian Ministry of Education, great care was taken in selecting resources that were inclusive for pupils with disabilities. Four Ideas Cube have also been installed in the *École Normale Supérieure* campuses in Bujumbura and Rumonge, where the teachers and researchers of the future are trained.



BURUNDI

IMPROVING ACCESS TO THE JUSTICE SYSTEM



Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands



Ideas Cube & Kajou cards

BSF has helped the Burundian justice system by digitising legal texts and services to make the system faster and more independent. In partnership with Cordaid and Auxfin, 16 Ideas Cube and 3000 Kajou cards have improved the quality of services provided by legal bodies in the provinces of Makamba, Bujumbura and Gitega. Nine Ideas Cube also provide the public with legal information.

MADAGASCAR

EDUCATION IN ACTION IN RURAL AREAS



French Development Agency



Ideas Cube & Kajou cards

In the Central Highlands of the Madagascar, BSF, IECD (*l'Institut Européen de Coopération et de Développement*) and the association PROMES are helping around a thousand junior high pupils to succeed. An Ideas Box and five Ideas Cube have been made available to the teachers and educators in several 'boarding schools for success' in Fianarantsoa, providing them with resources to help with their classes and their teaching methods.



x2

The number of Malagasy children who do not attend junior high school is twice as high in rural areas as in urban areas (Source: UNICEF)

IVORY COAST

HELPING YOUNG PEOPLE IN THEIR CAREER CHOICES

Ivory Coast Ministry for the Promotion of Youth, Professional Integration and Civic Service

Ideas Box

Through the "BiblioBox" project, BSF supports the social and professional integration of young people aged between 14 and 35 in several regions of the country. Fourteen Ideas Box have been deployed in civic service centres for young people. Information about jobs and training courses help them to define their career plans. These mobile multimedia libraries also have numerous resources on gender equality, terrorism prevention, media literacy and human rights.

LEBANON

INCREASING THE AUTONOMY OF LOCAL AND REFUGEE POPULATIONS

French Development Agency

Ideas Box

In the context of an unprecedented economic and political crisis, BSF and the association Amel are improving access to education and increasing cohesion between local and refugee populations. Three Ideas Box, respectively in Beirut, Khiam and Kamed el-Loz, have helped users to regain self-confidence, find training courses or jobs, and overcome the challenges they face. This is part of a bigger project by BSF which aims to assist refugee, displaced, returnee and host populations in three countries: Lebanon, Iraq and Burundi.



MOLDAVIA

COPING WITH NATURAL AND MAN-MADE DISASTERS

French Development Agency

Ideas Box, Ideas Cube & Kajou cards

BSF, Acted and REACH are training local authorities, civil society organisations and communities to cope with natural and man-made disasters. In the rural region of Anenii Noi, 1 Ideas Box, 10 Ideas Cube and 2 000 Kajou cards provide access to numerous resources on subjects such as the protection of women and girls or sustainable agriculture.



NIGER

QUALITY EDUCATION DESPITE THE POLITICAL CRISIS

Norwegian Refugee Council

Ideas Cube & Kajou cards

Despite the coup d'état in the summer of 2023, BSF and its partners are working to maintain access to quality education for young children in the Madaoua department on the Nigerian border. With this objective in mind, three Ideas Cube and 75 Kajou cards have been deployed in primary schools.

SENEGAL

IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION IN REMOTE TERRITORIES



Fund for Innovation in Development



Ideas Cube & Kajou cards

In collaboration with the Senegalese Ministry of Education, BSF has deployed 70 Ideas Cube and 700 Kajou cards in primary schools in the Kédougou region. The educational and digital contents have been adapted to the country's school syllabus thus helping 500 teachers to develop their lessons and teaching methods to reduce the number of children dropping out of school.

82%

Percentage of children who experience multi-dimensional poverty in the Kédougou region
(Source: UNICEF)

The central role of the project's impact assessment methodology

Needs assessment

Interviews were carried out with pupils and teachers in order to understand the local context, identify the issues at stake, and the specific needs in terms of resources and mediation.

Impact assessment

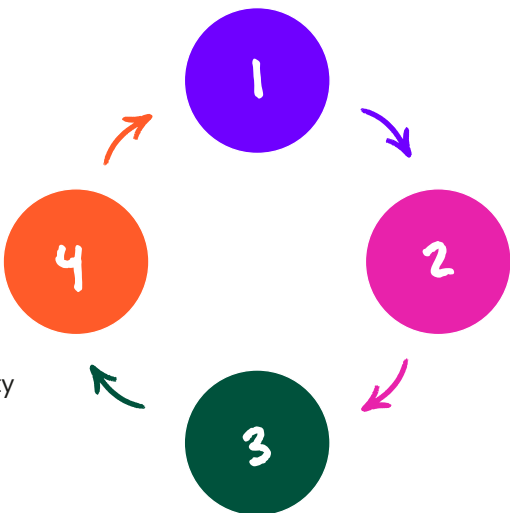
Throughout the project, a comparative impact assessment was carried out between the 70 beneficiary schools and 70 other schools in order to quantify the pupils' success and the reduction in school drop outs and inequality between girls and boys.

Selection and creation of content

The BSF teams selected and created made-to-measure content in French, Wolof, Serer and Pulaar to meet the needs of the beneficiaries, in accordance with the project objectives as established with the operating partners.

Training and support

Teachers were trained by BSF to use these tools and in related mediation techniques: facilitating activities, transmitting information, etc. These teachers then share their new skills with their colleagues.



To promote equal opportunities

Universal access to knowledge is also a struggle in France. There is an exceptionally dense network of libraries, which contribute to establishing equal opportunities through the discoveries and encounters they allow. But despite this, access remains difficult for too many people, and others feel that libraries are not for them. BSF and its partners therefore contribute to making them accessible to all and distribute numerous teaching resources and tools.

FRANCE

MICROBIBLI : BRINGING CULTURE TO STREET CORNERS



Fondation Cultura, French Ministry of Culture,
Fondation Pierre Bellon, Fondation Almayuda,
Préfecture de Guyane, French Ministry of the Overseas



Books & Games

From metropolitan France to the overseas territories, BSF and the Fondation Cultura support the creation of micro-libraries to rebuild social ties around books and culture. These "microbiblis" are run by associations, shops, social and educational bodies or reading enthusiasts who are selected via a bi-annual call for projects. Those who are selected receive around a thousand books and training in how to run their micro-library. Far from competing with public libraries, on the contrary, these create synergy with local cultural institutions to promote reading among a wider audience.



FRANCE

'MON SAC DE LIVRES': ENCOURAGING READING AND SOLIDARITY



Centre national du livre, Fondation Valentin Ribet,
Fondation du Crédit Mutuel pour la lecture,
Fondation Hachette pour la lecture, DIAIR, Strasbourg



Books

At the end of the school year in 2023, BSF gave rucksacks full of books to thousands of pupils in the Paris, Amiens, Aix-Marseille and Créteil areas who had recently arrived in France. Each bag contained books selected by our staff and other pupils of the same age to spark an interest in reading and help them learn French and about France. Throughout the year, the classes learn about solidarity and other cultures through reading and writing, and events with authors and illustrators.



FRANCE

GETTING CULTURE OUT INTO THE OPEN: REACHING PEOPLE WITH LIMITED ACCESS TO BOOKS



Centre national du livre, Agence Nationale de la Cohésion
des territoires, Communauté d'agglomération du Grand
Narbonne



Ideas Box

Several local authorities in France have acquired Ideas Box to help those whose access to culture is limited by economic, social or symbolic barriers, particularly young people from working class neighbourhoods. They have helped multimedia centres and youth, social and educational services in Amiens, Marseille and the agglomeration of Grand Narbonne, for example, to provide a broader selection of books and to help these people find out about the resources and services that are available to them.

8.5%

Percentage of French people who are members
of a public library – or 5.8 million people
(Source: French Ministry of Culture)

FRANCE

MIL IN LIBRARIES: RAISING AWARENESS ABOUT MEDIA AND INFORMATION LITERACY



French Ministry of Culture



Teaching kit

With the help of librarians and people from the field of media and information literacy (MIL), BSF has developed a free teaching kit and videos to raise awareness among young people and adults about disinformation, cyberbullying and personal data protection. Aimed at libraries, associations and socio-cultural bodies, the kit includes activity files and resources to facilitate workshops on these highly topical issues.



9%

Percentage 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

PRO'PULSION : BOOSTING AND ACCELERATING THE PROFESSIONAL INTEGRATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE



France Relance, Fondation d'entreprise TotalEnergies, Bourgogne Franche Comté Regional Council, Haute Garonne Departmental Council, Fédération Léo Lagrange, Ville de Mont-Saint-Martin, Forvia, Préfecture de Guyane



Ideas Box

In several regions in France, BSF and its partners provide young people who are neither studying nor in employment with guidance during Ideas Box Pro'Pulsion events. These friendly, connected events give them the opportunity to take stock of what they would like to do, build their projects and explore the training options available to make them a reality.



1.4 million

The number of young French people aged 15 to 29 who are neither working, studying or in a training programme – which represents 12.8 % of this age category (Source: INSEE)

FRANCE

'RADIO DES MOTS' : COMBATING ILLITERACY IN FRENCH GUYANA



INJEP, French Ministry of Culture



Teaching kit

BSF and Making Waves have created a teaching kit, 'Radio des mots', to help educators facilitate radio workshops and the creation of podcasts. The objective of this project, which was designed for young people with problems reading and writing, is to help them overcome their fear of words, allow them to share their ideas, and encourage them to express themselves so that they gain confidence.



1/3

Proportion of the Guyanese population who are illiterate (Source: INSEE)



Part III

OUR COMMIT- MENTS

1.
Building a
sustainable model

2.
Supporting us

3.
Our partners

Building a sustainable model

In keeping with BSF’s ‘Horizon 2030’ strategic plan, establishing a virtuous development model is central to the transformation of the association in order to achieve a systemic and sustainable impact.

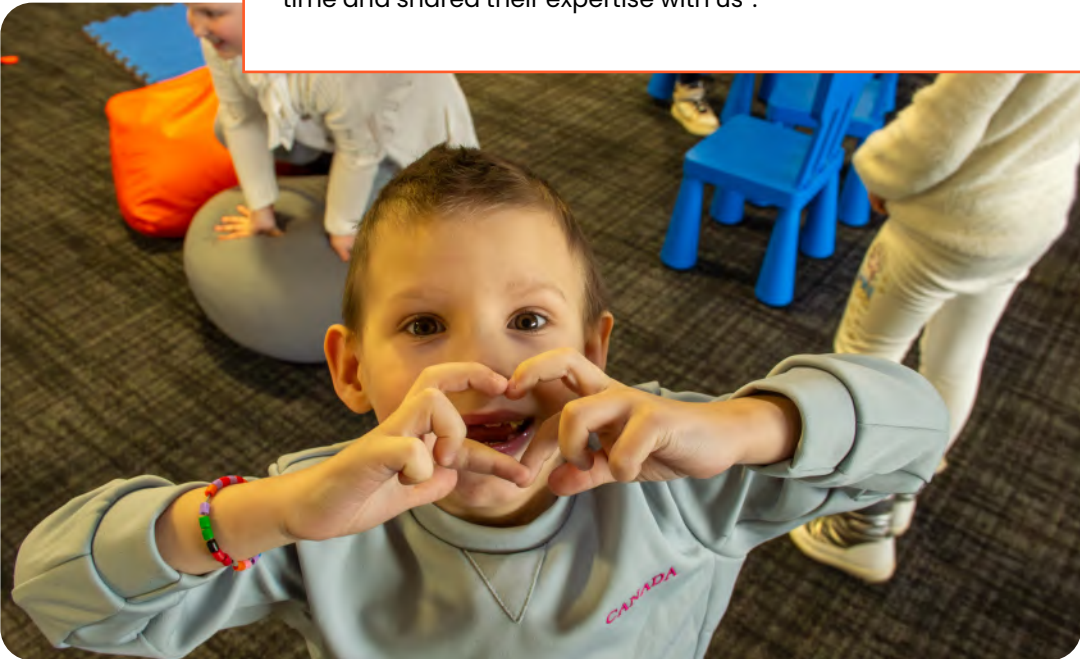
Environmental, social and governance issues therefore occupy an increasingly significant place in our strategic reflection and day-to-day activities.



Edouard Delbende,
BSF Deputy Executive Director

Exemplary governance and management practices for solid growth

“BSF’s significant growth must not divert us from our objective of being exemplary in our governance and management practices. Indeed, ‘Do better’ is the second pillar of our ‘Horizon 2030’ strategic plan along with ‘Do more’ and ‘Make known’. In 2023, we were awarded two important labels that show we have achieved high standards in terms of operational procedures, governance, finances, project management and evaluation. These were the ECHO label, awarded by the European Commission, and the IDEAS Label, which was renewed for three years. We also received support from numerous theme-based committees made up of managers and experts from outside the association: the Audit Committee, the HR and Remuneration Committee, the Communication Committee... I would like to thank each person who gave us their time and shared their expertise with us”.



Alexandra Bourdekas,
Director of Human Resources

Our collaborators have a central role to play in the development of the organisation

“As the organisation is experiencing a period of significant growth, with new offices being opened internationally, recruiting, supporting and retaining collaborators is a central concern for us. Important changes were made before I arrived in the organisation in February 2024, such as raising salaries and improving the prevention and management of health and safety risks. An assessment was carried out of our human resource management practices in the field with a view to establishing harmonised HR policies and improving working conditions for all our field staff. We will be continuing in this direction in 2024. Together with the newly elected employee representative body, particular attention will also be paid to the well-being of employees”.

Abel Sollier,
Director of Logistics



Reducing our carbon footprint is a daily concern

“As is the case throughout the humanitarian sector, reducing the carbon footprint of BSF’s activities is a constant concern, particularly with regard to how our logistics circuits are organised. We have already taken measures to promote local and regional purchasing, to reduce the distances covered by our service providers and to prioritise the purchasing of energy efficient and environmentally friendly electronic equipment. There are regular awareness-raising sessions about good practices to reduce the consumption of electricity and water and also in relation to waste production and recycling. There is a huge but unavoidable task ahead of us to accurately evaluate our impact, establish realistic alternatives and implement these”.

Supporting us

Since 2007, BSF has been actively engaged in building strong, long-term relations with its partners and its community. Whether you are a company or an individual, there are numerous ways you can support us!

Get your company involved!

→ Financial support or in-kind and skills-based sponsorship

Every year, several major partners decide to provide us with long-term financial support. Thanks to them, BSF can make long-term investments to increase our impact by conducting research and development, thus helping us to be increasingly efficient and effective in what we do.

It is also possible to support BSF's projects through a payroll donation or by selling shared products. For example, in 2023, Sézane and Octobre created a charity line of clothes, 'L'Art de lire', from which all the profits went to BSF. The publishers, Librinova and Voce Verso, also decided to give the profits from several of their books to BSF.

You can also give BSF in-kind donations (supplies, computer equipment, books, etc.) or staff can donate their skills for missions of varying lengths, from a few days to several years, in different areas (finance, legal, IT, project management, etc.).

→ Numerous ways for your collaborators to get involved

Your collaborators can help us: organise a book collection in your offices, help us to sort out the books at our collection centre in Epône, in the Yvelines department, or take part in our annual charity hackathon, the Design Jam, to help us dream up our future projects.

Get involved yourself!

→ Support us financially

Faithful donors

BSF currently has 3 000 monthly donors. Their long-term commitment is crucial for the organisation: it means we can use our own funds to act quickly when there is an emergency, and we can fund research and development projects to continuously improve our tools and resources.



Support the actions of BSF in the long-term by becoming a regular donor, and benefit from a 66% tax reduction!

<https://www.bibliosansfrontieres.org/faire-un-don>



DID YOU KNOW?

Any financial, in-kind or skills-based donation received by BSF gives the sponsoring company the right to a tax deduction of 60% of the amount donated, within the legal limits.

A label of confidence

In 2023, for the third time, BSF was awarded the IDEAS label, which certifies that it applies the highest standards of governance, financial management and impact assessment.



'Fondation pour le Partage de la Connaissance'

Created by BSF's President, Patrick Weil, the *Fondation pour le Partage de la Connaissance* supports activities related to the creation or reinforcement of libraries around the world, including BSF's projects.

DID YOU KNOW?

If you are subject to the French wealth tax (IFI), when you make a donation to the 'Fondation pour le Partage de la Connaissance' you benefit from a tax deduction of 75%, up to €50 000. The Foundation is also authorised to receive bequests and donations. Contact us to discuss the options available!

Friends of BSF Literary Circle

The Literary Circle brings together BSF's main donors and its closest supporters four times a year for a literary apéritif in the company of an author. Hosted by Augustin Trapenard, BSF's patron, the discussion covers the writer's career and their vision of the role of culture in relation to the challenges facing society today. In 2023, the authors who took part were Maylis de Kerangal, Yasmina Khadra and Dany Laferrière.

→ Donate your books

In the Île-de-France region, you can drop off your books at one of BSF's fifteen permanent collection points (list available on our website). For those who do not live in the Île-de-France region, every new school year, FNAC organises a charity collection for BSF in its shops in France and Switzerland.

→ Give your time

Our staff regularly need help from volunteers to carry out the association's social activities. Volunteers can take part during events to promote tools or programmes in their city, they can carry out graphic design assignments or they can sort books.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO GET INVOLVED?

Get in touch!

info@bibliosansfrontieres.org



Our partners

We would like to thank all of our partners for their confidence and their support. Without them, we would not have been able to do everything we did in 2023.

Our private sector partners



Our investors



- Adobe
- Allen & Overy
- Alliance Healthcare France
- Allianz
- Ambrelia
- American School of Paris
- Ammareal
- Asmodee
- Auzou Éditions
- Ayvens
- Be-Cloud
- Benevity
- BlackRock
- Blisce
- BlueLink
- BMW
- Canard & Cie
- Carmignac
- Cartier
- Cisco
- Club Med
- Comité Champs-Élysées
- Compte-rendu.fr
- Davidson
- Day One
- Éditions A2MIMO
- Éditions Amattera
- Éditions Bonhomme de Chemin
- Éditions des Éléphants
- Éditions D'eux
- Éditions Eyrolles
- Éditions Flammarion
- Éditions Lefebvre Sarrut
- Éditions Les Fourmis Rouges
- Éditions Little Urban
- Éditions Margot
- Éditions Michel Lafon
- Éditions Talents Hauts
- Effia
- Efinity
- Epon
- Federation Studios
- Fondation Caritas
- Fondation La Poste
- Fondation pour la Mémoire de la Shoah
- Fondation SNCF
- Fonds Geoy
- Forvia
- Foundever
- France Relance
- Futuropolis
- Gandi.net
- Gecina
- Glénat Éditions
- Goodeed
- Groupe Le Monde
- Groupe Vvy
- Hana Group
- HelloAsso
- International School of Paris
- IPAG
- Janssen
- Khaleej Digital Group
- Kilowatt Éditions
- Kimane/Elcy Éditions
- Kiwix
- Korelya Capital
- La Bande
- La Banque Postale
- La Générale Librest
- La Poste
- Label Emmaüs
- Le Bon Marché
- Le Figaro
- Leads to Development
- L'école des loisirs
- LexisNexis
- Librinova
- Maison Eliza
- Mantu
- Marty Hôtel (Hilton)
- MGXS
- Microdon
- Miraki
- NeoByteServices
- OpenText
- Opinion Way
- Publicis
- Rainbow Partners
- RX Global
- Salesforce
- Shakespeare and Company
- Shell France
- Siaci Saint Honoré
- SNCF Gares & Connexion
- Société Française du Livre
- Startechup
- Steamo
- Suez
- Tata Consultancy Services
- The American University of Paris
- The Walt Disney Company
- Un Rien C'est Tout
- UNICEF
- UpCoop
- Vendredi
- Vendredi Lecture
- Voce Verso
- Webhelp-Concentrix
- Wemanity
- WeWard
- Wizards Technologies

Founding partners of the Ideas Box



Our public sector partners

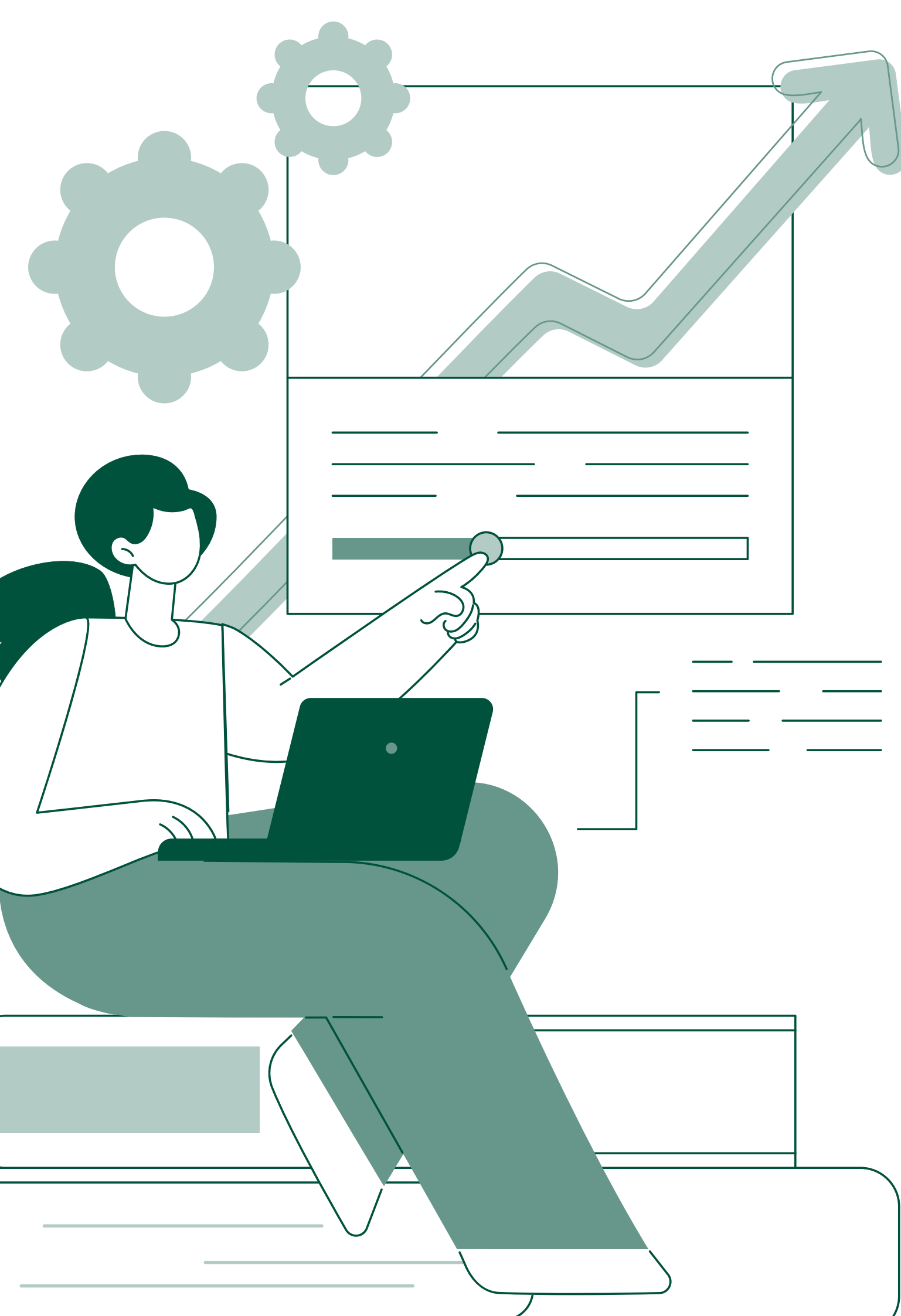


Awards & distinctions



Our operational partners

- ABRM (Réseau national des bibliothèques de la République de Moldavie)
- Académie d'Amiens
- Académie de Aix Marseille
- Académie de Créteil
- Académie de Guyane
- Académie de Marseille
- Académie de Paris
- Académie de Strasbourg
- Acted
- Adate
- AFJB (association des femmes juristes du burundi)
- Agence Sépium, Paris
- AMEL
- AREC
- Association DAAC Guyane (Développement Animation Accompagnement Développement)
- Association IDsanté
- Association La Tête dans les Images
- Association Liane
- Association SLAR (Sport Loisirs Animation Régina)
- Atelier Canopé Guyane
- Aurore
- Bibliothèque Méjanes, Aix-en-Provence
- Bibliothèques de la Cité des sciences et de l'industrie, Paris
- Boutique de Gestion Guyane (BGE Guyane)
- BPI, Paris
- CAE Tumukumakop (Coopérative d'Activité et d'Emploi)
- Care Burundi
- Caritas
- CDDO Afghanistan
- Center for Public Activity of Western Donbass (Ukraine)
- Centre d'action social ville de Paris (CASVP)
- Centre social Simone Veil de Semur-en-Auxois
- Club de prévention de Saint-Gaudens
- Coallia
- Community institution of general secondary education «Balabyne gymnasium Prestyzh of Kushugum settlement council of Zaporizhzhia district (Ukraine)
- Cordaid
- Corridor Citoyen (Poland)
- Croix-Rouge française
- Direction de l'Animation Educative et de la Jeunesse de la Ville de Marseille
- Direction de la Lecture Publique du Loir-et-Cher, Blois
- DOZ
- Ecole alsacienne
- ENSSIB, Villeurbanne
- Eval Lab
- Fédération Léo Lagrange – Centre Social L'envol – Montbéliard
- Fondation Ocalenie
- Fondation Panzi
- Forum Réfugiés
- France Terre d'Asile
- Fundacja Kocham Debniki (Poland)
- Fundacja Life (Poland)
- Giriya
- HIG (Poland)
- la Marioupol
- IECD
- Ile-Saint-Denis CSM (Club Sportif Multi-Activités Ile-Saint-Denis)
- Institut français du Burundi
- International Blue Crescent
- Jimbere
- Kapytolivka Municipal Library (Ukraine)
- Kvadrat Center (Ukraine)
- Local Economic Development Agency of Prykarpattya (Ukraine)
- Mairie de Boutcha
- Mairie de Lviv
- Maison Familiale Rurale de Régina
- Making Waves
- Matrice.io
- Médiathèque du Grand Narbonne
- Médiathèque L'Echo du Kremlin Bicêtre
- Medica Mondiale Burundi
- Migration & Développement
- Mission Locale Guyane Centre-Est-Savane
- Mission locale Terres de Lorraine
- Mission locale Val de Lorraine
- Norwegian Refugee Council
- People in Need
- Plan International
- Play International
- Première Urgence Internationale
- Projet Educatif Global de la Ville d'Amiens
- Red Star Football Club
- Save the Children
- Savoir*Devenir, Paris
- Service Jeunesse Ville de Mont-Saint-Martin
- Social Action for Development (SAD) Burundi
- SOS Humanity
- Street Child
- TANAGER
- Terre Sans Frontières
- Un punto per (UPP)
- UNITATEM
- Uplift
- Volont'R
- We World



Part IV

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

A word from the Treasurer

Julien Sérignac

“Ahead of schedule in its development plan, BSF has recorded a 24% increase in its resources in 2023 compared with 2022”.

2023 was the first year of the implementation of the Horizon 2030 strategy which aims to triple BSF’s impact and operational volume by 2030 focusing on three main areas: geographic expansion, improving project quality and reinforcing advocacy capacity.

The strategy was financed to the value of €1.95M via the issue of Associative Securities in 2022 in order to strengthen our own funds and enable us to make significant investments. The financial plan adopted at the Annual General Meeting projected two years of deficit in 2023 and 2024 in order to make the initial investments necessary for our development. The following years (from 2025 to 2030) should enable us to generate positive results in order to repay the Associative Securities at the end of a 7-year period.

Ahead of schedule in its development plan, BSF has recorded a 24% increase in its resources in 2023 compared with 2022, reaching €12.2M, which exceeds the initial forecasts (€10.7M).

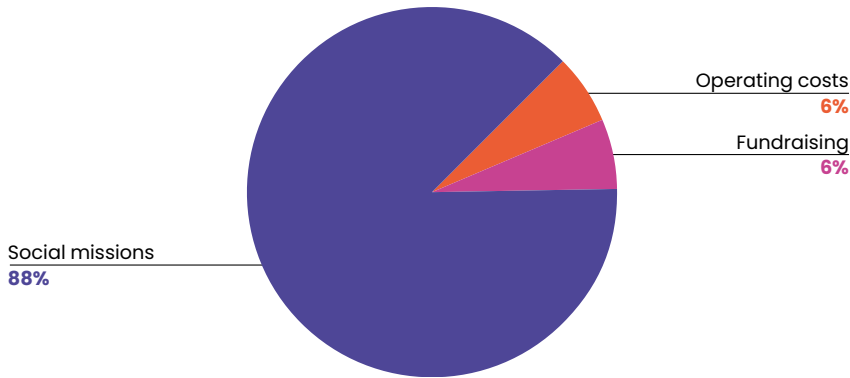
This growth is mainly due to a 69% increase in operating grants, which reflects the relevance and alignment of BSF’s approaches with needs on the ground. The association’s income profile is diversified, with financial contributions and funds from the public still strong, while sales of goods and services are down slightly following the creation of a subsidiary for the book sales business. Operating expenses also rose by 26% to €12.5M, mainly due to operational expansion and significant investment in human resources.

The strong growth in resources has resulted in a result of -€317k, much better than that forecast in the H2030 financial plan (-€630k initially forecast).

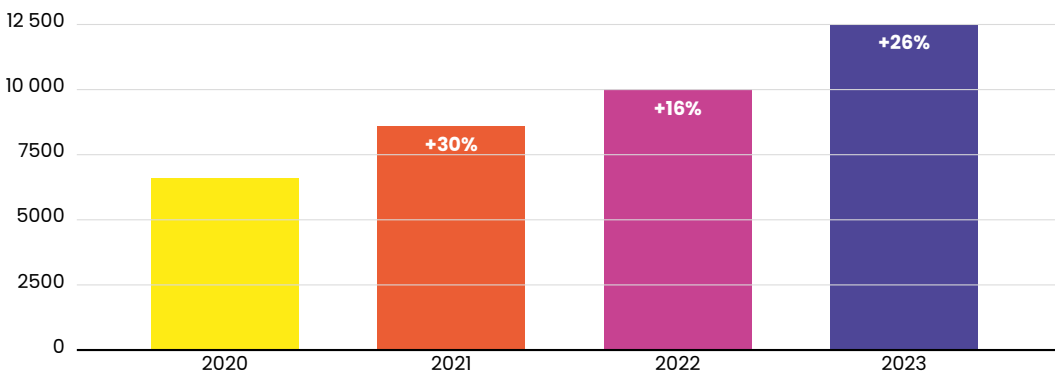
This positive momentum should continue in 2024, with resources continuing to rise. This will be a crucial year if we are to achieve financial equilibrium in 2025, with particular attention being paid to cash management, accountability to donors and optimising the funds allocated to projects.

BSF’s management has taken these issues on board, and we are confident that the organisation will continue to grow in a sound and responsible manner over the coming years.

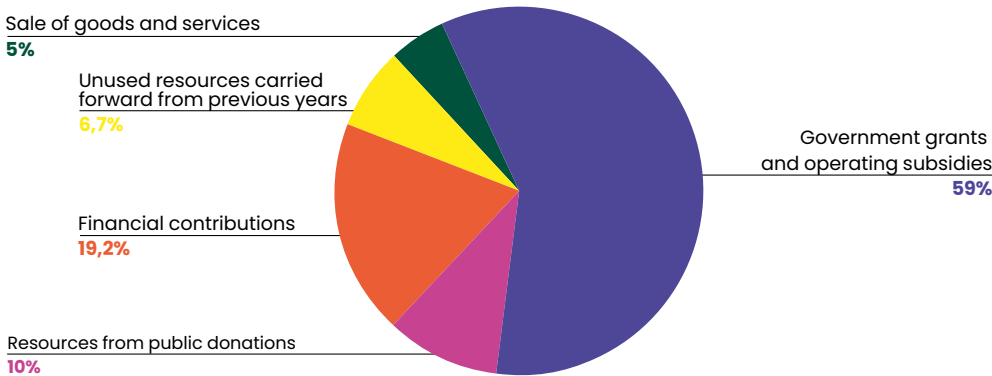
→ Distribution of activities



→ How our budget has evolved



→ BSF's resources



24%

increase in operational volume in 2023

12.2M€

BSF International’s budget

(almost 17M€ for BSF’s global network)

88%

of funds for social activities (incl. dedicated funds)



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