

BIBLIONEF
SOUTH AFRICA

ANNUAL
REPORT

2020



Message from the Board

As we reflect on 2020, we all agree that it was tough! Although we were unable to complete several projects, we are privileged to be one of the non-profit organisations that could make it through, albeit with difficulty. We are incredibly thrilled to have reached 180 organisations with 18 550 new storybooks despite the challenging times.

The Covid-19 pandemic forced Biblionef to fast track many changes in the pipeline to remain sustainable. Harnessing technology has been a critical factor in managing our business during this time. Having improved technology has also assisted in increasing our digital presence and significantly helped enhance our service delivery to our beneficiaries. Although the advancement of technology within the organisation has been monumental, we are still working on reaching our beneficiaries in rural areas with inadequate or non-existent internet and telephone connection.

With the lockdown easing and schools slowly starting to reopen, our staff are working hard to complete the projects Biblionef was unable to complete in 2020 due to the Covid-19 regulations. We are grateful to the Biblionef staff, Board members and donors for their support; Biblionef could not have gotten through this time without your unending support and commitment. We look forward to all that 2021 has in store and cannot wait to get more of our books out to schools and children's organisations throughout the country.



Message from the Board
Pg 2

About Biblionef
South Africa
Pg 4 - 5

Biblionef's Programmes
Pg 6 - 9

Our Work & Its Impact
Pg 10 - 11

2020 Project Highlights
Pg 12 - 16

Biblionef's Online
Resources
Pg 17

Biblionef in Africa
Pg 18

Pay it Forward
Pg 19

Donors
Pg 20

Behind the Scenes
Pg 21 - 22

Financials
Pg 23 - 24

How to Support Biblionef
Pg 25

C
O
N
T
E
N
T
S

About Biblionef South Africa

Biblionef is an NPC (Non-Profit Company) and book donation organisation that believes all children deserve to have access to new books and should be able to read for pleasure in their mother tongue. Biblionef operates according to UNESCO's Book Donation Charter. The Charter stipulates that book donation programmes "must be adapted to the needs and sensitivity of the beneficiaries and must contribute to the strengthening of all elements of the book sector in the country in question, by helping not only libraries but also bookshops, publishers and authors."

Biblionef donates new storybooks to children attending schools and to organisations with an educational focus. These books support endeavours to improve literacy levels, establish a reading culture, and help create the right circumstances to foster a love of reading and respect for the written word.

Biblionef sources the books for our donation programme from local publishers and bookstores. We look for stories and content that depict African and local culture, containing stories that South African children can relate to. When funding allows, we commission the translation, publishing and reprinting of existing storybooks into local languages to help broaden the base of children's books available in South Africa.

By donating new and relatable storybooks to schools and children's organisations throughout the country, we believe it will encourage children to get excited about reading. These books will be the gateway to developing children's imaginations and stimulating their curiosity.

OUR VISION is to create lifelong readers who are good citizens, can read and think for themselves, resulting in a society where everyone is literate, has access to education and read both for pleasure and necessity.

OUR MISSION is to make books available for all children (ages 3 – 18) in all the official languages for reading pleasure and for education; and in this way to lay the foundation for children to make good decisions through critical thinking and live balanced and productive lives.

CHOOSING THE RIGHT BOOK

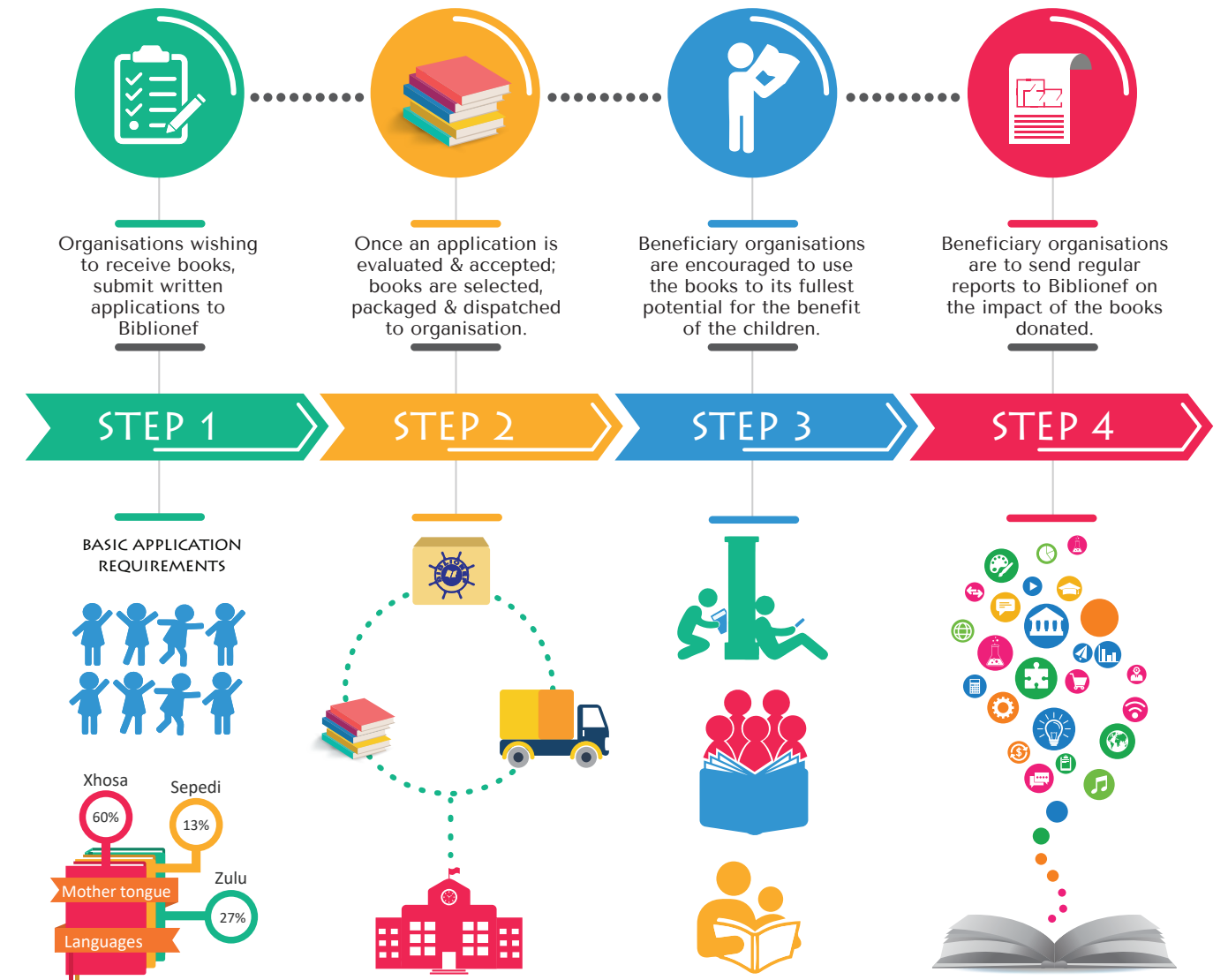
Ensuring that our beneficiaries receive appropriate storybooks is important to us. When sourcing storybooks for our programmes, we look for:

African content and illustrations: The stories' setting and characters must be relatable to the South African child.

Local languages: We donate books in all eleven official languages. We encourage and advocate for children to be proud of their mother tongue, heritage and culture.

New books: The majority of children who acquire our books have never before seen, felt or held and smelt a new book, let alone one in their mother tongue. For this reason, our books are always new. We strongly believe that a book as gift needs to be new and that every child deserves to enjoy the pleasure of having new books that are neat and clean and add to their sense of touch and smell.

Book Donation Process



Biblionefs Programmes

Donations Programme

Our book providing service is free; we buy books with funds raised from our donors and our sustainability efforts. Many requests are received weekly from children's organisations asking for books. We assess the applications according to the organisation's needs, such as; the number of children, languages used, and library access. Appropriate books are selected from our available book stock or purchased, packed and dispatched to the recipient organisation, who acknowledges receipt. Our beneficiaries are encouraged to carry out a community project as a way of 'paying it forward' for having received books for free. For instance, this could be cleaning the playground or school grounds, reading to children at a local creche or singing for the elderly.



Training and Mentorship Sessions

When funding allows, we provide training and mentoring sessions to Foundation Phase teachers. We always work with our donors to realise these projects. Our Project Manager offers practical examples of how Foundation Phase teachers can incorporate storybooks into their lesson plans through a series of in-depth workshops and in-class mentoring sessions. The current curriculum makes provision for regular storytelling, but we have discovered that some teachers need help in using storybooks to supplement and support their teaching. Our training assists in making storytelling more prevalent in the classroom and encourages reading and writing for meaning amongst the learners.



Setting up Libraries

We recognise that many schools do not have a place to store their books to make them readily available for children. In these cases, we raise funds to supply shelving or cupboards. Depending on the available space, we will either:

- Provide schools with corner classroom libraries (a shelf or roller box containing books in each classroom);
- Provide the school with a start-up library (two or more shelves and books in a classroom), or;
- Provide the school with a fully functional library (shelving, books, bookends, library software, colour coding stickers, and date stamps).

We have also designed a display box that we provide to our beneficiaries with their donation of books. Teachers can easily put together the box and then use it to display their donation of books.



Supporting Early Childhood Development (ECDs) Centres

Realising how important the early years are to a child's development, Biblionef extends its book donations to ECD Centres. Biblionef has been donating educational resources to ECD Centres for the last 19 years, with the help of several donors. We donate at least 35 storybooks and some educational toys, puzzles and posters to support the children's cognitive development and the development of their fine motor skills. We put the resources in a clear roller box to allow for easy storage by the practitioner.

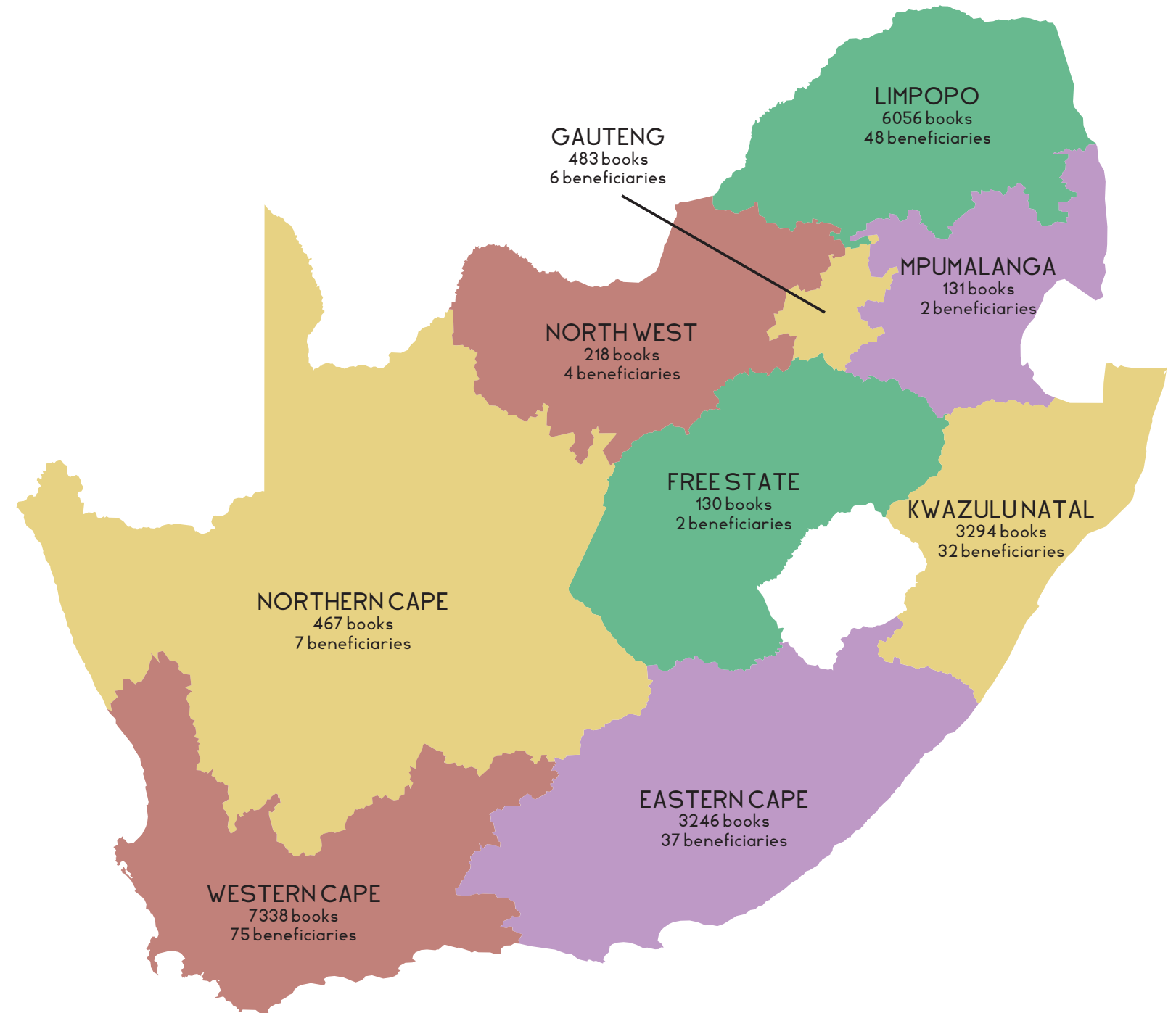
We also work with Family Community Motivator (FCM) Programmes. The FCM Programmes were initiated in response to the many preschool children not attending an ECD Centre. The FCMs support and stimulate the child in his/ her home and at the same time reach the primary caregivers by equipping them with parenting skills, growing their awareness and giving guidance according to their needs. For the FCM Programmes, we provide them with a book bag containing storybooks and educational toys, puzzles and posters. The FCM practitioner can easily carry the book bags from home to home.



Our Work & Its Impact

2020 FOOTPRINT

Biblionef donated 18 550 new books to 180 schools and children's organisations throughout the country



2020 Project Highlights

Along with the rest of the world, we needed to carefully watch the impact Covid-19 had on our communities and the world. Our goal was to adapt as best as possible to the changing environment and think of new ways to reach our beneficiaries.

As a result of limited travel, school closures, and the added concern of keeping our staff members and beneficiaries safe, we did not carry out any training projects and school visits as planned. We are grateful to our donors and partners for their understanding and flexibility during this time. Although Covid-19 placed a significant strain on our organisation, we still carried out many noteworthy projects. Below we have highlighted some of the exemplary work our staff managed to carry out despite the pandemic.

Providing Book Donations to 14 Primary Schools

Thanks to our donors, IBBY (International Board on Books for Young People) South Africa and Yamada Apiculture Centre, we supported 14 schools from Port Elizabeth and the Western Cape.

We donated a total of 3 750 new storybooks in the children's home language of isiXhosa, Afrikaans and English to the 14 schools. In 2021 we plan to have a workshop with the schools in the Western Cape where we will provide the Foundation Phase teachers with tips and tricks on how to incorporate their donation of books into their curriculum. A total of 12 777 children will benefit from this project.

Some of the schools will also receive additional support from Shine Literacy through their Shine Literacy Hour Programme and Creating a Culture of Reading at School Campaign.



Supporting 10 Primary Schools in KwaZulu - Natal

We partnered with Kwandengezi Educare Centre in KZN to provide 10 of their Primary Schools with new storybooks and their foundation phase teachers with training on how to incorporate their new donation of books into their curriculum. A total of 112 Foundation Phase teachers each received a pack of 15 books. This translated to a total of 1 680 new isiZulu and English storybooks being donated to the Primary Schools.

As a result of Covid-19, we were unable to provide the teachers with training. This aspect of the project will take place in the first quarter of 2021. We want to thank Sabinet Chairperson's Fund and the Fulton Trust for funding this wonderful project.



Providing Resources to 93 ECD Centres with Essential Educational Resources

The Jim Joel Fund has done and continues doing phenomenal work for Early Childhood Development in South Africa. We are incredibly privileged to have received support from them for the last 19 years. With their funding, we have reached over 1 200 ECD Centres and FCM programmes that otherwise would not have been possible. In 2020, we could extend our project to a further 5 ECD Training Centres that would support 93 ECD Centres.

The ECD Centres we supported are Grassroots, Enlighten Trust, ELRU, Golang Kulani, and the Curriculum Development Project for the Changemakers Project. These Centres are in the Western Cape, Limpopo and Johannesburg. Each Centre will receive 20 roller boxes for their ECD Centres. Each roller box will contain storybooks in the children's mother tongue and English, and educational toys, puzzles, and posters.

In 2021, our Project Manager will hand-deliver the roller boxes to the Centres in the Western Cape. This project will directly impact the lives of approximately 3 522 children and their Practitioners. The indirect beneficiaries of this project are those children who will join each Centre at the beginning of each new year.



Library Makeover to E.A. Janari in the Western Cape

In partnership with Lerato's Hope, The Bookery and our donors, Wings of Support and the Wilde Ganzen Foundation, we provided E.A. Janari Primary School with a makeover of their school library.

We donated 1 712 new fiction, non-fiction and reference books in isiXhosa and English for their new library. We prepared 3 248 books for them (our donation and their existing books), which included covering the books in book plastic, adding date slips and spine labels on the books, and listing them on an Accession Register.

Lerato's Hope, with the financial support of a large corporate donor, extended the library space to accommodate more learners. The organisation will also work with E.A. Janari Primary to hire and fund a Library Assistant. Once employed, the Library Assistant will receive training and support from The Bookery on how to run the school library.

We are planning to open the school's library in 2021. We are thankful to our partners and donors for making this project possible.



Reclaiming History through our Publishing Initiatives

'The Forgotten Scientist: The Story of Saul Sithole' is the untold story of a pioneering black scientist who made a significant contribution to the fields of anthropology and ornithology in South Africa.

Saul Sithole was so committed to his craft that even the weight of apartheid did not stop him from giving 62 years of his life to the scientific world of birds and fossils. Saul never received the official recognition he deserved – until now.

Written by Lerato Trok, the book validates his contribution, sharing his life's work and laying out a story that will inspire future generations of scientists. There has not been enough research done on yesteryear's black heroes, and we will lose these stories and do our history a disservice if these stories are not documented.

We are incredibly proud to be part of this project and applaud Lerato Trok and Jacana Media for bringing Saul Sithole's story to the forefront. We received 3 000 copies of 'The Forgotten Scientist' from Jacana Media in isiXhosa, isiZulu, Sesotho, Sepedi, Afrikaans and English. We cannot wait to begin distributing this excellent book to schools and children's organisations across South Africa. We want to thank the National Heritage Council for funding this project.



Biblioneefs Online Resources

Biblioneef prides itself on being a learning organisation; we must constantly be assessing what we do to ensure that we are providing the best service to our beneficiaries.

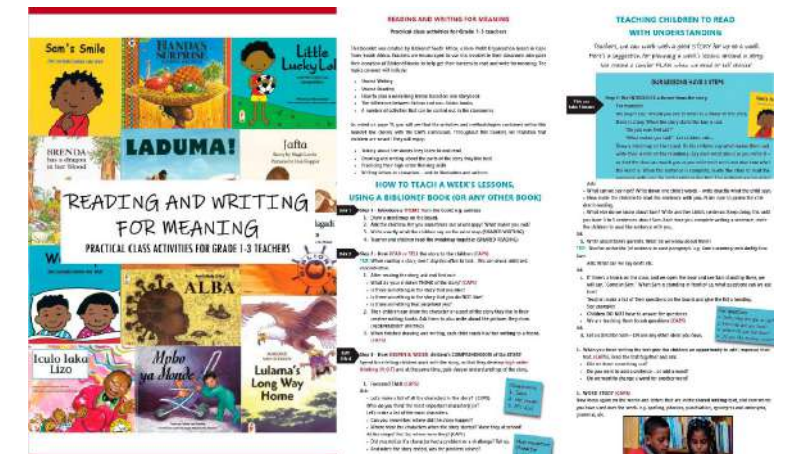
Between 2015–2017, Biblioneef undertook an intensive 2-year reading intervention with 10 Primary Schools in Beaufort West. We also carried out a Mixed Impact Study on a sample of three schools to assess the effect of the intervention on the teachers and the children during the two years. Resulting from the Mixed Impact Study, the facilitator, Marlene Rousseau, recommended that we produce a video and booklet to show teachers easy and simple ways of incorporating the donated books into their current curriculum.

With the guidance of a literacy specialist, we followed through with the recommendation and produced six 15 to 20-minute long training videos and an activity booklet. In 2020 we launched the resources and encouraged teachers to use them from the comfort of their homes. These resources are available on our website for easy access by our beneficiaries.

These online resources cover the following topics:

- How to hold a book when reading to children so that children can look at the illustrations.
- How to read a picture book.
- How teachers can focus on supporting children's understanding of the texts they read, i.e. offering a few demonstrations of teachers working with children, doing post-reading activities.
- How to work with a book when the stories' characters are of a different ethnic or religious orientation to the learners'.
- Examples of children's writing/ drawings, linked to Biblioneef books, which would show teachers the type of writing/ drawings children can do.

Because of limited travel in 2020, these online resources have been beneficial to our beneficiaries to ensure that they could still learn our methodologies in their own time. A spinoff from these resources is that other literacy organisations have also shared them with their beneficiaries, allowing for a greater reach to those needing them. Thank you to the SALI Trust for funding the production of these resources; it will go a long way to support our beneficiaries and individuals in their literacy initiatives.



Biblionef in Africa

Biblionef South Africa is part of an independent group of sister organisations with offices in the Netherlands, France, Ghana and Tunisia. These offices donate books to countries around the world.

In Africa, Biblionef SA supplies books to South African children's organisations and schools. Through our partnership with the Beit Trust, we had the privilege of donating 2500 books to 5 high schools in Malawi and Zambia.



Pay it Forward

Our beneficiaries commit to taking on projects to give something back to their communities in 'payment' for their donation of books. This helps to improve the well-being of a community, and we hope that it instils a sense of pride and creates a feeling of ownership and responsibility for the books.



Donors

In 2020, Biblionef received support from numerous donors whose contributions allowed us to connect young readers with books that spark their imagination and speak to them in their mother tongue. We are even more grateful to our donors for supporting our organisation during this challenging year; our doors could not have remained open if it were not for their support.

We would also like to thank the following donors for their support in 2020:

FULTON TRUST
 HIEMSTRA TRUST
 DORDET TRUST
 JAGGER BEQUEST
 HENRI NOUWEN STICHTING
 VAN EWIJCK STICHTING



Behind the Scenes

Lessons learnt during the Covid-19 Pandemic

The Covid-19 pandemic has forced our organisation to relook at the way we work and the services we offer so that it can fit into the current world in which we find ourselves. Some of the critical areas that demanded change are the following:

Self Sustainability Efforts: The Covid-19 pandemic highlighted the importance of having multiple income streams to ensure sustainability. We are incredibly grateful to our existing donors for their support during this time. Barring a few donors who were unable to support us because of their financial restraints, most of our donors did not withdraw funding, allowing our programmes to continue. In 2020, we launched our 'Create your at-home library' initiative that allowed individuals to purchase a pack of 3-4 books for their child. Book sets can be purchased monthly, with children quickly building their at-home library. This initiative was successful in lockdown, with many parents wanting to support their children's reading development while at home.

Improved Communication with our Beneficiaries: Where possible, we continued correspondence with our beneficiaries throughout the pandemic. It was difficult to contact some of our beneficiaries in rural areas because of unstable internet and telephone connections. In these situations, we allowed for extended response times. When the schools and ECD Centres reopened in 2020, we contacted the relevant representatives at the schools and liaised with them on when the appropriate time would be to deliver the books safely. Our beneficiaries appreciated this way of working as they too had a disrupted schedule, and having a planned time and date for when the books would be delivered suited them best. In 2021, we will be piloting WhatsApp as a communication tool, as this seems to be the easiest and most accessible method of communication for our beneficiaries.

Planning for the future: What had become inevitable in these uncertain times was the need to rethink how the organisation functions. While we were comfortable and operating within the basics of technology, we were challenged to step up to enable remote working.

The opportunity offered to the South African non-profit sector by Microsoft Philanthropies was taken up. Biblionef was eligible to receive Microsoft 365, which enabled us to migrate our data to the cloud, giving us the freedom to work remotely.

Biblioneef also became beneficiaries of The Sage Foundation NPO Success programme. The donation of Sage Business Cloud Accounting and Payroll enabled remote financial control systems to be put in place.

We will be piloting online training sessions with our beneficiaries. In the event of travel restrictions remaining, carrying out our training via Microsoft Teams will be our best option for allowing our work to continue. We are also looking at setting up an online bookstore to enable individuals to shop our catalogue online instead of coming into our office.

BOARD MEMBERS

Biblioneef would like to thank its dedicated board members who continually challenge us to strengthen the organisation to reach our vision and mission.

Joan de Beer (Chairperson)
Shawn Cupido
Anzil Kulsen
Mary Nassimbeni
Robert Pearce
Susan van der Schijff
Sarah Witbooi

STAFF MEMBERS

Thank you to the staff of Biblioneef for their tireless work in getting books to the children of South Africa.

Financials

Biblioneef South Africa NPC
(Registration number 1998/018378/08)
Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2020

Statement of Financial Position as at 31 December 2020

Figures in Rands	Note	2020	2019
Assets			
Non-Current Assets			
Property, plant and equipment	2	136,781	150,456
Other financial assets	3	1,251,629	1,276,875
		1,388,410	1,427,331
Current Assets			
Inventories	5	3,942,256	3,907,481
Trade and other receivables	4	27,662	58,111
Cash and cash equivalents	6	2,495,271	1,477,503
		6,465,189	5,443,095
Total Assets		7,853,599	6,870,426
Retained Funds & Liabilities			
Retained Funds			
Retained funds		6,421,382	6,526,530
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Trade and other payables	7	4,772	21,164
Deferred income	8	1,330,830	266,500
Provisions	9	96,615	56,232
		1,432,217	343,896
Total Equity & Liabilities		7,853,599	6,870,426

Financials

Biblioneef South Africa NPC
(Registration number 1998/018378/08)
Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2020

Statement of Comprehensive Income

Figures in Rands	Note	2020	2019
Income	10	3,089,456	4,610,489
Cost of Fund Raising Activities	11	(1861,570)	(1,254,359)
Cost of Social Activities	11	(1,556,908)	(2,939,450)
		670,978	416,680
Other income		-	15,835
Administrative cost		(836,785)	(1,379,545)
Operating deficit	13	(165,807)	(947,030)
Investment revenue	14	86,024	97,529
Fair value adjustments	15	(25,246)	64,392
Finance costs		(119)	(688)
Deficit for the year		(105,148)	(785,797)
Other comprehensive income		-	-
Total comprehensive deficit for the year		(105,148)	(785,797)

How to Support Biblioneef South Africa

Biblioneef relies on the generous donations and support of Corporate, Institutional and Individual donors to reach children in need with quality storybooks in their local language. Biblioneef prides itself on its transparency and accountability, fully adhering to all donor reporting requirements.

Become part of our network of givers



R85

Provides 1 storybook in a child's mother tongue



R4 500

Provides an ECD Centre with a box of storybooks & educational toys



R20 000

Provides a "Corner classroom library"



R135 000

Provides a "Start-up" library for a school



R350 000

Provides a school with a fully-stocked library

To support our work, you can donate online, via bank transfer, with cash or you can contact us to discuss how to support Biblioneef in another way.

Online: visit www.biblioneefsa.org.za and click on "support us" to contribute via our secure platform

Bank transfer: To donate directly to Biblioneef, you can make a payment to:

Account name: Biblioneef South Africa

Bank: Nedbank

Branch: Pinelands

Branch Code: 104709

Account Number: 1047029170



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