

# School Aid Shipment to Malawi

## Interim Report of December 2018 shipment



**Charity Makwakwa, librarian at Rainbow Hope Secondary School at Book Bus Community Library**

*"My students enjoy the books very much because they are able to read the books and appreciate pictures on their own and in a class. Teachers learn more from the books and get some lessons to teach the children" Head, Mzewe Day Care Centre*

### INTRODUCTION

In December 2018 a container left the School Aid warehouse destined to our partners, The Book Bus and HELP Malawi, in the Mangochi area near Lake Malawi. It contained a mix of reading, reference and text books.

In total this donation potentially benefitted nearly 10,000 students in nineteen different schools.

### THE RECIPIENTS

The resources were received by the schools during February and March 2019. Feedback questionnaires, based on our ME2 questionnaires sent three months after receipt of resources, were completed in August 2019.

The nineteen recipients included:

- 8 primary schools
- 4 secondary schools
- 3 preschools
- 1 nursery and primary school
- 3 community libraries

This interim report is based on a sample of eight schools (three secondary, one primary and three pre-schools and one nursery and primary). As such it represents only a sample of all recipients.

Individual interviews were conducted with all the heads together with 15 teachers and 7 students.

The total number of students in the schools interviewed is just under 2500. This ranged from one primary school with over 1000 students to a nursery school with only 26 children.

The total number of teachers in these schools is just under 90.

Our thanks to The Book Bus and HELP Malawi for organising the collection and submission of the feedback.

## FEEDBACK

Three recipients reported that the books were stored in a library and one in a store room but three reported they were in both a library and a storeroom.

This has been explained by our partner, Lemani Ngaiyaye of the Book Bus, who conducted the interviews as follows:

*Initially, before these shipments, textbooks were kept in classroom shelves. Schools had no proper book storage and libraries. But now they have created small reading rooms (libraries) and some storerooms. Books are temporarily kept in storeroom and they are regularly exchanged with those that are not often used.*

*Some schools have even increased shelves and layout in the library such as Madzanje Community Day Secondary and Gumbu community library while others such as Future4All and Kafulafula have even built new library structures to accommodate more users and stock more books. Honestly, our schools in rural Malawi are never the same due to these shipments.*

All the teachers reported they can easily access the books.

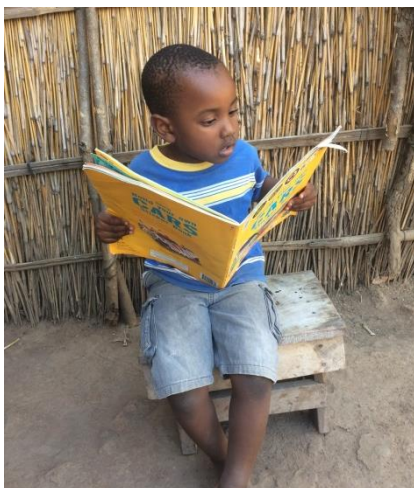
All the schools reported that teachers were using the books on a regular basis, not only to teach but also as reference material for preparing lessons and for private teacher study.

The recipients all agreed that the books benefit boys and girls.

*“Boys find the centre the right place to spend their day due to availability of child friendly resources “ Head, Mzewe Day Care Centre*

*“The Books from School Aid are reducing the inequality between schools in urban and rural areas and I am glad the most scarce resources are now with us” Head, Bright Horizon Nursery and Primary School*

All of the students interviewed were aware of the School Aid resources and stated that they had personally benefitted. They were using the books for free reading and for studying.



**Child at Mzewe Day Care cars in a book**

## **CONCLUSION**

This feedback confirms that the resources sent in this shipment have been well received by schools all of whom report a range of benefits to students and teachers.

A more detailed report will be completed in a further approximately 12 months.

**Adele Wilter**  
***School Aid Africa Coordinator***

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