



EducAid- Books Abroad report



Physically distanced students happily receive some reading books in TDC Matotoka, Tonkolili District

I. Introduction

EducAid Sierra Leone received a generous shipment from Book Abroad in late December 2019. The shipment was delayed in port and EducAid paid Le585,485,000 (£4,545) to get the books out of the port. These books were for EducAid's schools, SisterLand, the Book Feeding Project and SL Project (EducAid partner schools). As EducAid is an organisation in Sierra Leone that promotes quality learning and ensures quality teaching, the Books Abroad donation serves as a supporting tool for the accomplishment of the vision and mission of EducAid. As EducAid has itself engaged in the distribution of the books, opportunities for such an involvement will help:

- 🌱 Improve relationships and the partnership with Books Abroad and the other organisations
- 🌱 Reinforce teacher continuous professional development through the teacher improvement materials provided
- 🌱 Provide high quality learning materials and model lessons for students at all levels

The books were provided in the following numbers and for all the said institutions:

🌱 Maronka	14 boxes
🌱 PBM	16
🌱 Lumley	29
🌱 Bookfeeding	29
🌱 Masorie	15
🌱 Mathele Bana	26
🌱 Mafoimba	19
🌱 EducAid Rolal	25
🌱 Sisterland	30
🌱 Magbeni	14
🌱 SL Project	322

6th January 2020, the staff and students of EducAid helped in organising the books into the above categories.



The Cluster Mentor of Kabala District receiving books to be distributed in all his 5 schools

II. Activity

EducAid is a household name in Sierra Leone. It is an organisation that renders free quality education in Sierra Leone. EducAid operates in Freetown and the Northern Province. The activities that were involved in the book distribution were all carried out by EducAid Sierra Leone. The activities for book distributions were done through the following stages:

- 🌱 Constant communication with Books Abroad
- 🌱 Collection of books from the storage house
- 🌱 Engaging with other organisations on their collection opportunities
- 🌱 Sorting of books for distribution
- 🌱 Engaging with stakeholders about the book donations and plans to distribute and use them



Cluster Mentor Sallieu takes the books on his bike on the hand ferry to Yiben in Koinadugu District

Engagement & Distribution

Education is all about engaging with the right stakeholders on any development. To kick start the book distribution activities, EducAid Sierra Leone had engagement meetings with key stakeholders in locations receiving the books. The following were met with by EducAid so that there will be ownership of the books:

- 🌱 MBSSE reps
- 🌱 TSC reps
- 🌱 SMC/CTA
- 🌱 Parents
- 🌱 School leaders
- 🌱 Teachers
- 🌱 Students
- 🌱 Cluster Mentors (EducAid performance managers working with partner schools)

The focus of the meetings was:

- 🌱 To determine the safety of the books in the school communities
- 🌱 Agreeing the roles of each group
- 🌱 Decide how learners could reap the benefit of the books
- 🌱 Allocating the materials that are available to them
- 🌱 Discussing how students and teachers can access them
- 🌱 Bringing everyone on board to collaborate with the book project



Accessing the hard to reach communities

On the 26th May 2020, the EducAid Education Team embarked on distributing books to schools across 60 communities in 6 districts in the Northern Province. The districts are as follows:

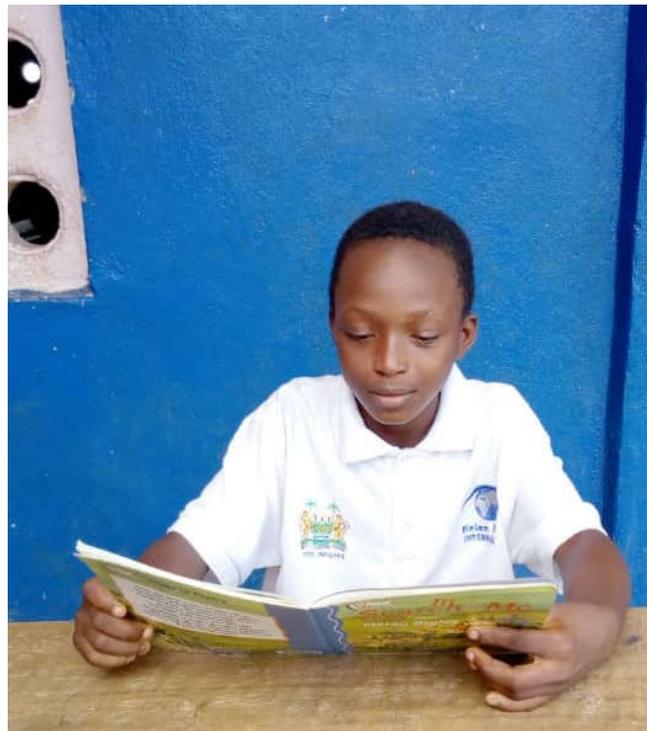
Port Loko District, Kambia, Karene, Bombali, Koinadugu and Tonkolili. There are 10 schools in each of the districts which make it a total 60 schools. EducAid distributed a total of 180 boxes

of books to these 60 schools, serving 19,000 children. The purpose for which EducAid distributed these books during the crisis is the following:

- 🌱 Schools are not in operation, but that does not mean children should not be learning. Children will sign for the books and read them at home.
- 🌱 Materials related to improve teaching and learning, will help teachers to develop and improve themselves professionally.
- 🌱 Reading in this part of the world is not part of the traditional culture or habits.

Having those books and allowing children to engage in reading will help instil the culture of reading in the students and the teachers.

- 🌱 As an organisation that believes in the role of education in transforming Sierra Leone, EducAid wants to complement the efforts of the government by



supporting the free quality education. By reaching the remote areas in this country with the support of teaching and learning materials, complements the efforts of the government

III. *Impact story*

During the distribution of the books the QEP Coordinator and the Community Relations Coordinator met with some stakeholders in some of the districts. The purpose of such meetings were:

- 🌱 To strengthen cordial relationships with the local stakeholders in Education in those communities
- 🌱 To inform them about the role we are playing in their communities and invite them to collaborate with us
- 🌱 To create awareness of our operations in their districts

🌱 To explain to them about Books Abroad and their donation to help improve teaching and learning

From the meeting with the Deputy Directors of Education in the various districts, we were able to reach a unanimous conclusion. They were pleased and very appreciative of the moves we had taken.

“I want to say we appreciate EducAid for the moves. The government will not be able to succeed without the intervention of other partners. We appreciate the donations you have made to the 10 schools in my district”

Mr Kuyateh DD Bombali District

“Supporting schools in hard to reach areas is one thing that we are struggling with as a ministry. Having organisations like you to help in these areas is relieving for us. I welcome you to partnership in Kambia district. Thanks to Books Abroad for the supply” **Mr Fornah DD Kambia.**

“We as a commission will encourage any partnership for teacher development. We want to appreciate the moves especially during these hard times. Thanks for contributing to teacher development. We appreciate EducAid and Book Abroad”. **Joseph S Kargbo DD Teaching Service Commission Bombali.**



EducAid works with 60 schools in remote areas in Sierra Leone. These are schools that have no or limited access to teaching and learning materials. The books distributed will help boost learning and develop the professionalism of the teachers. In these 60 schools, there is a total of 550 teachers of which EducAid pays for 60 to do distance learning. School was supported with Teacher development materials. “I



appreciate the games materials donated in my school. It will help my teachers that are working with the pre-school students” Mrs Bangura Head Mistress RC Primary School.

EducAid has embarked on the distribution of the all the books from Books Abroad and are still doing it. Delivery was delayed as EducAid had to apply for permits to travel between districts during the Covid-19 pandemic, but the delivery of the books during these school closures has helped learning to continue. EducAid wants to specially thank and appreciate Books Abroad for complementing their work here in Sierra Leone.



Book distribution in Yele town. Books were taken for 5 primary schools and 1 secondary school

*Written and submitted by Joseph M Kai
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