



2020

NEWSLETTER ROUNDUP



BOOK BOX LIBRARY CLUB SUCCESSFULLY LAUNCHED REACHING ITS FIRST 700 CHILDREN

Despite the unexpected challenges that the Covid-19 pandemic brought to 2020, it has been a big year for Christianna Foundation. Following extensive research and planning in 2019, Book Box Library Club (BBLC) officially launched its pilot phase in Ona-Ara, Oyo State in February. As our first mobile library initiative was designed to service some of the most hard to reach primary school children. It is a bespoke service, created in response to the specific needs of the region and in collaboration with the community. It is our most ambitious project to date, aiming to service 102 primary schools, reaching 20,000 children by 2024.

In 2020 we launched in 5 schools: St. Paul's Anglican Primary, Kajola CAC Primary, Akinkemi IDC Basic School, Olorunda St. John's Basic School, Idi-Ose St. Peter's Anglican School, Ojuku. We reached 700 pupils with this first phase.

With schools closed due to Covid from March through to September, we turned our attention to developing systems to scale up our operations in the future. Following the successful pilot launch of Book Box Library Club a full 'Operations Manual' was developed to codify processes in way that would ensure consistency and scalability going forward. We produced a 41 page 'blueprint' with the aim of ensuring the BBLC model can be easily be shared and replicated.

We used this time to further develop learning and literacy programmes to compliment the library and ensure that increased access to books will translate into actual increases in literacy. The 'Book Review Challenge', 'Reading Passport' and 'Community Reading Mentor Scheme' have all been designed to work together to motivate and incentivise children, teachers and the community.

Schools in Ona-Ara were set to reopen by late September and we began preparations for going back into schools. We would be re-engaging with a new set of Covid-19 safety guidelines. All books will be quarantined for a minimum of 5-days upon return to the library and full Personal Protective Equipment was issued to all staff.

Returning to schools after a 6-month absence we were very pleased to be able to recover around 85% of our library books in very good condition. We were delighted to find that the children and the community had looked after the library books with great care and respect. Most of the books not recovered were due to primary 6 pupils moving beyond primary school.

BBLC is slowly starting to become part of the school routine. Developing a strong library culture will take time and we are well on our way to achieving this goal. Planning has begun for the next cohort of five schools planned for January.

