



African Library Project African Partner Guidelines

The African Library Project is a volunteer-based organization based in the United States. Our mission is to increase literacy in Africa by creating and improving small libraries. We do this by coordinating US volunteer efforts to collect books through school and community book drives, then match them with qualified library projects in Africa. During the past 15 years, we have successfully helped to establish over 2,900 libraries in Lesotho, Malawi, Ghana, Botswana, Cameroon, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Swaziland, Nigeria, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

While we are not actively looking for African partners at this time, our capacity to collect books in the US is growing and we are always interested in learning about prospective partners.

Partnership Criteria

Our partners must be able to support the development of 30-60 small, simple libraries at one time, for the benefit of African schools and communities. We seek African partners who would like to develop a 5+ year relationship with the African Library Project. Our goal is to send our partners at least one container of 30-60 libraries per year.

Our partners:

- Identify prospective library projects through an application process. ALP's priority is to serve new libraries in hard to serve areas or pre-existing libraries with a collection not exceeding 2,000 books. Each library project must provide the space, furniture, staffing and a library committee.
- Receive a container, duty free, from customs with approximately 60,000 books and pay for all in-country shipping and labor costs. These costs vary by country. The African Library Project does not provide financial assistance.
- Unload and store books until distributed to library projects.
- Train teacher librarians or librarians and provide a support network for these librarians.
- Visit sites throughout the process to monitor and support library development.
- Evaluate progress.

- Host African Library Project representatives for a pre-agreement and/or implementation site visits, if requested.

The African Library Project offers to:

- Initiate and coordinate book drives in the US and match each book drive with a specific library project in Africa, so that we send books that meet each library project's needs.
- Provide approximately 1000 high quality, gently used books per library project in a container of 60+ library projects.
- Ship books to the country's customs check point.
- Provide technical manuals on how to set up and organize libraries in Africa.
- Provide sets of HIV/AIDS books as we are able to procure funding.
- Offer best practices for library development and management.
- Provide a measurement and evaluation system to help track library use and effectiveness.

If you are interested in being considered for a future partnership, email our African Partners Committee at apc@africanlibraryproject.org. In your email, elaborate on why you are interested in partnering with us and how your organization might meet each of the requirements listed above as partner responsibilities.