

**THANK YOU for supporting Omushana's
Community Libraries &
'Fun with Books' Programmes**

2019 was another great year for Omushana's reading promotion and IT training projects.

Our Community Libraries in Buhoma and Ruhija are now benefiting more children (and adults) than ever and the Footsteps Community Library in Rubuguri adds significantly to the project's reach.

Over 3,000 children now enjoy resources based at these libraries!

We are hearing again and again that children are starting to realise the joy of books and are beginning to read and enjoy story books.



Our team of Librarians is also growing - we have just taken on a wonderful new IT Training Librarian at Ruhija – Moses Kangume. And in 2019 we introduced an allowance for the fabulous Ben in Rubuguri to cover his work with children in that area. So this brings our Librarian team up to five! Caroline (reading champion) and Moses M (IT training) in Buhoma, Speria (reading champion) and Moses K (IT training) in Ruhija plus Ben (reading champion) in Rubuguri.



The Librarians visit schools every morning (outreach) and are then available in the libraries in the afternoon and on Saturdays to receive school groups, other visiting children and community members. In the holidays there are book clubs and reading activities plus IT courses which are open to all.

We now have 26 Book Boxes full of great story books and colourful information books. These spend term-time out in schools, ensuring that thousands of children have access to story books on a daily basis. The boxes are swapped around each term so that pupils are constantly seeing new books.

Our annual "Advent Book Challenge" continues to provide the Librarians with a constant supply of fabulous reading books.



Hundreds of new books were delivered to the Libraries during 2019. And we are also always on the lookout for Ugandan books and purchase at least 50 per year.



Several more laptops were also delivered in 2019 so that Buhoma keeps its quota of at least 10 laptops while Ruhija now has 5. Many thanks to everyone who donated laptops this year, especially Field Studies Council who donated 18 which will be delivered to Uganda next year.



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A recent appeal for new books to fill all these libraries and book boxes has resulted in a fabulous response and over 1000 books are currently being packed and will start their journey to Uganda in January.

Special thanks to the following groups who have donated so many books:

- Newnham Junior School, Eastcote, London
- Conover Primary School, Shropshire
- Grange Primary School, Shrewsbury
- St Thomas and St Anne's Primary School, Hanwood, Shropshire
- Trinity Primary School, Ford, Shropshire
- St Patrick's Primary School, Leicester
- Wightwick Hall School, Wolverhampton
- Shrewsbury Unitarian Church members
- Shrewsbury Children's Bookfest



Many, many others have also sent donations of books and money for which everyone involved in the project is hugely grateful.

And so to the most exciting news..... 2020 will see the opening of our fourth Community Library. This is our first at Mgahinga National Park on the northern flanks of the Virunga Volcano massive (a few kilometres from the Rwandan and DRC borders). When we visited this area in March 2019 we were so impressed by the enthusiasm of the teachers, particularly head teacher Shadulac at Gisozi Community School. We immediately planned to start a reading and book project. Thanks to the offer of some part-constructed classrooms at Gisozi School, and another wonderful grant offer from the British Foreign Schools Society (who previously funded the Ruhija library), we are now in a position to be creating a library which will be open in February 2020.

In November we delivered the first books and spent a great day story telling – it's going to be brilliant to have a complete library very soon!



So many individuals and groups supported our Libraries and the reading projects during 2019.

***THANK YOU to everyone.
None of this would be possible without your support.***

