



**BOOK AID**  
**International**

RANFURLY LIBRARY SERVICE

## CRITERIA FOR BOOK AID

*Book Aid International works in partnership with organisations in developing countries to support local initiatives in literacy, education, training and publishing. We provide relevant books and information to those in greatest need - to enable people to realise their potential and contribute to the development of their communities.*

Book Aid International (BAI) and its partners believe that access to books and information is fundamental to life-long education, overall development and the eradication of poverty.

Education provides the opportunity to transform people's lives and the communities in which they live. Books and other reading materials available for supplementary use in schools and educational establishments are essential to support education. Information made widely available through libraries and community resource centres is equally important for good quality education and self development, and underpins the provision of education and training outside the classroom.

BAI receives far more requests for books and information than can be supported. We cannot consider requests from individuals for books for their own personal use. The criteria outlined below are used to help us focus our work, ensuring that resources are targeted effectively.

The criteria are applied to all organisations that we support. Our programmes vary from country to country depending on local conditions, and the criteria are applied in that context. A **Country Screening Tool** which takes into account a country's Human Development Index, publishing output and the use of English is used to ensure that our resources are targeted to countries that are most in need and where our work can have maximum impact on development and the reduction of poverty.

### **Priority for support will be given to organisations working in the following sectors:**

- < **Information:** eg public libraries, children's libraries, resource centres
- < **Education:** eg primary and secondary schools, universities and teacher training colleges
- < **Health:** HIV/AIDS, primary healthcare eg community health centres, teaching hospitals
- < **Human rights:** eg legal advice centres, advocacy groups
- < **Gender awareness:** eg advocacy groups, women's groups
- < **Environmental protection:** eg environmental groups, reserve and wildlife departments, ecotourism
- < **Agriculture:** eg farmers' groups, agricultural colleges
- < **Publishing & book development:** eg publishers, reading promotion organisations

### **BAI is particularly interested in supporting organisations targeting disadvantaged groups such as:**

- < **Rural /Urban Poor**
- < **Women & girls**
- < **Refugees**
- < **People with special needs**
- < **Prison populations**

Whether receiving support directly or via referral to a local partner in country, all organisations receiving books should meet the criteria outlined below. Functions carried out by core partners may vary, and the role that they play will be defined in each **Partnership Agreement** drawn up between BAI and the partner organisation.

**To be considered for support organisations must meet all of the following criteria:**

**Need**

- < their own resources are limited and they are unable to acquire sufficient relevant materials from other sources
- < to avoid duplication of support and encourage the sharing of resources the requesting organisation makes full use of other resources nearby eg. local library

**Role**

- < they are in a key position to make a significant contribution to development in their field and/or targeting poorest and most disadvantaged groups in their community
- < they have the capacity to handle the logistical requirements of receiving and/or distribution of the books
- < they are able to contribute to the local costs of clearing customs and inland transport of the books where necessary
- < they have a commitment to influence change in the environment of books and information, and are able to demonstrate activities that show an intention to reduce dependency on BAI (eg lobbying and income generation)

**Access/Use**

- < the organisation aims to make books widely available and to promote and encourage reading
- < where the request is specialist in nature, the organisation aims to promote the books and make them available to other relevant users
- < any charges for membership of the library/use of the books are set at an affordable level for the local population

**Care/Security**

- < there is a specified person responsible for the material
- < procedures are in place to manage the books
- < a secure area is set aside for use while ensuring maximum access

**Communication and Monitoring**

- < organisations provide adequate information about their background and requirements
- < organisations contribute to the development of the programme by providing information which allows BAI/distributing partner to monitor the use of the books and the impact of the support
- < partners agree to cooperate in any evaluation exercise undertaken by BAI staff or their representatives at a future date

**Levels of support given to partner organisations will be based on the:**

- < number of users that the partner can reach
- < ability of each organisation to meet the above criteria
- < type of material requested, availability of stock at BAI and on the programme for that country