



30-MONTH ANNIVERSARY OF

THE IDEAS BOX

NEWS AND UPDATES FOR PARTNERS

September 2016



Patrick Weil,
Libraries Without Borders President

With the summer of 2016 coming to an end, it is time for us to review the Ideas Box project that you have all contributed to bringing up and helping grow.

Between February 2014, when the project was launched in Burundi, and the spring of 2016, 20 Ideas Boxes were deployed throughout the world. Close to 50 new projects will be launched by the end of 2016. This fast pace shows the extent to which the kit manages to fill gaps, in both emergency relief contexts and our neighborhoods and rural areas, in France or in the United States. It is with your support that our teams have been able to increase the production and deployment of Ideas Box programs.

We measure our impact daily in the areas where the Ideas Box are deployed, and we have seen impressive results. I think of the thousands of lives that we have transformed, mainly through the fantastic educational results the Ideas Box produces every day. Furthermore, the Ideas Box has created unexpected impact on the performance of its users across public libraries, local associations, and humanitarian non-profits.

Our goal aims high: we want to deploy 1,000 Ideas Box by 2020! This is why your support is so important: we are only at the beginning of a long journey and are extremely proud and happy to have you on board.

23

Ideas Boxes deployed throughout the world.

76

76 Ideas Boxes to be out in the field by January 2017

150k+

Ideas Box visits by users.

12 countries of intervention

5 continents



● Humanitarian & post-conflict relief
 ● Education and access to culture

SYRIAN CRISIS ZONE

Jordan [2|5]*
 Lebanon [1 |1]
 Iraq [1 |1]
 Turkey [-|2]

REFUGEE CRISIS IN EUROPE

Greece [3 |1]
 Germany [1|-]
 France [3 |-]

GREAT LAKES CRISIS

Burundi [4|2]
 Rwanda [-|2]
 DRC [-|2]

ETHIOPIA [2|-]

DEMOBILIZATION OF THE

FARC
 Colombia [-|23]

FRANCE [3|10]

UNITED STATES [2|1]
 AUSTRALIA [2|-]
 SENEGAL [1|-]
 MAROCCO [-|1]

* [Number of Ideas Box in service in August 16 | New Ideas Box to be installed by January 17]

Humanitarian & Post-Conflict Relief

54 IDEAS BOXES BY THE END OF 2016



Every time a disaster or conflict arises, people focus on food, temporary shelters, and clothing. Once these vital needs are covered, it is critical to support the affected people in reconnecting to the world, getting over all obstacles, and jumpstarting community resilience towards a better future. By providing access to the Internet, to books, cinema, and theater, as well as to teaching resources through the Ideas Box, LWB delivers the essential tools to help re-empower refugees and find solutions to the problems they are facing.

Cultural tools also have the potential to promote peace and reconciliation. It is in this spirit that LWB works closely with the National Library of Colombia on a large-scale intervention within the frames of the historic peace treaty.

Humanitarian and Post-Conflict Relief

MAIN PROJECTS



Middle East / Syrian Crisis

With 4 Ideas Boxes already deployed in Jordan, Lebanon, and Iraq and more than a dozen to be installed in the coming months, the Middle East is a key area of intervention for LWB. Projects are developed in refugee camps and urban areas, also serving host populations whenever possible.



Great Lakes Africa / Burundi Crisis

Burundi is the first country where 4 Ideas Boxes have been deployed since 2014. The Ideas Box reaches thousands of people every week and have become landmarks in refugee camps. However, the country now faces a major political crisis that has forced many people to flee for neighboring countries.

In this context, LWB is active in the area and will bring 2 new boxes in Rwanda in November (in a camp for refugees from Burundi). Other projects are being designed for Burundi, Tanzania, and the Democratic Republic of Congo.



Europe / The Refugee Route

LWB is also engaged in accompanying the thousands of refugees who arrive in Europe. 3 Ideas Boxes have been deployed in Greece (in Lesbos and the camps in Athens), 1 in Germany (in Dusseldorf) and 3 in France (in Paris and the camps of Grande Synthe).

Initially designed as a project with quick impact in assisting refugees along the route (legal support, basic information, etc.), the Ideas Boxes have now transformed into receiving and integration spaces (education, language learning, etc.). This flexibility is a major advantage of the Ideas Box in complex environments where a regular redefinition of activities and objectives is expected, if not required.



Colombia / Peace Process

The Ministry of Culture in Colombia contacted LWB in the summer of 2016 and called for a partnership in setting up mobile libraries in the areas where the ex-FARC had been active. The urgency of the situation (6 months starting in September 2016) and the unstable nature of the project required a highly flexible tool. Thus, the Ideas Box came up as the perfect program to address the Ministry's objectives.

23 Ideas Boxes will be deployed in close collaboration with the National Library of Colombia by January 2017. This is a new field of experimentation for LWB to show the great extent to which libraries and cultural tools are essential for restoring peace and reconciliation.

Public Education and Cultural Inclusion

13 IDEAS BOXES BY THE END OF 2016



Entire communities are isolated from cultural programs, even in rich countries. The first to be excluded are the populations in under-resourced neighborhoods. Studies show just how closely related precarity, exclusion, and illiteracy are. Beyond emergency contexts, we must expand access to cultural tools for communities that live in areas that are not currently reached by existing cultural programs. This includes both rural areas and low-income urban neighborhoods. Beyond the constraints of physical access, there are also many symbolic and social barriers that prevent access to cultural institutions, such as public libraries.

The projects we have developed in close collaboration with local libraries in France, Australia or the United States show what a wonderful tool the Idea Box is for reimagining libraries and opening libraries beyond their walls. However, these needs cannot stop at the border of industrialized countries -- we recognize that there are also great needs for cultural tools and programs in certain communities of the Global South.

Public Education and Cultural Inclusion

MAIN PROJECTS



France / Underresourced Neighborhoods and Rural Areas

After a successful trial in 2015, Ideas Box projects continue multiplying in France. The communities with Ideas Box programs now include the Ideas Box Calais, Paris, Sarcelles, Marseille and the Department of Ille-et-Vilaine. LWB also works closely with local associations in neighborhoods such as Acelem in Marseille. 13 Ideas Boxes will be active in France by the end of this year.



United States / Underresourced Neighborhoods

Following a successful first summer camp in 2015 in the New York neighborhood of the Bronx, the projects are now growing in the United States with Detroit this year and Oakland at the beginning of 2017. Oakland will be the first US city to launch a permanent long-term Ideas Box program. There is tremendous needs for the kit in the many communities of the US where less than 10% of students read at grade level.



Australia / Aboriginal Communities

In partnership with the Queensland State Library, LWB has installed an Ideas Box for isolated Torres Strait Islanders, which is more than 1,000 km away from the closest town. Before the Ideas Box arrived, librarians served community needs by plane. The Ideas Box brings precious tools for education and cultural heritage. In partnership with the State Library of Western Australia, a second Ideas Box will be installed in another isolated community in September.



Senegal / Children in the Streets

In partnership with the Futur Au Present association, LWB has developed the Ideas Box as a cross-sectional response to problems related school drop-out, child labor, and life in the streets, especially in Casamance in the Ziguinchor region. The Ideas Box is delivered for the girls in the Maison de l'Education de FAP, as well as for the Accommodation Center for Children in the Street; it also serves primary schools in the neighborhoods and the public high-school of Ziguinchor. Beyond its focus on children's education and protection, the project is also the best opportunity for new economic models: for instance, the Box is open in the evening to provide people in the city with Internet access and training. At this Ideas Box, folks can also pay to come watch football games together. Their financial contributions balance the project finances and make it sustainable.



A new partner for building the Ideas Box!

September 2016 marks a turning point in the plans of producing the Ideas Box, with production to start in a factory in Francheville dans le Rhone that is specialized in woodworking - The Fabrique. This step is the culmination of a 12-month effort to re-design the Ideas Box. The result: a box that is lighter, easier to set up, and less expensive to build.

LWB is now able to deliver up to 10 Ideas Box every month!

FUTURE STEPS

30 months in, LWB has gained important experiences with dozens of Ideas Box implementations. The next few months will be crucial to ensuring the highest-quality implementations of Ideas Box programs across the 5 continents. Our biggest challenge? To never think that a tool, no matter how innovative and wonderful, can solve all of a community's challenges in the same manner, everywhere. Technology is important, but it is the people that continue to be at the heart of our approach. Every box is integrated into a project, with its own objectives and theories of change. Each box is curated to the needs of the population it serves.

Our challenge is to be successful in the custom-made creation of the Ideas Box. For this, we are focusing on:

- Reinforcing the quality of services around the Ideas Box, including collaboration with our partners in project design and for technical expertise, as well as human resource training, selection of curated contents, and evaluation and monitoring.
- Software development for an easier customization of projects, especially through the Ideas Cube platform that has been installed in each Ideas Box to allow access to thousands of localized content that would otherwise not be available without Internet connection.
- Sharing best practices among the different boxes as part of LWB's 10-year anniversary in 2017, by organizing a conference to reunite all Ideas Box facilitators from around the world!
- Continuing and increasing the robustness of impact evaluations: 4 quality and quantity impact reports have already been released (to be available soon on www.ideas-box.org). We will speed up this approach in the coming months to show how the Ideas Box truly transforms lives.

We have got here thanks to **you!**

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