Victoria Aiyeyemi International School

Progress Report, March 2017
This is a detailed report on the status and progress of the first project launched by The Book Banque in September 2016. This document provides an overview on the project, accomplishments, setbacks, potential solutions and steps for further development of project. The report was prepared in accordance with the organisation’s mandate to be transparent and accountable.
Introduction

The Book Banque is a social enterprise with a dual commitment to empowering and enriching Nigerian youths through education and cultural heritage. It collects, sorts and redistributes academic and non-academic books to schools in disadvantaged communities in Nigeria. The Book Banque shares and reviews literature to encourage reading and increase awareness on relevant topics in Nigeria.
The Book Banque

Launched August 2016

**Aim**

Increase awareness on social, economic, political and cultural topics in Nigeria, through a multidisciplinary approach to reading; Reconnect Nigerians to their historical core.

**How?**

Write and share evidence-based opinions and articles; Share reviews on (African) literature; Host virtual chats via social media platforms.

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**Education**

Eradicate one of the core contributors to low education enrolment rates in Nigeria - lack of school materials and books; Broaden horizon and encourage youths to challenge the normative.

**How?**

Collect, sort and redistribute academic and non-academic books to schools in disadvantaged communities; Consultation on literary activities.

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**Virtual Book Club**

**Resource Bank**

**Cultural Heritage**
Located in Ilasan Lekki, **Victoria Aiyeyemi International School** was founded in 1999 in response to the supply deficit of low cost educational infrastructure in the resettlement area. Initially a space with a blackboard and chalk, the school has grown to accommodate an average of 120 students annually. The **Victoria Aiyeyemi International School** comprises of Kindergarten, Nursery and Primary and Junior Secondary Education. The school follows the Nigerian curriculum and students are taught in English. Majority of the students that attend the school are offspring of those cleared from Maroko in 1990, and therefore, from low-income and vulnerable households.
In the process of academic research on the social cost of the 1990 Slum Clearance, Victoria Aiyeyemi International School was discovered by our team in June 2016. On the third visit to the school, the team observed three things: a lack of relevant and up-to-date textbooks to prepare for upcoming national examinations, a thirst for knowledge among the students and infrastructural deficiencies. Following a vetting process and a needs assessment, a Memorandum of Understanding outlining The Book Banque’s non-financial commitment* and a common line of action was formally agreed with the school in August 2016.

*Non-financial commitment means The Book Banque has no financial obligation to the Victoria Aiyeyemi International School.
Needs Assessment

The table below contains the list of resources identified by the Head of School in August 2016, and updated in February 2017. Items are marked with a level of-priority as graded by the Head of School and The Book Banque.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Needs</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Priority Level</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>By School</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td>1 Unit</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td>1 Unit</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Furniture</td>
<td>50 Sets</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer</td>
<td>4 Units</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Printer</td>
<td>1 Unit</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Generator</td>
<td>1 Unit</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Bus</td>
<td>1 Unit</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toilet Facilities</td>
<td>6 Units</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standing Fans</td>
<td>13 Units</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Library**: This would facilitate the book club to be integrated in April 2017.
- **Laboratory**: Training or employing a science specialist would be required to compliment.
- **Furniture**: Chairs and tables preferably with in-built lockers - assumes 1 set sits 2.
- **Computer**: Currently 1 personal laptop used. Preference of laptop over desktops for security and mobility reasons.
- **Printer**: This would be used to print practice and class materials.
- **Generator**: Recently provided by the Head of School and shared by his household.
- **School Bus**: This should not be priority as majority of the students live within the community. It may only be beneficial for outings.
- **Toilet Facilities**: New sewage system needed; a well or borehole needed for servicing toilets; walls falling apart and need plastering.
- **Infrastructure**: Stronger structure required. Areas for work include: ceilings, plastering, windows, flooring and painting. Blackboards also needed.
- **Standing Fans**: 13 fans are excessive. 6-8 standing fans would be sufficient.
Check-In

August 2016 - March 2017

Phone Conversation
Update on the extension of collection period and new delivery date in October communicated with the Head of School. Report on general welfare was provided by the Head of School.

Phone Conversation
Further delay in the delivery of books and building of functional library unit communicated with the Head of School, and new date of delivery in January communicated. Report on general welfare was provided by the Head of School.

Phone Conversation
Follow up on the progress made through the term - student performance and attendance - and any issues encountered through first term. The Head of School assured that all was well but noted that a few students had not resumed due to “an inability to pay fees.”

The Book Banque, in partnership with Thespian Family Theatre and Production, offered 23 tickets for 20 Children and 3 teachers to watch the stage play - ITAN - at the National Theatre. A transportation allowance of N15,000 was granted and snacks provided at the venue.

In Person Visitation
The Book Banque spent after school hours with 137 students and 10 teachers on Valentine’s Day. The children danced their hearts out and the team provided refreshments. An update on the new structures in the school, and the commencement of an after school care service.

Further delays encountered by The Book Banque were communicated, and the process of weekly reading and grammar sessions facilitated by the team and volunteers discussed. Organisational structure and budget sheet of school examined, and needs assessment updated.

*Subject to number of volunteers available.
Collection

This outlines the timeline of the project and the three methods employed for collecting books. Between the commencement of the project and March 2017 and with the help of volunteers, The Book Banque has collected 335 books have in Lagos, Nigeria and London, United Kingdom. Of the 335 books, however, 83 books have remained at our base in Essex, United Kingdom.

*Numbers yet to be consolidated but estimated at 500.*
Timeline

September 2016 - March 2017

Timeline:

- **September 7th**: Collection Window Open
  - Drop Off Point Collection Book Drive

- **October 2nd**: Initial Collection Period End
  - Delayed

- **November 30th**: New Collection Period End
  - Sort Pack Build Library

- **January 9th**: Scheduled Delivery
  - Delayed

- **335 Books**
Book Donations

September 2016 - December 2016

**Drop Off**

Book donations could be deposited Monday to Friday between 10am and 4pm at our designated drop off point in Oregun.

**Pick Up**

One Magodo pick; Four Saturday on-request picks within Ikoyi, Victoria Island and Lekki; one Sunday Estate ‘Drive Through’ in Lekki; one London pick.

**Book Drive**

Two book drives: one conducted at a volunteer's workplace in London; another conducted at a Methodist Girls' High School set of '86 Reunion.
Delays

During the course of the project, a series of changes have been experienced and have, in turn, affected the delivery of books collected. The delays are mainly attributable to an inadequacy of funds to cover the logistics and shipping of the books collected in the United Kingdom, and the tempestuous exchange rate. The effect of the financial unavailability extends to the building of a functional library unit within the school.
Financing

From inception till date, The Book Banque has been self-financed by its founder - Tobi Jaiyesimi. The small-scale nature of the source of funding and the non-profit structure of the organisation has thus far limited our financial ability to ship books from our UK base in Essex to Lagos, and build a functional library unit for the Victoria Aiyeyemi International School. The funds currently available serve as a working capital loan and are solely sufficient for the day-to-day running of the organisation. The incremental depreciation in the value of the Naira against the British Pound has also made shipping less affordable.
## Logistics

The table below shows potential carriers considered for the shipment of books from London To Lagos, and do not include local transportation within the United Kingdom. Costs are estimated for a bag weighing 23 kilograms (kg).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Carrier</th>
<th>Cost (GBP)</th>
<th>Cost (NGN)</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Virgin Atlantic</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>34,800</td>
<td>35,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>36,000</td>
<td>36,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>37,800</td>
<td>40,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>42,900</td>
<td>Excludes transportation to carrier.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cargo To Nigeria</td>
<td>106.25</td>
<td>61,625.00</td>
<td>62,687.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>63,750.00</td>
<td>64,812.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>66,937.50</td>
<td>71,187.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>75,968.75</td>
<td>£3.75 per kg plus £20 handling fee.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>British Airways</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>69,600</td>
<td>70,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>72,000</td>
<td>73,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>75,600</td>
<td>80,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>85,800</td>
<td>Cost for extra 23kg luggage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jand2Gidi</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>89,979.75</td>
<td>89,979.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>89,979.75</td>
<td>89,979.75</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>89,979.75</td>
<td>89,979.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emirates</td>
<td>966</td>
<td>560,280</td>
<td>569,940</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>579,600</td>
<td>589,260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>608,580</td>
<td>647,220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>690,690</td>
<td>Charged at £42 per kg.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*NB: Assumes Further Depreciation Of Naira.*
Potential Solutions

Having identified the two main factors constituting delays in the fulfilment of our commitment to the Victoria Aiyeyemi International School, potential solutions and their implications are explored. The options provided are also relevant for prospective projects to be adopted by The Book Banque, and the sustainability of our operations.
Solution: Financing

Change Financing Model
1. Seek alternative sources of finance including grants and individual, corporate and philanthropic donations;
2. Trade relevant items and plough revenue into facilitation of project;
3. Acquire loan and/or self-finance. These are however unsustainable and thus, would be last resort.
Solution: Logistics

Option 1
Partner With Logistics Providers
1. Conduct extensive search on competitive (standard) rates from logistics providers;
2. Partner with logistics providers that offer discounts for non-profit organisations;
3. Rely on ‘angel-carriers’ to transport bags as extra luggage (for free?) to Lagos.

Implication
May pose further delays.

Option 2
Forfeit Book Collections Abroad
1. Cancel the collection of books from countries outside Nigeria entirely;
2. Focus on local donations, and strengthening interstate and intrastate logistics;
3. Purchase books within Nigeria, or partner with local publishers to supply books.

Implication
Limits the scope of books received,

Option 3
Expand Capital Base
1. Maintain book drives abroad while adopting proposed optimal financing model and fundraise;
2. Introduce option for individuals and/or companies to sponsor the shipment cost of books;
3. Batch shipment: quarterly, biannually or based on size and weight allowance of a palette.

Implication
High cost spread.
What’s Next?

Contingent on the successful collection of books, The Book Banque aims to build a functional library unit and conclude works with Victoria Aiyeami International School by July 2017. Prior to the end date of the project, The Book Banque, with the help of volunteers, will commence a weekly* reading and grammar session on Fridays at the school from April, and host a 3-day* Summer camp in July.

*Subject to number of volunteers and funds available.
Get Involved

- Conduct Book Drive
- Donate Books
- Build A Library Unit
- Join Our Team
- Fundraise
- Financial Donation
- Volunteer
- Partner With Us
- Donate Books
The Book Banque

Donate
Account Name: Societal Positive Impact Initiative
Account Number: 3065802604
Bank: First Bank of Nigeria

Social
🌐 thebookbanque
📍 thebookbanque
✉️ www.thebookbanque.com

Contact
10 Tairu Olugbani Street,
Oregun, Lagos,
Nigeria.
info@thebookbanque.com