

**Libraries  
Without Borders**  
Bibliothèques Sans Frontières

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



# IDEASBOX

EDUCATION, INFORMATION & CULTURE HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE DEVICE

March, 2014

[WWW.IDEAS-BOX.ORG](http://WWW.IDEAS-BOX.ORG) ■



# IDEASBOX

Since 2012, Libraries without Borders has partnered with UNHCR and creator Philippe Starck to create an **innovate device that will deliver access to information for people emerging from humanitarian crises.** Refugees have immediate pressing needs for food, shelter, health care and clothing. Once these priorities have been met, they need a way to forge social ties, rebuild an informed civil society, and develop resilience for the struggles ahead. Too often, the tools needed for this vital work are not available.

The Ideas Box fills this void, giving people struck by catastrophe the means to read, write, create, and communicate. By providing access to the Internet, books, educational resources, theatre, and films, the Ideas Box empowers individuals and communities to begin the difficult process of reconstruction.

Introduction	p.2
Our mission	p.3
Meet the Box!	p.4
What's inside	p.5
The design	p.6
Ongoing implementations	p.7
Burundi first trial	p.8
The NYPL launching event	p.9
About LWB	p.10
The Urgency of Reading Campaign	p.11
Our partners	p.12
Philippe Starck	p.13



ASSOCIATION PIERRE BELLON  
*Agir pour le développement humain*





# Our mission

Promoting access to **education, information and culture** for populations in emergency and post-emergency situations.

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## **SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES**

### **Educational**

Although the Ideas Box does not replace schools, it introduces new resources and educational methods (digital learning, in particular) that enhance the learning process and improve the quality of education and the academic development of children. For adults, the Ideas Box incorporates a variety of training resources and provides the tools needed for literacy workshops and professional training.

### **Informational**

By providing Internet access, the Ideas Box enables refugee populations to reconnect with the world, access information, and freely communicate with others. Access to quality information strengthens the capacity of individuals and communities and reinstates them into the global community while providing limitless resources for local training and empowerment.

### **Psychosocial**

The Ideas Box is a toolbox for rebuilding lives and communities. One of the project's most important objectives is to offer populations the means to create their own contents (films, drawings, writing, maps, blogs, etc.) and thus to promote cognitive development and individual and collective empowerment. In chronic humanitarian situations, the Ideas Box will contribute to struggling against boredom, building resilience and helping individuals cope with trauma, grief, and reconciliation.



# Meet the Box!

## THE SIX FUNDAMENTAL FEATURES OF THE IDEAS BOX

1

### EFFECTIVE

A standardized and clear service for donors and humanitarian actors.

2

### GLOBAL

A highly scalable content-model based on the needs of diverse cultural and linguistic areas and populations.

3

### PORTABLE

A device that is easy to transport and deploy on the ground, even during emergency situations.

4

### USER-FRIENDLY

A tool with an easy learning curve, simple enough for library facilitators to use after an initial training session.

5

### ADAPTABLE

A robust device with minimal energy needs, integrating low and high tech, adaptable to all situations and conditions anywhere in the world.

6

### EFFICIENT

A controlled price based on economies of scale and the use of free technology.





# What's inside?



## CONNECT

- \* **15 TABLETS AND 4 LAPTOPS** WITH A SATELLITE INTERNET CONNECTION AND/OR INTEGRATED 3G NETWORK COVERAGE;
- \* CONTENT AVAILABLE BOTH ONLINE AND OFFLINE THROUGH THE IDEAS BOX CLOUD WHICH WILL LINK AND SYNCHRONIZE ALL OF THE BOXES DEPLOYED AROUND THE WORLD;
- \* **COMPUTER LITERACY WORKSHOPS.**



## LEARN

- \* **50 E-READERS AND 5000 E-BOOKS** CUSTOMIZED ACCORDING TO THE IMPLEMENTATION AREA OF THE BOX AS WELL AS **250 HARD COPIES OF BOOKS**;
- \* MOOC AND STAND-ALONE INTERNET CONTENTS (AVAILABLE WITHOUT AN INTERNET CONNECTION): WIKIPEDIA, KHAN ACADEMY, OPEN STREET MAP, TED,...
- \* LITERACY WORKSHOPS, NON-FORMAL EDUCATION AND ACTIVITIES FOR SMALL CHILDREN.



## PLAY

- \* **CINEMA MODULE:** A TV-SCREEN AND A RETRACTABLE PROJECTION SCREEN ARE BUILT INTO THE BOX. THE BOX HAS A FILM COLLECTION OF ABOUT 100 FILMS INCLUDING DOCUMENTARIES, CARTOONS, AND ANIMATED AND SHORT FILMS SELECTED SPECIFICALLY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION AREA;
- \* **BOARD & VIDEO GAMES** AND OTHER RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES.



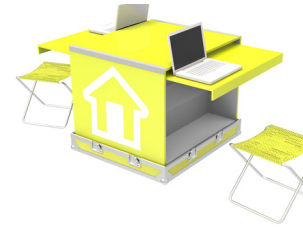
## CREATE

- \* **CREATIVE OPEN LAB:** WORKSHOPS AND TUTORIALS ON ELECTRONIC CONCEPTS, INTRODUCTION TO CODING AND COMPUTER PROGRAMMING;
- \* **5 HD CAMERAS** FOR PARTICIPATORY JOURNALISM & FILM MAKING;
- \* **3 GPS** FOR PARTICIPATORY MAPPING;
- \* ARTS & CRAFTS, MUPPETS AND IN-BUILT STAGE FOR THEATER.





# Design by S+ARCK®



MANAGEMENT COMPONENT



LIBRARY COMPONENT



CINEMA COMPONENT



IT COMPONENT

## TRANSPORTATION CONFIGURATION

Two standard European pallets (80\*120\*160cm / 31\*47\*63 inches).  
Total weight: approximately 800 kg (1 800 lbs.)

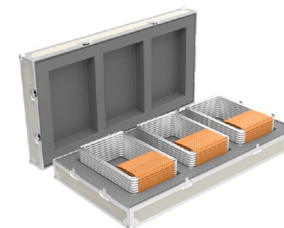
## IN THE FIELD

**Weight:** the design of the Ideas Box is intended to facilitate its transport and movement. Each module can be easily carried by four people.

**Construction materials:** manufacturing materials were selected to limit the weight of the device and ensure its strength and durability, as well as its ability to be sealed and secured. All materials are in accord with sustainable development guidelines.

**Integrated furniture:** light furniture, including tables for computer consultation, will be included into the box to enable the proper implementation of all four modules.

**Power system:** the box also includes a storage space for equipment (ropes, tarpaulins, etc...) as well as a generator and a battery system for autonomous usage. The integrated circuit allows for simultaneous charging of all equipment.



That turn into tables!



X2 STORAGE COMPONENTS



# Ongoing implementations

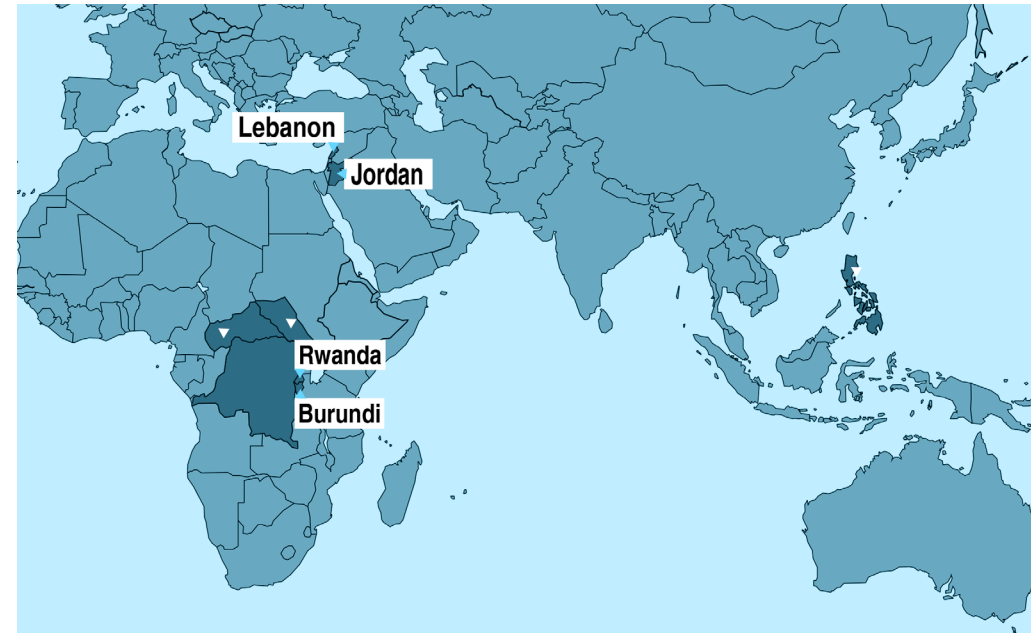
LWB's objective is to implement the Ideas Box among refugee and other vulnerable populations. Deployments have begun in the following geographical areas: the **African Great Lakes region** (Burundi, Rwanda, DRC), **Syrian area** (Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and Turkey).

LWB is planning other deployments in the Central African Republic, the Philippines and South Darfur.

The list is **by no means exhaustive** and LWB is open to propositions about other deployment zones from partners who wish to become involved in the Sponsorship Program.

The Ideas Box can also be implemented in **more specific contexts**: within existing libraries, schools and other institutions. For partners from northern and developed countries who would like to acquire an Ideas Box, the net cost of production of a single unit (without the deployment and training program) is approximately \$60,000.

For further information about ongoing programs, please consult our website : [www.ideas-box.org](http://www.ideas-box.org)



## HOW CAN PEOPLE SUPPORT THE DEPLOYMENT OF THE IDEAS BOX?

- >> Provide financial, material, or logistical support for the deployment of the Ideas Box for refugee and other vulnerable populations.
- >> Support the regional adaptation of the Ideas Box and the acquisition of contents (books, films, digital content, software, etc.) customized for each region.
- >> Associate your research center with the Ideas Box deployment and support LWB's own ongoing evaluation of the program.



# Burundi first trial

The first implementation of Ideas Box started in Burundi this February, a country host to more than 37,000 refugees, mostly from the eastern part of Democratic Republic of Congo. The trial phase of the Ideas Box will be held over a two-year period in five different refugee camps in the African Great Lakes region. These implementations will enable LWB to make adjustments in order to better respond to the specific needs of the beneficiaries and the inherent constraints of humanitarian field work.







# The NYPL launching event

## WHEN THE WORLD MEETS THE BOX

The Alexander Soros Foundation, one of the mainstays of Libraries Without Borders for the creation and implementation of the Ideas Box, is organizing a launch event to be held in the Celeste Bartos Forum of The New York Public Library's Stephen A. Schwarzman Building in New York, on March 25 in order to garner international support for the project.

The event will mark the official launching of the Ideas Box, enabling those present to discover the device and give the project greater international visibility. It will also be an opportunity to showcase the decisive contribution of renowned creator Philippe Starck to the project.

### MAIN SPEAKERS

**Anthony W. Marx**, President and CEO of The New York Public Library

**Alexander Soros**, President of the Alexander Soros Foundation

**Patrick Weil**, Chairman of Libraries Without Borders

**Philippe Starck**, Creator of the Ideas Box

### THE HOST COMMITTEE

**David Remnick**, Journalist, Writer and Editor

**Joyce Carol Oates**, Author

**& Dr. Charles Gross**

**Kwame Anthony Appiah**, Philosopher and Novelist

**Lawrence Lessig**, Director of the Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics at Harvard University

**Lynn Nottage**, Playwright

**Michael Cunningham**, Writer

**Philip Gourevitch**, Author and Journalist

**Robert Benjamin Silvers**, Editor

**Robert Darnton**, cultural Historian and academic Librarian

**Salman Rushdie**, Novelist and Essayist

**Rt. Hon. David Wright Miliband**, President and CEO of the International Rescue Committee

**Udo Janz**, Director of the New York Office of the United Nations Commissioner for Refugees

**Toni Morrison**, Novelist, Editor, Professor and Nobel Prize in Literature



The Ideas Box will be unveiled during the event in the NYPL's Celeste Bartos Forum.



[www.youtube.com/watch?v=BZPYmKc62-8watch?v=BZPYmKc62-8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BZPYmKc62-8watch?v=BZPYmKc62-8)



# About LWB



## LIBRARIES WITHOUT BORDERS AT A GLANCE

Created in 2007 by historian Patrick Weil, Libraries Without Borders (LWB) is one of the leading international organizations working in culture-and knowledge-based development around the world. In both development and humanitarian contexts, LWB's aim is to provide access to information and culture for all by providing support to libraries in France and in 20 countries worldwide. Since 2012, LWB has been developing several digital content projects in both educational sectors (MOOCs, collaborative learning, etc.) and professional fields (specialized digital libraries, etc.).

LWB has supported more than **300 libraries** throughout the world since its inception.



## A MAJOR COMMITMENT TO POPULATIONS IN HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

Following the devastating 2010 earthquake in **Haiti**, Libraries Without Borders responded to requests from Haitian institutions and sent an emergency mission to the country. LWB was able to contribute to the ongoing reconstruction of the country by providing rapid access to books, information, and culture. In the weeks following the earthquake, LWB set up 30 tent libraries in internally displaced camps before being solicited by UNICEF to deploy 300 library kits for children among the displaced communities. In all, **more than 100,000 people benefited from LWB's contributions.**

figures around the world, among them **8 Nobel laureates** (Toni Morrison, F.W. de Klerk, J.M. Coetzee, Mario Vargas Llosa, Seamus Heaney, Jody Williams, Tomas Tranströmer and Doris Lessing); world-renowned authors including Isabel Allende, John Irving, Stephen King and Salman Rushdie; prominent intellectuals including Zygmunt Bauman, Robert Darnton, Lawrence Lessig and Saskia Sassen; the humanitarian doctor and novelist Jean-Christophe Rufin, former President of Action Against Hunger France, and the current President of the New America Foundation, Anne-Marie Slaughter.

## Contact

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Intent on making access to information, books and culture for displaced populations a priority for international aid organizations, LWB followed its intervention in Haiti by launching the international campaign "**The Urgency of Reading**" in November 2012. This commitment to fostering the intellectual needs of individuals in humanitarian crises has earned the support of numerous writers, intellectuals, and public

The Urgency of Reading campaign was the subject of a highly successful two-day conference at the Maison de l'Amérique Latine in Paris, from October 11-12, 2013. The conference brought together social actors who rarely have the opportunity to interact and exchange, including cultural and information specialists, foundation officers and humanitarian actors, as well as business leaders. At this event, LWB unveiled the first images of the Ideas Box.



# The Urgency of Reading Campaign

Following the devastating 2010 earthquake in Haiti, Libraries Without Borders (LWB) sent an emergency mission to Haiti to help Haitian organizations distribute books and educational resources to internally displaced persons. At this time, several aid agencies in Europe and North America asked whether the provision of books was truly a priority. While there is no doubt that fulfilling basic needs like food and shelter is of utmost importance in humanitarian situations, LWB's years of dedicated humanitarian assistance in Haiti and 20 other countries (reaching some 500,000 people) have demonstrated that our action in crisis and post-crisis situations is crucial. Books and expression help sustain intellectual stimulation and promote self-worth and resilience amid crisis. Whether through books, computers, legal assistance or training, access to information and cultural resources empowers individuals and gives them the tools to reconstruct what has been lost. Not only has LWB witnessed this firsthand in Haiti, but the positive impact of access to information was similarly observed in Chile and Japan after the earthquakes in 2010 and 2011, respectively.

Yet the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, published by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, do not address the intellectual and cultural dimension necessary in humanitarian emergency responses. The question is never raised regarding possible means of communication or access to books and information for displaced persons in post-disaster zones. With the aim of encouraging the amendment of these principles - and of making access

to books and information in humanitarian emergencies a priority for international organizations - on 29 November 2012 Libraries Without Borders launched its international call to action "The Urgency of Reading: Books in Humanitarian Emergencies." The two-day conference from the 11th-12th of October 2013, marked an important step forward in the mobilization of emergency actors around further developing access to information and culture in humanitarian emergencies.

The conference brought together actors who rarely have the opportunity to interact and exchange, such as cultural and information specialists and humanitarian actors as well as financial benefactors and sponsors,

## 8 NOBEL LAUREATES WHO SIGNED THE CALL

- Toni Morrison
- John Maxwell Coetzee
- Doris Lessing
- Mario Vargas Llosa
- Seamus Heaney
- Tomas Tranströmer
- Jody Williams
- Frederik de Klerk

Conference videos available online:  
[www.urgencedelire.fr](http://www.urgencedelire.fr)

Photos:  
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/101932949@N03/sets/72157636583866255/>

1.



2.



3.

1. T. Alexander Aleinikoff, United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees (©Pauline Tezier)
2. Patrick Weil, Chairman of Libraries Without Borders - Bertrand Delanoë, Mayor of Paris - Alexander Soros, Chairman of the Alexander Soros Foundation (©Pauline Tezier)
3. The Conference "The Urgency of Reading", 11-12 of October 2013, Paris (©Pauline Tezier)



# Our partners

## FINANCIAL PARTNERS

### THE ALEXANDER SOROS FOUNDATION

The Alexander Soros Foundation promotes social justice and human rights through a grant making program that focuses on innovative organizations in the United States and abroad. The Alexander Soros Foundation is supporting both the R&D and the trial experimentation phases of the Ideas Box as well as raising global awareness on the project.

### THE PIERRE BELLON ASSOCIATION

Created by Pierre Bellon, the founder of Sodexo, the Pierre Bellon Association is the prefiguration of a family Foundation, acting in France and abroad for human development. It aims to empower people in need to achieve their potential, to promote literacy, and to improve life at work. The Pierre Bellon Association supports both the R&D and initial experimentation phases of Ideas Box in the African Great Lakes region.

### THE FRENCH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

The French Ministry of Foreign Affairs implements and provides resources to NGOs to assist and protect populations affected by humanitarian crises by addressing their most basic needs. It is also strongly engaged in cultural cooperation and the promotion of local culture. The French Ministry of Foreign Affairs provides financial support for the current trial phase of the Ideas Box in the African Great Lakes region and promotes the project worldwide.

### THE PARIS CITY COUNCIL

The Paris City Council has a long term commitment to supporting French humanitarian organization with a specific focus on crisis response. Its support aims at strengthening these organizations' reactivity and the quality of their action. The Paris City Council is supporting the R&D phase of the Ideas Box as well as raising awareness on the project in France.

## OPERATIONAL PARTNERS

- Starck Network
- The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- The International Rescue Committee
- The New York Public Library
- Hachette International
- Bookeen
- LDE
- Abylon

SPECIAL THANKS TO **PHILIPPE STARCK** AND HIS TEAM FOR THEIR GENEROSITY.



ASSOCIATION PIERRE BELLON  
*Agir pour le développement humain*



MAIRIE DE PARIS



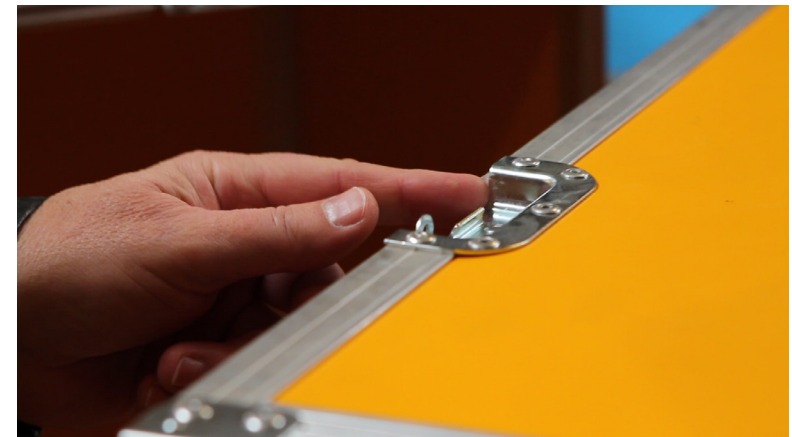
# Philippe Starck

**“When one has lost everything and there is nothing else left, the only thing that cannot be taken away is the ability to dream.”**

Despite his thousands of projects - completed or in the making - his global fame and his tireless protean inventiveness, never forget the essential. Philippe Starck has a mission and a vision: creation, whatever shape it takes, must make life better for the largest number of people possible. Starck believes this highly poetic, political, rebellious, benevolent, pragmatic and subversive duty must be borne by all and he resumes it with the humour that has accompanied his approach since the earliest days: “No one is forced to be a genius, but everyone has to take part.”

His anticipatory concern for environmental implications, his profound comprehension of contemporary mutations, his enthusiasm for imagining new lifestyles, his determination to change the world, his devotion to a positive reduction, his love of ideas, his desire to defend the intelligence of usefulness - and the usefulness of intelligence - have accompanied one iconic creation after the other... From everyday products such as furniture and lemon squeezers, to revolutionary megayachts, micro wind turbines, electric cars, and hotels that aspire to be wondrous, stimulating and intensely vibrant places, Starck never ceases to push the boundaries and criteria of contemporary design. His technological miracles are vectors of democratic ecology, focused on action and a respect for the future of both humans and nature. Predicting the phenomena of convergence and dematerialisation, Philippe Starck has always devised objects that demand the most from the least. The solutions provided by his dreams are so vital, so essential that he was the first Frenchman to be invited to the legendary TED (Technology, Entertainment & Design) conferences, talks that bring together such illustrious speakers as Bill Clinton and Richard Branson. Inventor, creator, architect, designer, artistic director...

Philippe Starck is all of the above, but above all he is a man of honesty, in the purest tradition of the Renaissance artists.



Philippe Starck, at the Ideas Box manufacturing workshop - Paris, February, 2014  
(©Bibliothèques Sans Frontières)