



Africa
Publishing
Innovation
Fund

SPOTLIGHT ON AFRICA AT FRANKFURT BOOK FAIR PROGRAM



Thursday
October 20, 2022



10:00 AM



APIF stand
Hall 4.1, H 102

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دبي العطاء
Dubai Cares



19 – 23 October 2022
**FRANKFURTER
BUCHMESSE**
Guest of Honour Spain

TIMING

PROGRAM

10:00 – 10:05

Welcome Address

By a representative of Germany's Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs

10:05 – 10:10

Opening Remarks

Bodour Al Qasimi, President, International Publishers Association, (United Arab Emirates)

10:10 – 11:10

Panel 1: Promoting Inclusive Publishing in Africa

Moderator

Brian Wafawarowa, Chief Content & Product Officer, Juta and Company (Pty) Ltd, (South Africa)

For far too long, audiences with different reading disabilities have gone unsupported and unnoticed. While the Marrakesh Treaty played a very strong role in raising consciousness about the need to accommodate those with reading disabilities, the global pandemic exposed the strong business case for producing accessible books to many publishers in developing publishing markets for the first time. In Africa, the global pandemic was a particularly strong catalyst for promoting the adoption of accessibility standards and assistive technologies. As a result, African publishers are increasingly adopting digital publishing and targeting new audiences like publications for the visually disabled. Drawing on the experience of the African Publishing Innovation Fund's recent launch of its current grant funding cycle focusing on accessible publishing, this panel will discuss the importance of accessible publishing for Africa.

Panelists

- **Lawrence Njagi**, Founder & Managing Director, Mountain Top Publishers, (Kenya)
- **Gautier Chomel**, Consultant, Trainer & Project Manager, éditadapt for DAISY Consortium, (France)
- **Akoss Ofori-Mensah**, Founder & Managing Director, Sub-Saharan Publishers, (Ghana)
- **Will Clurman**, Co-founder & CEO, eKitabu, (Kenya)

11:10 – 12:10

Panel 2: Keeping Students in School and Books in the Hands of Readers in a Pandemic

Moderator

Angela Wachuka, Publisher / Co-founder, Book Bunk, (Kenya)

While UNICEF estimated that Africa already had one of the highest pre-pandemic levels of out of school children in the world, at 100 million, the shift to online schooling posed a challenge for which many African education systems and governments were ill prepared. As African education systems moved online, many publishers and teachers struggled to adapt. The situation was further complicated by longstanding issues that have led to insufficient spending on social infrastructure, like libraries, and a wide urban-rural connectivity divide. For this reason, the African Publishing Innovation Fund's 2021 grant cycle prioritized remote and community-led innovations to keep students in school and provide under resourced communities with the infrastructure needed to access books. This panel will delve into how Fund beneficiaries are working with publishers, teachers, libraries, governments, and civil society to keep students in school and books in the hands of readers.

Panelists

- **Bushiratu Alira Kumuriwor**, Co-founder, Learners Girls Foundation, (Ghana)
- **Amos Kipeen**, Co-founder & Director, OliveSeed Kenya, (Kenya)
- **Elinor Sisulu**, Founder & Executive Director, Puku Children's Literature Foundation, (South Africa)
- **Amina Hachimi Alaoui**, Founder & Director, Yanbow Al Kitab, (Morocco)

12:10 - 12:15

Keynote Speech

Juergen Boos, President, CEO, Frankfurt International Book Fair, (Germany)

12:15 - 1:15

Panel 3: Transforming African Libraries

Moderator

Wanjiru Koinange, Co-founder, Book Bunk, (Kenya)

Libraries enrich communities through access to knowledge, entertainment, and lifelong learning, but, in many African countries, libraries face a variety of challenges which prevent them from serving this role. At the same time, globally, libraries are being challenged to remain relevant by transitioning from lending books to becoming economic incubators, cultural hubs, and experiential learning centers. There are a number of efforts in Africa and globally which are working to transform African libraries to align with their changing role in communities. This session will discuss the ongoing importance of libraries in sustainable development and how they can start a new chapter to improve relevancy and better support community needs and national priorities.

Panelists

- **Chirikure Chirikure**, Poet / Nemashakwe Community Library and Resource Centre, (Zimbabwe)
- **Alison Tweed**, Chief Executive, Book Aid International, (United Kingdom)
- **Alissa Everett**, Founder & Executive Director, Exposing Hope, (Kenya)
- **Patrick Musafri**, Senior Education Technical Specialist, Save the Children Rwanda, (Rwanda)

1:15 – 1:20

Closing Remarks

Ben Steward, Program Manager, African Publishing Innovation Fund, (Switzerland)