

# 2025

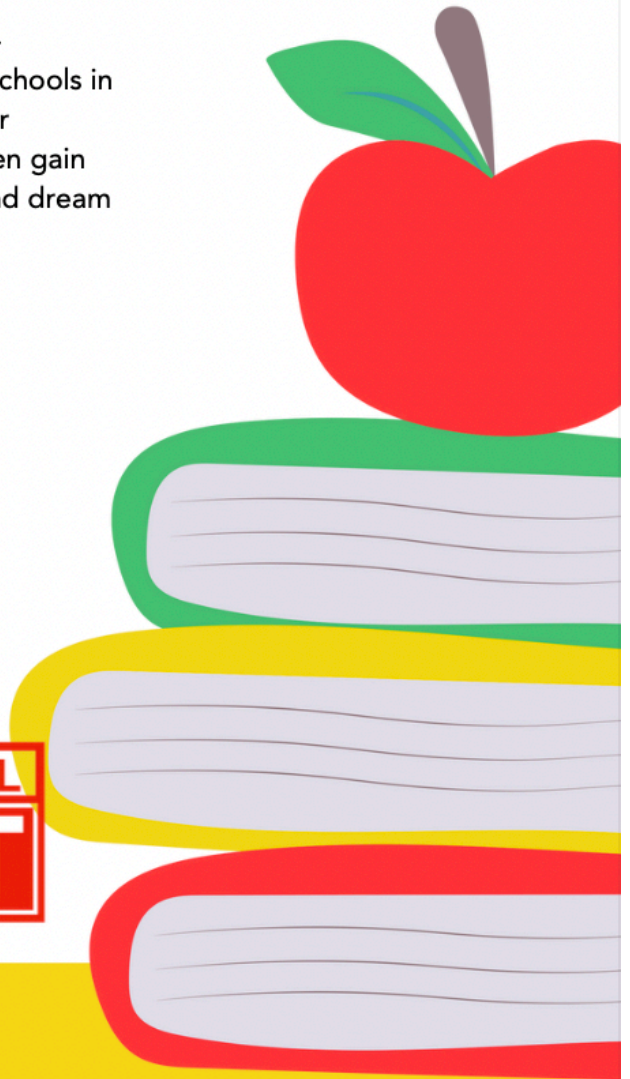
## Bring and Buy Bookfair: SchoolKits for Congo

DATE:  
LOCATION:  
TIME:

In Eastern Congo, children are escaping armed violence, seeking safety in Goma, on the Rwandan border. Many have found refuge in temporary shelters, but they are in desperate need of the tools to rebuild their futures. You can help.

All proceeds will provide essential school supplies—including books, pens, and backpacks—to primary schools in Congo, where displaced children are beginning their education anew. Your support will help these children gain access to the resources they need to learn, grow, and dream of a better tomorrow

So, bring old books for a new tomorrow!



SHARE. SHOP. EMPOWER A CHILD'S FUTURE



# SchoolKits for Congo

## Bring-and-Buy Book Fair

Dear Librarians,

Are you keen to promote literacy and the joy of reading?

Does your library have some resources that aren't really getting used?

Why not combine a clear-out with a literacy event, and an awesome act of global citizenship?

**We're excited to invite you to host a Bring-and-Buy Book Fair, an event combining the joy of reading with the power to transform the lives of children denied their human rights.**

The plan is to sell secondhand books to provide SchoolKits of educational supplies to children in Congo who are fleeing armed violence, and seeking safety in Goma with the barest minimum of possessions.

The books are donated by students, parents, and staff, and possibly the library, if you happen to have discards.

**This 3-minute video shows how the extreme poverty of the schoolKit recipients. They usually do not even have a change of clothes to allow laundering, but they really want to be school kids again!**

This guide will help you organize the book fair, engage with the school community, and facilitate the donation of secondhand



books, making the event a success for your library, your school and for children in need.

If you are looking to progress your career, organizing the Book Fair can also help you to demonstrate AITSL Standard 7: Engage professionally with colleagues, parents/carers and the community!

Your leadership is the key to making this work.

## Before the Book Fair

### **1. Choose a time and place.**

International Children's Book Day is April 2, 2025.

(If this date doesn't suit your school's Fundraising Calendar, then please consider Children's Book Week, from Saturday 16 to Saturday 23 August, the event could work just as well then).

The buying part of the BookFair might be just one lunchtime, or recess as well, or lunchtimes for a week, or all day with classes allowed to visit in turn. What will work best at your school?

Where will the event for in your school? In a library? spare classroom? hall? covered area?

### **2. Launch a Donation Drive**

In the weeks leading up to the fair, use posters, newsletters, emails, school social media, and morning announcements to encourage students, parents, and teachers to donate gently used books they no longer need. You can create designated donation boxes in common areas, classrooms, and the library.



Consider recruiting some students or parents to help with sorting, pricing and selling the books, and packing up afterwards.

Suggested Message for Parents and Students:

*“Do you have good books, suitable for students at our school, gathering dust at your place? Donate them to our Bring-and-Buy Book Fair and let other kids enjoy them. Proceeds will equip child victims of war in Congo to restart their lives and education. Let’s spread the love of reading while making a real difference in the world!”*

Maybe, provide guidelines for donations to ensure that the books are in good condition and suitable for school students at your school. You may want to rule out encyclopaedias and reference books over 10 years old.

### **3. Sort the Books**

Once donations start coming in, begin grouping the books into Picture Books, Chapter Books, Teens, Non-fiction...to help students find what they’re looking for during the fair.

### **4. Decide on prices**

Set affordable prices for the secondhand books. For example, consider pricing books at \$2-\$10 each or offering bundle deals like “5 books for \$5.” This makes the secondhand books accessible while raising significant funds for the charity.



## 5. Promote the Book Fair

Use posters and announcements to remind students to bring some pocket money for books. Emphasize that every book purchased or donated helps provide school supplies to children who are displaced by violence in Congo.

### During the Book Fair

**Set up a cash box, with change, and some trusted volunteers to manage payment.**

### After the Book Fair

#### 1. Deposit the Funds Raised

The Schoolkits for Congo account is [here](#), we will be alerted by email that you have made the deposit and will quickly organise the distribution of your school's gift and return photos to you of the children receiving them.

#### 2. Celebrate the Impact

Share how much money was raised, and the good it provided to children in great need, via a school-wide announcement, newsletter, school website social media channels and your local paper. They love photos!



### 3. Stay in touch?

Please consider:

- making the BookFair a recurring event, or
- setting up a permanent donation station somewhere where families can donate and buy secondhand books at any time, or
- planning a read-a-thon where students pledge to read a certain number of pages or books in exchange for donations, or
- a Bookweek parade with a gold-coin donation.
- giving us some feedback to improve our support package for next year.

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**The Buy and Bring Book Fair** is a wonderful opportunity to clean out old bookshelves, contribute to a great cause, and help children in Congo access the educational resources they need. By reusing secondhand books, you're not only promoting sustainability and recycling but also teaching students and families the importance of sharing with the less fortunate.

Thank you for your support in making this event a success—let's turn pre-loved books into tools for education and empowerment!

Penny Vos and the SchoolKits for Congo Team



## Press Release Template for Your Local Newspaper

*Dear Editor,*

*Here is a local good news story for your consideration:*

*(Your School) celebrated the International Children's Book Day this week with a Bring-and-Buy Booksale organised by the library staff to promote reading in the school community and to fundraise for a good cause.*

*(Number) of books were donated and (dollars) we raised.*

*Proceeds of the day were donated to the Rotary Charity "SchoolKits for Congo" which provides backpacks full of school supplies to child- victims of war in Eastern DRC. Both the backpacks and the uniforms included in the SchoolKits are made in Goma, generating essential income for families who would otherwise be homeless and denied access to education.*

*Students and staff at (your school) are looking forward to receiving a photograph of the children who have been equipped for school by their excellent Book Fair.*

*Photos attached show children delighted with their purchases.....*

*Yours,*

*(You, our hero!)*

