

January 2015

**Boko Haram Violence put thousands of children out of School in northern Nigeria; a school library in eastern Niger expands to provide some of the refugee children some education.**

The Barbara Kirker Library expansion project is designed to provide children of refugees who fled the Boko Haram violence an adequate educational opportunity that takes into account the language of instruction in their home country, Nigeria.

The Barbara Kirker Second Chance School current library was started with about 20 boxes of books from Books For Africa, which were included in a 2010 MedShare shipment. KAMRA proposes to expand current library to better take into account the rising need for refugee children to get some education. The proposed expansion would be built using books from Books for Africa that would greatly improve the current library by adding 5000 books. These books would be available for use by not only the 96 refugee students who started classes in January 2015, but also by the current Niger students. Additionally, nearly 2000 refugee children that cannot currently be accommodated in the school would get the opportunity to borrow them. Through borrowing books from the library these students can make some beginning steps to read or continue to build on education they started in Nigeria. The staff of the Barbara Kirker School will organize the expanding library in currently existing space.

The proposed addition will comprise 5,000 books distribute as following (Grades 1-5):

- 2,000 short story books
- 1000 illustrated books
- 2000 grammar books

The current situation in the Diffa region is developing into a major humanitarian crisis. More than 150,000 refugees have already moved to towns and villages across the region. The town of Maine Soroa hosts more 10,000 of them, most of whom living with extended families. Despite their obvious poverty and multiple needs, these local populations have sheltered these refugees, sharing with them their homes, and the little resources they have, surviving on the strict minimum. Out of the 10,000 refugees

living in Maine Soroa, approximately 2,000 are children, and teenagers aged 9 – 14. Given the increasing violence in Nigeria, the number of refugee children is expected to increase in coming months.

The library will greatly help The Barbara Kirker Second Chance School in providing adequate teaching program to more than 200 students. More importantly, it will allow the school to better take into account the official language (English) in the refugees' home country, Nigeria. It will also enhance the English ability of local students, where the teaching of English has recently been added to the curriculum.