



# Friends of African Village Libraries

[www.favl.org](http://www.favl.org)

## Library Projects and Community Commitment



# Friends of African Village Libraries

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- Helps establish and manage libraries in rural African communities
- Currently manages 11 libraries in Burkina Faso, 3 in Ghana, 1 in Tanzania and 1 in Uganda
- Provides technical support and professional library development services



# Why Village Libraries?

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## **Illiteracy rates are low due to:**

- Overcrowded classrooms
- Lack of pedagogical resources
- Overwhelmed or unmotivated teachers
- Lack of family support

## **Most illiterate students or those with below average reading level**

- Lack confidence and have low self esteem
- Repeat a year in school or fail out
- Have poor decision-making skills
- Can't realize their full potential





# FAVL's Approach with Communities

- Participatory approach used to ensure sustainability
- Village libraries only established when and where requested by a community
- Village meetings organized to ensure community's long-term commitment
- Library management committees created





# How Is the Committee Formed and What Is its Mission?

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## **Before library's creation, committee's role to:**

- educate village about the library
- explain the organization of library project
- find locale for library

## **FAVL is responsible for:**

- training the librarian
- overseeing library operations and reviewing monthly reports
- helping with renewal of books.
- ensuring ongoing training for librarian

## **After library's creation, committee's role to:**

- recruit future librarian (a village citizen)
- educate families on library's importance, especially for children
- ensure library operates properly

## Prospects FAVL Sees with Community Collaboration

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### **FAVL's long term goal:**

Entrust full management of the libraries to the village communities in which they were established.

Since 2006, villages in Burkina Faso have become rural districts with managerial autonomy. The time has come to discuss with the mayors—who are now responsible for each district—the gradual transition of library management.

Mayor's office to take charge of:

- Librarian's salary
- Cost of library operation and maintenance.

FAVL is organizing a workshop on June 28th with all the mayors of different communes where the libraries are established. Goal is to explore best strategies for transition of library management



## Question to listeners

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- What is your experience in working with local authorities regarding the involvement and/or management of your libraries?

Thank you!