

BERINE AND BOKWE FOUNDATION (BEBOF)

SOUTHWEST REGION CAMEROON

**A REPORT ON A PROJECT TO EMPOWER THE  
WIDOWS IN NDONGO COMMUNITY THROUGH  
SOAP PRODUCTION**

PRESENTED BY

BERINE AND BOKWE FOUNDATION (BEBOF)

## **I. A brief overview of the project**

This pollination project titled “The empowerment of widows through soap production in the Ndongo community” was successfully carried out in Ndongo (A community in the South west region of Cameroon precisely in Buea). The main objective of the project was to empower Ndongo women with skills in the production of various types of cold soaps such as, liquid soap, coco soap, Savon with colour blue.

We empowered the widows in the Ndongo community by organising a soap production session. Many women were trained on local method of soap production

We provided a local factory for the widows in the Ndongo Community where there can always met for soap production

We bought buckets and all equipment’s that were used in the production process

### **A detailed Explanation of the production process from start to End**

We started executing the pollination project on the 15<sup>th</sup> of June.

We used 2 days to gather the widows in the Ndongo community. After these days, we were able to sensitise the widows on the importance of soap production in their community during the peak period of covid 19 since the demand of this particular Soap was high as it was evident that the soap helps to prevent and kills corona Virus. The community needed soap to prevent covid 19 through watching of hands and facemask. We also purchase some buckets and all the Ingredients for the production of the soap. BEBOF foundation was able to acquire a space which was thereafter named “Ndongo widows local soap production Factory”( a unit way various widows came together and carry out production of Soap)

Three different types of Soap were produced. That is the Liquid soap, Bar soap and the Cocoa soap. The Liquid soap was made using a cold process while the bar soap was made using a hot process. It was realised that the cold process requires several days, depending upon the strength and purity of the ingredients, whereas the hot process took place within a few minutes to a few hours.

*The following ingredients were used(Fats and oils we used)*

<b>FATS</b>	<b>OILS</b>
Goat fat	Canola
Lanolin	Coconut
Lad	Cotton seed
Moutton fat	Palm
Pork fat	Palm kernel
Suet	Soya bean
Tallow	

## **II Achievements of my project since getting the TTP grant**

- This coco soap helps to kill corona virus. it has gone a long way to assist in the fight against corona virus in this community and as a result a thousand testimonies came forth from these women with regards to the benefit of the soap..
- The widows in the Ndongo community and benefitted from the 7days training we offered them.
- The 27 year old single mother who lacked soap now has soap since she is able to prepare a good quantity and sell in front of her door. Seeing that the demand for these soaps has

taken a massive toll, she is able to sell enough and cater for her household thanks to the grant.

- The liquid soap helps the women in their domestic settings like cleaning of their houses, washing of dishes and dresses etc. This has gone a long way to improve on their standards of living.
- Again the soap has a remarkable fragrance and as such they all testified that it is the best to use in bathing.
- Again the 250,000 FRS which was granted for the production of this soap has multiplied 3 folds. This is because these women were able to sell enough and to make a lot of saving in the micro finance created by the CEO of BEBOF.
- As at now they have over 700,000 FRS in their account, thanks to the Almighty and the grantors of this project.
- Another testimony from a widow aged 40 with 4 children “My children and I can now wash our dresses through the self-made soap. I want to specially thank madam Bokwe for empowering me and organising a training session which helped me to be able to produce coco soap by myself”
- it is worth noting that thanks to this powerful initiative, a seed has been generated in somewhere. We extended to other communities who are now very interested in the product. These communities have a large market and are dying to have this soap. Borrowing from the experiences of the Ndongo community and the importance of this soap in combatting corona virus, other communities have expressed profound inclination to have this product in their areas.
- From the aforementioned, we are heartily thanking the pollination project for their assistance and the upliftment and joy they have introduced in the lives of the Ndongo widows.

### **The difference the TPP grant has made in the Ndong Community**

Even though the project was executed in June the peak month of Covid 19 in Cameroon, the successful execution of the project left a significant difference in the community as nobody tested positive for Covid 19 in the Ndong community

### **How the work funded by this grant has allowed me to better serve the Ndong community**

Over 200 people who didn't have access to buy cheap and good soap for household chores and washing of hands were able to buy from the widows we trained. The widows are now able to produce Soap in their local factory and sell to other people. This has helped them to be able to take care of their children since their husbands are no more.

### **How the effectiveness of this production was being measured**

We employed an auditor to pass by the local factory every Sunday and audit the account of their sales and also check the effectiveness of the production

### **Our future plans**

We intend to expand this soap production process by opening a factory for these women to increase their production

### **III Challenges faced in Carrying out this product**

First and foremost, the primordial objective of this project was to empower the widows in the Ndong community. Such a project could not have been successfully completed without some challenges. The following constitute some of the challenges we faced in executing the project

1. The crude method of production was a great challenge. The fact that the production was done through the use of hand was a challenge for some widows in the Ndongo community. Since the chemicals that are being used are very dangerous and with the use of hands, it exposes them to some health hazards. It was proposed that if machine could be purchase to help facilitate the production process, it will be better since health is wealth
2. Inefficiency in production due to the lack of well-trained personnel's. This is because BEBOF could only accommodate few experts due to the fact that the funds were limited and they was that Zeal to ensure that the production is carried out, we had to do everything possible with the little we hard to ensure that the production is carried
3. The lack of machines to facilitate the production process. The Widows of Ndongo community decry the slow rate of production due to the fact that everything is being processed with human Labour. The availability of a machine will have boosted production

## CONCLUSION

Haven come to the end of this report which deals with the pollination project on the production of soap carried out by Berine and Bokwe Foundation, one could actually notice a great impact the project has created in the Ndongo community, the different types of soap we produced. Achievements and challenges encountered in the production of soap. We therefore wish to take this project to other communities like the Idenau community, Yoke, and many other communities in Cameroon

## APPENDIX

Attached below are photos of the production process









**WIDOWS EMPOWERMENT PROJECT ON WIDOWS DAY CELEBRATION WITH BERINE N BOKWE`S FOUNDATION  
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CLISSD CAMEROON  
WITH THE WIDOWS OF NDONGO-BUEA, SOUTH WEST REGION CAMEROON  
TO PRODUCE BAR SOAP, SAVON AND LIQUID SOAP  
FOR WASHING OF CLOTHES, KITCHEN EQUIPEMENTS SUSTAINABILITY**



**BERINE AND BOKWE FOUNDATION**