



BERINE & BOKWE FOUNDATION

“Hope and Smile for Abandoned Widows and Orphans”



SUMMARY OF ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT 2024

Legal Status: 42/G37/CA4/VOL1/SASC

Head office: Bonduma Buea, Cameroon



FOREWORD FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As we reflect on the past year, 2024 has been a year of growth and resilience for the Berine and Bokwe Foundation (BEBOF). Despite numerous challenges, our commitment to empowering widows, orphans, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and underprivileged communities in Cameroon remains steadfast. We've dedicated our efforts to bring smiles, support, and hope to those

who need it most, all while promoting spiritual, economic, social, and financial empowerment. In 2024, we continued expanding our outreach across villages, engaging community leaders to advocate for women's rights and form support

groups. Our mission to eradicate deeply ingrained societal issues like disinheritance and discrimination against women has made meaningful progress. Through dialogue, advocacy, and capacity building, we've helped vulnerable women rebuild their lives.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Berine and Bokwe Foundation (BEBOF) is a women-led, non-profit association established in May 2017. Our core mission is to support and empower abandoned widows, orphans, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and underprivileged individuals across Cameroon. In 2023, BEBOF intensified its efforts to combat issues like women's disinheritance, discrimination, and social exclusion, particularly in rural and underserved communities.

This year 2024, we implemented several impactful initiatives:

- Community Engagement & Advocacy: We successfully engaged over 40 communities, working closely with local chiefs and community heads to form groups of widows for support and empowerment.

- Capacity Building & Training: We provided training and economic support to women, enabling them to start small businesses through our self-help group initiatives. These programs offer financial literacy and business skills to help widows become self-reliant.

- Green Business Empowerment: We introduced sustainable practices, encouraging widows to engage in green businesses such as organic farming and soap production. This not only provides income but promotes environmental sustainability.

BEBOF has remained steadfast in its commitment to creating an inclusive environment for women and the underprivileged, and we look forward to expanding our reach in the coming year.

1. Overview

1.1 Organizational Background

The **Berine and Bokwe Foundation (BEBOF)** is a non-profit, women-led organization established in May 2017. BEBOF was founded to address the growing needs of abandoned widows, orphans, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and underprivileged individuals in Cameroon. Operating primarily within the North West and South West regions, the foundation's



mission is to uplift vulnerable populations through economic, spiritual, social, and financial empowerment. Since its inception, BEBOF has worked to create a support system for widows who have been denied inheritance rights, as well as offering psycho-social support and capacity-building initiatives for these marginalized groups.

The foundation has gained recognition for its grassroots approach to community engagement, focusing on forming support groups within local communities and advocating for women's rights. In collaboration with community leaders and chiefs, BEBOF has successfully created over 40 community groups of widows across various regions in Cameroon. These groups provide a platform for empowerment, financial independence, and mutual support.

THE STORY BEHIND THE CREATION OF BEBOF

My name is Numa Berine Bere, I am the Founder of BEBOF. The subsequent paragraph narrates the story that led to the development of this Foundation. My husband died in 2016, we had 2 children and the last child was 2 weeks old. After his funeral, his family drove me from my house with the baby, took our properties and bank documents. I slept outside with my children. I was a housewife without working, with no money to care for my children. Depressed with suicidal thoughts. my 2-week-old baby almost died; no money for the hospital. My first son couldn't continue school. A sister lent me \$80, I set up a small shop, to sell foodstuffs, raise money, pay rent and send my children to school. Founded Bokwe and Berine Foundation to empower other widows because no woman deserves to suffer for the death of their husband. After setting up this business, I sell and keep a little amount of money to visit communities and meet traditional rulers of the community who ask the "town Cryer" to announce for all widows to gather at the palace for me to share foodstuffs with these widows.

Before my husband died, he was hospitalized with 4th stage cancer; while I was also due to give birth in Matoh with my mother. There was no maternity and as a result I was forced to give birth through the help of traditional birth attendants who received my baby in an unhygienic condition and they used an old razor to cut off the umbilical cord of my baby plus some traditional herbs to stop the bleeding which didn't work. Due to excessive bleeding, I



passed out as I was told when I regained consciousness and was told they had to send someone to a neighboring community to get first aids kits (Misoprostol) which was used to save my life.

Two weeks after the birth of my second child my husband passed away and his family disinherited me from his will and drove us out of his house. I was homeless, helpless and vulnerable and was left to cater for my 2 children and I coupled with the fact that I had just lost my husband.

I joined a church group which assisted me during those trialing moments and was empowered to start up an NGO to support widows and poor unemployed women who could be caught up in a similar situation like I was. I was empowered to fight for women's mental and physical Health

1.2 Mission, Vision, and Core Values

Mission

BEBOF's mission is to bring hope, advocate for women's rights, and empower abandoned widows, orphans, IDPs, and underprivileged individuals. By fostering spiritual, economic, social, and financial growth, the foundation aims to create

sustainable improvements in the lives of those most affected by societal inequalities in Cameroon.

Vision

To build a future where widows, orphans, and the underprivileged are empowered to lead independent lives, free from discrimination, poverty, and injustice. BEBOF

envision a society where marginalized groups are equipped with the skills, resources, and support needed to thrive, regardless of their background or circumstances.



Core Values

- + **Empowerment:** Strengthening the capacity of widows, orphans, and IDPs to take charge of their lives through economic, social, and financial initiatives.
- + **Advocacy:** Actively promoting and protecting the rights of vulnerable populations, particularly women, in communities where they are often marginalized.
- + **Collaboration:** Building strong partnerships with local chiefs, community leaders, and stakeholders to create lasting solutions to the challenges facing widows and underprivileged groups.
- + **Compassion:** Ensuring that all actions are driven by a deep sense of care and commitment to improving the well-being of those in need.
- + **Sustainability:** Promoting long-term, sustainable practices that foster economic independence and environmental awareness, such as green business initiatives.

1.3 Organizational Structure

BEBOF operates with a well-defined organizational structure that allows for efficient implementation of its programs and outreach efforts. The foundation is led by the **Executive Director**, who is responsible for overall strategy, partnerships, and project oversight.

- **Board of Directors:** A group of dedicated individuals who provide governance and strategic direction to ensure the foundation's objectives are met.
- **Management Team:** Comprising the Program Manager responsible for key initiatives such as Capacity Building, Community Engagement, and Economic Empowerment. This team ensures the effective coordination of day-to-day operations. Our Team also has the following personnels: the Finance officer, the communication officer, monitoring and evaluation officer, the administrative assistant and other project staffs who work in the field.



- **Field Coordinators:** Local leaders who serve as a bridge between BEBOF and the communities it serves. These coordinators oversee the implementation of projects at the grassroots level and report back to the management team.
- **Volunteers and Support Staff:** A network of volunteers who assist with field activities, community outreach, and logistical support for events and initiatives.

Together, this structure enables BEBOF to maintain its impact across multiple regions, while ensuring that all activities are aligned with the foundation's mission and values.

2.0 BEBOFs PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED IN 2024

In 2024, a total of 2 ground-breaking and impactful projects were implemented (Table 1) out of which one is still currently ongoing, to be concluded by 2025. The other was recently completed (monitoring and evaluation).

Project Title	Funder	Period within 2024	Implementing Regions	Status
Maternal Health Empowerment in Matchoh, District Cameroon	Creating Hope in Conflict: A Humanitarian Grand Challenge	24 months	South West	Ongoing
The Regenerative Agriculture Project	One Days Wages	All year	South West	Ongoing

Two significant projects have been undertaken this year by the Berine and Bokwe Foundation (BEBOF). First is the Maternal Health Mobile Hub Project in Matchoh-Kumba supported by Grand Challenges Canada. Through the proximity of vital



healthcare services, this project seeks to enhance the health and well-being of mothers in the community. It is still going strong and actively assisting local mothers.

The Regenerative Agriculture Project in Penaboko which is funded by One Days Wages is the second project. In order to enhance their harvests and safeguard the environment, this project aimed to teach widowed farmers on sustainable

farming techniques. After the project was successfully concluded, it is currently being assessed to determine its impact and draw lessons for the future.

2.1 Maternal Health Mobile Hub

2.2 Background of the project

The maternal mobile hub project which is the prominent among the projects of Berine And Foundation has been functioning since June 2024 in Kumba with objective to promote accessibility and high quality maternal health care in conflict affected regions of Cameroon, reducing maternal mortality and empowering communities through mobile clinics and train community health workers.

2.2.1 Annual Performance of the Project

Financial and Technical Support

Monthly Financial support: According to the plan, this service is supposed to provide over 1500 birthing kits. This expansion follows the successful implementation of the recently concluded phases of the project which has, and is still to serve thousands of women in Matoh community by providing prenatal care, maternal health education, and support in early childhood health.



The Picture above shows Distribution of Delivery Kits to Pregnant women at Match Health Unit

CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED AND MEASURES TAKEN

- I. Language Barrier: We encountered a lot of difficulties while communicating with the villagers since most of them couldn't understand English properly.
- II. The second challenge we face was the problem with bad roads. We had to hire bikes along the road in areas where our car couldn't manage.
- III. Lack of potable drinking water as the Match community rely on a far off spring whose water is not quite suitable for consumption.

MEASURES TAKEN

- I. The problem of communication has been solved as we had to communicate with the people with use of pidgin English and an interpreter.



- II. The problem of road inaccessibility was solved as we hired motorcycles in areas where cars could not trespass.
- III. We are developing a project to seek Fundings so that we can be able to provide the community with portable water

2. Regenerative Agriculture, Training And support

2.1 Background Of The Project:

This project started in July 2024 with the objective of empowering a significant number of widows in sustainable and regenerative agricultural techniques, and to distribute micro loans to support the adoption of green farm solutions and purchase of drought resistant seeds. These projects have enabled participants to improve their food security, gain independence, and build resilience against climate challenges which include; soil enrichment practices, water conservation methods, and training on crop rotation.

2.2 Annual performance

At the end of December 2024, a total number of more than 271 widow farmers benefited from drought resistance seeds, farming tools like cutlass, wheelbarrows, spraying cans, trucks etc; they were also educated on - methods of making organic manure by themselves, and the creation of a micro finance to encourage small business owners.



Training widow farmers on regenerative Agriculture

CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED AND MEASURES TAKEN:

- I. Adamant to change: This was one of the major challenges encountered during the project implementation because most of these women over the years have familiarized themselves to the use of chemical manure. So convincing or introducing them to the use of organic manure was a major obstacle.
- II. Leadership dispute: Another major challenge we faced was appointing a women leader for the micro-finance management since most of them were illiterates and have little or no knowledge about the running of micro-finance.
- III. Lack of a Vehicle to transport farm produced for widow Farmers.



MEASURES TAKEN

- I. The problem of their adamant nature was solved as we were able to educate and convince them on the negative effects of chemical manure and the importance of natural or organic manure.
- II. The problem of leadership was solved successfully as we were able to find and appoint an educated widow.

OTHER ACTIVITIES PERFORMED IN THE YEAR



LOCAL CONSULTATION AGAINST DRUG ABUSE IN THE CITY OF MUTENGENE.



CAPACITY BUILDING AND TRAINING OF STAFFS (INTERNALLY FUNDED)



Legal Status: 42/G37/CA4/VOL1/SASC

Head office: Bonduma Buea, Cameroon



THE CEO OF BEBOF AND PROJECT MANAGER CHAMPIONING MEDIA CENSITISATION ON CANAL 2 INTERNATIONAL TV ON THE TOPIC “THE PLIGHT OF WIDOWHOOD AND ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT IN CAMEROON”.

CONCLUSION

All the projects of BEBOF except the Maternity Health Mobile Hub project which is still ongoing, have accomplished all their activities effectively and efficiently in 2024. Thus, annual performance reports of the projects depict



that the intervention strategies of the projects were effective in achieving their respective objectives.

This in turn contributes a lot to the achievement of the desired mission and vision of the organization!

VISIBILITY

More can be seen on our website: <https://bebof.org/>

Youtube: <https://youtu.be/Kz1FeJPSBvU>

Facebook page: https://web.facebook.com/berinebokwe/?_rdc=1&_rdr