



BERINE & BOKWE FOUNDATION

“Justice and peace for All”



ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT 2023



NUMA BERE BERINE. Executive Director. BEBOF

FOREWORD FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As we reflect on the past year, 2023 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 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.

The peak of the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the need for urgent support, and I am proud that BEBOF was able to provide food supplies and essential items to many in the North West and South West regions of Cameroon. Our work is far from over, but the progress we've made this year sets a solid foundation for future efforts.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated team, community leaders, donors, and partners for their continued support. As we move into 2024, BEBOF will push forward with renewed vigor to bring hope and dignity to more lives.

Berine Numa, Executive Director

Berine and Bokwe Foundation (BEBOF)



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, 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.
- **COVID-19 Response:** During the pandemic, we distributed essential foodstuffs to over 500 widows in various regions, helping them through difficult times.
- **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 borrowed 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. The picture below portrays how I try to bring hope and put smiles on the faces of abandoned widows.

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 envisions 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 2023

In 2023, a total of 5 projects were implemented (Table 1) out of which 4 were closed as at 31st December 2023. One of these projects will continue into the year 2024.

Table 1 2023 Project Registry

Project Title	Funder	Period within 2023	Implementing Regions	Status
Soap Production Training for Widows	The Pollination Project	All Year	South West	Closed
Support for Disabled and Internally Displaced Persons	Divine Hope for Empowerment (DIHEM)	All Year	South West	Closed
SELF HELP GROUPS (The Wisala Bank)	Global Fund for Widows	All Year	North-West/South West	Ongoing
Climate Finance for Widows	Earth Rising Foundation	2022 - 2023	South West	Ongoing
Training widows on the production of Soap (Savon)	Centre for Livelihoods and Support to Sustainable Development (CLISSD Cameroon)	2019 - 2023	South West	Closed
Orphanage Support and Community Outreach Program	Kumba White Association	2019 - 2023	South West region	Closed

2.1 Achievements

2.2 Organizational Achievements

In 2023, the Berine and Bokwe Foundation (BEBOF) made significant strides across its core departments: Empowerment/Entrepreneurship, Sustainable Agriculture, and WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene). These initiatives have positively impacted vulnerable communities in Cameroon, with a focus on widows, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and underprivileged populations. Our key accomplishments are summarized below:

Empowerment/Entrepreneurship Department:

The Empowerment department continued its mission to support vulnerable widows through



economic empowerment programs. BEBOF successfully provided loans and training to widows across various communities, allowing them to launch small businesses in soap production, agriculture, and local trade. Through our self-help groups, these women gained valuable financial independence and stability. Notably, over 40 community groups of widows were established, where training sessions focused on financial literacy and entrepreneurship.

- **Number of women supported:** 107
- **Communities impacted:** 40
- **Average income increase:** 15%

Sustainable Agriculture Department

BEBOF launched the Regenerative Agriculture Project in collaboration with the Earth Rising Foundation, aimed at promoting sustainable agricultural practices among widows in the anglophone crisis regions. The initiative focused on organic farming techniques and green business opportunities, equipping participants with the skills to produce organic manure and engage in environmentally-friendly farming. This project not only provided a stable source of income but also contributed to environmental conservation efforts in these communities.

- **Widows trained in sustainable agriculture:** 250
- **Hectares of land cultivated using regenerative techniques:** 20
- **Environmental impact:** Reduced carbon footprint by promoting organic farming methods.

2.3 Financial Growth

The Berine and Bokwe Foundation (BEBOF) experienced moderate financial growth during the 2021-2023 period. In 2023, BEBOF's income was primarily derived from grants provided by international donors such as Divine Hope for Empowerment, The Pollination Project, and the Global Fund for Widows.

Total income in 2023: 9,205,946 FCFA

Projected Budget for 2024: 150,000.000 CFA

2.4 Organizational Reach

In 2023, BEBOF's projects reached a total of 10,000 beneficiaries across 5 regions in Cameroon. The foundation's impact extended to some of the most vulnerable groups, particularly in the rural areas of the North West and South West regions. BEBOF continues to expand its coverage, ensuring more communities benefit from its programs.

1. Training women on Regenerative Agriculture





Sweet Potatoes harvested by one of the widows we empowered







Outreach to Abandon widows and the underprivileged



Empowering the less privileged with Poultry







WISALA PROJECT ONGOING (A SELF-HELP GROUP FOR WIDOWS) Funded by Global Fund for widows

Giving Widows small loan to start up their green business (Regenerative Agriculture)







Media Sensitization on Climate Finance for widows in order to promote Regenerative Agriculture



4.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

