



Dear Supporters

By now it will have become clear to most people that Cameroon is going through difficult times. The tensions within the anglophone areas of the country have led to severe problems for the people living there and many have fled either into the jungle or into safer francophone areas where there is still relative peace and stability.

A focus on internally displaced people

Our understanding is that these internally displaced people (IDP) are being helped to survive by various international agencies and our partner, SHUMAS, has been very active working with UNICEF, setting up numerous initiatives to help those who are suffering. For example, with UN funding, it has trained over 300 primary health care workers who travelled throughout many of the jungle encampments helping with immunisation programmes and the distribution of many thousands of mosquito nets.

At the time of writing it is estimated that well over 80% of children in the anglophone areas are unable to attend school because of the troubles and indeed many of them have been recruited as child soldiers and now face a bleak future. This affects not only boys, but girls also have suffered terribly resulting in thousands of unwanted pregnancies (many as a result of rape) with exceptionally high rates of maternal and child mortality. A whole generation of youngsters are having their childhood stolen.

We are committed to helping SHUMAS tackle these problems and our approach has two broad aims:

First, disaster relief means bringing back opportunities for education and health care no matter where people have fled. This might be in the jungle or over the internal border into a francophone area.

Second, we are helping to equip people to rebuild their lives and restore hope by giving education, training and resources. Details of what we are doing can be found in Marianne's report in this newsletter and also on our new website where we are launching a special appeal.

Our new look

The new website, with its completely redesigned format and structure, is now much more user friendly on mobile devices. We are so very grateful to Graham and Jamie both of whom did this work for free. As always we continue to ensure that every penny that is donated is used for one of our projects.

I should mention also that the new website also has a new address www.buildingschoolsforafrica.org – although it can still be accessed using the previous address. We'd love to hear what you think of it.

In conclusion, I wish to reassure our supporters that we continue in our core work of building schools and other projects to promote health but we are now also launching a special appeal to help internally displaced people. I thank you all in anticipation of your help and for all your support so far.



Ian
Chair of Trustees

It seems unbelievable ... but this summer we were able to send the funds for our

100th school project !

The little primary school in the village of Konyambetta will benefit from two new classrooms, an office and a new latrine, thanks to the brilliant fundraising efforts of Andrew Hindle and his family. They will be coming out with us for the opening of this school in November and it will undoubtedly be a big celebration!



All the BSFA trustees are amazed and delighted to reach this landmark. It's the most fantastic achievement considering that, when we started, we only envisaged being able to fund four classrooms at ONE school! We are so grateful to everyone who has continued to support us over the years, despite all the political and economic uncertainty both in the UK and in Cameroon, and so proud of our brilliant partner SHUMAS-CAMEROON which does all the hard work.

The tally of our projects to date now stand at

- 309 classrooms at 100 different schools:
- 100 new Ventilated Improved Pit school Latrines
- 8 newly-built or refurbished and equipped rural health centres,
- 9 newly equipped health centres,
- 38 clean drinking water supplies to schools and
- 10 community drinking water projects.

... not forgetting the construction of a road bridge to allow access to a school and the accommodation for the Rehabilitation Centre run by SHUMAS.

Our Projects this year

All of our projects this year have been focused on helping to relieve some of the problems experienced by the half million English-speaking Cameroonians who have been driven from their homes because of the socio-political crisis in the NW and SW regions of Cameroon. The crisis has developed over the past three years into a vicious war between the state and non-state armed groups. A UN report in July 2019 estimates that 60% of the IDPs (Internally Displaced People) from these two regions are now living in appalling conditions in the forests and the bush because their homes, their villages and their livelihoods have been destroyed.

95% of schools in the NW and SW regions have been closed down and, although a very small number of children who have moved to other regions have been able to continue with their education, 80% of all school-age children from the English speaking regions have dropped out of school completely. Many of the boys have been recruited by the armed groups as child soldiers and girls have turned to child labour or prostitution. It is a tragedy.



Video from United Nations Cameroon. With 4.3 million people in need, [#Cameroon](#) 🇨🇲 cannot be a forgotten crisis.

Our school-building projects this year are mostly located in francophone villages bordering the NW and SW regions, that are now hosting high numbers of IDPs. These are poor schools whose meagre facilities have been overstretched by the additional children wanting to enrol.

Each school will receive a block of new purpose-built classrooms, an office and a new latrine. All the projects are underway now and will be completed and opened by November this year. Pictures of the new buildings will be posted on our website before Christmas.



Ecole Publique Barthelemy is a small primary school in Bahouan village in the West Region close to the border with the NW region. The school currently has 205 pupils but is expecting this number to rise to 400+ with the new purpose-built classrooms.



Ecole Publique Bamendou Chefferie is in Bamendou village in the West region, close to the border with the NW. There are currently 492 pupils at this school and enrolment is expected to exceed 600 by 2020.



Ecole Publique Bake is the only primary school in Bake village also in the West region, again close to the border with the NW region. It currently has an enrolment of 250 and this is expected to rise to 400+ on completion of the project.



The Government Bilingual Primary School Sodiko is in the Littoral region, very close to the border with the SW region. Enrolment at this school is expected to rise by more than 100 on completion of this project. The school and surrounding community will also benefit from a new borehole for clean drinking water, which we have been able to fund this year.



The little Catholic **Primary School Batoke** is in Limbe and is one of the very few schools still open and functioning in the SW region. It is expected that hundreds of additional children will be pressing to enrol at this school once the new classrooms are completed.



Ecole Publique Konyambetta is a primary school in the Centre region and our 100th project mentioned above.

Fortunately we have also been able to fund projects at three health centres which are located in villages that have received hundreds of IDPs in recent months. According to the Cameroon Medical Council report of December 2018, since the start of the crisis in the NW and SW regions, one in four pregnancies are amongst school-age girls. They have no access to ante-natal care and most are giving birth in the forests. The infant and maternal mortality rates have significantly increased.



We have received funding for the construction of a Maternity ward and a Birthing Room at the



Akumlam Health Centre is in the NW region in an area that has been a hot spot for violence

Bani Baloum Health Centre in the West region close to the border with the NW and we have been able to provide beds, cots, mattresses, the necessary birthing equipment and a toilet with washing facilities as well.



Over 400 IDPs have moved into the area served by the **Ntaache Health Centre**, which is currently housed in a borrowed building and has only borrowed secondhand equipment. We have been able to fund the construction of some new purpose-built wards, an ante-natal clinic and infant welfare hall, a lab, a pharmacy and a toilet with handwashing facilities. We have also provided all the equipment needed for the health centre to operate, including a new fridge in which to keep vaccines.

during the crisis and which has recorded a very high rate of teenage pregnancies with high infant mortality rates. This brand new, purpose built health centre has never been able to function because, although it has some nursing staff, it has had no equipment at all and so no patients have been able to be admitted or treated. We have been able to provide all ward beds and equipment necessary to get this centre functioning.



Finally, we have been able to fund the extension of the **Upper Futur Community Water Facility** in Bamenda, NW region, providing an additional catchment and a large new holding tank as well as extra pipeline and standtaps. This will now provide sufficient potable water for approximately 1500 people now living in the area.

A thank you from Innocent

Innocent was born with cerebral palsy which has affected the use of all his limbs, but recently he was very proud to accept the role of member of the SHUMAS Board of Trustees, representing all disabled students and staff at the Rehabilitation Centre in Bamenda.

Last year, I paid for him to get a wheelchair (and a spare, in case of damage) and this year another BSFA supporter has funded the purchase of basic personal supplies for him, like a mattress and blanket, a toothbrush and toothpaste, soap, a few items of clothing, some shoes and some essential food items. Before he received the wheelchair, Innocent was really struggling and had become a bit of a recluse. His only means of getting about was with the use of a Zimmer frame and it was exhausting for him to walk just a few yards.

Now he hopes that, once the unrest is over, he will be able to go back to school to continue his education. However, in recent months, the political crisis has intensified and has caused most of Innocent's neighbours, along with hundreds of thousands of other anglophones, to flee to safety in other parts of the country. The old and disabled have mostly been left behind with no-one to care for them and for Innocent this also means he has lost any customers he once had for his bead-jewellery business.

The special appeal, which we hope to launch in the next few weeks, will raise money to help support the most isolated and vulnerable members of the anglophone society, like Innocent and his grandmother, as well as many hundreds of the Internally Displaced People who have been forced to live in squalid makeshift communities in the jungle regions. Please look out for news of this appeal on our website, facebook and twitter.

It has been very rewarding to have been able to help Innocent become more mobile and lift him and his

grandmother, his only living relative and carer, out of extreme poverty. The cost to us was so small but the benefit to him was enormous – and he is so grateful.

Judith Moore
Trustee



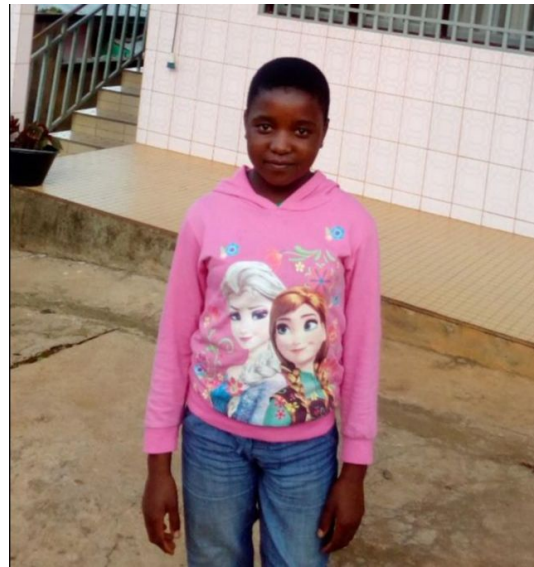
Innocent's vote of thanks

Stories from the IDP children, supported by the Scholarship Scheme

Fomonyuy Bulami is 16 and her younger sister, Monyuta-a Suiru is 11. Their parents were teachers in Kumbo (NW Region), however their family home was attacked, on three separate occasions, by armed fighters who also forced the closure the school in which their parents worked, and where the children were being educated. The girls' parents lost their income and were too frightened to stay in Kumbo. They put Fomonyuy and Monyuta-a Suiru into a nearby boarding school (St Augustine's) and relocated to another town with their three other children.



Fomonyuy Bulami



Monyuta-a Suiru

Fomonyuy (and Monyuta-a Suiru) take up the story

“My younger sister and I thought we were in a safe environment to pursue our education, but worse still happened to us. One fateful morning, as we were preparing to go for prayers, our dormitories were invaded by armed men of the separatist movements. They threatened us with guns and ordered all of us out of the dormitories. Without letting us even wear our shoes, they took all of us away from the school. We trekked from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m., covering a distance of more than 50kms on foot, from school to the separatists’ camp at Mbiim village. Many of us developed blisters on the soles of our feet due to the long distance covered. We were even ordered to run. After spending a night in the camp, with the psychological torture we received, we were released the following day, which was a Sunday.

After our release, there was no way we could remain in Kumbo again because of the trauma we had passed through and the absence of our parents, who had relocated to another town for safety. That is when SHUMAS-Cameroon welcomed us and took us to Bamenda where they have been providing us with accommodation, feeding, basic needs and school needs. They have (also) paid our fees. We feel very much at home in this family and have no regrets being internally displaced.”

Both girls now attend the Government Bilingual High School Bamendankwe (one of the few schools still functioning in the NW, and one which BSFA was able to support with technical workshops in 2016). Fomonyuy has taken her GCEs this summer and is awaiting her results. Monyuta-a Suiru has passed her Year 1 exams and will be returning to Year 2 in September. Both girls are now living in the special accommodation attached to the SHUMAS Rehabilitation Unit, in the care of the SHUMAS staff. All their costs are being covered by the Scholarship scheme.

Randy Shinyuy is a 11 year old boy, raised by his grandmother. He has been severely disabled and unable to walk since an illness at the age of 5, but he manages to stand using crutches. Since February 2018 he has been having intensive physical therapy at a Rehabilitation Centre for the Handicapped in Bafoussam in the West Region, where he has daily massage on his legs. Since he started the treatment, there has been great improvement and he is able to take some steps now. Once he is able to walk again, he will start school. Randy's accommodation, food and treatment has been paid for by the scholarship program.



We couldn't do any of this without your help and support.

Thank you - from all our trustees and from the poor, struggling people of Cameroon.

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