



Building Schools for Africa

www.schoolsforafrica.co.uk

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(UK Reg. Charity 1127661)

Supporters' Newsletter—October 2014

The Building School for Africa charity raises money for projects in Cameroon which contribute to the UN development goal of ensuring that boys and girls everywhere will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling. Building Schools for Africa builds schools in remote rural areas through their partner NGO, Strategic Humanitarian Services (SHUMAS).

Onwards and upwards in 2014

When we started out in 2007, our goal was to build one school. Well, we're still here and we're still building! This is all down to the generosity of everyone who makes donations and raises funds for us each year.



Completed classrooms at Rifem

The last twelve months have seen continued incursions into the land bordering the Far North region by Boko Haram and increasing numbers of refugees from Democratic Republic of the Congo also coming into the country – so the role of good, accessible education to promote equality and tolerance and to combat violence has never been more important. Thanks to your contributions, children across nine out of the ten regions in Cameroon now receive a better education in safer and healthier conditions than would otherwise be possible.



Celebration at the Kishiy opening ceremony

We're very pleased to be able to report another incredibly successful year. So far in 2014, your funds have provided:

- 28 classrooms at 10 schools across Cameroon
- Toilets at 9 of these schools,
- An office at 7 of the schools.

Funding is also in place to build 18 classrooms at a further 7 schools.

Further details of each of the schools built this year are on our website.

We are, of course, extremely grateful to all of our donors, but special thanks must go to Vitol, Clymac, Market Makers, the Gompels family, the Syndicate Project, Amherst High and another funding body that prefers anonymity, whose donations have funded entire building projects.

A donor's-eye-view

BSFA has always taken a very active approach to providing our donors with feedback on the impact of their contribution. It is not uncommon for our donors to visit the schools where their funds have been used, to see at first hand the difference that can be made to children's lives.

In April this year, Andrew Hindle, whose family funded a school building project in Kishiy in North West Cameroon in memory of Andrew's parents, visited the school itself. It was an emotional and eventful visit; one which saw Andrew get a parking ticket, meet Cameroon's Prime Minister and attend an opening ceremony, all in the first 24 hours.



With the students at the new school at Biakoa



BSFA representatives meet the PM



Andrew demonstrating his football skills

You can read a more detailed account of Andrew's adventure on our [website](#).

Andrew is keen to raise further funds for BSFA and will be organising a Summer Ball at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens on Saturday June 13th 2015. If you are interested please feel free to contact andrewhindle25@hotmail.com

Contribution to infrastructure projects

Andrew Hindle's account of his visit to Cameroon highlights the difficulties which the infrastructure in Cameroon present to making progress both in travel and the wider development sense. In addition to schools, there are challenges with access to electricity, water, health provision, business support and the internet. As we reported in our last newsletter, these services which we take for granted are inter-related, and without making progress on all these fronts, there are severe limits on the extent to which the people of Cameroon are empowered to make improvements to their economic circumstances.



Bridge building at Roh-Kimbo

For this reason, BSFA also funds infrastructure projects where SHUMAS has identified needs which should be addressed in order for the schools to reach their full potential for the whole community.



The Kovifem Health Centre under construction

The Roh-Kimbo bridge and Kovifem Health Centre are now finished and ready for handover. The last part of this project – a new water supply for the inhabitants of Taa-Mbveh is just waiting for the pipeline to be laid. This will be done once the corn harvest is in at the end of August – then the trenches for the pipeline can be dug. These last three parts of the entire project will be handed over in November.

While there are difficulties across the country's infrastructure, the roads, as we've previously reported, are particularly poor. This makes access to villages almost impossible during the rainy season - and travel times very lengthy once the roads are passable. So everyone is delighted with the brand new Hi-Lux truck that was funded by Clymac, which SHUMAS took delivery of in June 2014. The new truck will make the world of difference to SHUMAS staff and allow them to get around to the villages. Thank you Clymac.



The old truck. Stuck. In muck.

Welcome to new Trustees

Since the last newsletter, BSFA has appointed three new trustees, Jo Hanks, Judith Moore and Allan Marriott Smith. You can read profiles for them on our [website](#). All BSFA trustees are committed to ensuring that every penny raised is allocated to the projects we support. We are extremely proud of our record in this area, and will continue to strive for a zero administrative cost model.

BSFA Website

We are currently in the process of rebuilding our website, to put right one or two glitches that have crept in. All being well, the new version should be up and running in the first half of October.

Get involved

If you'd like to get involved with fundraising, please contact admin.bsfa@gmail.com. If you would like to make a donation, or join the increasing number of generous supporters who make a regular donation, please visit our [Just Giving](#) page