

International Friends Committee of Bebor Model Nursery/Primary School

2013 Annual Report

November 1, 2014

“More people today have access to a cell phone than to a clean toilet... Poor sanitation and water supply result in economic losses estimated at US\$260 billion annually in developing countries, or 1.5% of their GDP... Improved sanitation and water supply has implications for not only malnutrition reduction, child health, access to safe drinking water and the quality of life of marginal populations, but also poverty as a whole. This makes investment in improved sanitation and water supply a key variable in the attainment of equitable and sustainable socio-economic development.” – Guy Hutton, Senior Economist, World Bank Water and Sanitation Program.

This is the twelfth in a series of annual reports delivered by the International Friends Committee of Bebor Model Nursery/Primary School (BMN/PS). Previous annual reports are posted online in the documents and reports section of the school's <http://www.bebor.org> website.

2013 was an exciting year for our work in Nigeria as we saw the gradual expansion of our pilot health project in Bodo thanks to our continued partnership with Timmy Global Health. We also largely completed the building infrastructure side of our work and largely completed the water and sanitation phase of this project with the installation of a borehole for cleaner and improved drinking water at our school in Bori.

In terms of numbers, 2013 was our best year ever. We were able to send three separate rounds of funding to the schools totaling \$23,950 which eclipsed our previous funding record of \$20,100 sent to the schools in 2009. The \$23,950 we sent to the schools in 2012 compares to a longer run average of \$12,917 in annual funding provided to the schools from 2006 – 2011. By the end of 2013, the International Friends Committee had provided BMN/PS with \$140,700 worth of funding. Including the non-scholarship contributions of our partners at Stepping Stones Nigeria which funded boreholes for drinking water at the schools in Bane and Bodo brings this figure to \$152,800.

In our 2012 annual report I noted that 2011 was not as much of a down year as it appeared originally (we only sent \$6,000 of funding in 2011) because some of the delays we encountered during 2011 were ultimately resolved successfully and this was what enabled us to send three rounds of funding to the schools in 2012. If 2011 and 2012 are taken together, our average annual funding over that two year period of \$13,125 is very close to the \$12,917 average annual figure from 2006 – 2011. I suspect the same thing will be happening in reverse this time. Because 2013 was such a great year and we were able to send so much funding, 2014 will certainly appear down in comparison. As has always been the case with this project, I want everyone to know that we are not obsessed with numbers or dollars of output. There will always be times when we have higher than average years in terms of funding distributed to the schools and other years when we have lower than average years. We will continue to send funding as and when we feel the schools have properly accounted for the previous rounds of funding sent and as and when they have compelling needs that we feel we can help address. If that means that

comparatively 2012 and 2013 look like great years and 2011 and 2014 look like down years, then so be it.

In discussing the funds we sent to the schools in 2013, let me break things down into four parts. First, in terms of our most traditional work or what I increasingly refer to as phase 1 of this project, providing classroom buildings, we sent \$7,700 to the schools in 2013. This was broken down into \$2,000 to finish putting a rust-proof roof on our second classroom building in Bori and \$5,700 to re-roof the assembly hall building in Bodo with a rust-proof roof. The previous regular zinc roof, as some of you know, which had already rusted badly was severely damaged in a storm in March 2013. We were already planning to re-roof this building, but the storm damage brought new urgency to this work. With these two projects, we should now largely be done with roofing work once and for all as all seven of our classroom buildings (three in Bodo, two in Bane, two in Bori) now have rust-proof roofs which will not need replacing again. More generally, we are now largely completed with our classroom building construction. I use the phrase “largely completed” because things can go wrong and maintenance issues can arise but for the most part we should be more or less done with providing classroom buildings for these three schools.

Second, in terms of the importance of water and sanitation quote used at the beginning of this annual report, we sent \$4,500 to the school in Bori to install a borehole for cleaner and improved drinking water. Previous funding we sent in 2012 + some local resources had already made significant progress in Bori toward installing boys, girls and teachers’ toilets. The borehole will provide the water for the toilets and also provide better drinking water for all the students and teachers in Bori. Similar to the above paragraph, with this funding now fully utilized, we should be “largely completed” with water and sanitation or what I increasingly refer to as phase 2 of this project. Thanks to some generous support from Stepping Stones Nigeria, along with our own efforts, we now have boys, girls and teachers’ toilets and boreholes for drinking water in place at all three of our schools in Bane, Bodo and Bori. Again, it is quite possible that we will have maintenance issues requiring attention in the future but all of the children at all of our schools now have access to toilets and readily accessible improved drinking water.

Third, we sent \$8,000 of funding to our pilot health project in Bodo. This broke down to \$3,750 sent in February 2013 as the second half of our inaugural health funding for the 2012-2013 academic year plus another \$3,750 sent in October 2013 as the first half of our health funding for the 2013-2014 academic year. We also sent \$500 of funding to repair, renovate and equip a sick bay/nurse’s room at the school in Bodo which can be used for exams and blood draws as well as private medical consultations with students or their families. Funding for our health project has largely been divided 50:50 between Bebor donors like yourselves and direct support from our long-term partners Timmy Global Health. We typically send the Bebor part of the funding in in the fall and the Timmy part of the funding in the spring. My sincere thanks to Matt MacGregor, Mercy Obeime, Charla Cain, Anna Butterbaugh and everyone else at Timmy who made their support possible.

Those of you with good memories might recall that our health program started in the 2012-2013 academic year by focusing on 100 of the poorest and most vulnerable children (with an age range from 3-11) at the school in Bodo. These children received measles and polio immunizations, Vitamin A supplements, deworming treatment, medical exams and had their blood drawn to test

for HIV/AIDS, sickle cell anemia, and anemia. One of our most exciting developments this year was that we expanded the deworming treatment with albendazole in the 2013-2014 academic year to the entire population of students at the school in Bodo and not just to the 100 kids enrolled in all aspects of the pilot health program. According to the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab in the Department of Economics at MIT, “Funding mass, school-based deworming programs in areas of high worm load is among the most cost effective things any government, agency, or donor can do with their money. It is simultaneously one of the most cost-effective ways to improve child health and the most cost-effective ways to increase school attendance.” We typically start small in this project and try things out in one location or with one pilot project to see how they work before expanding them. After evaluating our first year of the health project, Dr. Nubari Nabie, the Nigerian doctor who directs it, Nenibarini Zabbey, one of the school’s board members and I concluded that we could and should expand the deworming treatment to all the kids in the school. With additional support both from Bebor donors and from Timmy Global Health, we plan to expand the deworming treatment to all of the children at all three of our schools in the 2014-2015 academic year. Pictures detailing the work carried out by our health project are available on the “Bodo health project” page of the school’s <http://www.bebor.org> website.

Finally, we sent \$3,750 in student scholarships, supplies and equipment for our school in Bodo. \$500 of this money was specifically to help with the medical and living expenses of one student, Bariala Tornuelbabari, the girl who has polio and was previously seen as a child witch or possessed by crocodiles because she cannot walk very far or very well without assistance. We will continue to support Bariala throughout her time at our school in Bodo. The other \$3,250 was used for the school more generally and helped both to purchase books, exercise books, notebooks, pencils and other such equipment and to provide tuition fee scholarship funding for some of the poorest students at the school.

From March 28, 2013 to September 3, 2014, we contributed \$890.42 to our partners at Timmy Global Health (see <http://www.timmyglobalhealth.org> for more information) as part of the 7% administrative fee they instituted on all of their programs starting in June 2010. Given all of the various services that Timmy provides to us (not the least of which is enabling me not to have to set up my own foundation and report directly to the IRS); I believe this is a fair charge to help ensure their longer-term viability as an organization. Timmy Global Health also generously provided far more support to our pilot health project in Bodo than we contributed to them as administrative fees and we remain extremely grateful for that crucial support which enabled us to embark on this exciting new direction. As noted on many previous occasions, we will continue to do everything we can to ensure that the other 93% of your donations go directly to our schools in Nigeria. I personally absorb a lot of costs like postage to mail thank you letters or registering the bebor.org domain name, our local Nigerian partners at the Center for the Environment, Human Rights and Development (CEHRD) provide a number of free services and absorb a number of costs themselves and our internet website costs were covered in 2013 by my cousin Andrew Nelson and his firm Accurate Image, Inc. Anyone, me included, who travels to Nigeria to visit the schools, will continue to pay all of their own costs out of pocket with no support coming from donated funds. The overwhelming majority of your donations will always go directly to supporting our schools in Rivers State, Nigeria.

Looking to the future, we will maintain our existing achievements in terms of physical infrastructure including water and sanitation at all three of our schools and address any problems

that might arise. As funding allows, we hope to move forward on construction of the permanent home for the Tijen Pegg Mothers' Association in Bodo and their sewing machine workshop. We are committed to refine, maintain and improve our pilot health project in Bodo and we plan to continue providing deworming treatment to all of the children at all three of our schools. Should we ever have sufficient funding on hand to do so, we would love to expand the entire health project to all the kids in Bodo and then to our other locations in Bane and Bori. As noted before, there are other projects we would like to undertake in the future such as providing better teacher training, providing nutritious school lunches, installing solar panels for power generation and building a secondary school in Bodo, but those are probably more distant goals.

We will continue to move forward with this project as we always have by remaining humble, sincere, enthusiastic and accountable in our service to some of the poorest people in the rural Niger Delta. We remain indebted to our local partners in Nigeria whose dedication, creativity, talent and honesty while working on the ground in the villages underlies everything we do. It simply would not be possible to do the work we do without them. We also remain indebted to you, our international donors, who remain loyal to this micro-scale development project that strives to bring the benefits of primary education and primary healthcare to hundreds of children at our three schools in Rivers State, Nigeria every year. As we have done in the past, we will remain focused on using our limited funds wisely and generating tangible results that directly benefit the children at our schools.

If you have any questions or need more information, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me via smpegg@iupui.edu or (+1) 317-722-1978. As always, thank you so much for your past, present and hopefully continued support of the school project.

Thanks,

Scott Pegg,
Chairman, International Friends Committee of Bebor Model Nursery/Primary School