

24 November 2025

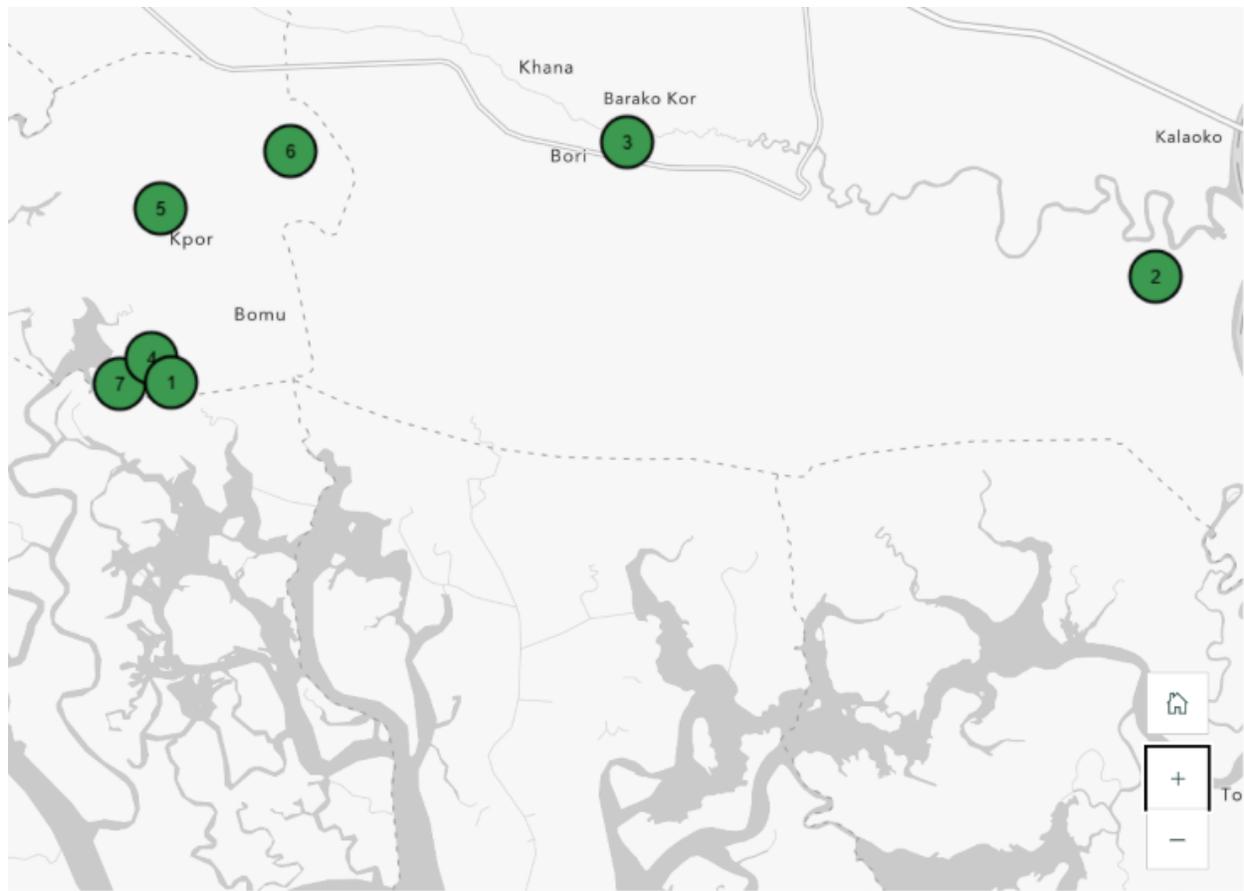
Dear friends and supporters of Bebor Model Nursery/Primary School,

I hope you are all doing well and staying safe and healthy. Please join me for a moment in celebrating our 25th anniversary of working with the Bebor Model Nursery/Primary Schools in Rivers State, Nigeria.

We don't exactly have a specific 25th anniversary date to celebrate. I typically use October 21, 2000, which is the day I was lucky enough to marry Tijen Demirel-Pegg. That makes sense because this project started with us asking friends and family to donate to the schools instead of getting us wedding gifts. We could potentially use April 2000 which is the first time I travelled to Nigeria and when Patrick Naagbantou first took me to his home village of Bodo to meet his mom, uncles and other relatives and first introduced me to Reverend Moses Nyimale Lezor, Bebor's school director. We could also potentially use whenever we first asked people to donate in the summer or fall of 2000 instead of getting us wedding gifts or whenever we received the first donation for Bebor. Whatever the case, 2000 – 2025 is 25 years and a worthwhile time to reflect on what we've done.

While I don't think it's the best measure of success or impact, one of the easiest evaluation metrics to report is that **we have now provided the schools we support in Rivers State, Nigeria with US\$411,235 of funding in 61 separate funding rounds** (the first in January 2001, the most recent in October 2025). The comparable numbers in my 20th anniversary Bebor message were US\$253,455 of funding in 44 separate funding rounds. We have thus averaged providing the schools with US\$16,449.40 of funding on an annual basis over the past 25 years. The 20th anniversary comparative figure was US\$12,672.75.

We have expanded from supporting one school in 2000 to supporting seven schools in 2025. We started supporting Bebor's original school in Bodo, Rivers State, Nigeria in 2000. In 2003, we expanded to support a second school in Bane. In 2012, our school director in Bane, Leelee Wiwa Tanen, started another school in Bori which we have supported since then. In 2015, we expanded our support to St. Patrick's Nursery and Primary School which is also located in Bodo. This became the first of four Catholic school partnerships we have now formed. In 2018, we expanded to Our Lady's Nursery and Primary School in K-Dere and in 2019 we expanded to St. Bernard's Nursery and Primary School in Biara. Most recently, a few months ago, we expanded to St. Brigid's Nursery and Primary School which is now our third school in Bodo. Three of our schools are in Bodo (Bebor, St. Patrick's and St. Brigid's), two are about 5-10 minutes' drive from it in neighboring rural villages in the same Gokana local government area (Our Lady's and St. Bernard's) while our school in Bane is about 30 minutes' drive from Bodo and Bori is in between Bane and Bodo but closer to Bane. You can see all of that on the map below with the schools numbered 1-7 from the earliest to the most recent that we have supported.



Thematically, we have focused on six main areas in our first 25 years. We started by **constructing nursery and primary school buildings** to get the kids out of churches or private homes and into proper classroom buildings. Among other things, we have built four classroom buildings from the ground up (2 in Bane, 2 in Bodo), finished another four partially constructed buildings (1 in Bodo, 2 in Bori, 1 at St. Bernard's), roofed or re-roofed 7 classroom buildings with rust-proof aluminum zinc roofs that should not need to be replaced (3 in Bodo, 2 in Bane, 2 in Bori) and constructed security walls or perimeters around two of our school complexes (Bane, Bodo). Except for maintenance work, potential improvements like solar panels or lights and Our Lady's Nursery and Primary School (which is currently operating in rented facilities, and which we hope to secure permanent facilities for), we are mostly done with this phase of our work.

Second, we have been **providing scholarships for our poorest and most marginalized students** since 2002. We give our school directors discretion in terms of how they award these scholarships so some kids just receive tuition fee scholarships while others in greater or more extreme need might also receive school uniforms or books and supplies as well. Our partners at [Safe Child Africa](#) have also provided many scholarships over the years and we are happy to acknowledge their fantastic support.

Third, starting in 2009, we began **providing boreholes for cleaner and safer drinking water and boys, girls, and teachers' toilets for improved sanitation**. Again, with the generous help of our partners at Safe Child Africa, we have provided boreholes at four schools (Bebor, Bane,

Bori, St. Bernard's) and toilets at three schools (Bebor, Bane, Bori) while another school (St. Patrick's) already had its own functioning boreholes and toilets before we started helping them. We hope to provide boreholes and toilets for Our Lady's in K-Dere. The photo below shows a girl student getting safer and cleaner drinking water from the borehole tap at our school in Bane in July 2025 – the borehole there still working 16 years after it was first installed in 2009.



Fourth, in 2012, we began a pilot **health program** at our original school in Bodo. Over the years, it has gradually expanded to cover all seven schools that we support. We have provided, equipped and annually re-stocked sickbays at six of the schools we support (all except Our Lady's due to the lack of permanent facilities). We now provide basic immunizations (measles, meningococcal, pneumococcal conjugate, polio, tetanus, typhoid, Vitamin A supplements, yellow fever) annually and deworming treatment with Albendazole bi-annually at all seven

schools we support. We are bringing our health program to St. Brigid's for the first time later this year. The photo below shows a girl student at St. Patrick's receiving a tetanus shot in 2019.



Fifth, in 2017, we started a pilot **nutrition program** at our original school in Bodo. It is based on the three locally available and familiar ingredients of crayfish, millet, and soybeans. Each 1 kg of “Ogi Soy Plus” contains 0.5 kg of soybeans, 0.3 kg of crayfish and 0.2 kg of millet. It is served in “pap” (porridge-like) formula or in a dry formula that is mixed into jollof rice. After the COVID 19 shutdown of schools in Rivers State in March 2020, we shifted to a socially distanced nutrition program and expanded our nutrition program to St. Bernard's and Our Lady's because of the dramatic increase in food insecurity and child malnutrition following the pandemic shutdowns. Our nutrition program continues to operate today at three schools (Bebor, Our Lady's and St. Bernard's) and has been doing so since we first expanded it in 2020. The photo below shows two students who have just finished their meals at Our Lady's in July 2025.



Finally, in 2021, thanks to the inspiration and initiative of Bjarne and Alessandra Tellmann, we launched the **Priscilla Lezor Memorial Scholarship for Students with Disabilities** at our original school in Bodo. This is a separate fund in addition to the general scholarship funding we provide to all seven schools that we support. In the rural areas of Rivers State, students with disabilities are stigmatized and discriminated against at very high levels. Many of them cannot attend schools because parents, teachers and other students fear they are witches or possessed by demons (yes, really). We have now successfully integrated large numbers of students with a wide variety of disabilities into our original school in Bodo. We thank the Tellmanns, Dr. Chuck Dietzen, the Timmy Juniors club at the International School of Indiana and everyone else who has supported this path-breaking initiative. The photo below shows me with one of these scholarship students who is missing most of one of his legs in July 2025.



We have now been doing this long enough, particularly with our first school in Bodo, that several of our nursery and primary school alumni have now graduated from or are currently enrolled in universities. During my visit to Nigeria in 2019, I met several of our Bodo alumni who had either recently graduated from university or were about to graduate from university. On my most recent visit to Nigeria in 2025, I met one of our Bodo alums who is now a teacher at St. Bernard's Nursery and Primary School. Perhaps our single greatest success story is Vera Hyacinth Kiele who graduated from law school and was called to the bar in Abuja, Nigeria's capital, in 2019. We have a picture of Vera in her judicial robe and wig (Nigeria is a former British colony) on the main homepage of [the school's website](#). Not everyone who attends our nursery and primary schools is going to finish university or become a lawyer, but it is gratifying to see and meet so many of our alumni who have gone on to do quite well for themselves.

After 25 years, we lost some friends and great supporters along the way. I want to take a moment to acknowledge them. On the Nigerian side, we tragically lost Priscilla Lezor to HIV/AIDS in 2013. Priscilla (forever memorialized in a green and yellow graduation gown on the top of [our school's website](#) and in our scholarship program for students with disabilities) was our headmistress in Bodo and she was a courageous and principled advocate for admitting students with disabilities to our school. Several children with disabilities would never have had an

education but for her steadfast advocacy on their behalf. In 2019, we tragically lost one of my best and closest friends, Patrick Naagbantou, when he was run over by a drunk driver while trying to hail a taxi in Port Harcourt. Patrick was a Bodo native, a fearless and courageous human rights activist, and a passionate advocate for the marginalized and oppressed. This project simply never could have started without his time, assistance, enthusiasm, and expertise. His genius was getting it to the point that it could survive and thrive without him, which it has now done for six years. Shortly after Patrick's death, everyone involved with this project rededicated themselves to working as hard, smart, and compassionately as possible to move forward without Patrick. Anything less would show tremendous disrespect to his legacy. In 2023, we also lost Patricia Nnem Nendom, a longtime Bebor health educator.

On the international side, we have lost Paul Beckett, Gerry Gelley, Ed Guthrie, Gerry Neils, Pat Neils, my mom Sharon Pegg, Burt Sapin, Susi Serrins, and Jim Wark. Susi established a wonderful personal bond with Reverend Moses and our school in Bodo in the last year or so of her life. Pat, Gerry, Gerry, and Jim were all early and generous supporters of this work. Burt only learned about this project toward the end of his life but embraced it with great enthusiasm. Paul Beckett and his family lived in northern Nigeria in the 1970s and he had tremendous love for Nigeria and unique insights into it. He was a regular sounding board and source of advice for me for many years. We are grateful his loving wife Kathie continues to support this project. I want to express my personal gratitude to the late Colonel Edward Guthrie. Ed was struck by Reverend Moses using an expression his mother often used. He made a \$5,000 contribution to our schools at a time when that accounted for well over 50% of all the funds we had raised. His donation was the first time that I really thought "wow, we might actually be able to do this for the long term." I don't know exactly what he saw at such an early date to inspire him to make such a great vote of confidence in this project, but I remain eternally grateful for the foundational contribution he made to our schools and to me personally. If Bebor had a hall of fame, Ed Guthrie would be a unanimous first ballot selection. My mom, Sharon Pegg, collected the very first donations for this project while I was still living in Ankara, Turkey and established a separate bank account for it before our partnership with Timmy Global Health started in 2002. At the time of her death in 2022, she was one of the most generous contributors to this project and she specifically left funding for it so her contributions would continue after she passed.

We have been tremendously blessed with great, long-term partners. We have now been partnered with [Timmy Global Health](#) for 23 years and counting. We simply do not have anywhere near the level of accomplishments we have without their continued generous support. The [Center for Environment, Human Rights and Development](#) has been our core Nigerian partner outside of the schools themselves for give or take 20 years now. I can't even begin to tell you how proud I am that two of our top ten supporters over the entire 25-year history of this project are [Mt. Vernon High School](#) in Fortville, IN and [New Palestine Junior High School](#) (formerly Doe Creek Middle School) in New Palestine, IN. [Aerodynamic Advisory](#) has become our most important corporate partner and a company that never ceases to find creative ways to support the work we do in the rural Niger Delta. My sincere thanks to all those organizations.

Most importantly, we have been blessed by so many tremendous, long-term, generous, and intellectually engaged international supporters. The great American writer James Baldwin once said “There may not be as much humanity in the world as one would like to see. But there is some. There's more than one would think.” The 25-year history of this project and your incredible support for it demonstrates that thousands of times over. I don't want to name names to respect privacy and to avoid leaving anyone out. You know who you are. Several of you have been with us from the very beginning or for 10 or 15 or 20 years. Several of you have travelled to Nigeria to see the schools and meet the kids in person. Several of you have secured generous corporate matching gifts from your employers (three of our thirty largest contributors are corporate matching gifts) or made stock donations for us. We would never have been able to expand into health or nutrition without the steady, consistent, and incredibly generous support you have provided. Many of you have also provided valuable advice, guidance, or suggestions whenever I have reached out to you with questions or to make sure what I thought was a good idea really was a good idea. I'm the face of the project and the person who occasionally gets their work on it recognized in one way or another, but none of it would have been possible without you. It's truly been an honor working with you the past 25 years.

When asked about what we have accomplished in 25 years, my summary response is that what we have done is a good start. The need for what we do has never been greater and I hope we can work together for many more years to come. All I want to do with this communication to you is just say thank you. On behalf of the now more than 1,700+ beautiful children we serve every year in the rural Niger Delta (up from 1,400+ on our 20th anniversary), thanks as always for your past, present and hopefully continued future support of this work. It is greatly appreciated and will, as always, be put to wise and judicious use.

Best wishes for a safe and happy holiday season.

Thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Pegg". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Scott" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Pegg".

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