

International Friends Committee of Bebor Model Nursery/Primary Schools

2025 Annual Report

June 16, 2026

“Nigeria’s resilience is legendary. Its people endure, adapt, and innovate. But resilience is not a substitute for justice, nor can endurance erase embedded failure.... The Nigerian slogan ‘We meuve’ (We move) captures this spirit of survival and defiance, but it must also become a call for systemic change—an urgent reminder that endurance alone is not enough. Nigerians deserve not just to survive, but to thrive. They will continue to ‘meuve.’ But their striving and persistence demand more than prayers. They require accountability, justice, and structural change to secure the right to greater possibilities.” – from Daniel E. Agbiboa, “May Nigeria Not Happen to You,” *Current History*, Vol. 124, No. 862, May 2025, p. 196.

This is the twenty-third in a series of annual or bi-annual reports delivered by the International Friends Committee of Bebor Model Nursery/Primary School (BMN/PS). Previous annual reports are posted online at <https://www.bebor.org/information/documents-and-reports/>.

Starting with numbers, we sent \$37,330 in three separate rounds of funding to the seven schools we support in 2025, breaking our previous record of \$34,465 which we sent to the schools in 2023 and up from the \$26,950 we sent to the schools in 2024. By the end of 2025, the International Friends Committee and Timmy Global Health had provided BMN/PS with \$411,235 worth of funding.

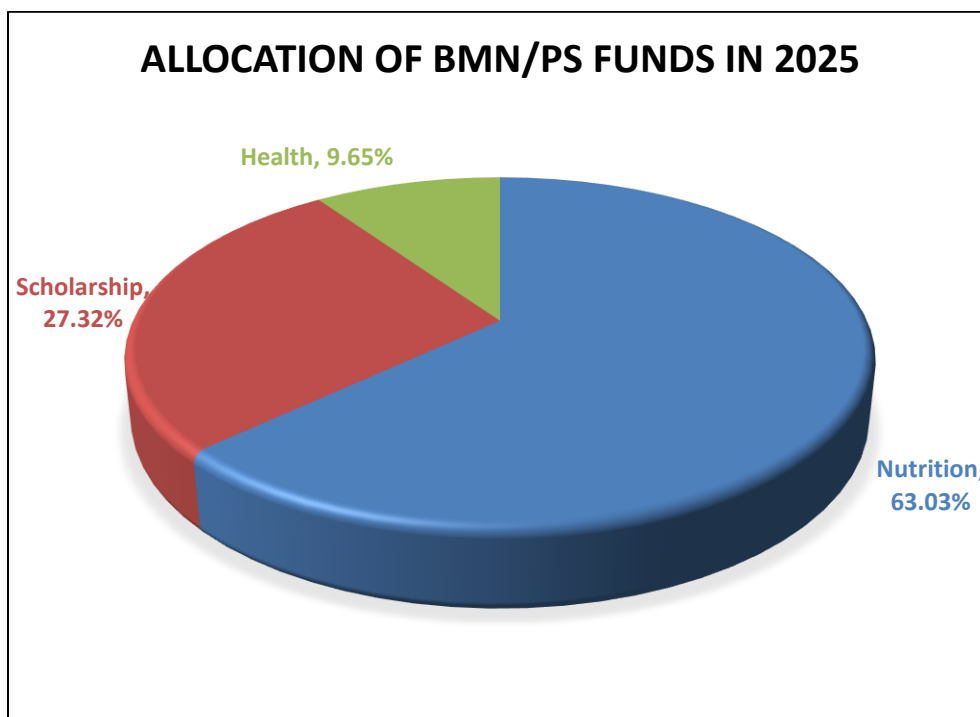
As frequently noted in previous annual reports, our funding numbers fluctuate every year. Fluctuations in funding levels are inevitable with a micro-scale project like this, and they are not necessarily the best measure of this project’s overall health or success. That said, the expansion in the number of schools we serve, expanding our nutrition program from one school to three schools in 2020, plus increases in the amount of scholarship funding provided have slightly more than doubled our costs from the \$14,721 of average annual funding we sent in the 2010s to the \$30,588 of annual funding we have so far averaged in the 2020s.

A small part of our increased funding in 2025 compared to 2024 can be attributed to my decision to begin providing support to a seventh school, St. Brigid’s Nursery and Primary School (in Bodo where two of our other schools are located). This was a minor part of our overall cost increase because they added one additional school to our general scholarship program, we spent \$250 establishing a sickbay in one of their buildings and they marginally increased the costs of our health program. Our scholarship funding was up by \$2,200 from 2024 because we previously increased the amount of general scholarship funding from \$500 twice per year per school to \$600 twice per year per school, we added a seventh school in the second part of the year, and we increased funding for the Priscilla Lezor Memorial Scholarship for students with disabilities from \$1,000 twice per year to \$1,200 twice per year. Without question, though, the biggest single driver of our increased funding costs was our nutrition program. 2025 was even worse than 2023 in terms of persistently high food price inflation in Nigeria. We got a bit of a break on this front in 2024, but 2025 was the most expensive year ever for our nutrition program. Our nutrition program costs were up \$7,630 from 2024 and this accounted for almost 74% of our total increase in funds sent to the schools from 2024 to 2025. As noted in a [separate report](#), the costs of our

nutrition program fluctuate regularly depending on whether food price inflation (which raises our costs) outpaces currency depreciation (which lowers our US\$ costs) or vice versa. Our costs will continue to fluctuate for different reasons (whether we have major, minor or no building infrastructure needs is another big driver of cost fluctuations) and the amount of funding we send going up or down from one year to the next usually reflects those dynamics and not our project either doing dramatically better or worse than it did the previous year.

Two years ago, I noted last year that Bebor received general international program funding support from our partners at [Timmy Global Health](#) for the first time in 2023. In 2025, Bebor received \$9,500 from Timmy Global Health which was used to help fund our nutrition program expenses. Timmy's support has made an enormous positive difference in our ability to sustain programming at all seven schools we support, and we are grateful for that. As in 2024, two other huge contributions to the funding we raised in 2025 came from several very generous stock donations (a fantastic way to avoid capital gains taxes) and a growing number of donors securing corporate matching gifts to double or triple their contributions. We also added a few monthly donors. Thank you to everyone who made use of such wonderful options.

As I have noted before, our funding portfolio has shifted over time from providing infrastructure (classroom buildings, boreholes, toilets) that enables our students to attend schools with good facilities to more direct investments in the children themselves, through our health, nutrition, and scholarship programs. As the chart below shows, in 2025, our funding profile was approximately 63.03% for our nutrition program, 27.32% for our scholarship programs and 9.65% for our health program. We never try to hit a specific percentage of funding devoted to health, nutrition, infrastructure, scholarships, or anything else. Yet, the broad pattern of less investment in physical infrastructure and more investment directly in the health and well-being of the children we serve has been a longer-term trend for our work in Rivers State, albeit one that will probably change in 2026 and 2027 as we have several pressing building and infrastructure needs that will require funding soon.



Let me break the funding we provided in 2025 down into three main categories. First, we provided \$3,600 in funding to our health program, up from \$3,050 in 2024. We currently have six functioning and equipped sickbays with the only school not having one being Our Lady's Nursery and Primary School in K-Dere because they do not yet have their own permanent facilities. \$250 of the health program funding we sent was to establish a new sickbay at St. Brigid's Nursery and Primary School in Bodo which we only started supporting in July 2025. \$2,400 of the health program funding we sent was to stock and re-supply our six sickbays throughout the academic year with medications, basic first aid materials and West African-specific supplies like anti-malarial medication and oral rehydration salts. \$950 was to support the non-sickbay components of our health program. This part of our health program now covers all seven schools that we support. The non-sickbay part of our health program currently features three other main components: 1) public health education for the children, parents and teachers; 2) providing basic vaccines and immunizations including measles, polio, tetanus, typhoid, yellow fever and Vitamin A supplements; and 3) deworming treatment by providing the children twice a year with chewable 400 mg tablets of Albendazole which keep them worm-free throughout the year. As has always been the case, in 2025, local Nigerian doctors, nurses, teachers and volunteers delivered every element of our health program.

Second, we provided \$23,530 dollars of funding for our nutrition program which currently operates at three schools in Biara (St. Bernard's), Bodo (Bebor) and K-Dere (Our Lady's). Due to persistently high food price inflation in Nigeria throughout 2025, this was a record amount of funding for our nutrition program. The funds we sent in 2025 ensured the continued operation of our nutrition program from March 1, 2025, to February 28, 2026. A subsequent funding round in February 2026 that will be addressed in next year's annual report has the program currently funded through August 31, 2026.



Two students at Our Lady's Nursery and Primary School in K-Dere who have just finished their meals on July 7, 2025.

Third, we provided \$10,200 in scholarship funding in 2025, up from \$8,000 in 2024. We provided \$7,800 in general scholarship funding support in 2025, up from the \$6,000 we provided in 2024. All six schools we supported in the first half of 2025 received this funding while all seven schools we supported in the second half of 2025 received it. All seven schools now receive \$600 of general scholarship funding, twice per year. As we have done in the past, we allow our school directors to provide smaller scholarships (say, tuition fees or partial tuition fees only) to a larger number of students or to provide more generous scholarships (including, say, school uniforms, books and supplies) to a smaller number of students based on local needs.

We also provided \$2,400 in scholarship funding for the Priscilla Lezor Memorial Scholarship (PLMS) fund for students with disabilities at our original school in Bodo, up from \$2,000 in 2024. This initiative, the vision of two of our longest-term supporters, Bjarne and Alessandra Tellmann, launched in 2021 and it remains unprecedented throughout Rivers State where students with disabilities often face far greater levels of stigma and prejudice than they do in more developed countries. As part of the agreement establishing the PLMS endowment, we pledged at least \$2,000 of annual PLMS scholarship funding for a five-year period. Thanks to the continued generous support of the Timmy Juniors club at the International School of Indiana, the Tellmanns, Dr. Chuck Dietzen and other donors, this funding will be extended well beyond its original five-year mandate. We sent our inaugural \$1,000 of PLMS funding in April 2021. In

2025, we provided two additional \$1,200 funding rounds for this initiative in February and October. The students with disabilities who benefit from this funding include children with mobility challenges, children who are amputees or missing limbs, and children who have other serious cognitive and/or physical challenges, including serious vision and hearing challenges. This is a revolutionary initiative for the rural Niger Delta. I remain profoundly optimistic that it will have a positive long-term impact in combatting the stigma these children face and in helping them to realize the true potential of their abilities.

In 2025, we contributed \$2,917.52 to our partners at [Timmy Global Health](#) as part of the 7% administrative fee they instituted in June 2010 for dedicated donations to specific projects like Bebor. As noted previously, Timmy has generously provided far more support to our work in Nigeria than we have contributed to them as administrative fees. As has always been the case, we will do everything we can to ensure that the other 93% of your donations go directly to our schools in Nigeria (in contrast, during its 2024 fiscal year, USAID provided approximately 12% of its funding directly to its local partners). I personally absorb costs like hosting our website or buying postage to mail thank you letters. Our local Nigerian partners at the Center for the Environment, Human Rights and Development (CEHRD) also provide free services and absorb many costs themselves. Anyone who travels to Nigeria to visit the schools, including me, will continue to pay all their own costs out of pocket with no support from donated funds.

One of my great personal highlights of 2025 was that I was able to travel to Nigeria and visit all six schools we supported previously and add one new school, St. Brigid's Nursery and Primary School in Bodo, to bring us up to seven schools that we support. Other than it being peak rainy season with several severe storms while I was there, I had a wonderful trip. In Bodo, I got to meet dozens of students with disabilities and, in many cases, their parent(s) or guardian(s). My personal favorite moment was a massive rainstorm at St. Bernard's where the kids just kept singing louder and louder as the rain came down. It was just such a beautiful and joyful moment. Our newest initiative was launching a partnership with St. Brigid's Nursery and Primary School in Bodo. The photo below gives you a "present at the creation" or ground zero view of the first meeting that Dr. Nabie and I had with their head priest, Father Anderson Amaechi, on July 10, 2025.



Let me note two other informative things that came out of my 2025 visit to Nigeria. First, we were able to conduct student census headcounts at all six of the schools we supported at the start of the year (we could not do a census headcount at St. Brigid’s because their school had already dismissed for the day by the time we met with Father Amaechi). A [more detailed report](#) is posted on our website but the summary figures are that we had 1,553 students in attendance on the days I visited each school and counted students in each classroom, of whom 49.07% were girls. These numbers are certainly low as any student not in attendance on those days for any reason would not show up in these headcounts. Adding the approximately 165 children enrolled at St. Brigid’s brings us to more than 1,700 children served across seven schools. Second, I finally remembered getting GPS coordinates for all seven schools on my phone. One of my colleagues in Geography created this [fun, informative and interactive map](#) that shows the location of all seven of our schools in Rivers State, Nigeria.

The quote at the beginning of this annual report highlights both the urgent necessity of the work we do in Rivers State, Nigeria, and the fundamental limits to it. Harvard Professor Daniel Agbibo correctly highlights the legendary resilience of Nigerians and their ability to endure, adapt, and innovate. While this is something I have personally been impressed by for more than 25 years now, Professor Agbibo emphasizes that we should strive for much more than just finding out how far Nigerians can adapt or persist. They deserve much better. This is a micro-scale project that, as I noted last year, cannot address a huge country like Nigeria’s macro-scale problems. We cannot provide the “accountability, justice, and structural change to secure

the right to greater possibilities” that Professor Agbibo so rightly demands. That does not mean, though, that we do is futile. Your support helps ensure that the more than 1,700 children we support across seven different schools in Rivers State every year have the benefits of a quality primary education, basic health care, access to safer drinking water, improved sanitation, and better nutrition in the hopes that they will have a greater chance at becoming productive and prosperous adults. The parents of students with disabilities face myriad challenges. We cannot solve all their problems, but we have taken finding a school that will accept their child or having to worry about having enough money to cover their school fees and supplies off their list of things to worry about. Deworming treatment keeps the kids we serve in attendance at school and free from the adverse effects of small parasitic worms that are endemic throughout the Niger Delta. The girl in the photo below faces sundry challenges and difficulties growing up in rural Nigeria but she is surely better off with cleaner and safer drinking water than she is without it.



Access to safer and cleaner drinking water at our school in Bane on July 10, 2025.

Looking to the future, as always, we will maintain our existing physical infrastructure including classroom buildings, water boreholes and toilets and address any problems that might arise with any of the buildings or facilities at any of the seven schools we support. Thanks to the incredible generosity of Dr. Mercy Obeime and her friends and colleagues from Uromi, Edo State, Nigeria, we have recently secured land for a permanent home for Our Lady's Nursery and Primary School in K-Dere which currently lags far behind the other six schools we support because they are in rented facilities. It will take us a while to do, but we will eventually bring them up to the level of our other schools with buildings with roofs that don't leak, toilets, boreholes for cleaner and safer drinking water and well-stocked sickbays. We also need to construct a new school building at St. Bernard's soon to accommodate their rapid growth in student numbers since we first started partnering with them in 2020. We plan to continue our health programming at all seven schools (Bane, Bodo, Bori, St. Patrick's, Our Lady's, St. Bernard's, and St. Brigid's) and maintain our nutrition program at the three schools (Bodo, Our Lady's, and St. Bernard's) it currently serves. Nigeria always surprises, and we will always try our best to address whatever other challenges or opportunities arise from time to time in a thoughtful and careful manner.

Our heartfelt thanks go out to Dr. Nabie Nubari Francis, CEHRD's coordinator and our health and nutrition program coordinator. We thank all our other Nigerian partners including Father Anderson Amaechi, Father Denis Asomugha, Reverend Moses Nyimale Lezor, Father John Poroma, Leelee Wiwa Tanen, Dr. Owens Wiwa, and Dr. Nenibarini Zabbey. In addition to our Nigerian partners, we remain profoundly grateful to Dr. Chuck Dietzen, Dr. Mercy Obeime, Melissa Dulaney, Emely Sanchez Baez, and all our partners at Timmy Global Health. We are proud to have such great partners as Kevin Michaels and all our other friends at [AeroDynamic Advisory](#). We are tremendously indebted to you, our donors, who continue to support this micro-scale development project that strives to bring the benefits of primary education, improved water and sanitation, better nutrition, and basic healthcare to more than 1,700 children every year in the rural Niger Delta. We remain incredibly grateful for your continued vote of confidence in the work that we do on behalf of the communities we serve in Rivers State, Nigeria. Thank you! We simply could not have done anything described in this annual report without your support.

If you have any questions or need more information, please do not hesitate to contact me via smpogg@iu.edu or (+1) 317-361-8329. As always, thank you so much for your past, present, and hopefully continued future support for this project. It is appreciated.

Thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Pegg". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "S".

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