



## Give Orphans a Chance...Through Education Cameroon Goat Rearing Project

### The Cycle of Poverty in Cameroon

48% of Cameroonians live under the poverty line

17% live on only \$1 a day

51% live on just \$2 a day

30% of Cameroonians are unemployed

- Canadian Foreign Service Institute

BERUDA created the Orphan Education Through Goats project in 2008 to ensure orphans are not left behind in life.

Since then, our supporters have donated **164 goats to 79 orphans**, all of whom are currently in school.

We know it works.

### Empowering our Future Leaders

The number of children orphaned in Cameroon is immense. Life expectancy is only 45 years of age due to widespread poverty, lack of access to basic health care and the high rate of HIV/AIDS.

This means many children are left without one or both parents. Social and cultural traditions in Cameroon leave women in extremely vulnerable positions, often completely helpless when faced with the loss of their husbands. So, even if both parents have not died, many children are left behind in the struggle to survive.

Education is the solution to most of Cameroon's development needs.

Lack of education is what hinders rural Cameroonians in the North West Region from earning a sustainable living and continues to fuel the poverty cycle. Due to expensive school fees, some parents are unsupportive of education, preferring to keep children home to help on the farm.

But money is not enough to solve this problem. Instead of simply paying school fees, we focus on teaching orphans to sustain their education to ensure a complete school career.

Belo Rural Development Organization (BERUDA) created the Orphan Education Through Goats Project—a sustainable initiative that can do this with a one-time donation. We provide goats to the orphan's family/carers so they can generate income for school fees through the sale of the kids (baby goats).

We believe something as simple as a goat can transform the lives of our future generation in Boyo Division well into the future. By donating two females and one male goat to each orphan's carer, the family can sell the offspring each year to pay school fees.

**BERUDA respectfully requests your support to raise US \$4,000 for our Orphan Education Through Goats Project. With a one-time donation, you can help provide 20 primary school-aged orphans in Fundong Village with a sustainable means to pay school fees and ensure they are not abandoned to a life of abject poverty.**

Please help us change our future by providing the next generation with a fighting chance at life.





## A Village in Need

Without a basic education, orphans gamble at survival with the lowest chance for a future in Fundong Village, Cameroon. With many of her own children to support, a woman charged with caring for an orphan is already struggling financially.

In Kom tradition, when a man dies, his wife (or wives) are passed to the eldest surviving brother (who often already has a number of wives himself), and she and her children can be treated as a burden, neglected or abused. This means that even if a child only loses a father, he or she is often left with no hope for a future, and may be sent away when the mother can no longer provide for her children.



It is not uncommon to see children aged 11 or 12 fixing motorcycles or selling fruit or soap in Fundong Village. It is also not uncommon for them to run away from home (or be sent away), usually to South West Cameroon, to work on banana or cocoa plantations. Child labour is a big problem when parents and children are left with no options.

*“The main determinants of child labour are poverty, parental level of education, HIV infection, place of residence, socio-cultural factors, family size...”*

*“The effects of child labour are dramatic and include low school enrollment, high drop out from schools, poor growth and development, high adult unemployment and a persistent cycle of poverty.”*

-University of Yaoundé

BERUDA created its Fundong orphan project in 2008 to help ensure this does not happen to our many orphans. Since its inception, we have donated 164 goats to 79 orphans, all of whom are now currently enrolled and attending school. We work in partnership with the Traditional Council and Ministry of Livestock to enforce the terms and conditions. We know it works.

## Orphan Education Through Goats Project—How It Works

The concept is simple: ensure every identified orphan in Fundong has a chance at a future by attending primary school.

How does it work? Generous donors (like you) who want to make a real difference for 20 primary school-aged children give a one-time donation to help raise **US \$4,000**.

We will provide each orphan’s carer with **two female goats** and **one male goat** to begin breeding immediately (goats are pregnant for five months and kids wean for two-to-three months; lucky breeders may have two kids a year per female—or more if she bears two or three at once).

Your donation will also help provide the education fee of **\$70** for each orphan’s first year of school to compensate for the gestational period of goats and growth of kids for sale.

Our skilled field worker manages the project by sourcing goats for purchase and delivering them to each family, coordinating sales and managing orphan bank accounts, making monthly school visits to check attendance records and making home visits to ensure orphan well-being, and goat fertility and care.

In the case of high sales due to good fertility, all additional funds earned must be saved for the following year’s education fees.



## Education in Fundong

**\$70** primary school fees, uniforms & books / yr

**12,423** school-aged children in Fundong

**107** identified orphans in Fundong Village

**20** primary school-aged orphans not enrolled due to high fees

Education in Cameroon:

**6** yrs = primary school

**5** yrs = secondary school

**2** yrs = high school



## Child Labour in Cameroon

A recent study found that:

**5,500** children in Cameroon were applying pesticides

**16,192** were working with machetes in cocoa plantations

Worst abuses include:

- shift work
- long hours
- farm work / spraying / picking
- construction
- auto-repair

- University of Yaoundé

If an orphan stops attending school, the goats are removed from the family along with any kids that were bred, and any earned funds for future years are put toward another orphan's schooling. If a goat dies, the carer must provide proof (the Ministry of Livestock will investigate and, when necessary, will send BERUDA a photo of the dead animal with a valid cause of death).

Each carer signs a contract to ensure they understand the terms and conditions, and has direct contact with, and support from, our field worker at all times.

### Orphans in Fundong—The Details

BERUDA's Orphan Education Through Goats Project currently supports 79 orphans who are rearing goats and attending school in Fundong. But more children lose their parents every day in Cameroon.

Using our numerous training and support groups in Fundong (as well as self-identified widows), BERUDA conducted a survey that identified:

**107** orphans are living in Fundong Village.

**20** are primary school-aged and do not currently attend school.

**12** are teens and do not attend school.

All have lost either both parents or their fathers (mothers are unable to support their education).



We need Global Giving's help to get the 20 youngest children into school before it is too late.

Primary school fees plus uniform and books total CFA 35,000 in a government school—the equivalent of **US \$70** a year.

Those children not attending school follow their carers to the farm to work. Orphans usually live with relatives, friends or neighbours, although they are not always welcome and can be treated as a burden.

Some are sent to live with family members in other regions—a common traditional known as *placement* where a child performs services in exchange for a promise of education—though they are often exploited (pay with-held, education refused, abuse—physical, sexual and mental).

### Budget

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	COST (US \$)	COST (CFA) / 498.5
60 Goats	40 female goats (2 per orphan) 20 male goats (1 per orphan) @ \$30 per goat	<b>1,800</b>	900,000
School Fees	One-year of school fees for 20 orphans @ \$70 per orphan	<b>1,400</b>	700,000
Admin	Field worker stipend, bank fees, transport, administration costs, office materials	<b>800</b>	400,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>4,000</b>	2,000,000



## One Orphan's Story...

Stephan is 16 years old. He is one of many orphans in North West Cameroon. He was orphaned shortly after birth when his mother died from HIV-related causes.

Stephan contracted HIV during birth. He does not know who his father is.

He was raised by his elderly grandmother near Fundong, where BERUDA set up a similar orphan support project, but now lives with an aunt and her many children.

Stephan's family was unable to pay even one year's school fees. But thanks to the generous support from donors overseas, Stephan was able to attend school, although at 16 he is only in class six of primary school due to health-related absences.

Unfortunately for Stephan, there is little hope. His health is very poor as he struggles with his illness, which is progressing rapidly. He lost his right eye due to an HIV-related infection that was left untreated because he lacked access to medicine and a responsible carer to help him with his antiretrovirals.

He is currently hospitalized with terminal AIDS. The outlook is grim.

**Stephan's situation is not uncommon in North West Cameroon. There are so many cases of children orphaned and left to fend for themselves.**

**Left without hope for a future. Or any chance in life.**

**BERUDA works to ensure no orphan is denied a future or a chance at an education like Stephan was.**



## Background

The rural people of Boyo Division, also known as Kom, are subsistence farmers who depend on small crop yields to feed their families. Kom is also located in the North West Highlands, where farms teeter on mountainous slopes and dip into flooded valleys, making farming a challenge.

The elder Kom generation is often uneducated and more concerned that children help on the farm than go to school to ensure food is available throughout the year. Teaching someone with no basic education about soil erosion or the act of composting for fertilization is virtually impossible. The current elder generation is very limited in knowledge and struggles to understand basic concepts, such as crop rotation, soil fertility, Ph levels or erosion.

BERUDA is trying to change this from the grassroot—through access to education.

BERUDA's Orphan Education Through Goats Project was implemented in 2008 with financial support from an Italian foundation. Since that time, more children have been orphaned, and we want to make sure they receive the same opportunities as their peers. We have focused on primary school-aged children to set a manageable goal to start with. We are committed to continue fundraising until each and every orphan in Fundong has a chance at an education.

We also operate three After-School Orphan Programs in the villages of Fundong, Njinikom and Belo.



## Conclusion

Education should be a right for all children. It is truly unfortunate that a child who loses one or both parents should then be abandoned to a life of unemployment, poverty and even trafficking or child labour.

BERUDA's work to eradicate poverty in the region has provided us with the knowledge and skills to do something about it.

We currently operate two orphan support programs in Fundong and Belo Villages, as well as three orphan after-school programs in Fundong, Njinikom and Belo Villages, Boyo Division. We also manage education and small business trainings with widows to provide a sustainable livelihood through income-generating activities.

Your support of this project would not only provide years of education through a simple one-time donation, but will educate these orphans and their carers to operate a small business.

Please consider helping ensure a future for orphans in Fundong Village.

You can help give a child a chance...and give a village hope.

On behalf of the many orphans in Fundong, thank you in advance for any support you are able to provide.

## Contact

For more information, or if you are interested in child sponsorship specifically, please contact:

Chiambah Enock  
In-House Fundraiser  
BERUDA (formerly BERUDEP)  
PO Box 10, Belo Subdivision, Boyo Division  
North West Region, Republic of Cameroon

Email: berudepservices@gmail.com  
Phone: (+237) 77 35 82 51  
Website: www.beruda.org



### Sources Cited:

Centre for Intercultural Learning. Canadian Foreign Service Institute. Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada. [www.intercultures.gc.ca](http://www.intercultures.gc.ca).

E.J. Kongnyuy, A.Y. Kongnyuy, E.D. Richter: Child labour in Cameroon. *The Internet Journal of World Health and Societal Politics*. 2008 Volume 5 Number 1.