



# ANNUAL REPORT BTFS 2019

## HELP FOR SELF-HELP IN LIBERIA, WEST AFRICA

THANKS TO ALL OF OUR SPONSORS, FRIENDS AND PARTNERS FOR THE GREAT SUPPORT!



### EXPOSEE

*«Change will not come if we wait for some other person, or if we wait for some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek» Barack Obama.*

*„Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world” Nelson Mandela.*

Dear reader

For BTFS, the year 2019 was marked by these statements by important contemporaries who understood how to give humanity support and orientation.

The head of UMTEC of the HSR University of Applied Sciences Rapperswil, Professor Dr. Michael Burkhardt mentioned in one of his reports: "We had no budget, no clear plan, and yet we followed a common idea - a common vision, developed by people with different backgrounds and motivation."

This vision culminated in the three-month training course for the Liberian student "Bob" Laryee A. Sannor (left with children) in Switzerland, in the sending of young HSR engineers to Liberia, with the construction of an energy-self-sufficient water filter system on the BTFS pilot project ICA school and ultimately with the supply of over 4000 thousand people with bacteria-free, clean drinking water.

Under the leadership of the LINTH Hospital Uznach SG, a shipping container with over eight tons of medical supplies and medication came to Monrovia and a first course in Basic Live Support with nursing staff from local hospitals was successfully carried out, which was the start of a long-term commitment (Training of Trainer Program) in close cooperation with the Ministry of Health of Liberia. The key to this? Education! .... And the belief in being able to achieve something **together and not to give up**.

Felix F. Walz

Bowier Trust Foundation Switzerland




**HSR**

 HOCHSCHULE FÜR TECHNIK  
RAPPERSWIL

FHO Fachhochschule Ostschweiz


 GEO-CONSULTING  
DR. H. R. SCHNEIDER

Left: HSR engineers Severin Deplazes (left) and Rias Stalder surrounded by curious children who want to know how to become an engineer

Right picture from I. after r.: HSR Prof. Dr. Burkhardt, Prof. Wenk, Rias Stalder BSc FHO, UMTEC project manager HSR (seated) and BTFS President Felix F. Walz



### GDM water filter system has been working since May

Expanding the water tower at the ICA school / church with an energy self-sufficient water filter system was born from the idea of a cooperation between the HSR University of Applied Sciences and the Polytechnic University Stella Maris (SMPU) in Liberia. Bachelor student Laryee A. Sannor (called Bob) was given the opportunity (coordinated by BTFS) to complete a three-month internship in Switzerland. Thanks to the support of ROTARY Service Clubs, the Swiss Embassy in Abidjan and the St. Gallen Migration Office, it was possible a) to finance the stay and b) to meet the visa requirements on time.

At the Institute for Environmental and Process Engineering (UMTEC) Bob received the necessary basic knowledge of water quality measurement, solar technology and self-sufficient water filter technology (GDM Gravity Driven Membrane Water Filtration), with the aim of applying the knowledge to the BTFS pilot plant and passing it on to other SMPU students. With the support of HSR experts, the first GDM plant was built in Liberia that supplies between 4000 and 5000 people with bacteria-free, clean drinking water in the dry season. The facility is operated six days a week by trained personnel from the surrounding communities. In several workshops, aspiring hydraulic engineers at the SMPU were enabled to monitor, maintain and carry out water quality measurements every two weeks under the direction of Bob and to exchange the results with the HSR Institute UMTEC in Switzerland.

Under the direction of the renowned geotechnical engineer, Prof. Dr. Hansruedi Schneider, the basic features of a Memorandum of Agreement with Stella Maris Polytechnic University, could be outlined. The aim of which is the continuation of the academic exchange of knowledge and, on the other hand, further, "eco-friendly" facilities are to be planned.



HSR Professor (ret) Dr. Hansruedi Schneider, GEO Consulting, in front of the ICA water tower with self-sufficient GDM water filter system from HSR Rapperswil on the occasion of his visit to Liberia in December 2019



SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER 2019: OUR FIRST  
40 FOOT CONTAINER IS BEING SHIPPED FROM  
SWITZERLAND TO MONROVIA.

ORGANIZATION: LINTH SPITAL 8730 UZNACH SG  
ASSISTED BY: BOWIER TRUST FOUNDATION



Treatment table from HESS Medizintechnik AG Bilten. Donate to Dr. Robert Mulbah JFK Hospital in Monrovia (from left Marcel Buchmann, Daniel Elmer, HESS AG)

Five tons of high-quality baby food from HERO Switzerland, 180 kg of medication from Streuli AG Pharmazie, 200 pairs of surgical shoes for hospitals from OZG Medical Supply, crutches, splints, surgical material from Gloor Rehabilitation & CO AG and much more, met on December 6th 2019 at the meeting point in Monrovia. Long-term planning and general staff planning ensured that all aid supplies were proven to benefit the poorest of the poor free of charge.

Caption:

1. WhatsApp screenshot of the radar plot / vessel tracking
2. Arrival of our container at the safe meeting point in Monrovia
3. Overview of the cargo shortly before the container-uploading
4. BTFS WASH & Health Officer, Bernice Kromah (aspiring doctor and young Rotarian / ROTARAC) is happy about the baby food for sick children
5. In the secure VAMOMA house, goods distribution is prepared under the supervision of Marcel Buchmann from the LINTH hospital



TRAINING PROGRAM FOR NURSES  
(100) OF EIGHT CLINICS AND HOSPITAL  
FROM 11TH TO 15TH DECEMBER 2019

«BASIC LIFE SUPPORT»

Spital Linth



Instructor Marcel Buchmann presents a certificate to a hospital nurse at the Benson Clinic. Bernice Kromah heads Administration / Registration

Course schedule: (daily 9 a.m. – 12 a.m./1- 4 p.m.)

1. Registration / meet & greet
2. Introduction "Life-saving measures"
3. Role play / simulated case studies
4. Exercises in groups on dummies / «resuscitation»
5. Written final test with evaluation
6. Certificate for passed tests
7. Small gift for the top three tests
8. One (1) US dollar compensation for transportation to all students

Two powerful fans and the water dispenser with GDM water from the ICA pilot plant made the lessons in the tropical heat at 90% humidity in the premises of the BTFS office bearable.



# TEAM IN LIBERIA / FACTS & FIGURES 2019

- 105 Training, information, workshops related to the ICA project
- 99 Community occasions; Training with girls and young adults (hygiene, health)
- 4 Security-related occasions with the local police
- 17 Training in matters relevant to water and waste; Project management training
- 90 BTFS team briefings, internal training, organization
- 11 Other occasions with ministries and authorities, media

## OUR FOCUS:

**Health:** water, hygiene, waste and health prevention, basic medical care

**Security:** armed robbers, drugs, sexual harassment/rape

**Education:** workshops, project management, student exchange

Workshop mit 38 Mädchen zwischen 12 und 18 Jahren zum Thema „Kinder-Schwangerschaften“ und Hygiene... finanziert mit Spendengeldern aus der Schweiz.... (Bericht dazu in der Homepage von [www.bowier-trust.org](http://www.bowier-trust.org))



## BTFS ACTIVITIES IN FIGURES

326 (193 previous year) local activities were registered in the reporting year. As part of these events, 2,837 people (3,956 previous year) were trained, sensitized or informed primarily from the surrounding communities and also in remote areas. Gender specific: 60% female / 40% male.

Compared to the previous year 2018, the number of events was higher, with fewer participants, but with more quality and impact.

**PRIORITIES: HEALTH PREVENTION** Clean drinking water is a cornerstone of health and a prerequisite for children to be able to attend schools regularly. Environmentally friendly and correct use of toilets, personal hygiene, promotion of hygiene and education are elements that were trained in the reporting year. The involvement of experts from local hospitals helps to sensitize the community and with the medical aid from Switzerland, the health situation in the BTFS area of operation was selectively supported.

*“Analyze - Plan - Implement - Verify - Wait”  
(Quote: Felix F. Walz, BTFS President)*



# BTFS ROOT FAMILY.... OUR TEAM ON THE SITE



Main tasks: Mobilization and awareness-raising of six communities on topics: fresh water, hygiene, health prevention, landfill and waste management, teenage pregnancy, education, promotion of the community.

**Maxwell L. Jones**, BTFS Country Representative / Gov. Advisor



**Laryee "Bob" A. Sannor**, Chief Operations / "Boss"

**Sam G. Holt**, Deputy Chief OPS / Youth Dept.

**Elijah Dunnoh**, Assistant to Deputy Chief OPS

**Myrtle D. Bowier**, Head Woman Dept.

**Wonda N. Allison**, Assistant Head Woman Dept.

**Hamnson B. Gaye**, Logistics and Admin

**Belinda Johnson**, Assistant to Logistics and Admin

**Janet Bedell**, Team-to-do-List Chief

**Bernice A. Kromah**, WASH & Health Officer

**Cece "Sissi" Banks**, Woman Dept. Member

**Estella Kangar**, Housekeeping/Cooking/Team-"Mother"

Group picture with Marcel Buchmann, Head of Nursing at LINTH Hospital Uznach on December 14, 2019 with part of the BTFS team in front of our rental house in the SD Cooper Road Community, Paynesville, Montserrado County, after Marcel and Bernice took a 5-day course with 100 hospitals - Nurses had successfully completed in "Basic Live Support".

*"Impact - Trust - Sustainability"*

*(Quote from Colonel Thomas Würgler, Chief of the Zurich Cantonal Police and motto of BTFS President Felix F. Walz, ret. Police Captain)*



## SUCCESSFUL MEDIA WORK LINTH NEWSPAPER JOURNALIST VISITS LIBERIA



Daniel Graf, journalist for the LINTH newspaper, visited the BTFS operational area for 10 days in September 2019. His interviews led to extensive reporting over a period from October to December 2019 (3 weekend editions). This critical and fact-based reportage about Liberia created new contacts with people and organizations interested in this type of development aid. Among other things, a 30-minute radio interview by Radio Maria was realized with a podcast link depicted below:

<https://www.radiomaria.ch/de/programm/tagesprogramm?info=201911121900&title=De-Abig-uf-Radio-Maria>

Caption:

1. Daniel Graf Interview with Kpelle Town Community Leader and local Police Commander Kerkula
2. Interview with Dr. F. Kathe, Deputy Minister of Health
3. Extract from one of three double-page reports from the LINTH newspaper
4. Interview with Dr. Angela Benson, Benson Clinic, Paynesville

*«DO GOOD AND TALK ABOUT IT»*



# SPECIAL EVENTS 2019

1. January 1: Sternsinger Action Jona-Rapperswil
2. January 2, 28: Audience with Federal Councilor Cassis (middle) with Rotary Friend, State Senator Alex Kuprecht (right)
3. February 3: ROTARY CH & FL Visit by Verena Maria Amersbach, Rotary Editor-in-Chief
4. September 4: H.E. Ernest B. Asare-Asiedu, Ambassador of the Republic of Ghana in Liberia, tasted clean GDM water with BTFS
5. December 5: Liberia's Minister of Health, Dr. Wilhemina Jallah (mi Bernice Kromah, BTFS) helps in the accreditation process
6. December 6: CEO LINTH Hospital, Dr. Urs Graf, helps with the distribution of medical supplies and medicines from Switzerland



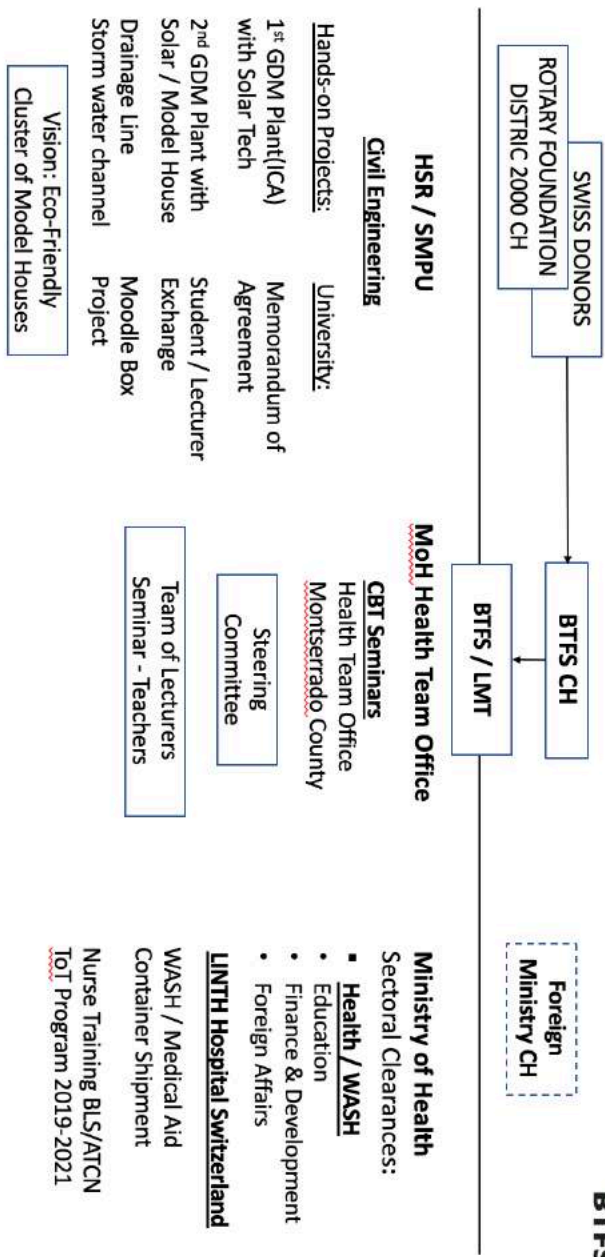
## Left to right:

H.E. Ambassador Asare, Ghana  
 Felix F. Walz BTFS  
 Ing. HSR, Rias Stalder  
 Laryee A. Sannor "Bob" BTFS  
 Ing. HSR, Severin Deplazes



# WORK PLANNING FROM 2020

BTFS / Liberia Program 2020-2021 / Version 26 December 2019 / FW



Financing with funds from the approved lottery fund contribution from the Office for Culture of the Canton of St. Gallen, as well as from the contributions of the ROTARY Service Clubs Oberer Zürichsee and Linthebane and other partner contributions / organizations

Funding of travel expenses from experts or instructors has not yet been secured

Funded by LINTH Hospital Uznach up to and including 2021 with subsequent reassessment of further involvement

*"Curiosity is the key to problem solving"*  
(Galileo Galilei, 1564-1642)



# FINANCIAL ASPECTS 2019

INCOME 2019  
Total CHF 75,000

- Sternsinger action parish Jona-Rapperswil
- Parishes of Linthgebiet and Winterthur
- ROTARY Clubs Oberer Zürichsee & Linthebene
- ROTARY District 2000 & ROTARY Foundation International
- Kohler Friederich Foundation
- International Police Association Switzerland (IPA)
- Gossweiler engineers Dübendorf
- Schmerikon Women's Community
- Private donations and services that were provided free of charge in favor of BTFS

EXPENDITURE  
2019

- ICA pilot plant with GDM water filter, pump, protection of the plant with roof (weather), technical infrastructure
- Events, training with the communities, workshops with Stella Maris Polytechnic, mobilization, awareness raising
- Office operations, wages, infrastructure, technology, house rent, vehicle and other repairs, maintenance
- Expenses for experts from Switzerland, travel, visas, accommodation, transport, meals, health
- Fees in Liberia (NGO registration, vehicle insurance, etc.)
- Administrative fees / administration in Switzerland (financial revision, homepage)

66%

28%

5%

1%

All services rendered in Switzerland were free of charge or free of any compensation: Attorney Linus Hofmann, Finance Department JMS Group, LINTH Hospital Uznach, Expertise from Dr. Burkhard Luber, Prof. Dr. H.R. Schneider, Prof. Dr. Michael Burkhardt, including all five members of the BTFS Foundation Board, as well as other and more friends and sympathizers. **THANKS TO ALL OF THEM !**



## VOICE FROM LIBERIA ....



Marcel Buchmann handing over baby food to the chief physician of the Benson Clinic, Dr. Jimi Benson

The Carver Mission Clinic (picture left) is located on the large area of the Carver Mission Academy with over 600 students and operates its own school for nurses. The administrator, **Ms. Theresa Alpha**, (picture above) said: (excerpt from the full statement given by Mr. Alpha)

*«We are grateful for the cooperation with BTFS from Switzerland. We received medical material and medication from LINTH Hospital Uznach in May 2019. Marcel Buchmann (Head of Nursing at LINTH Hospital) held a course for nursing staff in BLS (Basic Live Support / First Aid) in December 2019. What has been learned is very useful in everyday life. We have received medication and valuable baby food from Switzerland. In Liberia there are still children who are malnourished due to the great poverty. We are very grateful for the support from the LINTH Hospital Uznach from Switzerland and we are very happy if Marcel returns soon and he can continue with the training »*

The video can be viewed at the following link:

<https://vimeo.com/user107260142/review/383264933/33f525f4da>

Password: carvermissionDEZ19BTFS



# THE BTFS FOUNDATION AT A GLANCE...



The Bowier Trust Foundation Switzerland (BTFS) was founded in 2016 (entry in the commercial register on December 13, 2016 No. CHE-201.390.271) and is in accordance with Art. 80 para. 1 lit. g of the cantonal tax law (StG) of the canton of St. Gallen and Art. 56 lit. g of the Federal Act on Direct Federal Tax (DBG) exempt from profit and capital tax obligations. Donations can be deducted from income or profit to the legal extent.

The BTFS Foundation was registered in Liberia on January 17, 2017 as a non-governmental organization NGO in the Liberia Business Registry of the Republic of Liberia, with authorization to do business in Liberia (humanitarian and not for profit). Registration is based on the Swiss foundation deed issued on October 17, 2016.

#### Donations / Contact Switzerland

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