



# ANNUAL REPORT BTFS 2025

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



In an interview on December 3, 2025, Gregory O. W. Coleman, Inspector General of the Liberia National Police, said: **“What BTFS is doing with its educational project for young students is the best form of conflict prevention rather than conflict resolution, and thus promotes an understanding of the local community.”**

*“Von links: Journalist Simon Vogel, OST Universität, IG Gregory O.W. Coleman, Polizeidirektor der Liberia National Police LNP und BTFS Präsident Felix F. Walz*

CHUB = Swiss Knowledge Hub  
CHUB25 Projekte = 3 Wasser, 1 Solar, 1 Abwasser in einer Klinik  
WASH = Water, Sanitation, Hygiene  
UMU = United Methodist University Monrovia, Liberia  
OST = Ostschweizer Fachhochschule

Dear Reader,

The BTFS Year 2025 can be summarized as follows: The decision to focus entirely on the CHUB25 education program was correct and successful. The program was launched in January 2025 at UMU University in Monrovia under the leadership of OST University of Applied Sciences in Liberia. It concluded in December 2025 with the successful implementation of five WASH projects.

### Why is this remarkable?

An educational program can only be effective when actions are shaped by innate qualities such as benevolence, affection, compassion, happiness, and contentment. However, the world clearly demonstrates where things lead when greed, hatred, dissatisfaction, and protectionist-narcissistic thinking dominate. In his book *The Art of Happiness*, the *Dalai Lama* describes how every child is born with fundamental qualities such as happiness, warmth, harmony, and a need for protection, before being influenced by the negative aspects of technological evolution. It's about striking a balance between greed and happiness.

Don't worry — this isn't an esoteric digression. Rather, it's about the simple realization that good deeds trigger happiness — a feeling we all know, even without neurological studies. This is precisely what motivates us. As long as we are able, we will continue our support program in 2026 with goodwill, joy, patience, and satisfaction from the positive developments brought about by education. This is especially true when young people embrace this enthusiasm and pass it on.

Yours,

**Felix F. Walz**  
Bowier Trust Foundation Switzerland



## BILDUNG 1

Knowledge building and knowledge exchange

Education in Water, Renewable Energy, Construction & Health in Liberia

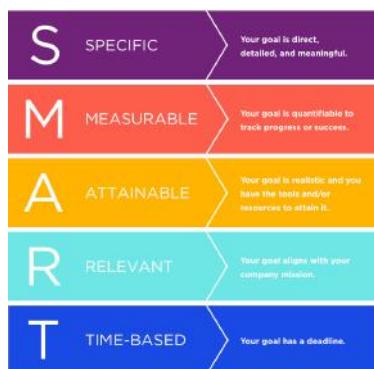
# SWISS KNOWLEDGE HUB

[www.ost.ch/gsc-en](http://www.ost.ch/gsc-en)

CHub



The 2025 Winter School started with 28 students from various educational institutions in Liberia. To participate in the CHUB25 program, they had to apply and meet defined selection criteria. In a ten-day course at the beginning of February 2025, the participants were prepared both theoretically and practically for project planning by Dr. Dorothee Spuhler, OST-CHUB program coordinator, Andreas Reber, solar expert at OST, and Dr. Franziska Hofer of HF Partners GmbH, a member of the BTFS Foundation Board. They were later expected to independently design and implement these projects in groups.



Certain guidelines, jointly defined and agreed upon by the University of Applied Sciences OST and the Rotary Club Oberer Zürichsee, applied to the project. These guidelines were further developed and refined in a subsequent project management workshop in March 2025 by BTFS President Walz and Prof. Dr. H. R. Schneider.

Based on this foundation, five teams were formed, each with a team leader. The teams were coached by BTFS coordinators Gertrude Harmon (team management and finance) and Lawrence A. Woods (technical support).

The five projects comprised:

- two drinking water projects, each in a separate municipality,
- a wastewater project at a maternity clinic,
- a solar energy project at Margibi University,
- rainwater harvesting/toilet flushing at UMU University.

Each project had access to **USD 4,700**, sponsored by the Rotary Club Oberer Zürichsee, which was managed exclusively from Switzerland and transferred after review of the budget applications.

The Launch of CHUB25 proceeded with great enthusiasm, as is typical in Africa. In a country marked by so many everyday obstacles, it's hardly surprising that concepts like "punctuality, adherence to orders, meeting deadlines, amicable and clarifying dialogue, and communication" strongly influence perseverance. Added to this are external factors such as the rainy season, chaotic traffic, lack of electricity to charge mobile phones and computers, and frequent illnesses like malaria, typhoid, diarrhea, and crime.

Our two experienced coordinators, Gertrude and Lawrence, were extremely busy during the following months and could rely on supportive, almost daily online contact with Switzerland.

# CHUB25

## PROJECT Overview

### Challenges



Bong County  
Trinkwasser



Chocolate City Clinic  
Wasserversorgung für Toiletten



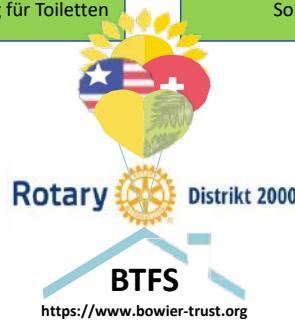
Margibi University  
Solar Project



Doemah Town  
Trinkwasser

Wissensaustausch führte zu  
erfolgreicher Projektumsetzung durch  
Studierende in der westafrikanischen  
Republik Liberia im Jahr 2025!

Dank unserer Partner aus dem  
erweiterten Linthgebiet!



## Project Progress and Key Findings:

- As expected, the amount of coaching the coordinators provided varied depending on the maturity level and self-organization of the teams.
- With the exception of the solar team, adjustments to the project design were necessary for all other teams. These corrections were due to either changing local needs or limited perspectives regarding the beneficiaries' sense of responsibility.
- The "Rainwater Harvesting" project at UMU University was terminated in July 2025 due to a management decision, despite several attempts at correction. No project funds were used. Significant planning deficiencies and non-compliance with defined specifications were the decisive factors for termination.
- In December 2025, a delegation evaluated the four successfully completed CHUB25 projects on-site at their own expense. The eight-member delegation included three technical experts (engineers), who concluded in their report that all projects were positive. All of the inspected projects were fully functional and met the defined requirements. The recommendations and optimization suggestions developed will be incorporated into the work plan for the 2026 fiscal year, forming an important basis for ensuring long-term sustainability.
- Of the original 28 participating students, 15 remained engaged until the end of the year. In a transparent, multi-stage selection process, five "Best Students" were nominated from among them. On December 4, 2025, in the presence of the Swiss delegation, two "Champions" were selected to participate in a three-month study program at OST Rapperswil in 2026. Rotary District 2000 and several companies are providing funding for this visit in partnership with BTFS. OST finances its own internal processes.

## CHUB25

## FAZIT / «CHAMPIONS»

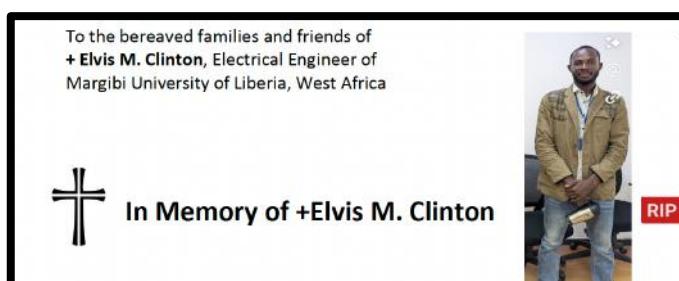


The CHUB25 project has been a success overall, yielding valuable lessons learned. Despite necessary adjustments and a project cancellation, the majority of the initiatives were successfully implemented and sustainably integrated. Particularly noteworthy are the functional technical solutions, the targeted support of dedicated students, and the clear focus on sustainability, knowledge transfer, and local responsibility. The insights and recommendations gained provide a solid foundation for continuing and optimizing the projects in 2026..



**\*Champion certificate presentation to the two promising young environmental and technical engineers, Ms. Feedell S. Yomah and Elvis M. Clinton (right)**

(It is with great sadness that it must be mentioned that +Elvis died in a serious traffic accident near Liberia airport on January 9, 2026. His image is included here to commemorate this clever, humble young man.)





**Background Story:**

In 2022, our health team HMNI (Help a Mother and Newborn in Liberia), led by team leader Lela P. Dolo, initiated a project to support the maternity clinic in Dolo Town, near the Firestone rubber factory. BTFS decided to provide the clinic with access to filtered drinking water and solar power for the water pump and lighting. The systems were planned and implemented by students from the OST University of Applied Sciences together with local professionals and students from Liberia. Thanks to the clinic operators' strong and reliable commitment, the project was a complete success.

Two years later, the construction of a wastewater treatment plant with a biodegradation process (biodigester) was planned as part of the CHUB25 program. A bachelor's student from the OST University of Applied Sciences undertook the preliminary studies, which had progressed to the point where concrete budget planning was possible. Together with the Rotary Club Oberer Zürichsee, BTFS submitted an application for support from the St. Gallen cantonal lottery fund on time.

Shortly after submitting the application to the Department of Culture in February 2025, we received the devastating news that the clinic had been completely destroyed by fire. Fortunately, everyone was rescued.

**New situation:** Since the budget planning was already well advanced, it was decided to look for a replacement clinic with comparable sanitary conditions. This proved relatively easy in Liberia. Our technical coordinator, engineer Lawrence A. Woods, quickly found a suitable clinic in the community of Chocolate City. It was larger than the clinic in Dolo Town and impressed us with the high level of commitment shown by the clinic management. At the same time, the conditions there were even worse: over 800 patients per month, more than 40 births, a community of around 17,000 inhabitants, no functioning water supply, and catastrophic sanitary conditions.

The project design originally planned for Dolo Town could be transferred to the new clinic almost unchanged, and the budget adjusted accordingly. A CHUB25 team took over the drinking water supply, while our technical manager led the project management for the renovation of the wastewater and waste disposal system, planning and implementing it together with a local entrepreneur

Dear Mr. Walz,

We are writing to formally inform you that a series of functionality tests has been successfully completed in the MCH at the Chocolate City Health Facility as part of the final verification process.

This letter serves as official confirmation that the project at the Chocolate City Health Center has been fully and successfully completed. We are pleased to report that all work was executed professionally, efficiently, and within the expected timeframe.

The facility's administration is highly satisfied with the quality of workmanship, the consistent communication maintained throughout the project, and the overall results delivered. The project met our expectations and supports the continued mission of our health center.

Excerpt from  
 the letter  
 from the  
 hospital  
 management  
 dated  
 December  
 15, 2025 to  
 BTFS.

## Chocolate City Clinic

Renovationsprojekt  
Amt für Kultur SG  
Lotteriefond



**REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA**  
**MINISTRY OF HEALTH**  
**CHOCOLATE CITY HEALTH CENTER**  
Chocolate city, Somalia Drive, MONROVIA, LIBERIA



All flooring has been replaced, walls painted, and windows and doors renewed. Clean and hygienic – a huge difference compared to the conditions before the renovation.



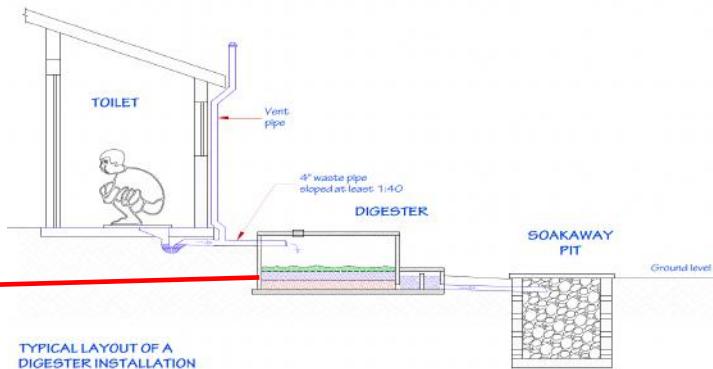
The water supply system was newly constructed and equipped with booster pumps (CHUB25 project component, implemented by one of the original five teams). The existing groundwater borehole (see image on the right) was successfully reactivated. When mains power is available, the installed booster pumps deliver the water at the required operating pressure to the individual taps in the bathrooms. In the event of a power outage, operation is only possible using costly generators.

## Chocolate City Clinic

Renovationsprojekt  
Amt für Kultur SG  
Lotteriefond



**REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA**  
**MINISTRY OF HEALTH**  
**CHOCOLATE CITY HEALTH CENTER**  
Chocolate city, Somalia Drive, MONROVIA, LIBERIA



The biological sewage and wastewater treatment plant (bio-digester) is a key technical focus of the remediation project and an integral part of an accompanying research project. The aim is to evaluate the system's functionality, process stability, and operational reliability under tropical climatic conditions such as those found in Liberia. The operational and performance data obtained will serve as a basis for decisions regarding the use of comparable systems in future projects. A structured master plan for systematic data collection is part of the defined work assignment for the BTFS coordinators.



The incineration plant for medical waste was newly constructed, and the responsible operating personnel were trained accordingly. The resulting incineration residues are biologically disposed of in a so-called ash pit; its effectiveness and environmental compatibility are the subject of further monitoring.



Through structured workshops and coordinated training sessions, the hospital management, the technical specialists, and the entire staff (39 employees) received systematic training in the operation, maintenance, and sustainable use of the newly installed infrastructure. The goal was long-term knowledge transfer and strengthening local operational expertise. In addition, a community mass meeting was held to involve representatives from the local community, schools, women's and youth organizations, and public institutions in raising awareness and fostering a sense of responsibility.

# BTFS HEALTH TEAM

## Nutrition Workshop



### Our top performers from left:

**Lela P. Dolo**, BTFS HMNI Director (medical student)  
**Dr. Evelyn Spivey-Kobath**, Nutrition Expert and BTFS Partner  
**Dr. Bedee D. Gbozee**, Director of Nutrition Division, Ministry of Health of Liberia  
**Dr. Sebastian Thurnherr**, BTFS Board Member and Head of Health



### Help a Mother and Newborn in Liberia

At Help a Mother and Newborn Initiative, we are... 2 Monate •

Today, we kick off our 3-Day Nutrition Training of Trainers (ToT)!

With support from Bowier Trust Foundation Switzerland (BTFS), 30+ participants – including SRHR Masterclass alumni, midwives, nurses, and HMNI staff – will spend three days learning practical, Liberia-focused ways to improve nutrition for adolescent girls, pregnant women, young mothers, and babies.

From tackling food taboos to promoting exclusive breastfeeding and better weaning foods, this ToT will help build a cadre of community nutrition trainers.

Starts: 8:30 AM

Venue: Liberian Learning Center, Paynesville City

Send your good wishes to the team as they prepare to learn, share, and “pass it forward” in their schools, clinics, and communities.

#NutritionToT #HMNI #NutritionTraining #SRHR #Mat  
Linkedin Post vom 2. Dez. 2025)



# BTFS HEALTH TEAM

## HMNI



**Lela P. Dolo** (left) is a medical student and will become a doctor. She leads the HMNI team with great dedication.

**Dr. Sebastian Thurnherr**, ENT specialist from Switzerland supports and advises the HMNI team and is a member of the BTFS Foundation Board (Health division).



### Key performance indicators for the HMNI team in the reporting year 2025:

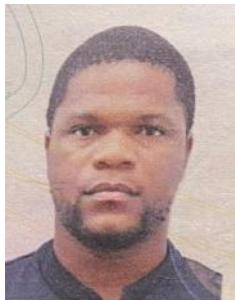
Beneficiaries	Schools, families, and health clinics in over 30 small communities in the bushland, within the Margibi County catchment area (approximately 1 hour's drive)
10 training sessions	with more than 70 young mothers (Empower Her Journey)
10 training sessions	with more than 200 students (peer-to-peer)
Midwifery-Training	with over 100 traditional midwives in rural areas
Masterclass with young adults	on sexual and reproductive health and rights. Leadership training and "Train the Trainer" programs
3-days Nutrition-Workshop Learning Center Paynesville	With 35 participants and support from specialists from Switzerland (Dr. Evelyn Spivey and Dr. Sebastian Thurnherr and local experts)
Consequences Conclusion	During the first cohort of "EmpowerHer Journey," over 70 young mothers acquired new skills, some founded small businesses, and many gained a self-confidence they previously lacked. Throughout the training, valuable moments arose in <b>which fear gave way to questions and silence to a voice.</b>

**Positive internal factors of the HMNI team:** The 13 members have grown into responsible and committed individuals with leadership qualities. They have learned how to plan, implement, and evaluate programs, as well as how to report on and conduct public relations. They support each other and have clearly defined roles that they enjoy fulfilling.

**Positive external factors:** Young women from the communities where HMNI works are now accessing prenatal care and choosing healthcare facilities for childbirth. Teenagers are more open about mental and sexual health and know how to prevent pregnancy during adolescence. Most impressive, however, is not the numbers, but the transformation itself. Girls spoke out. Mothers asked for support. Young people took the lead.



# BTFS NGO – ORGANISATION 2025/26



**BTFS CHUB TECHNICAL COORDINATOR / ADVISOR:**  
**LAWRENCE A. WOODS, I.,** BSC Public Administration & Management (BPA) / Former Engineer, Population Services International (PSI) USAID funded Project



**BTFS LIAISON OFFICER / CHUB TEAM-COORDINATOR:**  
**GERTRUDE HARMON,** BIT Bachelor Information Technology  
 Link between CH & LIB-Institutions  
 TMR-Project Head (The Mediation Room)  
 Activist for the protection and rights of women in Liberia



**BTFS HEALTH TEAM HMNI (with a young team of 13 Volunteers)**  
**LELA PRECIOUS DOLO,** Medical student with BSC in Biology & Chemistry  
 BTFS HMNI Team Director / Project Co-Initiator  
 Help a Mother and Newborn Initiative HMNI with NGO  
 Registration in Liberia  
<https://helpamotherandnewborn.org>

1. The BTFS office will be retained until June 2026 and then reassessed. It is primarily used by the active HMNI team, as well as for meetings of the CHUB coordinators.
2. Estella Kangar will continue to be employed for weekly office cleaning.
3. Myrtle Bowier, as the namesake and participant in the School Support Program, will continue with board member Linus Hofmann, along with Giulia Hofmann and Ansue Pelima.
4. Annual business registration is required, among other things, for submitting visa applications for BTFS experts, students, and guests.
5. The BTFS payroll now includes five people (Gertrude, Lawrence, Lela, Estella, and Myrtle).

# BTFS School Support Program

## Independently managed support program of the BTFS

### Bildung schenken Perspektiven schaffen

Mit 370 Franken im Jahr ermöglichtst du einem Kind den Besuch einer Schule und damit einen geregelten Alltag.

Du schenkest mehr als Unterricht:

Bildung ist eine Investition in die Zukunft eines Kindes, welche nach Erlangen weder zerstört noch entwendet werden kann.

Werde Patin oder Pate im Schulpatenschaftsprogramm der Bowier Trust Foundation Switzerland. Für mehr Infos, QR-Code scannen:



**Bowier Trust Foundation Switzerland**  
[www.bowier-trust.org](http://www.bowier-trust.org)



Mehr als die Hälfte der Menschen in Liberia kann weder lesen noch schreiben. Für viele Kinder bleibt Schulbildung ein unerreichbarer Traum.

#### So wirst du Patin oder Pate:

- QR-Code scannen und die Anmeldung für das Schulpatenschaftsprogramm ausfüllen
- Einstieg jederzeit möglich

#### Deine Patenschaft beinhaltet:

- Schulgeld für zwei Semester
- Schuluniform
- Du erhältst einen Steckbrief deines Patenkindes und eine Steuerbescheinigung.

#### Die Schule:

**Maretha International School, Liberia**

- Zwei Standorte
- Über 400 Schüler:innen

Anmeldung und Informationen:



Kontakt:  
Giulia Hofmann – Koordinatorin Schweiz  
[g.barrasso@bluewin.ch](mailto:g.barrasso@bluewin.ch) / [www.bowier-trust.org](http://www.bowier-trust.org)



Since 2024, a support program has been in place for children at a school in Monrovia whose parents cannot afford the school fees. The project, managed by the BTFS (Liberal Foundation for Schools), originated from a visit by BTFS board member Linus Hofmann in March 2023.

Subsequently, a structured project organization with defined parameters was established in Liberia in collaboration with two long-standing partners. The local partners are Myrtle Bowier, the namesake of the BTFS, and Ansue Pelima, an AFL officer. Mr. Pelima is a member of the Liberian army and has a long-standing personal connection with BTFS President Felix Walz.

The project's operational management is the responsibility of its initiator, Giulia Hofmann, wife of board member Linus Hofmann. She works as a teacher and is the mother of two children.

Thanks to her strong personal commitment, a separate donation account was set up within the BTFS to process the school fees for the supported children.

The selection process for the sponsored children is clearly defined. On-site in Liberia, Mr. Ansue Pelima oversees the proper use of the funds. Ms. Myrtle Bowier is responsible for monitoring the children's welfare and ensuring regular school attendance and adherence to the sponsorship agreements. To this end, she conducts school and family visits and reports her findings either through Mr. Pelima or directly to the project manager, Ms. Giulia Hofmann.

Currently, only a few children are supported through the sponsorship program. The project team therefore expressly welcomes further interested individuals who are willing to become sponsors.

# Use of donated funds in 2025

(Auf Wunsch kann der Revisorenbericht zur Verfügung gestellt werden)



## BTFS Partner und Sponsoren 2025

**Kanton St.Gallen**



**SWISSLOS**



DR. MED. SEBASTIAN THURNHERR  
Facharzt FMH für Hals-Nasen-Ohrenkrankheiten

Praxis Dr. Schulte  
ZahnarztTeam Luzern

“... wir verstehen Ihre Zähne”

Rapperswil-Jona  
Wasserversorgung

**GEOINFRA**  
INGENIEURE - GEOMETER - PLANER

**F+K**  
FREI + KRAUER AG

**Gossweiler**

**WPK**  
**NP**



**OST**  
Ostschweizer  
Fachhochschule

Education in Water, Renewable Energy, Construction & Health in Liberia  
**SWISS KNOWLEDGE HUB**



**TREUHAND**  
WESPE AG

**Rotary**

Zürich-Oberland